

PATROLLING

Winter 2012 75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC. VOLUME 27 ISSUE III



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

RANGER RENDEZVOUS / REUNION 2013

JULY 22 – 28, 2013

FT. BENNING (COLUMBUS), GA

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

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

(Same rate as the 2011 Reunion.)

THIS REUNION WILL BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 75TH RANGER REGIMENT RENDEZVOUS AND CHANGE OF COMMAND. AT THIS TIME, WE DO NOT HAVE A SCHEDULE OF REGIMENTAL ACTIVITIES, OTHER THAN THAT THEY WILL TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE ABOVE TIME FRAME. THE MARCH, 2013, (SPRING) ISSUE OF *PATROLLING* WILL CONTAIN SCHEDULES.

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

THE 75TH RANGER REGIMENT, INC. BANQUET WILL BE HELD THE EVENING OF SATURDAY, 27 JULY 2013.

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

- **BICYCLING ALONG THE RIVER WALK**
 - **SPOUSES DAY TRIP & LUNCH AT CALLAWAY GARDENS, (7/26/2013)**
 - **LUNCHEON FOR SPOUSES AT THE HOLIDAY INN, (7/27/2013)**
 - **INTRODUCTION TO YOGA AND STRESS REDUCTION FOR SPOUSES**
 - **INTRODUCTION TO YOGA & STRESS REDUCTION FOR VETERANS**
 - **SEMINARS ON VETERAN'S BENEFITS AND NAVIGATING THE VA.**
-

2013 REUNION

22 – 28 JULY, 2013

REGISTRATION FORM

Yes, I will attend the reunion at Ft Benning, Ga, 22 – 28 July, 2013.

You can also register and pay your fees online on our website: www.75thrra.com/reunion.

NAME _____ MEMBERSHIP # _____

UNIT AFFILIATION _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

I will be accompanied by _____ guests*

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

PLEASE PRINT ALL GUESTS FIRST AND LAST NAMES (for their name cards, and planning)

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

_____ BANQUET TICKETS @ \$40.00 \$ _____

_____ TOTAL PAID \$ _____

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

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

Pay by credit card: Visa/Mastercard# _____ Expiration Date _____

Make your reservations now. Call the Holiday Inn North, Columbus, GA. Local phone number for reservations is 706-324-0231 (Be sure to tell them 75th RANGERS to get the Association discount). National Reservation number is 888-465-4329. Our banquet will be at the Iron Works. Saturday evening, July 27th. The Holiday Inn North, Columbus, GA offers complimentary shuttle service, lounge, restaurant, pool, free parking and other amenities.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

To prevent lapses in your memberships please send dues and any ADDRESS CHANGES to:

75th RRA
PO Box 577800
Modesto, CA 05357-7800

The Association makes donations to each of the four Ranger battalions for the benefit of the young rangers and their families. We have also established a Gold Star fund to support our Gold Star families program. If you wish to help out, anytime is the right time—especially right now. If you wish to pay with one check for any combination of dues and funds, please specify how much is to go to each. Thank you!



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

PERSONAL INFORMATION

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

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MI	DATE
STREET ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP PLUS
AREA CODE/HOME PHONE	AREA CODE/WORK PHONE	E-MAIL ADDRESS	

UNITS SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

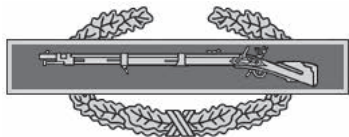
FROM (DATE)	TO (DATE)	UNIT (Company or Battalion)	NAMES OR ORDERS
FROM (DATE)	TO (DATE)	UNIT (Company or Battalion)	NAMES OR ORDERS
FROM (DATE)	TO (DATE)	UNIT (Company or Battalion)	NAMES OR ORDERS

REMARKS: _____

VISA or MASTERCARD # _____ EXP. DATE: _____

CHECK ONE: NEW APPLICATION _____ RENEWAL _____ SUBSCRIPTION MEMBER _____

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



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.

3. 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.

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

Balls, and to the Airborne Memorial at Ft. Benning.

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

PRESIDENTS

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

- 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 Special Troops Battalion, activated in 2007.
- E. 75th Ranger Regiment HHC 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.



HQ, 75th RANGER REGT

Richard (Rick) Barella
3612 Amick Way
Lexington, KY 40509
859-609-0904
509-440-1126
Email: dabarelas@msn.com

1st BN, 75th RANGER RGT

Todd M. Currie
719-721-0748 (day)
719-576-5084 (home)
Email: ranger.currie@qcom

2nd BN, 75th RANGER RGT

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

3rd BN, 75th RANGER RGT

Scott Billingslea
334-448-5552
Email: rangerinvictus@gmail.com

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

Ronald Dahle
1926 Graham Rd.
Fayetteville, NC 28304
919-802-3363
Email: McGoo1138@yahoo.com

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

Marc L. Thompson
80 Rock Ridge Road
Morgantown, PA 19543
H-610-913-8183
C-610-763-2756
F-610-648-9367
Email: mthomp@ptd.net

C/75 - E/20 LRP

Del Ayers
2711 E. Pinchot Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85016
602-840-9676
Email: bouncin4dollars@yahoo.com

D/75

Richard "Herd" Nelson
3302 Dragoon Place
Orlando, FL 32818
407-601-2801
Email: rnelson134@cfl.rr.com

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

Rick Stetson
Box 1250
Duxbury, MA 02332
781-934-8504
781-934-0395 (fax)
Email: rickstetson@aol.com

UNIT DIRECTORS

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

Tim Walsh
9558 Pine Knob Drive
Carleton, MI 48117 313-590-6673
Email: twalshx2@charter.net

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

Stephen Crabtree
59 Crescent Creek Drive
Okatie, SC 29909
843 705 2014 (h)
843 338 2724 (c)
Email:
Stephen.C.Crabtree@gulfstream.com

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

William T. Anton
4129 Karma Drive, N.
Las Vegas, NV 89032-5009
702-592-1850
Email: rangerh75@allmail.net

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

David Flores
5116 Lanai Street
Long Beach, CA 90808
562-756-2605
Email: lurpteam3@hotmail.com

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

Roger T. Crunk
1159 19 Road
Fruita, CO 81521
970-858-4579 (h)
970-640-3815 (c)
Email: rogercrunk@msn.com

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

Gary Linderer
1775 Cedar Ridge Way
Branson West, MO 65737
417-331-2834
Email: lindlrp@yahoo.com

M/75 - 71st LRP - 199th LRRP

Robert Q. Tate
192 Cities Service Hwy
No 5
Sulphur, LA 70663
C-423-943-3011
Email: Machette06@Myway.com

N/75 - 74th LRP - 173rd LRRP

Dave Cummings
6247 Old Post Court
Columbus, GA 31909
706-569-9882
Email: davidf4f4@mchsi.com

O/75 - 78th LRP

Michael L. Feller
16676 6th St.
Wellston, MI 49689
231- 848- 4948
Email: michigami@kaltelnet.net

P/75 - 79th LRP

Terry B. Roderick
25 Carleton Drive
Cocoa, FL 32922-7003
321-631-3213
Email: rgrrock@cfl.rr.com

D/151 LRP/RANGER

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

F/51 LRP

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

LRRP DETACHMENT- 3rd ID

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

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ)

Bill Miller
1090 Brightwood Dr.
Aiken, SC 29803
803-641-9504
803-292-2571
Email: bietdongquan@yahoo.com

Media Staff - Patrolling

John Chester
PO Box 28333
Baltimore, MD 21234-8333
410-426-1391
410-382-9344
e-mail: patrolling@75thrra.com

Media Staff - Website

David Regenthal
290 Donora Blvd
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931-3604
239-207-1145
e-mail: patrolling@75thrra.com

Association VA Advocate

Dan Nate
408 Elm Street
Woodbury Heights, NJ 08097
856-848-9174 (h)
856-371-7401 (c)
e-mail: dannate1@verizon.net

National State Coordinator

Marshall Huckaby
699 Willow Dell Drive
Senoia, GA 30276
770-658-8159
e-mail:
nationalcoordinator@75thrra.com

Association Photographer

Peter S. Parker
732-784-7697
photographer@75thrra.com

Association Artist

Dave Walker
Artist@75thrra.com

Gold Star Advocate

Sandee Rouse
904-705-9384
GoldStars75thRRA@aol.com

Gold Star Advocate

Ruth Stonesifer
rstone17@gmail.com

Gold Star Advocate

Jill Stephenson
612-868-7446
iambenkoppsmother@gmail.com

Gold Star Advocate

Sandy Harris
sandy5790@aol.com
USSOCOM Representative
Smokey Wells
rgrwells@tampabay.rr.com

If you information is incomplete or out of date, here in the magazine or on our website, please send updates (including your photo) to: Patrolling@75thrra.com Thank you!

75th Ranger Regiment Association

P. O. Box 577800
Modesto, CA 95357-7800
www.75thrra.org

President

Joe Little
C-602-315-9227
rgjrjoe21@gmail.com

First Vice President

Jason D. Baker
C-206-850-8045
jasonbaker@compurium.net

Second Vice President

Wesley Jurena
281-650-1985
jurena175@gmail.com

Secretary

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

Treasurer

Roger Crunk
970-858-4579
rogercrunk@msn.com

Media Staff

John W. Chester
C-410-382-9344
patrolling@75thrra.com

Media Staff

David Regenthal
239-207-1145
patrolling@75thrra.com

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

Advertisements for products or services do not constitute an endorsement by the Association. Manuscripts, photographs and drawings are submitted at the risk of the individual submitting the material. Captions must be submitted with any photographs or graphics.

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

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

POSTMASTER

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

WEB SITE & MAGAZINE NEWS

(Media Group)

The Media Group has come about by way of a slight reorganization of some of the volunteers. John Chester will again be the lead on the magazine and Dave Regenthal, the website. They will, we are certain, be supported by a cast of thousands that will send their pictures, notices, stories (many of which may even contain some truth). Unit Directors will continue to submit articles and unit information and, in all likelihood task some friends and individual members to assist in that effort. Please send all submission for PATROLLING to patrolling@75thrra.com

So where's the new part you might be wondering? It's the concept. The collective personnel will be working towards making both venues serve our members in a fashion that actually looks and feels like we're in the 21st Century. We expect the website and the magazine to begin to look more like each other. We are working toward making it more intuitive, while adding and removing features so that we can are able to keep you informed of important information and upcoming events.

One of the web changes you'll notice right away is that we're beginning to post past issues of Patrolling magazine on 75thrra.com for your reference. In time we're hoping to be able to offer an AP so that your Patrolling magazine and the most important web features can be available to you on your smart phone and tablets. Beginning the first of the year **new advertising** will be getting advertising on the website included at no additional charge, when they pay for a 4 issue run advertisement in Patrolling magazine (and it won't be those funky little banners like we've had on the web in the past).

One of the more important things to look for in this issue (near the back) is the pre-registration information (and mail-in form) for this summer's RANGER RENDEZVOUS. The reunion will be in Columbus, again at the Holiday Inn, 22-28 July. The banquet will be at the IRON WORKS on Saturday evening, July 27th. You may contact Holiday Inn for individual reservations right now—be sure to say "75th Rangers" when calling to secure the Association Discount. For those of you who wish to pre-register for the reunion and purchase banquet tickets online just go to the website . . . it's already up. Whether you pre-register (for the reunion) by mail, or online, do not forget to list your guests so that we can have name tags, registration packets ready in advance. This will save you time on arrival at the host hotel (and helps us in planning).

Patrolling will be starting a new section "the Home Front" in this issue exclusively for the wives or significant others (that's one or the other gentlemen), of the women that support their Rangers. A limited amount of merchandise, which we think will be of interest to members, will also be coming to the magazine and website through a new "Quartermaster" section. So there's a lot to look forward to in the months ahead Rangers (and Ranger-etts). Stay tuned!

TREASURER'S MESSAGE

By Roger Crunk

75th Ranger regiment Assoc. 11/12/12 Balance Sheet Accrual Basis As of November 12, 2012

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

CD 26,590.53

Columbus Bank & Trust 1,895.55

Family Fund 34,532.15

First Community Bank 10,082.76

Total Checking/Savings 73,100.99

Total Current Assets 73,100.99

TOTAL ASSETS 73,100.99

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity

Opening Balance Equity 97,343.80

Unrestricted Net Assets -11,770.09

Net Income -12,472.72

Total Equity 73,100.99

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 73,100.99

GOLD STAR

By Sandee Rouse



Sandee Rouse

It has been a while I have written a submission for Patrolling so one may think that I would have a great deal to tell you.

On the contrary I can sense that my time and activities are winding down and at first I was unhappy about that but as time has gone on I have a sense of peace.

The last 11 years have been such a God mission and I know He continues to have a plan for the 75th RRA and for each of us. Even Moses only completed part of Gods plan but God had Joshua ready to take on the next phase. In this case in His time He sent you and I, 3 wonderful representatives to continue the Gold Star Vision of Emmett Hildabrand for the 75th RRA and you. If you haven't met them yet you will in July Ruth Stonesifer mother of 3/75 Ranger Kristopher Stonesifer, Jill Stephenson mother of 3/75 Ranger Ben Kopp and our newest representative Diane Hammond mother 1/75 Ranger of Alessandro Plutino. It is my plan to hang around through the time the in coming Colonel is in command. This guy gets it!!!! He is well aware of the program and assistance we provide. We have worked steadfastly to secure that no family stand alone in their grief and have made huge strides but there is definitely work to do.

I hope to work with Jill and Ruth and Diane putting together a plan of action for this continually changing mission and share that with you in the March edition.

Until then please know how proud I am to be representing the original true 75th Ranger Regiment Association. So many other groups have formed over the last 11 years and copied the example you set and yet you remain unique in who you are and what you do. The pride and class shines above all the others in true Ranger style.

In October I attended the Memorial Service for 1/75 Ranger Sergeant Tanner S. Higgins. I had already been in contact with his mom Patty Sells through the Ranger Gold Star FB page started by 1/75 Gold Star mom Linda Wright, but it was really



good to be able to give her that hug and reassurance in person.

I was not able to attend the Memorial for PFC Mark Philip Schettler, C Company, 1st Battalion, 75th. Sgt Schettler died at 1/75 HHA after becoming ill several days prior to his death.

Diane attended the memorial for 2/75 Ranger Sgt. Thomas R. MacPherson's Dec 14 at Ft Lewis in Washington. I know you will join with me in keeping all these Rangers families in our prayers.

Well this will wrap it up for now here is wishing each of you a Blessed Holiday season and may the New Year be filled with wonderful days.

As always it is an Honor to serve you
Blessings and RLTW
Sandee

Happy Holidays! I can't believe how quick 2012 has gone by! As I write this I am about to leave on the second of three trips in six weeks and have spent the last three days with the grandfather of a local fallen marine. These three trips have been planned for quite some time, but the fall arrived too fast.

Way back in July, I co-hosted the second annual Ben Kopp Memorial Ride. This was a motorcycle ride to raise money for the PTSD Unit at the Minneapolis Veterans Hospital. I am pleased to say that we had 230 motorcycles and raised nearly \$13,000! I plan to host the third annual BKMR again next July which will take place just before the Ranger Rendezvous.

The first of my recent trips was to northern South Carolina to visit a family who is very close to one of my son Ben's brothers in arms from the 3/75. To honor Ben, they have built a "Kopp cabin" on their property. I was invited to come down and see it for myself. When I stood in front and looked around, I was awestruck. My friend asked, "do you think Ben would like it?" With tears in my eyes, I responded, "No, he would LOVE IT!" The location looked straight out to the mountains and sat directly above a babbling trout stream. There was a

GOLD STAR (CONTINUED)

four-wheeling trail visible just above a rafter of wild turkeys. It seemed too good to be true, but like so many experiences I have had in the last three and half years, this was yet another blessing Ben shared with me. The Kopp cabin wasn't fully finished, but when it is, I will be back for another visit!

Veterans Day fell over the time I was here and so I was invited to attend services at my friends church. They told me that all eighty six members of the congregation had been prayer warriors while Ben was hospitalized. Upon entering the church, I was graciously introduced to every person who passed by. One of the church leaders asked if I would be willing to speak to the congregation in honor of Veterans Day. And so within ten minutes of walking in, I was addressing the crowd. I told them a little about Ben's story, but most importantly, I thanked them for praying for Ben. I was honored to be able to thank them in person.

The second half of that trip was to Ft. Benning and Columbus to spend time with more of my Ranger family. While there, I stayed with some special friends that I first met at Walter Reed. Jeff and Kim answered the call of an injured Ranger being brought in and came to see Ben and me almost immediately. While they were stationed in DC they opened their home to me many times. Jeff has since retired and now lives just outside of Columbus. He and Kim and their four legged bunch once again graciously allowed me to stay with them.

One of the highlights was seeing and holding the two day old son of another of Ben's brothers in arms. I also attended Sunday services at one of the local Baptist churches. This one was special too as the co-pastor (soon to be pastor) is CPT (Ret.) Jeff Struecker who served with the 3/75. Chaplain Struecker was one of two officiants at Ben's funeral in my home town and the sole officiant for his funeral at Arlington. I hadn't seen Jeff since that August day in 2009 when Ben was laid to rest. Chaplain Struecker also visited Ben while he was at Walter Reed. I was touched to hear him speak of his experience with Ben and me during his sermon.

My next trip is to West Point for the wedding of Ben's Platoon Leader. It will be the second time in one year that I will be there. Last December when I traveled with the Wreaths Across America convoy from Maine to Arlington, the Cadet Chapel at West Point was one of our stops. Coincidentally (or not) the emcee of our ceremony was a female CPT who just so happened to be the Casualty Assistance Officer assigned to

me in Washington DC. I had not seen her since July of 2009 when I left Walter Reed after Ben's death.

My final trip of the year will be to Arlington for the Wreaths Across America event on December 15th. This will be my fourth year attending. It is quite the experience to see so many people eager to lay wreaths on the graves of our fallen. Of course I spend most of my time in section 60 near Ben. The masses tend to congregate towards section 60 to honor our most recent heroes. This is a day that patriotism shines bright at one of our nations most hallowed grounds.

Families young and old walk together all over the cemetery to pay homage to the veterans who ensure the freedoms we all enjoy. Within a few hours, the event is over and the hills and valleys of Arlington are covered in a magnificent blanket of green and red wreaths against the white headstones. It is a beautiful sight. If you have never been to Arlington National Cemetery, I would highly recommend visiting in December after the wreaths are placed.

Finally, I would like to speak of the funeral I attended just yesterday. He was a marine killed in action by an IED in Afghanistan. He was a gunner and the only one hit on his vehicle. He was 23 and on his first tour of duty. His name is LCPL Dale Means. Since Ben's death I have attended several funerals, but this one was the hardest. LCPL Means is the grandson of a man whom I first met at Ben's funeral. CSM John Roy introduced himself to me and told me that he was a combat veteran who served in Korea and Vietnam. He was a Ranger who trained LRRP units in the 1950's, a Jumpmaster/Paratrooper and served with Special Forces. His military service is deep and honorable. His brother Harold, ten years his senior, is a WWII veteran who jumped in to Normandy and fought at the Battle of the Bulge. I should add here that I make no claim to the details of service I have stated being one hundred percent accurate. I am going by memory, which is not always reliable, however, both John and Harold's military records can be verified through other means.

CSM John Roy has included or invited me to every meeting, gathering, holiday party and picnic that he is associated with among local veterans of similar background such as Rangers, SF and Airborne. I count him as a trusted friend and he has never failed to let me know that my son's sacrifice won't be forgotten. Through John Roy, I have come to know a group of elite veterans that have taken me under their big, strong and

GOLD STAR (CONTINUED)

very caring SF, Ranger and Airborne wings. More blessings from my Ben! Like my Ranger family, these men are family too. I was deeply saddened to learn of LCPL Means death before it hit the press. On numerous occasions I heard CSM Roy speak of his pride and love for Dale. I know how his heart feels. This is a connection I honestly don't want to have with friends, but who better than a friend who really "gets" your pain.

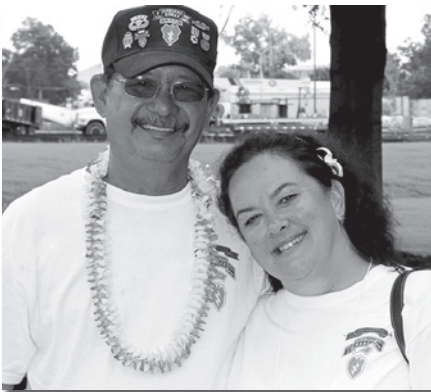
I hope to be of help to Dale's wife, mother, father and sister. I hope that I can help them to know that while they have lost a son, husband and brother, they have gained a new family of strangers who will love them because of Dale. Of course no family is better than a Ranger family, but this one runs through the generations. Dale's funeral was in a small town

and it seemed as though the entire town was there, including every one of his friends. They may not know it now, but they will soon come to know that their love of Dale, his sacrifice and legacy of heroism will be the glue that holds them together. I think we all have an understanding of what this means.

As this year comes to a close, I will count the blessings my Ben continues to share with me. I am fortunate to have such a large family that stretches across the country. I wish all of you a holiday season blessed with the love of family and friends. Cheers to a new year filled with abundance, joy and good health.

Rangers Lead The Way!
Jill Stephenson

THE HOME FRONT



Mona Gurrobat

"I would like to thank our guys for jumpstarting a vehicle for the women of F Company – our own closed Facebook group. Most of us are of an age that mastering these computer things don't come about so easily; navigating Facebook was and is

still a learning process for me, so having the group setup for us to just start using is awesome. We started out with a few and now have several members on board.

The biggest obstacle is that most wives/significant others don't have their own e-mail address, and the closed group precludes joint e-mails. Women of other companies may want to start their own closed group if only to keep in touch between reunions.

The biggest advantage of this group is the privacy, understanding and trust within its members. Think about the conversations we have when we meet every two years and how healing the camaraderie and sharing can be, then imagine not having to wait 2 years for a women-only roundtable discussion to vent or express feelings or share ideas or ask questions – that's what a closed Facebook group can be!

There are times I just need to get something off my chest so I don't explode or crumble up inside. You ladies know it is not always possible to do this with our PTSD spouse (mostly because it's probably about him). And I can't share with girlfriends because they do not have a Vietnam Veteran spouse and have no clue about dealing with 'the rage' and other issues. Tried it once and the first response was "aren't you afraid?" The answer is "of course not!" And anyway, why would I want to seem like I was putting him down in front of our friends? They will never see or be a part of 'his other side' so it is something I deal with privately.

Only another woman in the same situation can understand. Only another woman in the same situation does not ask why we don't leave the relationship. Only another woman in the same situation faces the same unexplainable hurt.

This is why our Facebook group means so much. Not everyone posts comments – I don't a lot of times. But I do read everything posted and take it all to heart, as I hope all our members do. It is just comforting inside to know there is a place for us to 'let it all hang out' if we wish to. And sometimes, just knowing I have that place to go, it is easier to deal with or let go of what is happening."

Mona Gurrobat

"We Ranger wives, widows and significant others of the 25th Infantry Division LRRP (Vietnam) - invite you to join our Facebook Group.

THE HOME FRONT (CONTINUED)



Lynne Eberhardt

David Regenthal created this "closed" group, to be managed solely by the women. As a closed group, it is not open to the men (or other family members), therefore the posts can only be seen by the members - the women.

We don't each post every day - some don't

post at all, simply enjoy the photos and posts and input we all share. Some days we cry together, but many days we laugh and celebrate life! Our Ranger widows are special to us because we understand how there is a deep outpouring of care and concern during a funeral, but once everybody goes home - the widow remains. The friendships built over the years with these women cannot end in a cemetery, but must be cherished and nurtured as it was SHE who was always there for her Ranger.

Come rain or shine, the women in our group know that we are ALL there for each other. As Nancy Miller once put it, "We are all married to the same man!" Just as the men shared their service in Vietnam, we wives share similar emotions and stories.

Please consider joining this group of genuinely wonderful women by contacting either myself, Teresa Byrd or Jo Ponzillo (the 3 Administrators of the group). You must have your own Facebook account, no shared accounts because the info shared by the women in the group is private, it is for OUR eyes only.

If you have a FB account, please send me (Lynne Absalom Eberhardt) or Jo or Teresa a FB "Friend Request." Once I receive your FB Friend Request, then I/we can add you to the LRP/25th wives group. At that time, the Group will then show up on your FB Home Page (not on your Wall or Timeline). I know, it can seem confusing!

Please consider joining this group of genuinely wonderful women by adding us to your life! We look forward to hearing from you because getting together once every other year at a reunion is not enough - to be able to stay in touch with each other either by FB, by email or by telephone has become an invaluable part of our everyday life.

We all wish you well and hope to hear from you! Many thanks for your time, (please leave a message by email lae51@earthlink.net, by Facebook or phone (805) 746-1905.

Lynne Eberhardt



Marshall Huckaby

"They also served . . . and are serving still!"

How many reunions, "get-togethers", cook-outs, etc, have you attended for fellow Ranger, LRP, LRRPs, or Vietnam Veterans? Plenty I bet! Now how many

such gatherings have you attended for Veterans' wives?

Oh, that's right there aren't any, none that I have seen anyway...Well guys we have been remiss in failing to recognize the very ones who have served the longest, and due the most recognition. We need to fix that pronto.

Well right here and now, I want to publically thank my wife, Jennie Huckaby for the many years of support and "care-taking" that she has given me. Rarely do we have conversations of the things she went through when I was in Vietnam. We never discuss how she had to fight the realty people to save our house when the loan paper work got screwed up.

We never discuss the feelings of dread and foreboding when she got the letter with the Red Cross letterhead that I wrote from the 93rd Evac Hospital, instead of her getting a Department of the Army telegram when I was wounded. We never discuss the trials and tribulations she went through having enough money to pay the bills, keep the car running, and feed the kids. Never once, not once in the hundreds of letters she sent me, did she complain!

And never has she complained about me really being a real pain-in-the-Ass. (Well, actually lately she does do that now, but didn't, not back then).

But the point is, she served and like most of our spouses, still does. Guys we need to step up to the plate and make 2013 "The Year of the Spouse".

Some of the F Company ladies are already working on group information, activities, and functions for our spouses, so let's give them our full support as they move forward in this endeavor.

And again, Thanks Jennie, for all of your years of caring!
Marshall Huckaby, 1SG (Ret)
25th ID LRRPs, 1966-1967

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.

PTSD Update 120

U.S. Sen. Patty Murray is pushing the Pentagon to move forward with its military-wide review of how soldiers are diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder and other behavioral health. Murray, the chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, sent a letter to Defense Secretary Leon Panetta on 18 OCT. In June, Panetta called for the review after it was disclosed that medical screeners at the Madigan Army Medical Center at Joint Base Lewis-McChord have reversed since 2007 hundreds of diagnoses of PTSD based on the expense of providing care and benefits to members of the military. The evaluations are the key first step in determining soldiers' disability benefits. In the letter, Murray calls on Panetta to provide a timeline of the review and requesting the next steps. [Source: Associated Press article 19 Oct 2012 ++]

VA Cancer Treatment Update 03

Age, not overall health or prognosis, plays too large a role in determining what patients get cancer treatment, according to a new study from the San Francisco VA Medical Center and the University of California, San Francisco. The study focused on more than 20,000 patients 65 and older with non-small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC) and found that younger patients were more likely to receive treatment than older patients, regardless of their health status or chance for improvement. In fact, for all stages of the cancer, treatment rates decreased more in association with advancing age than with the worsening of other illnesses. As a result, patients between the ages of 65 to 74 who were severely ill from other illnesses received treatment at roughly the same rates as those in the same age range with no comorbidities. Yet, the authors noted, the patients who were severely ill from other conditions were less likely to benefit and more likely to be harmed from cancer treatment. "It's clear that, as human beings and physicians, we fixate on age in deciding whether to pursue cancer treatments, including lung-cancer treatments," said lead author Sunny Wang, MD, a San Francisco VAMC physician and an assistant clinical professor

of medicine at the University of California-San Francisco. "Instead, we should be looking at our patients' overall state of health." The study, based on an analysis of the electronic health records of veterans who were in the VA Central Cancer Registry from 2003 to 2008, was published earlier this year in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*. "The message here is, 'Don't base cancer treatment strictly on age,'" said Wang. "Don't write off an otherwise healthy 75 year old and don't automatically decide to treat a really ill 65 year old without carefully assessing the risks and benefits for that patient." [Source: U.S. Medicine | Oct 2012 ++]

PTSD Update 121

Recently, the National Center for PTSD reported about types of post traumatic stress treatments know as CAM, Complementary and Alternative Techniques. These are treatments that fall outside of traditional Western medicine. Complementary refers to the use of these techniques in combination with conventional approaches, whereas alternative refers to their use instead of conventional practices.

Some examples include:

- Vitamins, supplements, diets
- Meditation, acupuncture, yoga, aromatherapy
- Massage, chiropractic care
- Whole medicine systems: like Ayurvedic medicine
- Dog therapy, equine therapy, music therapy

Some people find that CAM treatments help improve their symptoms or help them cope with their symptoms. Research to support these claims is still at an early stage. Most types of CAM have never been systematically studied. It's difficult to draw firm conclusions from the few that have. However, at this point meditation and acupuncture appear most promising. [Source: NAUS Weekly Update 2 Nov 2012 ++]

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

Pending House of Representatives Bills

H.R.303: Retired Pay Restoration Act.

A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit additional retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation and to eliminate the phase-in period under current law with respect to such concurrent receipt.

Sponsor: Rep Bilirakis, Gus M. [FL-9] (introduced 1/18/2011)

To support this bill and/or contact your legislators send a message via:
www.capwiz.com/trea/issues/bills/?bill=23349501
capwiz.com/fral/issues/alert/?alertid=29334506

H.R.333: The Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act.

A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability rated less than 50 percent to receive concurrent payment of both retired pay and veterans' disability compensation, to eliminate the phase-in period for concurrent receipt, to extend eligibility for concurrent receipt to chapter 61 disability retirees with less than 20 years of service, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep Bishop, Sanford D., Jr. [GA-2] (introduced 1/19/2011)

To support this bill and/or contact your legislators send a message via:
[capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=23493506&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=23493506&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])
 or TREA's www.capwiz.com/trea/issues/bills/?bill=23355556
capwiz.com/fral/issues/alert/?alertid=22944561

H.R.575 : HEALTHY Vets Act of 2011.

A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts with community health care providers to improve access to health care for veterans in highly rural areas, and for other purposes.
 Sponsor: Rep Pearce, Stevan [NM-2] (introduced 2/9/2011)

To support this bill and/or contact your legislators send a message via:
[capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=32026521&queueid=\[capwiz:queue_id\]](http://capwiz.com/usdr/issues/alert/?alertid=32026521&queueid=[capwiz:queue_id])

H.R.812: Agent Orange Equity Act of 2011.

A bill to To amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam.
 Sponsor: Rep Filner, Bob [CA-51] (introduced 2/18/2011)

To support this bill and/or contact your legislators send a message via:
capwiz.com/fral/issues/alert/?alertid=32082506

H.R.961: Safe Haven for Heroes Act of 2011.

A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to the prohibition on disrupting military funerals, and for other purposes.
 Sponsor: Rep Ruppersberger, C. A. Dutch [MD-2] (introduced 3/8/2011)

H.R.1775: Stolen Valor Act of 2011.

A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to establish a criminal offense relating to fraudulent claims about military service.
 Sponsor: Rep Heck, Joseph J. [NV-3] (introduced 5/5/2011)
 Related Bills: S.1728

To support this bill and/or contact your legislators send a message via:
capwiz.com/naus/issues/alert/?alertid=61516361

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (CONTINUED)

H.R.2634: Victims of Agent Orange Relief Act of 2011.

A bill to direct the Secretary of State to provide assistance for certain individuals affected by exposure to Agent Orange and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enhance the availability of medical care for descendants of veterans of the Vietnam era, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep Filner, Bob [CA-51] (introduced 7/25/2011)

H.R.6576: Space "A" Travel for 10 0% Rated Vets.

A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit veterans who have a service-connected disability rated as total to travel on military aircraft in the same manner and to the same extent as retired members of the Armed Forces are entitled to such travel.

Sponsor: Rep Bilirakis, Gus M. [FL-9] (introduced 10/16/2012) Cosponsors (None)

Latest Major Action: 10/16/2012 Referred to House committee.

Status: Referred to the House Committee on Armed Services.

Pending Senate Bills

S.67: Disabled Vet Space "A" Travel.

A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit former members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability rated as total to travel on military aircraft in the same manner and to the same extent as retired members of the Armed Forces are entitled to travel on such aircraft.

Sponsor: Sen Inouye, Daniel K. [HI] (introduced 1/25/2011)

S.316: Fort Hood Victims and Families Benefits Protection Act.

A bill to ensure that the victims and victims' families of the November 5, 2009, attack at Fort Hood, Texas, receive the same treatment, benefits, and honors as those Americans who have been killed or wounded in a combat zone overseas and their families.

Sponsor: Sen Cornyn, John [TX] (introduced 2/10/2011)

Related bill: H.R.625

S.1728: Stolen Valor Act of 2011.

A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to establish a criminal offense relating to fraudulent claims about military service.

Sponsor: Sen Brown, Scott P. [MA] (introduced 10/18/2011)

Related Bills: H.R.1775

Ed Note: This pending legislation can have some effect on our members. Note which can have an impact, and contact your legislators if appropriate. You will note that some legislation is pending in both Houses. J. Chester

Current

Gold Star License Plate Update 02.

Gold Star Family License plates are obtainable in almost every state and the U S Territory, Guam. with the exception of Washington DC. Many states have made submission of a Form DD 1300 a requirement for obtaining their plates but the form is not generally available to all relatives entitled to the plate. The form is issued only to the next of kin specified by the deceased on his or her emergency notification form upon entering the military. You can obtain a copy of DD 1300 from eVetRecs (www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/) with submission of a SF-180Form obtainable at www.archives.gov/research/order/standard-form-180.pdf if you are the eligible next of kin. The next of kin can be any of the following: surviving spouse that has not remarried, father, mother, son, daughter, sister, or brother. If you know the next of kin or the casualty officer try to get a copy from them. If you can't get a copy of DD 1300 see if your state authorities will accept alternate proof that you are related to the deceased. To see what each states plate looks like and information on authorizing legislation, where to apply, and any special; criteria to obtain refer to the attachment to this Bulletin titled, "**Gold Star License Plates**" [Source: www.goldstarmoms.com/Resources/GSFLicensePlateStatus/GSFStatus.htm Mar 2012 ++]

FEATURE ARTICLES

Veteran's Day – 2012

By: John Chester

As is our wont, Mary Anne & I went to Washington, DC for Veteran's Day again this year. We ran into quite a few of our members at The Wall, some by accident and some by design. Joe Little, our President, was there, escorting his Operation Freedom Bird vets. We exchanged a few thoughts and he once again secured Mary Anne's permission for me to contribute to the magazine again. Dave Regenthal was there making a video of the entire proceedings, for inclusion on the 75th RRA web site. We ran into Tome Robideaux and John Looney & John Everly as well.



Tome Robideaux, John Looney, Robert Primeaux, John Everly, & me.

Being Vietnam Veterans, we tend (at least I do) to think that Veterans Day revolves around those of us who have been to Vietnam. It simply does not. There were events going on at every Memorial in Washington, DC on November 11, 2012. There was a Ceremony going on at the Korean Wars Veterans Memorial just a few meters away. A member of the ROK Army MG Lee was present to lay a wreath at the Memorial.

Mr. Garcia was part of the Staff of the Secretary of Veteran's Affairs, Eric Shinsecki who was the keynote speaker at the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial that afternoon. The Secretary had some very cogent comments, which one would expect, being himself a Vietnam Veteran, indeed his comments were both in memory of those whose names were on the Wall and in future anticipation of the Education Center whose ground breaking ceremony will be later in November, 2012.



John Garcia, Director of Inter-governmental Affairs at the VA, John Looney, MG Lee of the South Korean Army, Robert Primeaux, one of our members whose name I forgot to get, (my fault), Tome Robideaux, Joe Little, our President, & me.



Secretary of Veteran's Affairs, Eric Shinsecki and his wife arrive at the Wall for his keynote address on Veteran's Day.

However we felt concerning the issue of the Black Beret, I think most of us would acknowledge that Secretary Shinsecki has done a reasonably good job in his tenure at the helm of the VA. The Education Center will also contribute to understanding the cost of war, not just the one in Vietnam but of all wars, past, present and future. The attempt will be made to put a face with every name that's on the Wall.

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

To John Chester,

July 11th, 2011

In June, I met one of your band, Jack Werner. We talked briefly about Vietnam and he encouraged me to write to you about artillery support for Rangers. But this is not a technical document. It's a letter of appreciation, from one man to Rangers for what they did and the way they did it.

A little background. I was an artillery 0-1 and 0-2 who served with the 173rd as an FO (4 months) and battery FDO (8 months) from March '70 to March '71. I went WAY out of my way to get to the 173rd because I knew it had great NCO's. When I got to VietNam, I knew nothing about the Rangers or LRPS or 75th infantry or anything else for that matter, but I was teachable.

The 173rd jungle school ended with a live-ammo foot patrol conducted by students and supervised by instructors, one of whom told me that he had a volunteer to walk point. Standing there was a short, medium built Spec 4 who looked about 15 years old. I was concerned, so I asked him if he had ever walked point before or at least knew something about what he was supposed to do. He replied, without rolling his eyes, that he had spent the second half of his first tour with the Rangers. The instructor smiled. Enough said. He did fine.

My FO time was with D Co., 1st Bn. Pacification was a complete joke, because the world was being told that northern II Corps was, well, pacified and we were busy trying to control a big piece of ground with a small, very spread out brigade, using patrols, ambushes, hawk teams, heliborne CA's, gunships, jets, artillery and anything else we could think of. Rangers were there but I never saw them. We heard them sometimes on the infantry radios, but had very little awareness of what they were doing or where they were.

Then came a 2 day "in-country R&R" at Loc Due beach. About 40 grimy, raggedy paratroopers got to lay around a white sand beach and drink beer and cokes from trash cans full of REAL ICE! and eat steaks and hot dogs, and be around a few girls well, I think they were girls. There were also a few fierce-looking 'Yards' there that I felt I had to keep an eye on. And 4 Rangers led by an ES who carried an M1 Garand. I introduced myself to him, he introduced his men and we just started to talk, about their war and my war. I wanted to learn about Ranger operations, they wanted to learn about how arty could support them better. We taught each other - very relaxed, very easy. Then, drank some beer, went to sleep, woke up, shook hands and went back to the war. I never saw them again.

I remember clearly my impressions of those men. The ES was a quiet, soft-spoken man with a mid-western accent. Friendly and relaxed, with good eyes and a confident, patient manner. A professional who knew what he was doing and obviously had the respect and affection of his men. He may have been 22 years old and the others 19 or so. I don't think any of them had any college time. They were, of course, kids- not Sgt. Rock types. They weren't crazy or loud or weird or scary. They looked sort of average. But they all had what I call good eyes, and I knew they had volunteered to do a job that made them the very sharp point of the spear, and that had nothing to do with the various levels of flame bullshit that pervaded the conduct of this war.

When I changed jobs and became a battery FDO, I began talking to them and learning how to shoot and plan targets for the teams. Artillery batteries in VN couldn't usually provide the surgical precision and instant flexibility of helicopter gunships or F4's, but we had some advantages. 1) We weren't 20 or 30 minutes out. We could deliver fire in 1 or 2 minutes, or even faster on planned, pre-cleared targets. So we were frequently the first responders if a team had trouble. 2) We could function as a team's X-ray (radio relay station) if they had none in place or if their X-ray com was broken down or terrain-blocked. 3) We were THERE for them 24/7, and never ran out of ammo or corns. 4) We could shoot in and pre-clear HE targets near pick-up points, for use if the team had to run. Sometimes we would even prep an LZ before an insertion, but this was very unusual with Rangers because it pretty well blew the surprise factor. 5) Navigation was a big challenge, in all parts of VN, mainly for two reasons. The first- poor visibility- is commonly heard and written up. The second is almost never raised - the maps could be bad. We shot marking rounds all the time for teams that couldn't pinpoint where they were in a 2 square click box, even in good weather. Terrain features shown on the map might not be there on the ground, or vice versa. Or, they might be there, but a different size, or several hundred meters away from where they were supposed to be. Artillery officers were uniquely positioned to comprehend this because we had experience calling and adjusting fire right there on the ground, and then later shooting met-refined data to a point on a map that we knew we should have been hitting, if the maps were right. Big IF.

Rangers never say it, but I will. EVERYBODY got lost in VN sooner or later, if they spent any time in the woods. It was a quietly terrifying feeling that I remember in my stomach and chest, that I never forgot. We always did everything in our power to help a team get located so they were confident, because it was literally a life and death issue.

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

6) Illumination was a big deal in VN because most VCINV A attacks happened at night, to diminish the US advantages of firepower and air mobility. I routinely plotted and cleared illum targets for every unit under our care, including Rangers. The 173rd line units would call for illum periodically just to check out their perimeter, or always if in night contact. Ranger illum targets were to be used only if the team was discovered and in danger of being overrun at night. Then, at the team leader's discretion, we could light up their battlefield and give them a chance to use their marksmanship and firepower to repel the assault.

One illum mission I remember very clearly because it was so unusual. A team working the side of a mountain hit a grenade booby trap, and a Ranger with a sucking chest wound needed medevac. It was nearly dark and very foggy, and the pilot tried and tried but couldn't see the mountain slope well enough to get in without a real danger of crashing. Our 2 gun raid battery, call sign 50 RP, was able to fire continuous illum close enough to light up the slope so the bird could get in for the medevac. Then we stayed in contact with the team, being their fire support and their X-ray, until they were picked up - I think the next morning. That medevac pilot had skill, guts and determination to spare. Whoever he was, our hats were off to him.

7) Recon by HE fire could be used by a team to check out a suspect enemy location. It didn't necessarily alert the enemy to the team's presence because we might have been shooting Dufflebags (electronic personnel sensors) or blind harrasing fire, both of which we did all the time. This same approach, usually adjusting with one gun and firing 2 guns in effect, could be used to suppress snipers, enable freer movement, and maybe let the Rangers CM a little longer.

My thanks to Jack Werner- the only 75th Ranger I've knowingly met since my return in 1971. I'd be honored to meet more of you, if the opportunity came along.

The VN 75th Rangers were not career types who got their spec ops tickets punched stateside, on the way to more conventional jobs. They were kids who volunteered in-country for the most up-close and dangerous kind of war there was right there, right now. They were men who did the job with magnificent courage and skill and were an example to us all.

Sincerely,
Peter Krauss

NOVEMBER RANGER, 75th INF 61ST AHC, 1ST AVN BRIGADE "Operation Bright Light"

A few years ago I met Carl Millinder on the Internet while searching for pilots I flew with and trying to make some contact with people I had served with. Carl responded to one of my inquires and we compared notes. Both of us were in country in 1971, Carl with the N Rangers 75th Inf. at LZ English, and myself with the 61st AHC at LZ Lane. I asked if he remembered a mission in Feb. of that year where the Rangers were lifted in to recover some American POW's. Carl said his team was on that mission. We have kept in touch and have decided that this mission needs to be recorded as a part of both units' history.

This mission "Operation Bright Light" took place Feb. 1971. "Bright Light" was a code word used to designate operations and intelligence relating to POW's and down aircraft. To have some idea of the impact of the mission and why I remember it so clearly, first this was a historical mission, or at least it would have been if it had been successful. And secondly, I was on my second tour and the new platoon commander for 2nd platoon. My first tour was in 1968 with Casper Aviation Platoon HHC 173rd ABN. I took some comfort with being

familiar with the Area of Operation and supporting the 173rd, but not all that familiar with my new position, or comfortable with being the new guy (FNG) in the unit.

Being woken up at midnight and being told that you have an immediate flight to LZ English, and it is your first mission after the in country check ride the day before, causes some excitement. On the way to operations to find out whom I was flying with and what the mission was it very quickly became apparent that the whole company was awake. I found out that both slick platoons "Lucky Star" and the gun platoon "Star Blazers" were going to LZ English, and we would be briefed on arrival. My AC knew about the mission and was already on the flight line, pre-fighting the ship and as far as he was concerned I was late. Not a great way to start. I would be flying right seat "peter pilot (PP)" in the lead ship with, to the best of my memory CW2 Sopko, one of the senior Aircraft commanders.

As memory serves, we had two flights of five ships each, four "M" model gun ships. We landed at LZ English on the Crap Table about 2AM and the AC's went in for the mission briefing while the rest waited. Not knowing what to expect made the waiting seem a lot longer than it really was. Some of the crewmembers slept and some ate, I could do neither. We were briefed on the AC's return.

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Our mission was to pick up the 75th Rangers at LZ Pony and depart at such time so we would land at first light in an abandoned 1st Cav. firebase where an estimated 6 to 10 American POW's were being held by an unknown number of NVA. We would be landing at first light under the cover of the Star Blazers and a heavy drop of CS gas canisters dropped by a Casper ship. Casper also had the Command and Control (C&C) for the mission. After the initial insertion we were to return to Pony and load up the next lift of Rangers who were being held in reserve if the first lift ran into serious trouble. If there was no trouble, and the POW's were recovered we were to return and lift out the first lift.

We were to follow the river West from LZ Pony past LZ Abby turning North at an area called "crows foot" and continue to follow the river. The flight was low level. North on the river there is a large waterfall, about 200-ft. high. I had seen it once before in 68. As we climbed to get over the waterfall we were to continue to follow the river and keep climbing to an altitude so that we could see the LZ, which was to the South of the river. The waterfall was our IP.

The final destination was about 30 miles north of An Khe and about 30 miles West of LZ Pony. I don't know the last time Americans had been in this area. It could have been at least 4 years, truly Charley country.



**Picture by Ken Thomas
"Casper Platoon"**

Recon pictures of the abandoned LZ showed old bunkers, down trees and stumps. There were two clearings separated by a row of trees. The first flight would land in the clearing to the right (West Side) and the second flight would simultaneously land in the clearing to the left. There were two large hills, one on the East and the other to the West. They were old volcano vents and were nick named "Witch's Tits". Recon pictures also showed the possibility of machine gun positions on each hill. The most common heavy machine gun used by the NVA was the 12.7-mm (51 cal.). If they were really there they would be able to see us coming and we would be landing below them in a clear line of fire. The NVA typically set the 12.7 up in a triangle so there would have been a third gun that had not been found.

First light and coming in fast using surprise would be the only chance to get past the guns and in and out of the LZ before any anti-aircraft guns could be fired. That is if the guns were there or the crews were still asleep.

We were issued gas mask to use during the initial insertion. They were designed for aircrews so had to be plugged into the intercom/radio and the can/filter was on a long hose and strapped to your body or leg. The lens were a thin plastic and hard to see through and in my case there was a wrinkle which distorted the view, such that I could either see two trees where there was one or see none at all with out moving my head back and forth. I don't know who was responsible for the gas mask, but there was only enough for two per ship. There were 4 crew per ship and with only two gas masks there was cause for concern. There was no way the mission would be delayed or cancelled, so each ship decided who would wear the mask. In our case the decision was that I would wear the mask along with the crew chief. The AC would fly the ship into the LZ and as the gas came into the ship and he was affected by it I would take over and fly out. I think Mr. Sopko would have preferred a more experienced pilot with him in the lead ship, however he never said so.

The LZ was tight so to fit all 5 ships in we had to crowd forward so our blades were over lapping an old bunker. It was over grown and we didn't see it till just before we set down. There was an opening in the bunker immediately to my front about 20 feet away. Our orders were not to return fire to prevent accidentally hitting any of the POWs, despite the order I had my .38 out and was ready to shoot thorough the windscreen if I saw any movement in the bunker. The time in the LZ was very short, the crew chief said we were clear, which meant that all the Rangers were out. We came to a hover and the AC radioed the flight that "lead is up" and I heard trail respond that "the flight is up", there was no other radio talk. As planned the AC said, "you've got it". Excited and still new I pulled pitch, and forgot the left pedal. We listed right and were going out of the LZ sort of side ways, I heard someone, maybe the crew chief or the AC in the intercom yelling left peddle, which solved our problem.

There were no rounds fired, no one was home. Back at LZ Pony we were waiting for information on our next step. Fly in the reserves, or fly in and pick up the POWs and the Rangers. The call came that there were no POWs and that we were to fly back and extract the Rangers. This was a major disappointment, and the reason why no rounds were fired. Our good fortune of not having a hot LZ was very bad news for the POWs. They had been there, and had been moved as we were coming in.

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Carl told me that they found the cages they had been kept in. E-mail from Carl, "We knew there were plenty NVA that was supposed to be there. So we were a little concerned. Wrote the goodbye letters and shit. Sorry we didn't find the guys. We knew they were close."

Carl also sent me this: "As I remember the mission, was to have four ranger teams inserted at the Four Corners of a grid square. We were told of sighting of American POWs. The location was never told to us. We practiced the raid for about a week. I remember it was a long flight and we still didn't know where we were going. The piece of map we were issued indicated a waterfall where we would escape and evade to if we had to. About a minute out the grid square would be saturated with CS fired from the cobras. We donned the protective mask and went in. About 20 to 30 minutes after the insertion Charlie team discovered bamboo cages, hoochs. Elevated bins that stored rice. The campfires were still hot and fresh human feces were found. No men were seen. No enemy contact was made. They were there, probably under ground. I think the mission on the ground lasted about an hour. We were picked up, flew back to English and debriefed. We still never knew where we had gone."



Charlie team N Ranger, 75th Inf.: Standing left to right... Thomas Oulett, Carl Millinder, and Donald Valencourt Sitting left to right.....Wayne Galbreath, Mike Staffin, and Dennis Russel

As Carl and I communicated I was surprised to find out that the Rangers didn't know where they were going. Plus that they were expecting to be inserted at the corners of the grid, however there was only one LZ, which would fit in the flights or a single ship and that, was in the old firebase. I was also surprised to find out they had trained for the mission and we had almost no notice.

In one of his e-mail messages Carl said: "I had a guy working on an oil rig 20 years or so ago that was a POW. I told him about the mission, and the water fall. He told me he was one of the

guys that built the bridge across the river. I don't remember his name but we called him Snuffy. I didn't remember a bridge at the time. But, I see it in the picture. He told me they had moved underground just before the gas hit. Wow. Gives me chills."

We are left to wonder what the outcome was for the POWs. The Paris agreement for the release of prisoners was that they all were to be released in Hanoi to the Red Cross. Which meant that these POWs and all captured in the South had to walk north, through very rough land, heavy bombing, and with poor food and poorly trained guards. The wounded and sick would have a particularly difficult time surveying. If they could not travel they would be shot and left on the side of the trail.

I would like to believe that the POWs made it North and were released. However we may never know that for sure. Carl's experience of meeting "Snuffy" would leave me to hope so.

Carl's and my memory needs some help, so if anyone else in the 75th or the 61st that remembers this mission would like to add to or correct this narrative please get a hold of either one of us. I had most of a full tour left, and as the skills of the pilot pilots improved and the current AC's rotated back to the states we became Aircraft commanders. From my first tour with the 173rd ABN I had gained a great deal of respect for the LURP, which they were called in 68, but in 71 I got to fly more missions either inserting or extracting the Rangers. I was always in awe of their missions and how they carried them out. The Rangers should know when we knew we were going to be flying N Rangers that the 61st took the missions very serious. The best pilots were assigned, with one of our better ships. These missions always seemed to prove challenging. However most of the time we would be assigned to fly C&C for one of the Battalions and during the day we would find out that a Ranger team needed to be inserted or extracted. At one time or another all our pilots got to fly these missions. Insertions were planned and for the most part went well, however extractions could be the most challenging and some times were on a TAC-E (tactical emergency) so the closest ship to the team would be sent in. These missions were the bases for many war stories. Not to blow any smoke but I can't think of anyone else that I would rather be flying than the Rangers; they were the most professional troops you could work with. They knew what they were doing and we knew if the "fit hit the shan" you couldn't be with a better group.

Written By

Carl Millinder, Charley team N Ranger,
75th Inf. www.75thrra.com
Clifford White, 2nd Platoon 61stAHC,
1ST Avn. Brigade www.61ahc.org

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

American Indian Veteran Memorial Initiative (AIVMI)

AIVMI is a special project
spearheaded by the
Seminole Tribe of Florida.

The American Indian veteran, per capita, has served this country more than any other ethnic group in history. These veterans are also the most decorated of all military veterans, and have served in every branch of the armed forces. AIVMI's vision is to have an American Indian soldier monument built near the Vietnam Wall on the National Mall in Washington DC.

Mission

To build a monument at the Vietnam Memorial Walk on the National Mall in Washington DC that represents an American Indian veteran.

Goals

- Advocate for a clearer understanding of the involvement of American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian veterans in wartime.
- Establish a clearing house to catalog and disseminate information about these veterans.
- Convey a more positive truer image of American Indian veterans.

Strategy

- Obtain Indian tribal involvement through Resolutions of Support
- Gain commitments from federal and state agencies and organizations for their support.
- Research and compile statistics on the participation of American Indians/Alaska Natives/Native Hawaiians in Vietnam.

The American Indian

Veterans Memorial Initiative

AIVMI, Inc. is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) charitable organization that promotes and advocates for American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian veterans.

Contact

Stephen Bowers
Liaison Veterans Affairs

Seminole Tribe of Florida

6300 Stirling Road
Hollywood FL 33024
Ph: 954-966-6300 Ext: 11480
Cell: 954-609-0536
Fax: 954-967-3540
Email: sbowers@semttribe.com

AIVMI, INC.

Seminole Hollywood Reservation

6311 N 36th Street
Hollywood FL 33024
Ph: 954-415-2999
Email: info@aivmi.org

www.aivmi.org

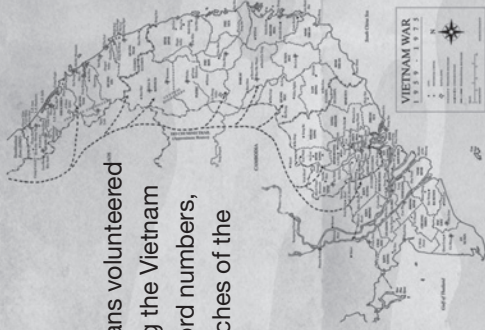


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AMERICAN INDIAN VETERANS MEMORIAL INITIATIVE (AIVMI)



American Indians volunteered to serve during the Vietnam conflict in record numbers, and in all branches of the armed forces.



WE WERE THERE...
WHY ARE WE NOT HERE?



Three Servicemen Statue at the Vietnam Memorial
Walk on the National Mall in Washington D.C.

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Support

We encourage Indian tribes, organizations, foundations, corporations, musicians and individuals to take an active role to help AIVMI achieve its mission.



The Vietnam Wall at the National Mall in Washington D.C. was dedicated in 1982. It contains the names of more than 58,000 American men and women, including American Indians.

"Long before an official organization of our country's military, Native Americans have always served as stewards of our homelands. We were there during the Vietnam conflict, fighting for our country. As Native Americans, when we look at the beautiful 'Three Servicemen Monument' that depicts true and brave warriors, we wonder why we [American Indians] were not included."

Quote by Mitchell Cypress, former Chairman of Seminole Tribe of Florida and a founding member of the Seminole Color Guard.

The Beginning

In early 2011, Stephen Bowers, a Vietnam combat veteran and founding member of the Seminole Color Guard, along with Mitchell Cypress, launched the American Indian Veterans Memorial Initiative — AIVMI. With continued support from the incoming Seminole Tribal Chairman, James Billie, a two-tour Vietnam veteran, and the other Tribal Council members, among them, Andrew Bowers Jr, also a Vietnam veteran, the Initiative is gaining its "legs".

Dr. Tome Roubideaux, a five-tour Vietnam veteran and member of Rosebud Lakota tribe, and Dr. Robert "Bob" Primeaux, also a Vietnam veteran and member of Standing Rock Lakota tribe have joined "The Team" to help build support for the Initiative throughout Indian Country.

Janene Alford, a member of the Absentee Shawnee Indian Tribe of Oklahoma recently organized AIVMI's first Blanket Honor Dance at a Pow-wow in Tulsa, OK.



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

How do I get involved?

- Encourage your Tribal Council leaders to send AIVMI a "Resolution of Support" for this Initiative. Examples of previous ones submitted from other tribes are available from Stephen Bowers, Seminole Tribe of Florida or from AIVMI. We need to show support throughout Indian Country when we seek approval from the President and members of Congress.

- Start a campaign to call and write letters of support for the Initiative to the President, and Members of Congress.

- Help AIVMI collect data on the veterans in your tribe so that their contributions of military service during the Vietnam conflict can accurately be documented.

What will it take to get approval to build a monument?

- An Act of Congress and/or an Executive Order from the President of the United States.

How long will it take to get approval?

- It could take months or it could take years.

**WE WILL NOT STOP UNTIL THE
MONUMENT IS BUILT.**

www.aivmi.org

Resolution (Sample)

WHEREAS, American Indians/Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians serve at the highest per capita in the Armed Forces compared to any group of Americans, and have served with valor in all the Nation's wars from the Revolutionary War through the present; and

WHEREAS, an overwhelming majority of the men of the Seminole Tribe of Florida served in the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, "The Three Servicemen" are wearing uniforms and carrying equipment of war, one serviceman has the appearance of a Caucasian, the other African-American, and the third resembles a Hispanic soldier; and

WHEREAS, none of the servicemen resemble an American Indian; and

WHEREAS, this Initiative shall be charged with the responsibility to go into Indian Country to communicate with local, regional, and national Indian and non-Indian groups necessary to gather support in an effort to obtain Congressional authorization to build a monument on the Vietnam Memorial Walk on the National Mall in Washington DC that represents an American Indian; and

WHEREAS, the addition of the monument will recognize the contributions and sacrifices of the American Indian/Alaska Native and Hawaiian Native during the Vietnam conflict.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the [insert your own Tribal Governing Body name] on behalf of its membership, hereby recognizes and approves the "American Indian Veterans Memorial Initiative — AIVMI".



When American Indians enlisted in the military during Vietnam, some of them were checked off as "White". We need to find these veterans and get them documented accurately as American Indians/Alaska Natives or Hawaiian Natives.

UNIT REPORTS



1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Steve Cochran

No Submission



2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Kevin Ingraham

2nd Ranger Battalion Memorial Dedication

On November 7, 2012, I had the honor and privilege to join Rangers from all over the country and all eras with the active duty Army Rangers of 2/75 Ranger Regiment after they recently returned home from their 15th deployment in support on the Global War on Terrorism to dedicate The Pointe du Hoc Foundation Memorial. The Memorial was built adjacent to the battalion's Headquarters.

The memorial is to ensure our Ranger Heroes are not forgotten. The memorial incorporates the 2D Ranger Battalion scroll, the orange 2-diamond, and the dagger. The obelisk, inscribed with the names of 2D Ranger Battalion's fallen, is placed at the "tip of the dagger". The Fairbairn-Sykes Dagger origins goes all the way back to WWII. The memorial was built to pay tribute to the achievements and sacrifices of the fallen 2D Battalion Rangers. The tip of the dagger is recognized as the highest honor. The orange <2> diamond representing our WWII Rangers honors COL Rudder with his stone being placed at the top of the diamond. When the men of 2D Ranger Battalion assemble the formation, the fallen Rangers will forever be part of the Ranks.

The early weather reports indicated showers, which is not unusual for Washington, however, today the clouds seemed to part and the sun was proudly shining as the Great Ranger In The Sky (GRITS) watched over allowing our Rangers Brothers to watch down upon us. With a slight breeze, it made it a little chilly, but not many thought about the chill as the Rangers and attendees listened to Cpt Stone give a brief history of the memorial, Ranger History and many Ranger achievements since World War II. Several dignitaries were in attendance to include several of the original 2D Battalion Rangers from



WWII that scaled the cliffs of Pointe du Hoc on June 6th, 1944, under the command of LTC James E. Rudder. Medal of Honor recipient SFC Leroy Petry was also seated amongst several of the Rangers Gold Star Families.

LTC Anderson, the battalion commander gave a brief speech recognizing Rangers past, present and future. LTC Anderson was a 1st platoon leader for A Co back in 1994 when the unit deployed in support of Uphold Democracy. I too had the

honor and privilege to serve under him.. LTC Anderson recently took command of the 2D Ranger Battalion prior to its 15th deployment.

COL(R) Okita, chairman of The Pointe du Hoc Foundation, prior commander of 2D Ranger Battalion, spoke briefly about the origins of the foundation and how it came to be. The foundation's board of directors: COL(R) Okita, CSM(R) Rocco, CSM(R) Leon-Guerro, CSM(R) Inman, COL(R) Lisi, Taryn Funcheon provided valuable support in making the memorial possible. More information can be read at: www.pointeduhocfoundation.com

All Rangers and guests in attendance were treated with a few words from LTC Rudder's daughter, Mrs. Anne Rudder Erdman. Although she indicated she was honored to speak, it appeared as though all attendees were the ones honored. Mrs. Rudder Erdman was presented with a rare print signed and numbered by MOH Recipient SFC Leroy Petry.

Wreaths were placed at the spear of the memorial recognizing the different eras of Rangers. Most notably the WWII wreath placed by Ranger Magnan, the grandson of a WWII Ranger. Rangers in attendance were asked to stand to be recognized for their service during these different conflicts. Each era

2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)

recognized from WWII to the present had a veteran Ranger in attendance. Although there were several WWII Rangers present, they were difficult to catch up with as they were always on the move, or surrounded by the many other Rangers wanting to meet them. One Ranger legend however, George Klein was still there shaking hands and taking pictures well after other attendees had left. I had the opportunity to meet Ranger Klein briefly as he tried to take a break before moving on again. Ranger Klein flew in from Chicago to be a part of the dedication.

The ceremony was wrapped up by Capt. Stone asking all Rangers to stand and participate in the reciting of the Ranger Creed. CSM Theis started the creed and all Rangers followed loud and thunderously. One could feel the resonating voices as they echoed off the buildings and tents drowning out the helicopters flying by. It's been a long time since reciting the creed in this fashion and still today it makes me proud and honored to be able to stand with these warriors.

As everyone started to walk around, I had the opportunity to introduce my family to SFC Petry. I had the opportunity to meet him a few years back and with all the hand shaking and people he has met over the years, I was humbled he remembered. My kids will have a memory forever as SFC Petry knelt down to take a picture with them.

Rangers and guests were invited to lunch and the ability to tour the new 2D BN compound. Many Rangers including me had not been back since the old barracks were demolished. The "Ranger Compound" was made up of four buildings with a large grass field in between known as the "quad". The four buildings that used to stand were no longer there. I have been back to visit a few times, but almost didn't recognize the place if it hadn't been for Noble Hill and the airfield. The new buildings now occupy the location of the old A Co and C Co. In fact driving on post, I turned down one of the roads taking a short cut, so I thought. At the other end, the road was blocked with traffic redirected to another area. As I drove back the other direction it was obvious other Rangers had the same thought as they too were now turning around.

The Ranger Dining Facility, is now across the street from the old A Co gate, and the road blocked toward Noble Hill. The dining facility houses an impressive kitchen. The facility rivals most any restaurant. I stood in line with my family behind some young Rangers. My son in awe kept saying, "there's a Ranger". One of the Rangers turned around looking down to acknowledge my son and introduced himself. The menu

selection: prime rib, lobster tail, King crab legs, stuffed chicken and more. The main selection was complimented by a salad bar, vegetable bar and dessert island. My daughter with a big smile on her face grabbed one of the crab legs as long as her arm. Pictures, prints, and televisions surrounded the walls within the dining facility. One thing I noticed that hasn't changed is the cooks are still wearing their black base ball hats. After lunch we toured the buildings. Rangers were set up in the company area providing tours and displaying many of the unit toys. It was amazing to see these professional, patient, young men as they talked with kids, parents, and guests. My son walked up to one of the vehicles as a Ranger said, "Go ahead get in there, get up on the fifty." Wrong thing to say to my son cause he actually started climbing up there. Behind the company area is the Ranger's large world class gym. One cannot forget the obstacle course outside the apartment style barracks. I saw several of the pictures that used to be in the A Co bar were now hanging on the wall inside the company AO. The murals that had been painted on the walls did not survive the demo, instead photos had been taken and were hanging on the walls. I was impressed to see the Black Sheep are still carrying on the tradition. Although the new company AO's have changed there are still many pictures in which they tried to preserve showing old friends as well as the continued heritage of the Rangers. There is not a day that goes by without the memories of the fallen as each company provides a tribute to each within the halls.

These active duty Rangers are true professionals that are able to adapt and overcome. This deployment we lost a Ranger Brother and others were wounded, however, they still stood tall for over an hour during the dedication and then continued to hang out around the area shaking hands and interacting with all who attended.

After nearly six hours catching up with old friends, meeting new friends, eating great food, and touring this world class facility it was time to leave. As I passed a group of young Rangers near 'Noble Hill', I asked them if the hill was still a lot of fun? In response they all smiled and said, "Oh yeah!" For many Noble Hill brings back a lot of memories.

I am still proud of my Ranger Heritage and it was an honor to meet these great warriors; 'Heroes'. RLTW!

Jason Hudson
A Co 2/75 RS 8-94
President, Army Ranger Mojo Inc.
www.armyranger.com

2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)



Vietnam Wreath.



MOH Recipient SFC Leroy Petry with Natalie and Jamison.



WWII Ranger George Klein.



Mrs Anne Rudder Erdman, Daughter to LTC Rudder WWII Second Ranger Battalion.



Left to Right- LTC Anderson, 2D Ranger Battalion Commander, Mrs. Anne Rudder Erdman, Col(r) Okita, chairman of The Pointe du Hoc Foundation and former 2D BN Commander.



WWII Wreath placed by Ranger Magman whose the grandson of a WWII Army Ranger Vet.



3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Scott Billingslea

No Submission



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

Unit Director - Ron Dahle

Before I get into the meat of the article, I wanted to discuss a motorcycle accident Ron Bishop of the V Corps side of the house had on the 22nd of April. He has a broken collarbone, some broken ribs and broken nose. A break in the second vertebrae in his neck that will require a neck brace for a while. he also has a cuts on his cheek. His lower body seems to be OK. It was a single vehicle accident but he does not remember too much about it. He says his motorcycle riding day may be over. His phone was lost so Terry will try to find it when she arranges



for the bike to be sent home. She will keep us updated and try to get him some commo.

Basically he was probably saved by the fact he was wearing full leathers, and a helmet. His head was bleeding under the helmet, which is an indication of how hard he hit. That helmet probably saved his life.

Several of us have talked to him a couple of times, still pretty damn sharp considering what he has just been through. He is

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

currently being fed by IV. He has a road ahead of him to recover, but at least the prognosis appears to be good for full recovery. He is currently in a skilled nursing facility, as Lee Farley stated he expects Ron to be chasing skilled nurses shortly.

**Ron Bishop****Ron's Moto-Guzzi****UPDATE**

Since the original story was written, Ron is out of the hospital and well on the way to mending. It won't be long before he is back to his usual ornery self, with the exception of his motorcycles, all of which were sold. If the truth were known I would bet there was a tear in Ron's eye (or at least his heart) when they took them away.

Reunions

Both sides of the house, A Company and the 3779 LRRP (V Corps) continue to have their mini reunions, with the A company usually being the fall and spring hilltop reunions in Tennessee where the prime objective is to create a shortage of Ammo and beer. The 3779th rotates what we call out SOS Mini, where yours truly is responsible for cooking the SOS. They are usually conducted on a weekend, wherever we can get a host. We were planning one in NH in May, but the logistics just didn't work out and we had to cancel it. I am considering having one here this fall, unless someone comes up with a better offer.

UPDATE

A better offering may be in the making. John Simmons is going to be at Riverstone in Pigeon Forge, TN from Jan thru March and he is going to try to put one together there. That would be great, as Riverstone is a great facility that far exceeds our class, but we fake it pretty well.

**Riverstone.**

The A-75 side of the house just had their fall camping trip. The following piece will give all a rundown on what transpired there.

Well, another trip to the Hilltop is in the record books, everyone has departed, and the range is silent again except for the coyotes and turkeys, glad I am sure to have their ground back. For the most part we had decent weather, a few chilly nights a couple of showers but overall good camping weather.

Mr. Carlisle graced us with his presence a couple of times as did his son-in-law Joe and 2 grandsons, Michael and Riley. First trip for Michael, 14, but Riley, now 6 has been coming for 3-4 years. One of the hi-lights was Michael firing an AK47 pulling the trigger from the hip at a rapid rate of fire. Big eyes and a big smile and a huge "THAT WAS KOOOOOOOOOL!!!!!!!" We had a huge crowd Saturday and Sunday, 14, which kept Charcoal Boy and Dr Fisher busy in the kitchen, but they were up to the challenge and we ate well as usual, 3 dozen eggs and 3 #s of bacon a loaf of bread and a pack of English muffins was a common breakfast.

EJ brought an awesome rifle rack and A Company scroll mounted over the top. I have attached a picture, but I am sure there will be more to follow. EJ issued a couple of Art. 15's for failure to properly store your rifle and SGM DJ issued a very stern Art 15 for a not so accidental discharge. I am sure there will be more to follow on that particular incident.

Charcoal Boy brought a new camera and maxed out the storage on the second day, but he should have a bunch of photos to share. Hopefully we can get a few into the next Patrolling Mag. Fisher and I had our ATV's there for range and latrine duty and for riding the hills. They didn't sit much this trip. (Didn't receive in time.)

Bill Bowman and his 2 sons Joe and Josh and the lifelong buddy Joe D came for a few days.

We had a group picture Tuesday morning before the Bowmans left. As we started grouping around the arms rack, I slipped off my sweatshirt to expose my Romney/Ryan t-shirt, which I thought was appropriate since it was election day. Unfortunately, when we got up Wednesday morning, DJ told me to burn my t-shirt. Fisher was a lone supporter of Obamamamama, and was a gracious winner and did not gloat nearly as much as the rest of us would have had Mitt won. We talked about those who weren't there and shame on ya for not being there.

A/75 - D/17 LRP - V CORPS LRRP (Continued)**LRRPs in Bavaria in Autumn of '65**

Bon T Murphy

The entire Deep South of West Germany was the stage for the longest field training exercise ever for US Army LRRPs in Europe in the autumn of 1965.

The large scale two month long maneuver ranged across the states of Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg, bordered on the West by France, the South by Switzerland and the East by Austria.

We were inserted by C-130, CH-34 helicopter and truck, sometimes hundreds of kilometres from our previous positions in an area ranging from the Bodensee (Lake Constance) to the Chiemsee, and into the Bavarian Alps for some mountain work as well.

My patrol did not see the inside of an Army barracks for almost two months. We virtually went native. And we learned to fit in and become invisible to other soldiers and any outsiders to the region. I decided to break traditional LRRP practice by establishing contact with the locals since they would most likely protect us from SF intruders and SF trained "irregulars" who subsequently ventured into our AO.

On one of our insertions we were dropped at the base of an impressive 1748 meter high Alp called the Hochgern which rises from a broad flat valley that includes the biggest lake in Bavaria, the Chiemsee.

With SF and their people looking for us, we went straight up the mountain with our rucksacks and long range commo gear.

In those days we had just increased patrol size from four to five men. Patrol Leader SSG Dick Hoque spoke fluent German and was also a CW radio operator so he and CW operators Frank Speight and John Simmons set up their commo position near the top of the mountain.

I was scout so had humped the second 16 lb battery for the TRC-77 CW radio and extra rations up the mountain that night and then got a couple of hours sleep off the trail on a steep mountainside with the top of my mummy bag tied to a tree to keep me from sliding down the hill.

The patrol established long range commo finally in the morning with a wire fence for an antenna and the other scout and I went for a recce to ensure there were no hostile elements on the high ground.

Then we adjourned to "Hochgernhaus", a mountain inn for a beer before heading back down the mountain to set up an OP.

The bartender walked past three times before I told him I was going to hit him if he did not pay us any mind. He stopped, rubbed his eyes as if he didn't believe what he saw. "I thought I was hallucinating," he explained. "I've been behind the bar here since half way through the war and I have never seen an American on top of this mountain." "What about when the 101st went through here in the closing days of the war???" "They sent some local kids from town up here to tell the German soldiers to come down and surrender," he replied with a grin.

Then he asked if I had feathers in the rucksack and I said, "Go pick it up kamerade and then you tell me." It weighed about 60lbs since I had stashed some of my rations at the bottom of the mountain to carry extra supplies to the radio operators. He was impressed and immediately poured us a couple of the local brews, on the house.

He like most Germans I met believed that all Americans had cars and never walked anywhere and the same went for our soldiers. In all fairness V and VII Corps LRRPs were the only non-mechanized soldiers in the US 7th Army in Germany and the only ones I ever encountered that practised proper field craft and were capable of long distance route marches.

Back down on patrol with no "hostile" forces in the area we settled in with the locals to the point where we were working with the farmers. We were there for weeks and saw no other soldiers and spoke our bad German with the locals. We helped them in the field and they fed us. We drank beer with them in their gasthauses (country inns) and slept in their barns or in the woods and sometimes with their daughters (bless them). Almost all the farmers were seasoned veterans of Nazi Germany's WWII Wehrmacht still relieved that we had beaten the Russians to their part of the world.

I didn't realize how acclimatized we had become until I was out driving a Porsche single cylinder tractor with a scarifier one morning with old kamerade (our slang term for a German. When German soldiers surrendered to Americans it was with their hands up saying "Kamerade" [Comrade] and hoping for the best) and frau kamerade walking along behind hand-sowing grain.

My PRC-25 was on the tractor deck behind me when someone broke squelch I didn't understand a single word they said. I realized that I was thinking in German perhaps for the first time ever and so had failed to understand English. I looked at the farmer and his wife and told them, "I didn't understand a word they said," which they thought was hilarious.

The call was from a C-130 about 10km out and looking for us on a resupply mission. So I talked them in and they roared

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

low over the field, with some of our guys kicking out cases of C-rations on cardboard honeycomb pallets with standard ponchos as drag chutes (didn't even break the crackers). They flew under some high tension lines, pulled up in a lazy almost stall turn and came back under the power lines so low across the field that their prop blade tips were kicking up the dust on the freshly plowed paddock and disappeared back in the direction of the Chiemsee.

The whole town was impressed. So was I. I gave kamerade farmer and his frau a case of the C-rats, which fascinated them and split up the meals from another case and handed them out at the gasthaus that evening and humped the other cases up the mountain to the commo site the next day. (No LRRP rations in those days.)

It was party time that night at the gasthaus. John Simmons and Frank Speight and I had a great time with the farmers and their daughters. I asked one of the locals why I was getting along with them so well when I didn't like the people in Frankfurt where I was stationed. They all put their noses in the air like they were stuck up and said Frankfurters were all grim business and no culture and no heart and, besides, they were all Protestants.

Then one leaned across the table and read Murphy on my name tag and said, "Hah, you're Catholic like us. We're all mad. That's why you fit in here." Then they started laughing and talking about beating the Prussians at their own military game in 1870 and that sort of thing. Had a great time.

Hungover and on patrol the next morning we came across a farmer using a horse-drawn plow and stopped to watch. John Simmons stepped forward for a yarn and told the fellow he was a farmer in Mississippi and had grown up plowing with a horse. The farmer was incredulous that any American would still know how to do that so Room Loud insisted he hand him the reins. Funniest thing was that the verbal commands John knew from Mississippi were the same in Germany, something that sounded like Gee and Haw for Left and Right (from memory).

And away he went after a wobble or two and finished the paddock straight and true.

That idyllic field exercise covered a lot of ground for a long while and because, for once, it did not involve large scale movement of tanks and APCs, we hadn't had to wait for the ground to freeze before deploying.

I had never been on a maneuver like that before and never went on one again. Our FTX season typically started and ended with snow on the frozen ground.

It was the neatest paid holiday I ever had. I learned to love beer. The local brew in Staudach-Egerndach was the first one I ever liked the taste of. The local burgermeister's (mayor's) daughter was very good for me, the people were great, the weather was perfect, the land at the very edge of the Bavarian Alps was breathtakingly beautiful and the food was wonderful.

We were blessed.

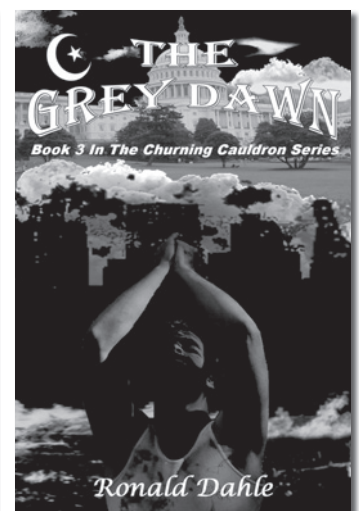
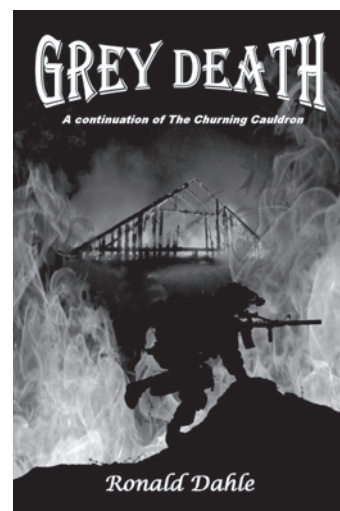
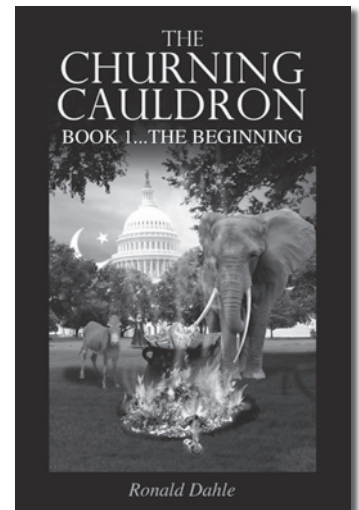
Meanwhile on the other side of the world the Marines were setting up shop at Khe Sanh and the 173rd had just shifted from Okinawa to the Republic of Vietnam.

That maneuver in the Bavarian autumn of 1965 was perhaps the last twitch of a peacetime Army that had grown fat, lazy, incompetent and hidebound over two decades of peace.

It was soon to come to an end.

In my world.

I just sent my third novel, *The Grey Dawn*, (a real butt kicker) off to the formatter to be formatted for Kindle. It should be out by the time this article is published. My second novel, *Grey Death*, is currently being formatted for print. It is already available in Kindle, and should also be available in print by the time this article is published.





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

Unit Director - Mark L. Thompson

Greetings and Salutations!

This edition of Patrolling, at least the VII Corps, C/58, B/75 edition, comes to you from the Great Ravaged Northeast. While your humble correspondent did not suffer anywhere near the amount of property damage from this fall's storms as we sustained last fall, others have not been so lucky. We have, in past years, suffered extended power outages, lack of heat, lack of water, road closures, school closures, and the like, but this year it was those closer to the coast in Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, and other environs northwards who bore the brunt of this year's "Storm of the Century". We hope that all of you living in the affected areas at least have power back now, and that your property damage is something for which you are insured, and that you can deal with in a timely fashion.

The Patrolling issues got a little out of synch due to unavoidable circumstances, so we are not sure what was already published and sent out, so if, when we see this issues after it is printed, something is missing from our prior submissions, we will go back and "resurrect" it.

R.I.P. PAT SMITH (VII CORPS LRRP)

One of the advantages of Facebook is that we have been able to get to know others from the unit with whom we did not serve (at the same time). One of those I was privileged to get to know was Pat Smith, who never ceased to fail cracking me up. Pat passed away this month, and I will miss being able to chat with him on FB. I will leave it to those who served with him to cover this in the VII Corps section of the article (see below). You will be missed, Pat.

LZ XRay and "We Were Soldiers"

November being what it is, we are also at the anniversary of the 1st Cav's adventure in the Ia Drang Valley which took place at LZ X-Ray. CSM Plumley passed away within the past month or so (R.I.P., Sergeant Major), but we still have Stan Harrell with us, as well as others who participated in that particular engagement. If there are others from the unit who were at X-Ray, please let us know, so we can hoist a beverage to you each year as we pass this date.



Veteran's Day

As this goes to press, we will have just celebrated Veteran's Day, and seen many of the commemorations in the media, so I thought it might be appropriate to include here some of the sentiments expressed on this day by some of the other guys in the units. In the interest of space (and because the Editor would have me kneecapped if I inserted more than one), I randomly selected this sentiment from Don Bruce:

Veterans Day:

To all who served...

It does not matter where you served.

It does not matter what job you had when you served.

It does not matter how long you served.

Thank you for your service and your commitment to the CAUSE OF FREEDOM.

Without you, Freedom would be a dream.

For those of you who have never served please remember: FREEDOM IS NOT FREE...

It has been paid for by these great VETERANS.

If you do nothing else this week end find a VETERAN and thank them.

God Bless you all.

SGM (Ret.) Don (OPIE) Bruce RLTW/DOL

2012 ELECTION

At LONG last the 2012 election is over, and we will be able to turn on the television or radio without being drowned in campaign advertisements! Yeah! Thank you, Big Ranger In The Sky! Kevin Ingraham said on Election Day he was going to go home in the evening, turn on the television to be inundated by the drivel, make a sammich, clean up the kitchen, shoot the television, and go to bed. I decided that was such a good idea that my wall-mounted plasma television now has a large hole, centermass (makes it hard to watch sports, though).

B/75 COINS

Leo Starkey had a bunch of B/75 coins made at his own expense. We have included photos of the front and back of the coins below. You may order as many of the coins as you like. The cost is \$13.50 each which covers the cost plus postage. Believe that he has twenty still available as of this writing. I'm sure if the demand exceeds his supply, Leo would be glad to

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

have more made, if there were enough orders that he would not be left holding the bag, so to speak. Leo can be contacted at:

Leo B. Starkey
5207 Sequoia Rd
Fayetteville, NC 28304
Mobile Phone: 910-257-5231

**HEARD FROM:**

Paul Carlisle	Bill Mathiak
Richard Cole	Mike Moser
Zeke Evaro	Gary O'Neal
Stephen Foote	James Parker
Tony Harley	Jeff Rice
Bill Hill	Howard Stokes
Gerry Laviano	John Henry Voyles
Tim Leadbeater	

(I know I heard from more of you guys, but I have been working like a madman lately, and have not had time to go back and check all my communications. If I overlook anyone, please forgive me).

Don Bruce (who now lives in Las Vegas with his wife Claritza) attended the Special Operations Association convention this year in Las Vegas (where they meet every time). He posted photos on FB with a lot of the legends from his MACV-SOG days with CCN, including Joe Conlon (our old Company S-3 Officer, from B/75).

Larry Coleman

Larry still lives in Wyoming, and send out highly informative email to all of us on at least a weekly basis. If you don't receive them yet, please get in touch with him at: lwcoleman@hotmail.com

David Cummings

Dave still lives in the Columbus area, and is now one of the other Unit Directors for the 75th RRA. Please see his unit's section for his contact info.

Stan Harrell

Stan and I get to chat fairly often on Facebook, or via phone. He and his family are doing well. They made it through the storm OK.

Greg Phillips

Greg is now officially retired and settled into his new home in Myrtle Beach with his wife, Min, and their dog, Ziggy. They avoided any major damage from the recent hurricane / tropical storm.

Don Purdy

Don is usually in and out of the country doing contract work (from his place in Alabama). Talked to him not long ago, he missed the RR last year, as did I, since he was working, but hopes to see you guys the next time.

Leo Starkey

Leo has been suffering through a bout with kidney stones (and having to wait 6 months for the VA to give him an appointment). Would spend more time on that if I had the time to go into it, but that's pretty unforgivable. He also took the initiative to have the new B/75 coins made (see above), for those of you who want some.

Richard Stutsman

Hear from Richard. He is now retired, and still at his house in Kansas. They had to replace the roof due to a recent storm, but he and his wife are doing well, and plan to stay in Kansas for a while.

2013 RANGER RENDEZVOUS

We believe (rumor has it) that the date for the 2013 Ranger Rendezvous at Fort Benning will be July 22 – 28, 2013. Please check other places in this edition for the dates, because I do not have any official confirmation of that yet, and do not want to include any erroneous information here.

B/75 - C/58 LRP - VII CORPS LRRP (Continued)**JACK SCHMIDT MEMORIAL BENCH**

The memorial bench for SGM (our 1SG) Jack Schmidt was installed and dedicated earlier this year. We all had the good fortune to be put in contact with Donna Neal (Jack's daughter) via Facebook, and many of us who were not able to attend the ceremony itself at least had the opportunity to pass our condolences and appreciation on to the family, via Donna. The Memorial Bench dedicated to 1SG Jack Schmidt (SGM (R)) is at the 1st Ranger Battalion in Georgia. It was built with donations from those who knew him, and is a memorial to his spirit, both from B/75, and as First Sergeant of Charlie Company, 1st Ranger Battalion.

NAME CHANGE OF FACEBOOK GROUP

We have also changed the name of the Facebook group to: VII Corp LRRP, C/58LRP, B/75...So that it more appropriately reflects the lineage and history of the unit. None of us saw any sense in maintaining a separate B/75 group for those who served in VII Corps LRRP's or C/58 (LRP).

A LITTLE HUMOR

Now that I'm older here's what I've discovered:

1. I started out with nothing, and I still have most of it.
2. My wild oats have turned into prunes and all-bran.
3. I finally got my head together, and now my body is falling apart.
4. Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.
5. Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.
6. If all is not lost, where is it?
7. It is easier to get older than it is to get wiser.
8. Some days, you're the dog; some days you're the hydrant.
9. I wish the buck stopped here; I sure could use a few.
10. Kids in the back seat cause accidents.
11. Accidents in the back seat cause kids.
12. It's hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere.
13. The only time the world beats a path to your door is when you're in the bathroom.
14. If God wanted me to touch my toes, he'd have put them on my knees.
15. When I'm finally holding all the cards, why does everyone want to play chess?
16. It's not hard to meet expenses...they're everywhere.
17. The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth.
18. These days, I spend a lot of time thinking about the hereafter...I go somewhere to get something and then wonder what I'm here after.
19. Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.
20. I'M UNABLE TO REMEMBER WHETHER I'VE SENT YOU THIS BEFORE.

From Darby Ranger Lester Cook (thanks Ranger Cook!)

VII CORPS LRRP ASSOCIATION

By: Richard Foster

Our 2012 off-year reunion in Carlisle PA is over and was well received by all who attended. Its somewhat of a shame that so many of our ranks couldn't attend for a variety of good, but unfortunate reasons. We missed you AWOLers, but we drank mightily to all of you who missed it, no matter why. Suffice it to say, we also talked about you: Some lies, tall tales, and fond memories of lives 50 years ago. Those who attended were (as pictured) kneeling L-R: Foster, Forde, Chetwynd, Lengel, and Hathaway--Standing L-R: Touchon Davis, Fee, Holub, Barr, Kelley, Lane, Fisher, Knaak, and Gibson. Pasho was absent for the pic because he and his lovely daughter, Jasmine, drove over to NJ to see Gjini. Don Wagaman showed up, but nobody saw him. The ghost came, stayed in his room (?), then left at the end. We know he was there, because the desk clerk gave us his room number. What happened First Sergeant? The wives and girlfriends present were (L-R) Peggy Kelley, Jean Barr, Diane Lane, Kaylene Lengel, Cheryl Visel, Kathy Fee, Sally Gibson, and Lucie Knaak. Jasmine Pasho was absent.



**Kneeling: Foster, Forde, Chetwynd, Lengel, Hathaway.
Standing: Touchon, Davis, Fee, Homiak, Barr, Kelley,
Lane, Fisher, Knaak, Gibson.**

In short, we enjoyed several planned activities, but the heart of all of them was the simplicity of just being together and seeing each other again. The best seemed to be over food and libations, whether at the Hofbrau Haus, Gettysburg beer garden, breakfast at the local diner, hanging around the motel with late-nighters, or at the Kirk and Sally's barn --- it was all good, especially the cookout at Gibsons' hacienda and barn. Some of us wasted a lot of time trying to hit clay pigeons using a shot gun, only to be outdone by some of the women, who had never picked up a gun before. Humility is good for the soul.

More than special mention goes out to Kirk and Sally. They went all out to make sure everybody had a good time from cooking and eating to skeet shooting. You had to be there to appreciate

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

the gargantuan effort that made the cookout gathering such a tremendous success. Thanks, K&S for all the hard work that went into the prep and cleanup. Based on late night comments back at the hotel, we really did appreciate everything. ...and thanks to you guys who went to extreme measures to get to PA, from Joe Touchon who drove all the way from Texas, to be there long flights and drives from Arkansas and Wisconsin.

So, on to next year's (2013) 75th Ranger Regiment Association at Ft Benning (Columbus), GA. Dates are 22 – 28 July, 2013, I'll let you know (for those of you who are not members of the Association and so do not receive our quarterly mag, *Patrolling*), including attendance and accommodations. See the sign up in the Feature Articles section.

TAPS: Once again, our ranks have witnessed the passing of another Brother. Patrick, aka Patty, Smith passed away several weeks ago. Pat's death came as somewhat of a shock to all of us. He was in the early stages of "Old Timers' Disease, when a blood infection attacked his heart while on the road to recovery. He was released to an assisted living facility; following that he experienced kidney failure followed by a complete body shutdown. All of this caused his "early exit from the C-119 of life." There was no graveside ceremony. Pat was cremated and a family memorial service followed later. Our condolences and prayers go out to Pat's wife, Deedee, and family. I'll try to have more information in my next letter.

By now, I'm sure all of you know of the calamity that Superstorm Sandy imposed on our New Jersey-New York families. Tom Forde relayed that it was exactly as named, but they managed to find shelter with family; that's exactly how we should think of each other. Why else be? With that, I want to note a special tribute to Rick Hathaway. Fatback's from Jersey, and somehow he found a way to escape the obliteration of the storm and its effects and fly out to Washington state to represent us at Pat's memorial service. We had a hard time finding out Pat's zip code, but Rick was able to fly out of a storm ravaged East coast to the hinterlands of the West coast to be there. Thanks, Rick, from all of us.

One last note, I think, regarding the 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment at McCord-Lewis Base in Washington. Kevin Ingraham wrote in the previous edition of *Patrolling* that they are trying to raise fund to establish a memorial to their fallen Rangers. I suggested to you that if we all could donate \$10 each, we could contribute over a thousand dollars as our share. Guys, that's not a tremendous amount to honor these guys legacy. I've been to two memorial services at the 1st Battalion's memorial in Savannah. Its an inspiring and memorable experience. Since the inception of the VII Corps Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol

Company in 1961 that eventually led to the birth of the 2nd Battalion Rangers, I think we owe it to them to be a lasting part of the lineage legacy. Send your money to Tom Forde ASAP so we can finish up this project in a timely fashion. Our Executive committee and I hope you'll help us do our part.

'Til next time, watch your blood pressure and weight, exercise, take your meds and care for your families and each other. Our time may be coming, but it doesn't have to be sooner, than later.

With great respect, Dick Foster, VII Corps LRRP Assoc President

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, the Rockpile, or elsewhere).

Marc L. Thompson

Unit Director

Email: mthomp@ptd.net

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

The old Mother Superior lay dying. The nuns gathered around her bed trying to make her last journey comfortable. They tried giving her warm milk to drink but she refused it.

One of the nuns took the glass back to the kitchen. Then, remembering a bottle of Irish Whiskey that had been received as a gift the previous Christmas, she opened it and poured a generous amount into the warm milk.

Back at Mother Superior's bed, they held the glass to her lips. The frail nun drank a little, then a little more and before they knew it, she had finished the whole glass down to the last drop. As her eyes brightened, the nuns thought it would be a good opportunity to have one last talk with their spiritual leader.

"Mother," the nuns asked earnestly, "Please bestow upon us some of your wisdom before you leave us." She raised herself up in bed on one elbow, looked at them and said: "DON'T SELL THAT COW!!"



C/75 - E/20 LRP

Unit Director - Del Ayers

With each issue of patrolling the men of E20/C75 look to news of their comrades and brothers in arms. With the Fall issue you have the recap of the Colorado Springs Gathering of Warriors reunion. I know that many of you are not inclined or able to go to the "net" or our "website". We who do will always keep the news fresh. I also know that as you read this submission it is 3 months stale since it was published in the Winter issue and submitted in the Fall.

Dead lines and date lines are the lines we must recognize. Mission planning has not changed after 44 years. The E20/C75 2013 reunion will be in Columbus Georgia. The dates will coincide with the 75RRA rendezvous, Ranger Hall of Fame Induction and change of Command if deployment is allowed.



As of this issue I have the 75 RRA at the Holiday Airport Hotel and the E20/C75 accommodations at the Wyndam Resort where we stayed in 2011.

The events of the last week of July 2013 will be the days we will pack away with the days we endured together in 1967-71.

Join us to celebrate our service and honor our comrades who have joined those on the Wall.

Milt Hendrickson has completed the Ranger Hall of Fame nomination packet for E20/C75 for 2013. I have forwarded the nomination to the 75RRA. SMJ Raymond F. Bohrer is a warrior we all believe earned the RHOF honor.

Del



D/75

Unit Director - Richard "Herd" Nelson

Hello everyone, since we had a few problems with the summer and fall issues of patrolling I will include some of the most important information in those articles. As of my writing of this article we weren't sure if those magazines would be mailed. One of the points is the update on the South Dakota get-together, and another is the passing of Leo Suprenant.

Since I was unable to attend the South Dakota get-together due to medical issues, I asked Cindy to send me the following update for it.

Fifteen Delta 151 / Delta 75 Rangers and spouses attended a 'Gathering of Rangers' hosted this past June by Marc Lamphere and his wife Cindy at Hot Springs, SD. Those traveling to South Dakota included Bob & Sue McIntire, Chuck & Sandy Wallace, Mike & Diann Reisman, Jim & Donna Owen, Ed & Onecia Mercer, Don & Mary Jane Viccaro, and Richard Lowes. Being in the Black Hills of SD, the location of this Gathering offers such a long list of activities that, until next time, we had to shelve some of the outings we've enjoyed during both such previous gatherings.



We spent many hours trading stories of both serious and funny things that happened during our times in Delta Company. Particularly entertaining were the stories from when "The Green Berets" movie was filmed at Ft. Benning in which some of our group had been extras and could tell about shaking hands and other adventures with John Wayne.

This year's group decided they didn't want to miss the summertime night-blast and laser light show at Crazy Horse, and then were lucky enough

to have perfect weather for it. Crazy Horse Memorial is a mountain carving currently underway and will be the largest stone carving in the world. You can see some of it at www.crazyhorsememorial.org. We went early, took the bus ride to see the back side of the carving, marveled at the items in their museum sections such as some of the original beads that were used to purchase Manhattan, pocketed some of the blast fragments they give away, and thoroughly enjoyed the night blast and light show.

D/75 (Continued)

On our morning drive to Mt. Rushmore via the Iron Mountain Road, we enjoyed the tunnels that frame the approaching view of the carved faces of the four Presidents. While we were at the monument, the staff urged us to return for the evening program that includes lighting of the mountain and the retiring of the colors. Imagine our awe when we were the ones who got the privilege of actually taking down the flag at Mt. Rushmore, folding it, and ceremonially presenting it to the Park Ranger.

Reisman's and Wallace's took a preliminary side trip on motorcycles to Yellowstone through the Big Horns and Bear Tooth Mountain highways. Chuck Wallace can tell you more about their adventures on his 65th birthday riding through a Wyoming thunderstorm complete with pelting hail that accumulated to 6" deep. RLTW

Good friendships were made and further deepened during the week, and everyone was looking forward to the next chance to be with other Rangers. The 2012 Black Hills Gathering of Rangers was a great time, and everyone involved would recommend you make sure you don't miss any other gatherings like this.

Ed "Maddog" Krause called me on May 24th to inform me that Leo Suprenant had passed away on May 22nd and that he passed away peacefully in his sleep. The memorial service was held on September first. Maddog told me that he was doing better and was still in some pain from his back surgery but was healing well. I have received a letter from Maddog which he wants me to include in this article.

Yesterday: When We Were Young

Yesterday came in the fall of 1969 when we were young. A kid came around looking for someone to drink a few beers with. That's when I Met Leo Suprenant. I don't know how we became friends, he was a Bear fan and I was a Packers fan. There were many friendly discussions over a few beers which team was the best. He called me when Brett Farve was going to his second super Bowl. I told him to put his money on the Packers. Was that ever a mistake. When he called me back I didn't realize one man knew that many Profanities.

It was on the 13th of January 1970; Leo made a decision that changed both of our lives forever. We went on a mission that we knew we would get in trouble. We set up the ambush, I was in the left, and Leo was in the middle. You could hear them coming across a small bridge and the trail was right in front of us. We were waiting for the VC to enter our ambush. To my surprise they were on my left

side. A VC and I were looking at each other, which one was going to be left standing. I don't remember much after that, but there were five VC that didn't go home that day. We returned to our base camp and Leo said "I don't believe what I just saw, you were like a crazy person, no you were a crazy dog, no you were like a Maddog. Everyone knows the rest of the story. I became Maddog, a name that will stay forever.

After that mission, Leo and I would be like brothers for the rest of our lives. We went on R&R to Japan. Over the years we talked on the phone and have seen both of our families grow. Memorial day of 1995 we met in Minnesota to honor the death of John Donahue, who was killed in action 25 years earlier. We met John's family which made John's death a little easier. Leo and I would call around Memorial Day. Leo's sister called on May 22 to inform me that Leo had passed away, that was the same date that John lost his life in Vietnam.

Leo doesn't have to worry about yesterday anymore. I will never forget the great times we spent together. He will be sadly missed by his family and mine. For those of you who read this and for those that are here. Remember Yesterday was when we were young.

Leo asked me a yesterday ago, why I was never as scared on all of those missions we were on together, I told him "Leo I was just as scared as everyone else but I knew I had YOU to take care of me." Leo understood and never asked me again.

Thanks Leo for the friendship of a Lifetime
Maddog

When I called Bill "Fitz" Fitzgerald he and his wife Kathy were doing well. He also told me that their daughter is now out of the army and living between Ft Bragg and Raleigh N.C. Her Boyfriend is stationed at Bragg and she is working as a project manager with a big construction Company there in Raleigh N.C. He had just gotten back from Arizona where had had taken a three week vacation to visit with another of his daughters. He went hunting mule deer with her; they saw three but didn't shoot any. He said that it was great to be able to spend time with her.

I also had a brief conversation with Park and he said that he was doing well up there in Pennsylvania. I talked with Bear Papp at the end of October and he and his family are also doing well.

D/75 (Continued)

When I talked with Carl and Rosie Norris he said they were well. His cancer is still in remission and they made another trip to Germany to visit with Rosie's extended family. He said that their son Mike and his family are also doing well. Their granddaughter Katie has started her freshman year in college. I talked with Ken Dern and he said that he and Linda were doing well, and then we started discussing our favorite football team, the Jacksonville Jaguars, and as it turns out that they just really suck this season. The last time I talked with Mike Warren he said that he and Sharon were well and that the grandkids were back in school.

George "Psycho" Christianson is recovering after his horse kicked him, he said he had a big bruise from the pistol he had in his pocket where the horse hit him. The horse actually broke the pistol. I had asked him if he and Julie had boarded up their house on long island, it was the day before hurricane Sandy was going to hit. He said that they weren't concerned as it was on higher ground. He and Julie were at their other property in upstate New York. I have since talked with him and their house made it OK but his brother's house which was closer to the beach had 6 feet of water inside it.

Myself, I have been having a few medical problems with both my heart and my back. They have finally scheduled me an appointment with the pain management clinic at the end of January. They have diagnosed the problem as moderate to severe degenerative disc disorder of three of the discs in the lower back. I was in so much pain in August I never was able to finish writing the fall issue article. When I went in to see my cardiologist in October he sent me to the emergency room by ambulance to be admitted for a stress test since I had been having chest pain on several occasions and my EKG was different from my last one. Thankfully the results were OK. I really think the chest pain has been more frequent when my back pain has been at its worst. I think that maybe we should have a plan to be discussed at the next reunion who will take over the responsibilities of the unit director if my back continues to get worse. I do enjoy writing these articles but it sometimes gets pretty rough sitting for long periods of time and then I am unable to get it done.

The photos I submitted for this article were two of Maddog and Leo one of which was them in Nam and one of them with John Donahue's Mother. The other two were of the group that attended the South Dakota get-together. One of the group on

Moe and Cindy's back porch and the other of the group in front of Mount Rushmore.

RLTW

Richard "Herd" Nelson



Group at Mt. Rushmore.



Group on Moe's back porch.



Maddog & Leo Suprenant.



Maddog & Leo with John Donahue's mother.



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

Unit Director - Rick Stetson

What a fantastic E Company reunion we had in Houston. Special thanks to Bob Hernandez and Ron Tessenshon for honoring Hilan Jones in a spectacular manner and arranging for informative and entertaining visits to museums and aquariums in the Houston area.

On Monday, the first day of the reunion, we toured the Buffalo Soldiers National Museum which has recently moved to a larger location in the Houston Light Guard Armory. Rangers interested in history are encouraged to visit the museum for an appreciation of the contributions made by the Buffalo Soldiers to the United States Army and to our nation. On Monday afternoon, we toured the Houston Holocaust Museum which gave us a sobering reminder of the Nazi atrocities.

Tuesday's visit to the Houston Museum of Natural Science continued our education as we learned about paleontology, gems, minerals, energy and Texas wildlife to name just a few of the many exhibits. Wednesday, we went downtown to the aquarium where we dined next to a vast, multi-story tank that held a large variety of fish and marine life.

Thursday's schedule took us to the Johnson Space Center where we toured Mission Control, saw space capsules and rockets and even got to touch a moon rock. On Friday, we traveled to Galveston where we visited Moody Gardens and its 10-story Rainforest Pyramid. While we had walked through rain forests in Vietnam, this time we could enjoy the butterflies, birds and animals that moved around us without worrying about being ambushed. Also on Thursday, some of the reunion attendees got to ride on a Huey thanks to arrangements made by Trevlin Utz.

Every E Company reunion reserves time on Saturday morning for our memorial service. This year, the service was even more memorable thanks to the participation of Pham Van Nhan who traveled from Vietnam to be with us. Poncho Alire has written an excellent account of Nhan's moving salute during the service so I'll let him tell you about it. We were delighted Nhan could join us again and as he did at our reunion in Colorado Springs, Nhan presented us all with special gifts he had designed along with a letter that was titled, "From the Heart of a Friend," in which he wrote in part, "After nearly 40 years we connect again. We thought you had forgotten us or only dimly remembered



in the memory. But you still remember very well, giving us a lot of warmth and love, help us in time of difficulty, disease and natural disasters....it is rare. We thank you for everything you have done for us- we and our children will never forget the sentiment that you gave for us."

To which E Company would like to respond: Nhan, it is the efforts you and your fellow Vietnamese Rangers gave to protect us as we patrolled together that will never be forgotten. The friendships established in your country years ago endure to this day. When it comes to former comrades in arms looking out for each other, Rangers lead the way.

Veteran to Veteran: The Meaning of Duty, Respect and Honor

By Duane L. Alire

In mid-October we gathered in friendship as former members of E50/E75 in Houston, Texas for our reunion. The purpose of meeting in Houston was to thank Hilan Jones for all he has done for the unit. Probably like most Viet Nam era LRP units, after the war we scattered in the wind. Hilan - "Jonesy" to us - played an instrumental role in finding guys, contacting them and encouraging them to attend our early reunions.

The primary purpose of our reunion remained to "thank Jonesy" and true to that idea, we traveled to Houston - duty bound to honor Jonesy out of respect for him as a man and fellow LRP. Most of the guys came for the entire week; others came for a day or two. The reunion group photograph captured 33 men. The Rangers, too many to name here, came together as veterans with friends and family.

The rest of the story. One morning late in the week as I ate breakfast with Clancy Matsuda (former CO of E/50) and his wife, Connie, I overheard brief conversations between Clancy and other members of our former unit. I was struck by their choice of words and the demeanor of the men as they spoke with Clancy. Their words conveyed a sense of duty, respect, and honor toward the former E Company commander. Maybe, I thought, I was simply "taken up by the spirit of the reunion." However, as I thought about the words - "duty," "respect," and "honor" - I began to question my understanding of the words. What do they really mean in the community of men who

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served as LRPs/Rangers in the Viet Nam war between 1967 and 1970? Their sentiments are often communicated subtly by a handshake, a simple gesture, a nod of the head or a brief touch on a shoulder. More invisible than visible.

A profound meaning of the words came to us at the Memorial Service when Phan Van Nhan, a former ARVN Ranger, walked forward to represent Tray Van Nho, who was killed while serving with us in 1969. After placing a red rose into a vase surrounded by candles, Nhan executed a slow, deliberate salute with his left hand and then he performed a perfect about face, raised his left arm and saluted all of us. After a moment, all of us stood and returned his salute. No words were spoken; none had to be spoken.



Mr. Ernie Pyle possibly summed up the meaning of the words "duty," "respect" and "honor" best when he penned these words in his book, "Brave Men", "The ties that grow up between men who live savagely together, relentlessly communing with Death,

are ties of great strength. There is a sense of fidelity to each other in a little corps of men who have endured so long, and whose hope in the end can but be so small."

It was at that very moment that I – no, all of us - understood the true meaning of duty, respect and honor. Not just the words, but the humanity behind the words; not just the gesture of a salute, but the human ties that bind war veterans together.

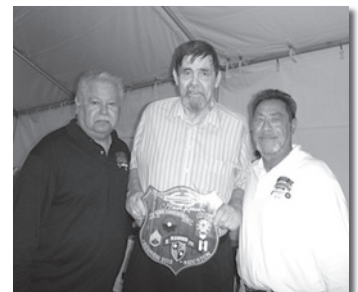
Who is Phan Van Nhan"? His military record speaks volumes: 1966 – 1975 he served with the following units: E/50 LRP (Bear Cat), E/75 Rangers (Dong Tam), L/75, 101 Airborne Rangers (Phu Bai – Hue) and the ARVN Rangers.



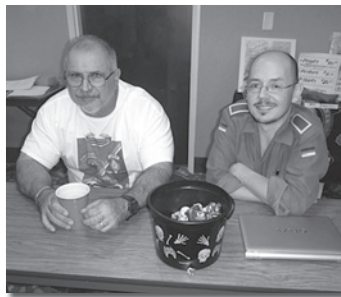
He served his country until he was wounded in action near Phu Bai in 1975. He lost $\frac{1}{3}$ of his right arm and $\frac{1}{3}$ of his right leg and suffered a severe wound to his left hand. Denied medical care, his wife's family took him in and nursed him back to health. He is now a prominent leader – no, he is a legend – in Vietnam's Boy Scouts organization.

Special thanks to Sal Disciascio of New Bern, NC and to E Company veterans for hosting Nhan during his visit to the United States. Sal did an outstanding job of coordinating Nhan's visit to the reunion and on their month long road trip across the United States. With every stop on their tour, with every meeting with former patrol members, the words "duty," "honor" and "respect" gained new meaning. The bonds formed years ago in the jungles of Vietnam are ones that will never be broken.

Duane L. Alire, aka "Poncho", served as a LRRP team leader with "E" Company, 50th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division from 01/68 until 01/69. He is a life member of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. He retired from the United States National Park Service and lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico.



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

Unit Director - Tim Walsh

Greetings once again.

I write this the day after Veteran's Day, 2012. Joe Cassilly expressed it perfectly well, "The best thing about Veteran's Day is remembering all the times we spent together". Thanks to all of you for your service and sacrifice to this country.

Several of us met in Iowa the last weekend in September. Tom Schommer made arrangements for us to meet at a really nice motel in Bettendorf, Iowa. Frank Hamilton, Bob Gericke, Ben Welch, Phil Davis, Mike Zamjahn, and I had a great time reminiscing over a couple of beers. Tom and Frank are absolutely hilarious retelling all the old stories. We called Jim Anderson ("10 Alpha") and talked to him for several minutes. Jim was one of the guys who were invaluable as the radio relay guys on Nui Ba Dinh and spent 16 months on the Black Virgin Mtn. We all remembered the way Jim used to keep his cool when we would call in a fire mission. The fact that we were calling for "Arty" support meant that we were in a world of hurt. But Jim always kept his cool (even when we weren't) and that no doubt contributed to our getting out alive. Thanks to Jim and the other "Mountain Men" for a job well done,... and one that we probably didn't give enough credit for at the time. I got a call back in September from Roger Winchester, Jr looking for information about his father, Roger Winchester. Roger Sr. served in Co. F in 1970-71 and passed away recently. Roger, Jr never really got the chance to talk to his father about his experiences in 'Nam and would greatly appreciate talking to anyone who remembers his father. Please contact me at twalshx2@comcast.net or by phone at 313-590-6673 if you remember Roger, Sr. and would like to talk to his son about him.

I say this just about every time I submit an article for Patrolling, but I'd really like to hear from you guys. I'll pass along anything you'd like to say - providing it's not pornographic or overly political. (I can just imagine what you might want to say about the recent election, but there are other outlets for that.) Drop me a line if you want to try to get in touch with old teammates. I'm happy to put that kind of request into both Patrolling and in our Co F Newsletter, The Pointman.

Not much else to pass along this time. Please look further in this issue to find more information about the efforts to publish



Patrolling. A ton of work goes on "behind the scenes" and it shows in this excellent magazine.

Live long and prosper.
Tim Walsh

The creation of the 25th Infantry Division's LRRP Detachment

Note: The following is an account of the creation of the 25th Infantry Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) Company/ Detachment (Provisional). This account is

written by the first commander of the unit. As we are talking about something that occurred over 40 years ago some of the information may not collocate with the numerous academic after action reports written about the LRRP experience, in Vietnam, from the stand point of "hind-sight" by other than operators on-the-ground.

During the last two weeks of March 1966 the undersigned was in route to Vietnam for assignment to the 5th Special Forces Group. This was a standard Special Forces transfer. The undersigned had just finished a tour with the 10th Special Forces Group, in Southern Germany conducting classified and unclassified operations throughout Europe, the middle-east and Africa. Numerous operations were varied and included a lot of patrol activities utilizing small unit Special Forces/ Ranger tactics.

Sometime around the end of March and the beginning of April the undersigned was redirected to the 25th Infantry without instructions. Upon [finally] arriving at the newly arrived 25th Inf Div Headquarters, located at Cu Cui, the undersigned was met on the airfield, by the division commander. He said welcome to the division. He further informed me to get squared away and be prepared to meet the division staff in a day or so. I found accommodations, without any assistance from anyone. After a fitful night's sleep I found my way to the Division Headquarters Company orderly room and was told I would be assigned to the company with duty somewhere else. I spent the day finding my way around the division base camp. The following morning I was told to be at the division headquarters for the CG's AM briefing. During the briefing the CG said, to the assembled staff, there is a captain in the back of the room. He is going to run our Recon activity. At

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the end of the meeting I was ushered to the desk of the G-2 and told I would work directly for him. After some initial chit-chat I asked where the unit was located and I would go to the location and assume command. I was told that the division did not have a recon unit, I was it. My instructions were to provide an outline of what would be needed to create, train and operate a recon company.

I acquired a [yellow] legal pad of paper and a couple of number 2 pencils and attempted to think of the LRRP Company I experienced in Europe. As I had no guidance, from anyone, and what appeared to be a blank check I approached the task with an open mind and a naive appreciation for the support I thought I would receive from the Division Commander and his staff. After I submitted the outline to the G2 I was directed to report to the Commander of "D" Troop, ¾ Cav and do what was necessary to establish and operate a LRRP unit. I [incorrectly] assumed that all of the Division Commander's verbal direction(s) had been transmitted to the Commander of the ¾ Cav and further to the Commander of "D" Trp, ¾ Cav. This was not the case. When I introduced myself to the Commander of "D" Trp he said who are you, what are you doing here and who sent you? When I told him how I got to his unit and location he told me he never heard about the [new] responsibility he was being assigned. I was sent to the Headquarters ¾ Cav and was told the same thing. After a few radio calls I was sent back to "D" Trp to start what was to be a daily tooth-pulling operation to get the unit off of the ground.

NOTE

I was told that I was expected to have some sort of operation up and running No Later Than late May, 1966.

The next step was to acquire personnel to staff the LRRP organization. During the first week of April, 1966 I toured all of the major units, within the division, presented my ideas and the concept and was rejected by everyone I approached. The general retort from all of the commanders and units was "... you want me to give you my best NCO's and combat experienced enlisted men to staff a unit that does not exist and has, at this time, no mission". Regardless of what I presented I was dismissed out-of-hand. After a week of presenting the LRRP concept and requesting support I was no closer to creating a unit than I was when I was told to get a LRRP unit up and running. Exasperated, I went to the division G1 and requested permission to recruit personnel from the incoming personnel before they were assigned to the division units. After three days and many briefings I had only received several positive maybes from several enlisted persons. In frustration I took a white typing sheet of paper and wrote on it with a grease pencil **"Volunteers Needed for Hazardous duty"**. Within two days I had 42 volunteers; go figure. These first 42

enlisted personnel were the basis for the creation of the 25th Inf Div's LRRP program/unit/detachment/company. At this point there was no TDA/TO&E, no place to billet or feed the volunteers. Coordination with the first sergeant of "D" Troop [1SG Petty] made the volunteers welcome to the unit area – in the back of the "D" Trp area next to the latrines First Sergeant Petty set up feeding and supply operations and we agreed that the LRRP personnel would not be placed on the duty roster. While getting up the GP Medium Tents and setting up a small admin/command area a 2nd Lieutenant [Jerry Traxler] showed up in the area and asked if he could be part of the LRRP's. He was Ranger School qualified and I immediately accepted his offer to serve with the unit. He became the first XO of the 25th Inf Div LRRP's. Lieutenant Traxler is one of the finest junior officers I have ever know.

SECOND NOTE

At this time we started to train the new volunteers in basic patrolling techniques and procedures, equipment prep and use, extensive PT, map reading, commo training, non-verbal communications, repelling training and McGuire Rig Extraction Training, artillery and air support request training and allied and associated general field-lore procedures.

Equipment acquisition; I don't even know where to start. The LRRP volunteers showed up, for duty and training, with their basic personal equipment. Where the communications equipment came from I do not know to this day. We even had erck-10(Sic) air force air-to-ground radios so we could talk directly to the overhead air force flights when we needed them. (The division general staff and the division artillery command told us we had to go through their procedures before we could receive fire support. If we were in trouble, saw an air force flight we called and asked for help and usually got it). We acquired about 100 sets of camouflage fatigues. I understand someone in the unit traded a tank to a Special Forces unit for the unique uniforms – don't ask where the tank came from, I don't know. The most important uniform item we acquired came from the commander of the 1st Infantry Division's LRRP. Looking for some info and guidance I got to the 1st Inf Div LRRP area and spent half a day picking their brains for everything and anything they had to offer. Their commander said that a distinct headgear would help unit identification, morale and field operations. The head gear he gave us was a bunch of new Australian Bush Hats with wide brims and mosquito netting attached. They worked well on all fronts and were especially effective in the field during night operations.

About the end of April, 1966 I contacted a friend who was the XO of Project Delta (B-52) the Special Forces Long Range Patrol operation out of Na Trang. I asked if he could send a Mobile training Team (MTT) to Cu Chi for some assistance

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in training and patrolling operations. He said they were too busy but invited me to come to his location for a couple of weeks of training. The 25th Infantry Division LRRP was the last unit to be provided patrolling training, by Special Forces, prior to the establishment of MACV RECONDO SCHOOL.

Third Note

A Sergeant from the 25th Inf Div LRRP's was the Honor Graduate of Class #1 of the MACV Recondo School. Upon returning from Na Trang we started to establish five man recon teams. The process of establishing teams is continuous as some men work better with certain other soldiers. Several practice operations were conducted to determine who and what worked best as far as personnel and equipment were concerned.

The commander "D" Troop selected and assigned pilots – both slick and guns – to train and support the LRRP program. Through the remainder of May, 1966 we continued to train and organize for patrol operations. Just prior to the end of May the first LRRP was deployed in the division AO. The initial missions were short in duration and stressed observation and reporting what was observed, establishing commo SOP's and working with our pilots on insertion and extraction techniques to include gun ship and reaction force support – if needed.

Patrol operations continued with coordination between the division intelligence office and elements of the ¾ Cav along with division artillery and all other fire support contingencies. For the next six months the LRRP operated in support of the division's mission within the assigned AO providing intelligence for use by the major combat units.

Until the first commander left the unit in- mid November 1966 – the LRRP continued to train, operate and provide information/intelligence for use by the Division as was deemed appropriate. LRRP teams walked into the AO, were left in after a major units swept through an area or via helicopter. Throughout this six month period all procedures were evaluated and modified for efficient use of men and equipment.

Conclusion(s)

During the period April to November 1966 the 25th Infantry Division ordered the creation of a Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol. The unit operated as a provisional detachment billeted with "D: Trp, ¾ Cav and provided intelligence to the division staff and the division's major combat units. The unit was the forerunner to the establishment of "F" Company LRP (Airborne), 50th Infantry and "F" Company 75th Infantry (Airborne/ Rangers).

First Commander's Observations

To establish the initial LRRP the 25th Infantry Division allowed for volunteers to request assignment to an almost unknown organization with [at best] a dangerous mission. The men who volunteered were immediately introduced into an intensive training program aimed at making them proficient in the art of gathering tactical information/intelligence for use by the division's major combat units to confront and defeat an enemy force who had been operating in and around Cu Chi for many years. The unrelenting danger these men experienced was well beyond that of a line soldier. The psychological pressures of this assignment were, at times, beyond belief. However, not one man who qualified for a LRRP team assignment ever quit in the face of this difficult mission. These men answered the call to duty when the country needed them. They did more than was expected by placing themselves in harm's way while others sought the safety of non-combat assignments or no service. I was impressed with the initial volunteers for their dedication to the unit and each other. These men set the standard for the outstanding results produced by the follow-on personnel assigned to F Company, 50th Infantry and F Company, 75th Rangers. I was humbled then as I am now to have known them, led them and look forward to seeing them at Ranger Reunions. These are the soldiers legends are made of. They are better than the sum total of all they accomplished; they are true Americans who asked for not much in the face of the sacrifice(s) they made in support of the American way. Hero's all, nothing less. I would **"Go To War"** with them again without a second thought for my safety or their success. God bless them all.

This is short review of what happened 40 years ago. To the best of my knowledge, regardless of what others have alleged, the information provided/presented is true and accurate to the best of my recollection.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mark Ponzillo
Former Captain, Infantry
LRRP1

Facebook

About a year ago F Company decided to take the plunge into social media. We then formed our own secret Facebook group. Since that time we have enlisted the participation of 50 members who served with the unit. Perhaps what's important to know about this particular endeavor is that what we wanted was to have a place for our people to go where they could discuss and comment on anything they wanted to, (except for politics and social issues), in complete privacy at any time, day or night.

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It's fair to say that up to this point we have enjoyed a fair amount of success. The discussion has run from typical birthday and holiday greetings to getting together on various important projects. We recently got together on the purchase of five stones for the walkway at the Ranger Memorial at Fort Benning. It seems to work well as a venue to disseminate information, and in general keep the fellows posted on events and happenings in real time. Some examples of these are who was going to be at "The Wall" on Veterans Day, which motel were they staying at and what are their cell numbers so that we could make contact on arrival. We also used it to alert the guys of the new Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol coin that Marshall Huckaby commissioned (and man is it a beauty!).

The potential of using Facebook in this fashion has nearly unlimited potential. I came into it thinking that if one of the guys was struggling and wanted to share or discuss some personal thoughts this might just be the place to do that. You see the way it works is any member of the group can invite any member of the unit to join the group. The only thing required is that they have a Facebook presence that is not shared with anyone else. While there remains the possibility that this rule could be violated we have a lot of confidence that our people fully subscribe to and employee the honor system, so that shouldn't be much of a factor.

Phase 2 began the summer when we realized that our "Rangerettes", many of whom have put up with us over extended periods of time, should also be able to enjoy their own private space to communicate with one another. The simple truth is that most of them will still be here when we are gone, and having each other for support then and now can only be a good thing. To borrow a phrase from one of the girls who said, "we are all married to the same man" – think about that for a minute? It's been said that behind every successful man is a valued woman. That statement doesn't come close to doing justice for what our gals have done for, and meant to us. Without my Corky I would be completely lost—and that's a fact. Maybe she didn't have a full case of PTSD before meeting me but I'll tell you, she does now thanks to me and what she's been through with me. If this sentiment doesn't accurately describe your relationship with your significant other I can only suggest that you are a very lucky or unusual man.

I met my wife at the Wall, on Memorial Day, in 1994. She was then and continues to be today as much as if not more of a trooper as I have ever been. There ought to be a special Purple Heart, a meritorious service, or a valor award for this person (and the others like her) who have put up with me ever since that day nearly twenty years gone. Part of my personal growth, and I'm not terribly good at this, has been to recognize the sacrifices my Corky has made for me. And I don't know why it is I'm able to say there here yet not near well or often enough in person. Something for me to think about, and work on.

Eventually the light went off inside my head when I realized we needed to establish a special Facebook group for our women. We established the women's group under similar rules to the men's including the fact that it was limited to those who were married to unit personnel and that it was a women only enterprise. In the few short months they have been at it their membership exceeds 25, with additional members joining on a regular basis. A point not to be overlooked is that some of the widows of our recently departed membership have also found this to be a good place for them to go. The truth is I expect our gals will take the ball and run with it and soon far exceed anything we are doing presently on the men's side.

I think perhaps the most important feature of these special groups is that when you post inside of the group, no one (except existing group members) are able to see or comment on information shared or exchanged within the group. I don't do anything on Facebook except for our men's group. I would like to invite each of you F Company men or significant others to join one of these two groups. It's a great way to get together and plan for next summer's Ranger Rendezvous, the next planned trip to Hawaii and a lot of other cool stuff and, I am speaking to all the men and all the women.

Hey, it might be for you or it might not... But it's up to you to try it and make that decision for yourself. I would ask, as a special favor, that you at least share this information with your significant other thereby making them aware and permitting them the opportunity to decide for themselves. If you think about it there's really nothing to lose, like hey, "what are they going to do, send you to Vietnam?" If anyone needs assistance starting a Facebook group for their unit, just e-mail or call me and we'll make it happen. Dave Regenthal dregenthal@comcast.net



F/75 - F/50 LRP - 25TH DIV LRRP (Continued)**Video Project Update**

Okay folks this one will be short I promise. I've come to realize that I began shooting F Company video nearly 20 years ago, Memorial Day 1993 to be precise. So after years of dragging many of you into the video booth, pestering you for your photographs and generally having taken somewhat of an inefficient approach I have decided that the clock has run out. This is to be my final appeal.

In truth I have a lot of video. Some of it is that older ragged VHS or 8mm stuff. Definitely not on a par with the quality of what we are able to do with today's technology. But, it is what it is and turning back the hands of time is not something within my grasp. Accordingly I will have to use what is or has been made available to me. There is actually some priceless video that I will be able to use, generously donated by some of our fellows (including a few of those no longer with us).

The fault is mine and mine alone. Maybe I didn't ask the right questions, I may not have begged hard enough for your photographs. But the clock is ticking and it appears to be ticking louder of late. So I have decided to impose a personal limit on myself whereby any and all video that remains to be shot must be completed by Memorial Day Weekend, 2013. I only ask that if you have a particular picture, (or group) you wish to be considered that you either scan it at an extremely high resolution so that the result is or approaches 1910x1080 pixels or that you put the original in an envelope and send it along to me without delay. While I do appreciate the offer of pictures you may have posted to the web or on your Facebook page those are simply not going to be of a high enough resolution to be of any use.

Make no mistake, I am extremely grateful for all of the support many of you have shown me over time. But given the number of our people that we have lost over the past 12 months alone I am reminded that it's really time to get it done. My plan is to begin the editing process following Memorial Day so that I will have something to present to you at Fort Benning next summer.

My experience has been that, in the early going, I simply wasn't sharp enough to have asked the right questions. Believe me when I tell you that there is plenty of good video to choose from but I've not gotten all that I hoped for. The jobs that you performed were indisputably unique, and important. What I really need to complete the project and make it shine is for the guys who are not uncomfortable in front of a camera to say, explicitly, how it was. Many of you were under fire, most at several times. If we're going to tell this story we should be able

to say what happened, what you thought or felt about it then and what conclusions you have arrived at or how it impacts on your life today. That's truly the untold story.

I am not at a place in time or with money that permits me unlimited travel. However, If you are in the Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, this winter, I can come to you. If you will be in Washington D.C. this coming Memorial Day weekend I will be there to meet with you. I can also cover New Jersey, and the close-in parts of Pennsylvania late this spring. It's the testimony that's most important, not how pretty we are in front of the lens. I am also willing to send a small HD camera or audio recording device, along with a brief primer on how to use it, to your location. We would then do what amounts to a telephone or Skype interview. You can also write it down and send it to me by e-mail and I will find voice talent to read it in on your behalf.

Bottom line what I am looking for is "a few good men." If you have a photograph or are willing to sit before the camera and "give it up" in such a way that it helps tell our story I can certainly use your help. By now you may have guessed that this is personal for me but that's because I believe that there is a reason so many of us made it home. Ours is a story that's worth telling on behalf of ourselves, and our brothers who paid the ultimate price. Last call F Company, Let's Go!

Project "X"

Project X! What the hell is that . . . Dave are you off your meds or what? Well guys I'll tell you what it is. It's a concept. I've been thinking about how much time and effort that Bill Mrkvicka has put into establishing and maintaining our unit roster for well more than 20 years. I review that roster on something of a regular basis and it pains me that I knew so many of the people that belong to those names that we haven't seen since "back in the day."

There are a host of explanations as to why we don't have contact information or have never seen a great number of those guys since our service with the long-range patrol in Vietnam. It's a safe assumption that some of them have already died. Others may be unaware of the organization, the importance, or the very existence of our brotherhood. In my heart of hearts I know that some of these folks have either moved on or are stuck in a way that prevents them from joining us.

Disappointing though it may be I am able to recount numerous conversations I have had with some of them through the years. Some have demonstrated an inability to move forward, or have come right out and said that they are not interested in

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pursuing anything related to the war. I whole-heartedly respect their right to choose when or whether or not to participate in the 75th Ranger Regiment Association or with any of us at the unit or individual level. But, then again, I have witnessed the awakening or rebirth of the soul of some of you who came late to the game. I get it, the part about, "You can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink."

I am not suggesting that we hog tie or kidnap anyone (with perhaps some exception), <g>. I do however sense a duty where it is incumbent upon us to make at least some effort to discover where some of these people are and to provide at least limited encouragement for them to join us. At the very least to permit them to know that we are here and that they are welcome. What I would propose is that each of us get our hands on a current unit roster and examine the possibilities. In simple terms what I mean is get the roster, look it over, and do the legwork to help find some of these people in your state or region of the country. You can contact Bill Mrkvicka and he will send a roster to you or, with a password, you can download the current copy from our own LRRP.COM. Sure, you may locate someone only to find that they are not interested but then again, neither was I when I first got "that" letter in the Spring of 1992. Fear of rejection, hearing someone say no might have you feel as though there are obstacles in your path (and to be sure, there are). But I know you, I know how strong you are and I know that you are better than that. In my opinion if there's only one person out there that we can reach who would appreciate the contact then it will be worth all and any effort that went into it. 'Nuff said.

Navigating the VA

This article actually has very little to do with the VA, but there is a loose connection, stay with me, you'll see what I mean. The Vietnam era Ranger companies have taken a significant hit in the last year or so. I have personal knowledge that F Company has been banged up pretty bad. Some of our people have either gotten on an airplane or driven across the country to see some of our folks to their final resting place.

For me that instigates a reoccurring conversation that my wife would rather not have. I guess it's a fair statement that having been to war most discussions of death and dying are likely to be avoided. Where I have begun to see some success is in communicating to my wife that this is a discussion which needs to be had, and when completed never has to be revisited again. We simply have to get our affairs, our paperwork, all together in one place where it can be found should or when that become necessary.

I would venture to guess that many of you are light years ahead of me on this particular topic. However, my experience is that not everybody is taking care of business. I wouldn't say that people with service-connected disabilities are necessarily lucky but if they have at least sought treatment through the VA that they are at least one step in the right direction. If you suffered no wounds, no injuries, resulting from your military service and you already have your insurance papers, all loans, and automobile titles in one large envelope in your filing cabinet you can probably just skip the rest of this article. But for the folks who were wounded or injured while in the military . . . If those medical conditions have begun to worsen over time you may want to pay attention.

I have no particular agenda, political or otherwise. My own personal experience with the VA has been 98+ percent positive over time. In fact I have nothing negative to say about the VA whatsoever. Having lived in numerous locations across the country I am aware that the VA provides better service in some regions than others. I can also report, and this is information not a complaint, that immediately after the Vietnam War was over the VA was not entirely prepared to meet the challenges of the Vietnam veteran. I have some veterans say that they felt it was almost as though they were being discouraged from receiving VA services.

But that was then, and what's important now is that if you have medical issues secondary to your service then you should be receiving services and in some instances compensation from the Veterans Administration. It's pretty much a no-brainer that the more time that passes between the event of injury or wounding and you're getting around to going to the VA it may become several times more difficult to begin receiving the services to which you are entitled. In fairness it's a better VA now than in the old days, they will see any veteran for evaluation and treatment on their first visit. So if you feel that you meet the criteria please don't waste any.

This message is not intended only for the Vietnam warriors and the remaining Korea and World War II veterans but also to the younger soldiers who have recently left the military. Keep an eye towards the older troops, see for yourself where they've been and what they're going through. They were young man just like you not so terribly long ago. Some vets will tell you "I'm okay, I don't need anything", and if that's accurate then that's all right with me. But who I worry about are the folks that believe that any treatment or compensation from the Veterans Administration is charity. Because, as it has been

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explained to me, it is anything but that. One of the things that the Congress of the United States has been consistently good at is seeing that there is ample money to care for our wounded warriors.

It's really quite simple, if you served your country in the military then you paid into the system. If you were wounded or injured then you are paid in full. Do not be confused into believing that a disabled veterans entitlement is charity. If you meet the criteria for medical treatment, educational benefits, or compensation then those things are to be provided for you under the law. And if you're not you needn't worry about it because no one is giving anything away.

My wish for each of you, my brothers of all wars, is that you take the appropriate action without delay. Don't put things off that are important as your health and well-being. You are not the only one who will be affected if you do. When people shy away from these things to which they are entitled it can provide the Congress with a false picture of the needs within the disabled veteran community. It also may impact in a negative way upon your family. If you have questions, are not sure of your status or condition, you can contact the VA or a National Service Officer (NSO) for assistance. There are many service organizations with NSO's that will happily provide this assistance to you at no charge whether or not you are a member of their organization, i.e., VFW, DAV, Paralyzed Veterans, Military Order of the Purple Heart, and VVA, to name a few.

In the meantime while you are thinking this through and trying to reach some sort of a personal conclusion how about just getting all the important papers together, which at the very least should include a living will and advanced directives. And perhaps the most important document of all not to be overlooked is you are DD 214. Just do it!

75th Ranger Regiment Association Flower Fund Raffle

Support the Flower Fund. A One Ounce .999 Silver LRRP Coin in Lucite holder and in a Green US Army Presentation Case will raffled out at the reunion in July.

The coin signifies the years LRRPs were active in Vietnam, 1965 – 1972. F Company is sponsoring the raffle and proceeds will be split "fifty-fifty" between the 75th RRA and the F Company Flower funds. Tickets will be available at \$5.00 each.



WHAT WORKS FOR ME (Health)

On the records bit. The records of my military service have been fubar'd since I was medevac'd to Japan in '69. Ultimately they have sufficed for me to get all the benefits owed me. However, not having a truly correct DD 214 always nagged me. The Awards and Decorations Branch of Army Human Resources Command at Fort Knox, KY were the key for me. We are all entitled to one replacement copy of our awards and decorations. In the process of getting my name corrected and various awards added to my records, I was awarded the Ranger Tab that I should have gotten 43 years ago. As well, the rise in rank to Staff Sgt. should be forthcoming in the coming months. So, my DD214 is corrected and I finally got my records straight as to awards and decorations. It seems to me that too much in life never gets completed. I'm thinking that others may find the same level of satisfaction in getting their records straight as well...I recommend that everyone consider doing so.

I received 30% disability from my Viet Nam service soon after I was discharged in 1970. In about '95 my life was in a shambles with a string of failed personal and business failures. I had had a meltdown in 1981, but continued to march on to the 90's disasters. I was diagnosed with bi-polar and alcoholism in '81 and did some civilian side medication and talk therapy. To cope, I switched addictions from alcohol & whatever to just pot. In the late 90's I did a ton of talk therapy and some medication via Fee Basis. In late '98 I got 100% disability retro to '96. In January of '99 I entered a 10 week PTSD program at the Salisbury, NC VA. For me that program was the mental and emotional equivalent to Ranger School...one of the hardest but best things I've ever done for myself.

Prior to going through that program, I had seen lots of chiropractors and massage therapist to help with pain with no lasting results. The releases physically, mentally and emotionally at the PTSD program along with counseling and medication helped me tremendously...I still needed lots of

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help in all respects though. In that regard, through the years, I have tried: chiropractic, massage, talk therapy, medications, cranial sacral therapy, acupuncture, reflexology, colonics, diet & exercise, Emotional Freedom Technique, hypnosis, past life regression, as well as Unified Healing Technique and Manipulation under Anesthesia.

Of all the healing modalities that I have tried through the years, three stand out as the most effective: VA PTSD program, Unified Healing Technique and Manipulation Under Anesthesia. I have described the benefit of the VA PTSD program. The Unified Healing Technique was developed by Dr. Paul Canali in Coral Gables, FL and has helped volumes of people release the pain related to PTSD and a variety of other traumas. The central premise of Dr. Canali's Technique is that we humans tend to store traumatic memories at the cellular level. Through physical manipulation and coaxing he was able to give me huge releases of life traumas (simply Google these modalities on the Internet for videos and articles about my treatment).

Subsequent to Dr. Canali's work, I still had to cope with headaches and body pain (diagnosed as PTSD related fibromyalgia) that often rendered me incapable of doing virtually anything. This past spring I found out that a local chiropractor here in Venice was a practitioner of MUA

(manipulation under anesthesia) or Sedative Stretching and signed up for the procedure. My having been through the procedure and follow-up therapy has reduced my headaches and body pain by 80-90%!

So, out of all the money and time that I have spent through the years these three healing modalities have proved to be the most effective. As to cost, the VA will provide the PTSD program for you if you apply and qualify, Medicare will pay 80% of the MUA cost, but, the Unified Healing Technique will be out-of-pocket. The \$3000 I spent on having Unified Healing Technique sessions was the best money I have ever spent for health problems based on dollars spent vs. benefits.

As a result of the above treatments, I have managed to be 'the best that I can be' (to borrow from the old Army ad) mentally and physically. I formerly took a couple dozen pills a day from the VA, but, now I take only 4! I know that I will live with bipolar and PTSD for the balance of my life; however, I will do so much more comfortably. To augment the above, my wife & I are eating about 90% organic fruits, vegetables, nuts along with fish (seafood) and fowl and exercising and stretching.

Peace 'n plenty,
RLTW Phil Mayrand, Jr. '69

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

Unit Director - Steve Crabtree

**Reunion 2012**

Seems like yesterday when we were low-crawling through rice patties or cutting our way through triple canopy jungle but in reality it was over 40 years ago. It also seems like yesterday when I received a call from one of G Company's Rangers informing me of plans for a reunion in Sacramento, California, but again that was 22 years ago back in 1990. Here it is 2012 and the LRPs, LRRPs and Rangers of the 196th LIB, E Company, 51st Infantry and G Company Ranger, 75th Infantry gathered in Branson MO over June 21st - 24th to rekindle old friendships, down a few brewskis, forget about the last 40 years and become 20 year old soldiers again. This is our 23rd consecutive reunion.



The group at the Branson reunion.

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Just before the banquet we had moved as a group into the hotel's Medal of Honor Room where pictures of those awarded the medal were hung on the interior walls. Tom Nash read the names of our fallen brothers who gave all in Vietnam followed by Richard "Corky" Corkan unveiling company member Robert Pruden's picture with his Medal of Honor citation.



Robert Pruden's picture with his Medal of Honor citation.

We had 72 members and guests at our catered banquet in the Radisson Hotel sponsored by our association from monies donated through our auction. Tim Garvey gave us the invocation with the Branson Honor Guard posting the Colors. This year we had 6 first time attendees: Al Cross, Steve Deever, Robert Fullerton, Richard Kayser, Ron LaBar, and James Odgers. Moving our reunion across the country every year gives our brothers a chance to rendezvous with those they served with in Vietnam. Six Golden Piss Tubes were awarded during our meal, a prestigious honor for those that have contributed to our association. Those bestowed Piss Tubes were Danny Jacks, Dennis Nye, Chuck Williams, Richard Corkan, John Starnes, and Keith Oney.



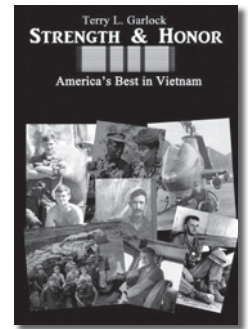
**Danny Jacks,
Dennis
Nye, Chuck
Williams,
Richard
Corkan, John
Starnes, and
Keith Oney.**

Book review: *Strength and Honor America's Best in Vietnam*

I personally don't like watching movies about Vietnam as most are complete BS! The only one I will view over and over is *Uncommon Valor* starring Gene Hackman, Patrick Swazye and



Tex Cobb. Not that the story of the movie is unrealistic (which it is) but the plot demonstrates the love we had for each other and the "behind the scenes" screwing by our government. I do enjoy reading books about Vietnam. Gary Linderer's *Black Berets and Painted Faces*, Larry Chamber's *Recondo* and Michael Lee Lanning's *The Only War We Had* are some of my favorites.



I just finished reading Terry Garlock's *Strength and Honor America's Best in Vietnam*. It is a collection of 48 stories, each about a different combat veteran (and one Veteran's daughter)

from different branches of the Service, half of which are one page "postcards" focused on how they were treated when they came home while the remaining 24 are about their combat experience, anywhere from 5 to 30 pages long. The memories recalled, the horror of war, the friendships made, the misinformed America public, the treatment we received by that American public, the behind the door politics in Washington, the close calls, the helicopter crashes, buddies dying and going home are just a few of the topics covered. The Appendix, *The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly*, should be required reading by every High School student but never will. The true story of what happened in Vietnam will never be a part of American History which really hit home to me. I wrote the following review for Amazon.com:

"I thoroughly enjoyed "Strength and Honor." The old memories resurrected, the words used that I hadn't thought of for many years, the betrayal by our own government and the fact that we were America's best at the worst of times. If nothing else the closing chapter, The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly, should be a must read for every High School student but never will be. In 1981 my daughter's American History teacher spent a whole 30 minutes talking about Vietnam. She told him that her dad had fought in Vietnam with an Airborne Ranger Unit and would he like to have me come and talk to the class. He was excited and said yes. That evening she asked me if I would and I said yes. The next day I received a phone call from the principal telling me that I would not come to his school and speak about Vietnam. Finally, the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Thank you Terry!"

Terry's book, *Strength and Honor America's Best in Vietnam*, may be purchased from Amazon or Barnes & Noble & other online

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booksellers, but if you order for about the same price from his website www.garlock1.com he will sign and personalize as you request before it is shipped. Terry makes a few bucks more if the book is purchased directly from him and you get a signed copy.

Terry's response: LRRPs - A Cobra Pilot's View

The men who scared me most in Vietnam were not VC or NVA, they were our own LRRPs. My first LRRP mission as a Cobra pilot was a launch from Bear Cat, east of Saigon in the fall of 1969. I didn't know squat about LRRPs, but I was thoroughly impressed with how calm and lightly armed was this small camouflaged team of six very young men as they prepared for an insertion in the triple canopy jungle further east toward Xuan Loc. Our launch role as a light fire team of two Cobras was just gun escort as the LRRP slick leap-frogged from one LZ to the next to confuse the enemy as to where the LRRP team actually put boots on the ground, then we flew back to Bear Cat without firing a shot to stand by the radio in case the team was compromised. Lunch was interrupted by frantic calls for extraction and we scrambled.

We listened to out-of-breath reports of young men desperately running from the enemy through thick jungle while we were too far away to see or do anything useful, and all three aircraft pulled the guts out of our birds to get there with no wasted seconds. The team leader said he didn't think they could make it to the PZ, and the slick team directed them to a closer small clearing just big enough to get down through the trees enough to drop a line and pull them out on the "strings." Meanwhile, as we approached the area we asked them to pop smoke, and the LRRPs asked urgently three times if we saw the smoke before I reported faint red smoke that was drifting and scattered by the time it filtered up through thick jungle, failing to give me a fix on their position. They popped a second smoke, then another, and by the time I reported purple I could see a faint trace of yellow also working its way up and mixing with the purple, scattered and diffuse, clearly showing the team on the run but we had no position fix. Their moving position was so uncertain that we could not give them covering fire without a high risk of hitting our own men. All we knew for sure is they were heading generally south and the targeted clearing was getting close; while they were under pursuit the superior enemy force had not yet overtaken them.

Just when I thought they were in deep trouble, the lead LRRPs hit the clearing, the slick nestled down into the jungle, whacking off small tree limbs while keeping their tail rotor clear and dropped the rig, and I opened up with a line of minigun fire 50 meters to their rear upon the report the trail LRRP covering the rear was 20 meters back and slowly closing. Instead of taking the time to set up rocket runs we wanted to stay close enough to respond quickly and accurately

if the enemy hit the team at the last minute. Our fire team of two Cobras intensified minigun fire closer to the clearing once the trail LRRP was at the rig, trying to keep up a wall of fire the enemy could not get through.

Finally, after too much tension and sweat in my cockpit, even though it was the LRRPs on the ground who were at risk, the slick pilot pulled them up, another narrow LRRP escape. I assumed the slick pilot would find a clearing to set down to recover the team into the aircraft, but he continued toward Bear Cat with the team slung below on what I hoped was a very strong line, seeming to enjoy the ride. They started swinging left and right, further and further, until I called the pilot and asked him what the heck our LRRP team was doing? He said, "Aw, they're just screwing with me like they always do, trying again to scare me that they'll tip the aircraft over! Let 'em have fun." I wondered what they did to relax, maybe juggle Bowie knives?

In subsequent LRRP missions from Bear Cat and other bases in III Corps, LRRPs continued to amaze me. I became accustomed to their whispered direction of where to place my fire, making me a Nervous Nelly since I didn't know if they were just in the habit of using hand signals or whispers, or if this time the enemy was close enough to almost touch and I might hit my own guys if my fire strayed just a little. There were many times my butt-cheeks took a big bite out of the seat while in my mind I whispered – please, God, don't let me hit them, please God, make sure they get out alive one more time! I didn't fly a whole lot of LRRP missions because there were a number of other missions we flew like combat assaults, hunter-killer, medevac cover, etc., and because my tour was cut short when I was shot down and medevaced home. But I flew enough gun cover for LRRPs to bring away a lasting impression that they were giants no matter how young, no matter their size. America lost something in never knowing the gallantry of the very young painted faces who did the war's hardest work, their routine courage overwhelmed by the political noise about the war. But some of us did notice and do remember.

I talk to high school kids every semester on the subject of "The Myths and Truths of the Vietnam War," and I tell them a little about LRRPs in Vietnam. I tell them that their parents never knew about LRRPs, just one example of the truth about that war being tangled up in myths, half-truths and politics. I tell them I remember who paid an extraordinary price to do their job in the war, and that when I meet a Vietnam vet who is a Marine or LRRP, I am inclined to call them "Sir!" no matter their rank. I also tell them they should read the Phantom Warrior series by Gary Linderer, and Cyclops in the Jungle by Dave Walker. I hope they read those books, and I hope you read mine.

Just wanted you LRRPs to know you are not forgotten.



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

Unit Director - William T. Anton

Ranger Bill Anton attended the 2D Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment Military Ball on 16 February 2012 at the Tacoma, WA Convention Center. It was an outstanding Military Ball. Ranger Anton was invigorated in meeting all the young Rangers. 2D Ranger Battalion Commander is LTC David Hodney, and CSM Daryl Thies. Ranger Bill Anton also attended the 2D Ranger Battalions Combat Awards Ceremony on 10 May 2012 at the Tacoma Dome, Tacoma, WA. 2D Ranger Battalion received two more Valorous Unit Awards and numerous awards for valor earned by these Rangers.



Co H (Ranger) 75th Infantry (Airborne) will present its unit guidon to 2D Ranger Battalion on 6 June 2012 before the entire Battalion. This is fitting to have this occur on 6 June, as it was on this day in 1944 that 2D Ranger Battalion scaled Point Du Hoc on D-Day. 2D Ranger Battalion has Company H combat awards as part of their lineage.

Members of Company H and their spouses will take a bus from Portland, OR to Joint Base Lewis-McChord for the Ceremony. Company H is having its annual reunion with the 1st Cavalry Division in Portland from 6-10 June.



CSM Thies,
LTC (R) Bill
Anton & LTC
David Hodney

Historic Passing of Company H (Ranger) 75th Infantry (Airborne) Guidon to 2D Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment on 6 June 2012

Company H (Ranger) 75th Infantry (Airborne) was in Portland, Oregon, to attend the 1st Cavalry Division reunion and coordinated with 2D Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment to pass our Guidon to them. Since 1974, when 2D Battalion was

activated, they have held our colors and battle streamers. Company H was inactivated on 15 August 1972, and reactivated and redesignated 2D Ranger Battalion on 1 October 1974.

Members of our LRRP/Ranger Association took a chartered bus to Fort Lewis in the morning of 6 June 2012. This was an auspicious occasion, as 2D Ranger Battalion, on 6 June 1944, scaled the cliffs of Pointe du Hoc during the Normandy invasion at Omaha beach, and went into Ranger history and lore. The entire 2D Battalion was on the parade ground for this ceremony. Battalion Commander LTC (P) David Hodney and CSM Daryl Thies conducted the ceremony. LTC (R) William Anton, RHOE 2009, represented Company H in the ceremony of passing the guidon.

Company H (Ranger) 75th Infantry (Airborne) was officially activated on 1 February 1969 and served with distinction until 15 August 1972. Company H was the last Ranger Company to serve in Vietnam. Additionally, Company H is credited with the longest continuous combat tenure of any Ranger unit in U.S. military history up to that time.

Company H also has the distinction of being the most highly decorated Ranger unit to serve during the Vietnam era.

Company H (Ranger) 75th Infantry (Airborne) Unit Awards

- Valorous Unit Award III Corps 1969
- Valorous Unit Award Fish Hook (2nd Award)
- Valorous Unit Award III Corps 1971 (3rd Award)
- 9 Campaign Stars
- RVN Cross of Gallantry with Palm 1969
- RVN Cross of Gallantry with Palm 1969-70 (2nd Award)
- RVN Cross of Gallantry with Palm 1970-71 (3rd Award)
- RVN Cross of Gallantry with Palm 1971-1972 (4th Award)
- RVN Civil Action Honor Medal 1st Class 1969-70

After passing of the Guidon, LTC (P) David Hodney spoke and stated to the crowd, "When you count the streamers hanging from the 2D Battalion Colors, almost 80% were

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

earned by Company H (Ranger) 75th Infantry (Airborne) ...” LTC (R) William Anton then concluded with remarks for the LRRP/Rangers of the Vietnam era. Following the ceremony, members of the LRRP/Rangers ate an excellent lunch at the 2D Battalion dining facility, and were treated with a tour of the fantastic new facilities. LRRP/Ranger President Doug Parkinson was quoted as saying: “A fantastic ceremony. These Rangers in 2D Battalion make us all very proud ...”

2d Battalion will have a memorial built with the assistance of the Pointe du Hoc Memorial Association. There will be a section for the 2D Battalion Rangers of the modern era for their fallen comrades, and there will also be a section for our LRRP/Rangers honoring our 40 KIA and 1 MIA from Vietnam.

Below are some photos of the presentation ceremony.

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

Unit Director - David Flores



Hello everyone, here we are again at the end of another year. So, enough said about that! Buzz and Sharel have had their shoulders to the wheel and have everything set for our reunion in Washington DC next year. You can check our company website for the info, plus it will be at the end of this article.

I am hoping that if you are reading this article that you will make plans to attend the reunion. This is somewhat of a special one. Using 1968 as kind-of the middle year of our company being in country, 2013 will mark 45 years!! Now we have been having our reunions since 1993 and we have seen a lot of our guys over



the years. There are still those that have not attended and we are hoping that this will be the reunion you attend. We have had a couple of mini-reunions over the past few years, the reason being, “we aren’t getting any younger”!! Also, with the reunion being in DC, The Wall is there, time to pay our respects to our fallen brothers.

So that’s it, **REUNION TIME!** Time for old warriors to get together, shake hands, hug and look into the eyes of someone that shared the same experiences as YOU.

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

Date: June 5-9, 2013

LOCATION: Washington DC

(Use Reagan National Airport)

HOTEL: Arlington Court Suites

1200 N Courthouse Rd.

Arlington, VA 22201

703-524-4000

When making reservations ask for

I-Company of the 75th Rangers.

Cut-off date for our rates will be

May 22, 2013

I hope to see you there,

Dave Flores, Unit Director

F Co. 52nd/ I Co. 75th Rangers

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

Unit Director - Rodger T. Crunk

Greetings to my Brothers,

I must apologize for being out of touch the last few months due to illness. I am much better now and appreciate the cards, e-mails, phone calls and prayers. It was a healing influence to know that my Brothers were with me.

I was very disappointed to miss the reunion in Baltimore. I owe John Chester a debt of gratitude for putting it together and standing in for me. I especially missed getting to meet up with Denver Hall. We have not seen each other for 43 years. When my team was ambushed Aug. 19/1969 Denver was just one of my Brothers who met the chopper at the hospital and helped get us unloaded and into the emergency room. I just do not have the words to



adequately express my gratitude to Denver and all who helped get Romeo-7 through a very traumatic day.

It is my sad duty to inform you that we have lost two of our Brothers in the last few weeks.

Our Brother William Gary McClure died September 6th 2012 after a long battle with throat cancer. Our condolences go to his wife Nancy and his family. As he requested K-Co made a donation in lieu of flowers to the Vietnam Veterans of America in his honor.

Stephen DePorter passed away Oct. 3rd 2012 after a long battle with colon cancer. Our condolences go to his Wife Lynn and his family. As he requested K-Co made a donation to the

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

West Palm Beach VA Hospital Fisher House in his honor. Our Brothers will not be forgotten.

Please check out the info for the Ranger Assoc. reunion in Columbus, GA. set for July 22nd -28th. So get your reservations made and registration turned in. Looking forward to a big turnout from our unit. Just a reminder, if you haven't gotten your dues paid: the yearly dues are \$30.00 and a life membership is \$300.00.

Hope to see you in July.
Roger

40th Year Homecoming Reunion 2008, DVD, Kansas City, Missouri

Nearly five years have elapsed since we were promised copies of the DVD's filmed at various times during the K 75 / E 58 Homecoming Celebration held in Kansas City in 2008. Our film master, Ken Smithers has hit an abundance of snags and delays since the event, not the least of which has been editing and color correcting more than 75 hours of Video Taping. Much can be said about that later but the important part is that Ken has not ever given up on trying producing a set of DVD's we can all be pleased with.

In his chagrin and embarrassment, he shredded all checks given to him by attendees in payment for what he thought would be a set of three DVD's. Some members had paid

\$30.00 cash or checks to Reuben or one of the hostesses. These funds in the amount of \$750.00 were given to Ken in 2008 to purchase film, discs and related supplies. During late summer, 2012, Ken produced sets of 3 DVD's each and gave them to Reuben to distribute at the reunion in Baltimore. Several of these sets have "bugs" and entire functions skipped or not visibly interpreted. At the Hospitality Room in Baltimore, distribution was made to those who were present who had previously paid the \$30.00. Others, who had not pre-paid, were pleased to pay for the set they received. The names of those receiving a set of DVD's recorded their name and mailing address in a notebook with the understanding that a fourth DVD containing "individual interviews" may be forthcoming. At this writing, it is apparent that Ken may not be able to produce a fourth DVD to be added to the set. He has upgraded his equipment and purchased additional "burners" and is feverishly attempting to burn more sets of three and hopefully adding the desire fourth DVD to complete the set.

Please contact Reuben at rsiverling@kc.rr.com if you know you have paid for a set of the DVD's and have not received it or if you want to purchase a set of three DVD's for \$30.00. Reuben will get this information to Ken and, working together, will try to fill all unfilled or newly requested orders. We will work on the honor system and not expect payment until you actually have a set in your possession. Be sure to include your post-mailing address. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

Reuben Siverling



Greetings, brothers.

The 101st LRRP/LRP/RANGER Association reunion in Clarkesville, TN Aug. 15-19 was its usual success, although our numbers were down with 33 vets and 22 wives in attendance. A number of first-time attendees—Bill Young (L/75), Chuck Reilly (L/75), Tony Castro (F/58) and Manuel Oretgon (F/58)-- were present to make this year's event special. It was great to have a number of ex-LRS veterans join us this year, including Ken Newsome who was a member of the 101st LRSD unit when we held our initial reunion at Ft. Campbell in 1986. Ken, a retired E-9, and his lovely wife, Kris, live in Clarkesville and were kind enough to host a barbecue for us at their residence during the event. The only negative during the week occurred at the beginning of our banquet when a nearby auto accident knocked out the electricity in the area,

including the lights and the air-conditioning at our hotel. We started the banquet by candlelight in the sweltering heat and were greatly relieved when the juice came back on after 30 minutes of suffering. The highlight of the banquet was the annual awarding of a Randall knife to one of our members in recognition for their service to the association. Due to the fact that it takes 18 months to order and receive a Randall and because we've had a number on back-order, we were able to award four of these beautiful knives this year. The recipients were Ralph Timmons, Larry Forrest, Don Lynch and Riley Cox. Congratulations, brothers, for all you've done. Thanks to Jerry Gomes, we had a number of pathfinders from the 159th Aviation Battalion and their ladies join us at the banquet as our guests. These are the young soldiers who carry on our proud legacy. Thanks to all who donated items for the auction. Your generosity resulted in nearly \$2,200 which enabled us to cover

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

our hospitality room and banquet expenses and still add more than \$400 to our treasury. Great work, guys!

At our annual business meeting we voted to accept pathfinders from the 159th Aviation as members in our association. We voted to hold our 2013 reunion at Columbus, GA in conjunction with the 2013 Ranger Rendezvous. I don't have the exact dates yet but I believe the Rendezvous is being held July 22-25, so make tentative plans for those dates and I'll confirm them as soon as I can.

Newly elected officers of the Association:

President—Ralph Timmons (F/58)

Vice President—Dave Griffiths
(101st LRSD)

Secretary/Treasurer—Gary Linderer
(F/58, L/75)

75th RRA Unit Director—Gary Linderer

I recently received a number of emails from Larry Chambers (F/58, L/75) who is spending a couple of months touring Indochina. He included a photo of the shrine built by the Vietnamese on the crest of Hamburger Hill, and another of a fish farm on the floor of the A Shau Valley at the base of the mountain. It's no longer the Valley of Death and Destruction. Civilization has come to our stomping grounds.

Frequently, I hear from Walt Bacak (1/101 LRRP). Walt has been living in the Mekong delta area south of Saigon for the past few years. He's happily married to a wonderful Vietnamese lady and his community improvement projects have made him the most popular guy in the village.

Gunther Bengston (1/101 LRRP) and his wife, Marilyn informed me that their son is currently serving in Afghanistan with the 9th Special Forces Group. Keep him in your prayers. The rumor is that Ron "Mother" Rucker (F/58, L/75) is attempting to bag his third deer this year...with his motorcycle. Now that's hardcore!

Guys, if anyone would like to have an article or war story told in *Patrolling* feel free to contact me and I'll help you get it published. I will also give you a hand if you need help writing it. Time's running out for us to share our experiences, so for those of you who would like to do so, let's get it done.

**SICK CALL**

Let's offer some prayers for brother Tim Howard. Time served in the 3/506th LRP and has been fighting cancer for the past year. Chemo has not been effective, and he is currently being treated with radiation.

Darol Walker has nearly recovered from the aneurysm he suffered earlier this year. It was good to see him at the reunion. Although he's still a little weak, it didn't keep him from helping with the planning and execution. He was responsible for lining up the wonderful caterer who hosted our banquet. Thanks for the help, Top.

TAPS

Tom Jurkowski (L/75) passed away Sept. 17 in Plantation, Florida. Tom served in L/75 in 1970 then joined Special Forces in Nha Trang. RIP, brother.

Don Lynch (F/58) has volunteered to organize and maintain a company roster to improve our association commo. He needs each of you to furnish your name, unit(s), dates, address, phone number, and email address. Email or telephone them to me and I will pass them on to him.

I have access to a newly designed LRRP/LRP/Ranger challenge coin. They are absolutely gorgeous. The photo of Tom Brooks (F/58) crossing a stream is the model for the reverse side of the coin. The coins run \$20 which includes shipping and handling. There is a limited number so if you want one, contact me immediately. I also have access to scroll decals for all four of our VN era units. They are adhesive backed decals that attach to the outside of a car or truck window. Great color (no fade) and long lasting, they look great. If you want any, I'll put you in touch with the vendor.

Well, I'm off to secure my yearly supply of venison, so I'll cut this short. Unlike Rucker, I have to use a rifle.

I hope all of you have a wonderful holiday season and will see you next year at the Rendezvous.

Gary Linderer—Unit Director

417-331-2834

lindlrp@yahoo.com



M/75 - 71ST LRP - 199TH LRRP

Unit Director - Don Tillisch

No Submission



N/75 - 74TH LRP - 173RD LRRP

Unit Director - Robert Henriksen



Vegas Reunion held in June 12. Herbie Baugh organized this, hope everyone had a good time. Any jackpot winners? You didn't play poker with Herbie, did you?

9 March 1971

Subject: Senior Officer Debriefing Report -
Brigadier General E.R. Ochs

From: Assistant **Chief** of Staff
for Force Development

Department of the Army,
Washington, D.C. 20310

1. Included are three copies of the Senior officer Debriefing Report prepared by Brigadier General E.R. Ochs. The report covers the period 10 August 1970 through 15 January 1971, during which time BG Ochs served as Commanding General, 173rd Airborne Brigade.

SENIOR OFFICER DEBRIEFING PROGRAM
(BG E.R. OCHS, 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE)
COUNTRY: REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
DEBRIEFING REPORT BY BRIGADIER
GENERAL E.R. OCHS

**DUTY ASSIGNED: COMMANDING GENERAL,
173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE**

INCLUSIVE DATES: 10 AUG 1970 - 15 JANUARY 1971

DATE OF REPORT: 15 JANUARY 1971

INCL

q. While the FSSB concept capitalized on the capability of attacking the enemy immediately upon detecting his presence, the brigade's unmanned sensor program also continued to employ Duffle Bag assets for intelligence gathering. The effective use of sensors in both roles made the Duffle Bag program in the 173d Airborne Brigade one of the most successful in USARV.

r. Company N (Ranger), 75th Infantry. Company N (Ranger), 75th Infantry, is the organic Ranger unit of the brigade and its mission is to provide surveillance and reconnaissance. Additionally, it is capable of small unit ambushes, limited raids, POW snatches,



and pathfinder operations for heliborne and parachute operations.

s. With the brigades maneuver battalions committed to pacification of the coastal lowlands of AO LEE, there developed a need to screen the northern and western flanks of the AO. Employment of Ranger teams in these outlying areas proved to be highly successful in early detection of the enemy's movements into the populated coastal areas and was by far the most productive source of intelligence available.

t. Because of the importance of the mission assigned to Company N, it was determined that its authorized TOE strength of 2 officers and 59 enlisted men was insufficient. As a result, it was expanded to a strength of 3 officers and 125 enlisted men, increasing the company's flexibility and combat capabilities. This expansion was made at the expense of the maneuver battalions. The Rangers often provided the brigade with timely reports on enemy presence and activity and just as often made contacts with the enemy that, when further developed by battalion reaction forces, produced significant results.

u. In late November, in an attempt to locate NVA main force units in the AO, Ranger teams were sent into a valley in the southern portion of AO LEE. The Rangers almost immediately became engaged in heavy contact with the enemy and one company of the 3d Battalion, 503rd Infantry reacted. The most significant result of the action was that documents captured from a high level NVA political officer revealed the approximate location of the 2d NVA Regiment elements and provided the brigade's intelligence analysts with information as to the mission and future plans of that unit. The documents also revealed that during the enemy's Fall campaign (Sep - Oct 1970) the brigade inflicted 200 casualties on the regiment and forced it to withdraw from combat for political and military re-training.

v. The Rangers' economy of force role allowed the brigade to continue to support the GVN pacification program, while still providing the necessary detection of enemy movement in the periphery of

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

AO LEE, and was largely responsible for the enemy's failure to get into the populated areas with any sizeable force. Instead, he was detected, engaged, and defeated in the mountainous borders of the AO where maximum friendly combat power could be brought to bear on him.

(Document declassified IAW Executive Order 13526)

I ran across this document in the Donovan Library at Ft. Benning while doing some research. It is the Senior Officer Debriefing Report (dated March 71) of Brigadier General Ochs following his term as the CG of the 173rd Abn Bde, 10 August 70 to 15 January 71. Here is an excerpt of the report covering his analysis of operations of N Co. 75th Rangers during this period. Bottom line – we done good.

Dave Cummings – Unit Director

Sam Schiro once wrote that he thought it would be good to get photos of us through the years. Before and after, or, “We were Soldiers once and young so what the hell happened to us.”



Tom has had a successful career in law enforcement among his accomplishments. He serves on the Minnesota Law Enforcement Association Honor Guard and is shown here on MN Law Enforcement Memorial Day standing inspection at the MN LE Memorial.



Young Jeff Horn profiling with M-60.



Young Jeff getting on with life and marriage. (Look at that hair. Gettin' a little too close to hippie there Jeff)



Tom Eckhoff – young gun



Tom and Brian Naughton.



Old Jeff on last tour in Iraq as Command Sergeant Major. (Is the Army that desperate?) Kidding. When Jeff's Reserve unit was alerted for deployment this old Soldier had much experience to pass on to his young troopers during their train-up. He was slated for retirement just before they deployed in 2010 but he refused to let his Soldiers go to war without him. He was allowed to extend and complete the tour with his Bde.



Tom and Jimmie Wallace playing chess. The intellectual side of N Co.



Young student Tom getting on with his studies and life after 'Nam. “We had hair once and young.”



Passing the torch. Jeff and son Josh, 3rd Ranger Bn., with Josh's PSG.



Young Dick Davis, Mike team 69-70.

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

Can't get a picture of old Dick Davis unless you can swim. He's always out on his little Dinghy.



Young Tome Roubidoux and Okie.

Tome and Molly today. Speaking of Tome, bad year for wildfires in the SW and particularly in his AO. He let us know that he is OK and his place was spared for which we all are thankful. Reminds me, gotta ask him how to do that rain dance.



Young Dave "Killer" Cummings (setting) with Ed "Professor" Welsh, 1971.



PSG Cummings standing in the door with 2nd Ranger Bn. in the 80's.



Old Dave Cummings. Well.....you be the judge.



And some age like fine wine. November Rangers gun-slinging in Iraq. Pat "Tad" Tadina and Don "Rat" Sexton.

There it is. Let's keep this going. Next issue you can send in your own selected pics to Reed, or you can continue to get victimized by me. That way, instead of my stupid captioning you can write your own....stupid captioning.

I've said this before but I continue to be awed by the fantastic Soldiers I am privileged for the opportunity to work with. They are amazing people. Morale and professionalism continues to be high despite years of back-to-back deployments and a near impossible mission. They are bound by an ROE even more restrictive than what we had in RVN and always have a camera pointed at them. Like 'Nam they are asked to put their lives on the line to fight bad guys, but not fight too hard, you know, we don't want to make anyone mad. And oh, we are now taking the word Islamic out of Islamic extremist in Army manuals and other official documents. We don't want to offend those folks. Besides, the State Department has declared the War on Terrorism is over. And so it goes. We are beginning to disengage from combat operations and turn more of the responsibility over to the Afghans. Right, remember Vietnamization. The average Afghan soldier is on a par with Marvin the ARVN and corruption is more of an institution than the ideal of a national government will ever be. It looks bad for them. We had jungle and they have arid mountains. Other than that, same old shit different day.

Many thanks to Robert "Twin" Henrickson for his continued effort in supporting this association. Robert tried to break contact and ease out of responsibility for association business. But he has remained at the center of things, particularly as I have been running around chasing Soldiers all over the world. Sorry about that Robert. But it is testament to the phenomenal job you did as UD.

Thanks also to Reed Cundiff for contributing his time and effort as our editor for these Patrolling submissions. Hard enough to find time at your home computer to do all this. More so when your home is continuously on the move as Reed's is. As most of you know Reed and his wife have been travelling throughout North America in a motorhome following his retirement. Reed was a scientist for US Army Research Labs and did time in Afghanistan solving engineering problems for Soldier protection.

Last thanks is do Tom Zaruba. He led the charge in putting together our submission for this year's Ranger Hall of Fame. Carl Vencill was our nominee but unfortunately our submission was not chosen again this year. Thanks for your efforts Tom and all those who contributed. We will try it again next year.

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

Concerning RHoF. Many members voiced their outcry about how unfair the process is and claim we were ignored for this or that reason. OK, maybe some truth in all that. But overall, 173rd Lurps have been very successful in getting many of our most deserving folks into RHoF. The selection committee is very diverse and competing interests abound. They also go through a huge list of submissions. The odds are against us making it in every year, but we will continue to fight. I don't want to prejudice the committee against us by saying anything negative about them. BUT COME ON! I served with some of those making this year's cut and there are a couple I don't consider as even particularly good leaders let alone as outstanding examples of the Army Ranger. But that's just me.

I was looking at some of the wonderful websites some unit organizations have put together to tell their story and preserve pictures for posterity. Caspar Aviation folks have a great one. Look up 4th Fighter Group Association of WWII. Those guys are nearly all gone now but their legacy is kept alive by relatives and others who maintain that site. Anyone out there who knows about this stuff let us know how we can proceed on setting up a 173rd Lurp site. I'm sure we can figure a way to cover the cost.

Made the annual Rolling Thunder motorcycle rally at the Wall in D.C. Linked up with Rudy Theodosio and Chuck Moseby. Sam Schiro linked with a Ranger buddy who is now C.O. of the Ranger Training Brigade. They thought it would be cool for some of us old Lurps to meet with the Ranger Class this past September for a few minutes during one of their brief down times. We just introduced ourselves, answered some questions, and gave some encouragement that the opportunity to be a member of the Ranger family is well worth their pain and misery.

Lastly. In this uncertain economy I received some good investment advice which I will share with you.
Very Important Investment Advice!!!!

If you had purchased \$1,000 of shares in Delta Airlines one year ago, you would have \$790.00 today!

If you had purchased \$1,000 of shares in AIG one year ago, you would have \$830.00 today.

If you had purchased \$1,000 of shares in Lehman Brothers one year ago, you would have \$0.00 today.

But, if you had purchased \$1,000 worth of beer one year ago, drank all the beer, then turned in the aluminum cans for the recycling refund, you would have received \$214.00.

Based on the above, the best current investment plan is to drink heavily & recycle. It is called the 401-Keg.

And as a bonus...

A recent study found that the average American walks about 900 miles a year. Another study found that on average Americans drink 22 gallons of alcohol a year. That means that the average American gets about 41 miles to the gallon!

Makes you damned proud to be an American!

I am deeply saddened by yet another incident of the lives of some of our nation's best, our warriors, being sacrificed on the alter of political expediency. In Somalia a mission of questionable value went awry, as they often do when bullets start flying, and a Blackhawk was shot down. A detachment of Rangers near-by rushed to the scene to try and rescue the crew. They were not ordered to, it wasn't even discussed. These men live by a creed born of battles, memorized, and recited at every ceremony. A line from that creed says, "I will never leave a fallen comrade to fall into the hands of the enemy." The situation deteriorated into the battle of Mogadishu. Attempts to rescue the rescuers were stymied by a lack of armored vehicles denied to commanders on the ground because the administration wanted to maintain the image of a humanitarian effort. President Clinton was livid that these Rangers had gotten themselves caught up in a battle that was now visible to the press. He could not even conceive of how it happened, that men of honor would willingly sacrifice themselves for their fellow Americans as is their creed.

In Benghazi, Libya the American Consulate was attacked by Terrorists. A nearby CIA unit started to move to assist, but were ordered by higher authority to stand down. Two of these warriors, ex-SEALs Tyronne Woods and Glenn Dougherty went anyway. The orders conflicted with the code of honor ingrained into the very being of these warriors. They went into battle against overwhelming odds. Tyronne Woods perched on the rooftop of a burning building to locate mortar emplacements raining high explosive on those Americans left alive 7 hours after the battle had begun. He painted the target with a Laser Target Designator for the air support he was sure would come. He died there, waiting for air support an hour's flight time away, that never came. What were his last thoughts before he died?

Rest in Peace brothers, you kept your honor and faith as warriors.

RLTW,
Dave Cummings



0/75 - 78TH LRP

Unit Director - Michael Dolsen

No Submission



P/75 - 79TH LRP

Unit Director - Terry B. Roderick

After a great reunion in Nashville, Tennessee in August, hosted by Ranger Dave Barfield (F/51st LRP and P/75th Ranger) and his wife, Judy, we recently received some bad news concerning one of our brothers, David "Mac" McNulty (age 68), who passed away October 20, 2012, in Wallingford, Vermont. Mac was raised in the Portland, Maine area and enlisted in the Army in February 1961 after graduation from South Portland High School. Prior to his service in the Papa Company Rangers, Mac was in the 101st Airborne Division, the 82nd Airborne Division, and then came to us after assignment to Special Forces. Mac served P/75th in many positions and eventually became a Team Leader in the company, due to his skill and expertise, and leadership abilities. I spent quite a bit of time in my early months in P/75th (late 1969-70) on Killer 15, with SSG Linvel "Sgt. K" Karres as the TL, Steve Printz as the ATL, and Mac as an ATL/TL in the making. Eddie Johnston, Roger Cassidy, Jim Femiano, Carl Bolden, and I all looked to Mac for guidance and advice at one point or another. There may be more names to list, but those are the ones that come to mind right away. We were fortunate to have 3 strong, experienced, skilled members during that time to teach us how to stay alive as best they could.

For those of us who knew Mac well, he was a professional soldier in every sense of the word. He did not complain about serving in the Army, but relished it and embraced the life in all aspects. He was always trying to learn new ideas and tactics and then passing along what he learned and experienced to any of us who would listen. He was friendly, outgoing, smart, brave, consistent, and dependable at all times. He was a true warrior and he touched many of us in ways we probably would not recognize unless we stop for a moment and think back to conversations you might have had with him. He was a level-headed, calm under stress, sort that you just don't meet every day. Mac went back to the Special Forces world when he left Vietnam and retired from the Army in 1986. I was



lucky enough to serve on the same team with Mac for about 6 of the months I spent in Vietnam and his influence and friendship were never forgotten, despite the way we've all gone along with our lives. The wonderful thing is we have the opportunity to reunite with each other so many years later that others who served in Vietnam do not have. Sometimes we lose sight of that and don't take advantage of the clear cut advantage we enjoy. In that vein, I'd like to mention that Mac and Fran recently attended the 2011 Ranger Rendezvous/75th Ranger Regiment Assn. Reunion and many of us got to spend time with him again recently. I don't think any of us realized Mac was as sick as he was when he came. I had hoped to see him in Nashville this summer, but did not know his health issues at the time. Fran said his heart basically gave up on him. Mac did not want a service or anything formal, but just to be cremated and he wanted an honest to goodness "Irish Wake" that Fran assures me will take place at a later date that is undetermined at this time. According to his obituary, Mac liked motorcycle riding, playing pool, playing cards, his Ranger and SF family, and he was an avid Red Sox/Patriot fan. Rest in Peace, Mac.....and blue skies and fair winds to the family.

August 15-19, 2012 found the Papa Company Rangers in Nashville for our 2012 Reunion. There was a rumor started by the host that the President would be there on Thursday morning and many were skeptical, but anyone present would have to admit, Dave Barfield delivered. The visit by the President, not once, but twice while we were there, was an unexpected treat for all of us. I kept getting phone calls and e-mails leading up to the reunion asking if it was true???? Was the President really coming?? My response was merely not to EVER question Dave Barfield, as his reputation precedes him !! Plus, I wasn't the one who said he was coming, so why ask me ?? Ha! Ha! I kept the faith and was not disappointed. We had the largest attendance we've ever had. Many thanks to Dave and Ju-Ju for the efforts, time, and expense they expended to

P/75 - 79TH LRP (Continued)

put on a wonderful gathering for all of us. Dave's sister, Jerri Greco, joined us for some of the festivities also. In addition, we were honored to have some members of F/51st LRP (ABN) and some others who came up north from F/51st LRP to start our company in late 1968 in attendance. Pat and Trish Duffield, Mark and Mari Eastman, Keith ("Lurch") and Diane Morris, Tommy and Judy Thompson, and Michelle Frazier, who lost her husband recently, but wanted to join us in Nashville anyway and be with Rangers and LRP's. Dick and Patty Moyer were there and Dick recently got back from a trip to Vietnam to go over and build some schools with a veteran group. James Beake (wife Marcia) and Harold Buntin (wife Brenda) were two of our original members along with Dave Barfield, Rick Auten, and Clyde Tanner, who were in attendance. Rick Auten and his wife, Sherrie, who moved to the Nashville area recently and are getting acclimated to the south after many years living in northern Michigan. Clyde and his wife Susan attended with their grown up daughter, Sara, and her friend, Rachel Fuerschbach. Sara is another one we have watched grow into a beautiful young lady over the years too. I hope Clyde keeps his shotgun handy!! If I forget or omit anyone while writing this article, please excuse me and remind me if you'd like. I would say the prize for **"showing up from afar"** would have to go hands down to Bob and Mary (Rossi) Murphy, who showed up unexpectedly from Oz. Bob is 5th Corps LRP (Co. D/17th Inf. LRP Abn.) and Mary and Bob are STILL newlyweds. What a wonderful surprise indeed!! In addition, Mary's daughter, Kathy Riggle and her daughter, Amanda, joined us too. We're so lucky to have such a wonderful Ranger family to interact with. More of you should take better advantage of it and don't wait until we lose someone to reach out to them. We have the contact information for many of the people you sit there and wonder about??

There is so much to talk about and not sure where to start. We had some First Timers after all these years. Dan "DKW" Wagoner, from Simi Valley, California attended for his first time since he left Vietnam in 1971. Dan may have spent more time in P/75th than any other person I can think of. I think his brain went on overload during his visit with us as nearly everyone there knew him and he was trying to sort it all out and spend time with everyone he wanted to. That's nearly impossible as we all know and I always leave thinking I wish I had spent more time with someone. No different his year. Gene and Nettie Pope from Tennessee also showed up for the first time. Pat Stegall and his wife, Rhonda attended their first P/75th reunion too. John McDaniel showed up for the first time and was coaxed out by Donnie Rose, who is beginning to be a regular now. John and Donnie came to the company together in April 1971 and stayed until the end and helped

turn off the lights. In addition, we were blessed to have Dave Gates and his friend, Sheryl Beck, from Marietta, Ga. Join us. We had not seen Dave for a few years as he has been recovering from a severe stroke he experienced a while back. We were all relieved to see how well he's doing and he was upbeat and funny and classy, just like he always was. Sheryl has been taking good care of Dave and assisting him in getting back up to speed. We love her and thank her for her dedication to one of our brothers. She's very pretty too and probably had to pose for more photos with old Rangers than she bargained for. The gals who have attended before and know some of us go home and tell our buddies these are our new girlfriends and such, (myself for one, truth be told!!) did their best to avoid that sort of thing, but Sheryl was vulnerable and many of the guys took advantage of that!! Ha! Ha! We were graced by the company of Joyce Boatman, her daughter Carol, and two of Carol's daughters, Ciarra and Caroline, and their family friend, Linda Craft. Not to upset the guys from N/75th too much, but we've darn near brainwashed the whole Boatman clan and we're doing everything we can to biologically immerse them into our Ranger DNA. They are a "hot item" for sure and we feel fortunate that they will still spend some free time with us!! Ha! Ha! We love them dearly. Chris Sides (wife of our KIA, Harold Sides) and her friend, Wanda Burton flew in from the Dallas, Texas area again and we always enjoy them and are so thankful to have a link to Harold through Chris. She is an absolute sweetheart and a valued member of the family. Jaci Glidden and Kelly Lawrence, daughters of one of our KIA's, Johnny Lawrence, attended again and as usual, they were a joy to have with us. Beautiful, smart girls that their Daddy would be very proud of. Their brother, Johnny Lawrence, who was in a real bad motorcycle accident after our Cherokee Reunion in 2010, has some very serious injuries and was unable to join us this year. We missed his enthusiasm and brotherhood. He made a real good impression when we first met him in 2010. Redskin 16, Steve Smith, and his wife, Pat, joined us again. I consider it an extreme honor that he would take the time out to join us. He's become a valued friend to me personally, though I cannot admit it. The 101st was having their national reunion nearby and we had a few of the 158th AHB members join us for our Saturday night dinner. That was a highlight as we hold these men in such high esteem. We had an active duty Apache pilot from the 101st, Jeremy Walters, with us and he was a hit with the ladies for sure. Jeremy is a close friend and fellow pilot with Eric Cornelius, son of our Jerry and Marlene Cornelius. We're still mindful of their loss of their son, USMC Cpl. Kevin Cornelius, who was KIA right after our 201 Reunion in Cherokee. So hard to forget these "kids" as we watched them over the years as they grew to manhood. We have a group

P/75 - 79TH LRP (Continued)

I'll call the "regulars" for lack of a better description. These would include the Boatman's, Mary Murphy, the Tanner's, the Cornelius', our Ranger Daddy, Duke DuShane, Larry Smith, Eddie Johnston, Ted and Cherie Tilson, Thomas and Gaynelle Wilson, Sammy "Brother G" and Peggy Burnette, our professional photographer and Ranger, Garry Norton, John and Bonnie Beckwith, and Jim Hussey, who brought his better half this year for the first time. Once we met Cheryl, we understood why he wanted to "protect" her, but she fit right in.....No Problem, Sgt. Major!! Rick and Linda Chitwood from Miami finally made a company reunion but we already had them hooked from the 2011 Ranger Rendezvous and we expect them to become regular attendees to as many of these events as they can. Both of them are welcome additions to the family and may spark the gene pool a bit. Steve and Barbara Nash were there and they are regulars to the company reunions. It's always good to see Steve and he does his best, along with Redskin 16, to keep me humble and reined in. They both have to stretch the truth to do it, but at my age, I cannot refute some of the things they attribute to me as I just don't remember !! Steve has always been a favorite of mine. He's been very supportive of what I do over the years and I'd really like to see him more if I'm honest. One of our good guys for sure. I have a list of attendees of the reunion and if I missed anyone, I'm so sorry.

You may have noticed that I have not mentioned Gary Hall yet. Along with his lovely and wonderful wife, Patsy, they have attended a couple of our reunions over the years. They live close to me, but unlike me, they are both doing some wonderfully unselfish things for others with their lives. Gary Hall was the CO when I arrived and it was clear to see he was respected and not feared. He showed himself to be very competent, brave, and an excellent leader of men in my opinion. He left about 7 weeks later and we got Luke Ferguson as our new CO. Gary Hall was missed quite a bit by the Rangers in Papa Company when he left and many wondered if Luke could be as good as Gary. I'm happy to say they were both excellent leaders and we were lucky to have them. I can't speak for the other commanding officers we had since I had little interaction with them after Luke left, but I just wanted to say "thank you" to both of them for their leadership and attempts to guide us in the right direction. It's just like they say "you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it jump off the 3 meter board." Seems like every time I turn around, I see where Gary, Patsy, or both, are heading back to Zambia or some other remote place in Africa to help and assist people there who have no idea of the world we live in. Their missionary work is so selfless and dangerous in that part of the world that

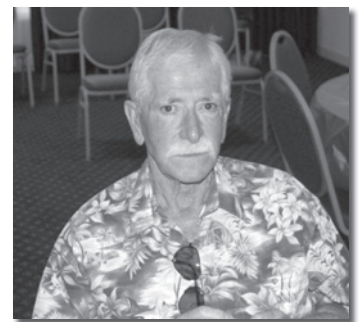
it is hard not to admire and want to support the things they are doing. If you're thinking I'm impressed by the entire Hall family, you'd be correct. You can get a hold of either of them if you want to help.

On October 11th, 2012, we also lost a very good friend, Guy Anhorn, of Blue Bell, PA. Guy was introduced to the group by Garry Norton, who worked with Guy in their photography business. Guy wanted to do something for Garry and decided to honor him, and our company, with a documentary he created called, "**Painted Warriors, Rangers on the DMZ**". This documented some of our history and Guy was able to connect with Larry Smith and Dave Slone in a way none of us ever have. To me, it's a beautiful thing. Guy also created and maintained our current website that we really didn't get to where we wanted it, by a long shot, before his health issues began to slow him down. I'm not sure if we'll be able to continue with that one or create a new one. I have a Plan B if it comes to that, so I'll have some sort of access in the future besides providing content. Guy and I were working on that but we ran out of time unfortunately.

I wish I had more room to write about the many things and events we experienced in Nashville, but space won't allow it. We have shared many photos from the week and I can burn you a CD if you don't have access to a computer. In closing, Duke and I spent a few days with the WWII Rangers who had their reunion in Columbus, October 17-21. It's almost magical being in the company of these men. I think there were about 17-18 who showed up this year. Sure would be more fun if more of you "retired" guys would come out and enjoy these events. I know a bunch of you don't have JOBS!! Ha! Ha! It's really more entertaining than you might think. Their association, the RBA of WWII has disbanded and their descendants have begun a new association, Descendants of the WWII Rangers, to carry on their memory and legacy. Rangers Lead The Way!! Rock



Abe Lincoln, Dave Barfield & security detail, Nashville, 2012.



Daniel Wagoner, 2012.

P/75 - 79TH LRP (Continued)



**The Papa Company Boys,
Nashville, 2012.**



Dave & Fran McNulty, 2011.



**The Papa Company Women,
Nashville, 2012.**



Dave McNulty.



**Pat Stegall & his wife
Rhonda, Nashville, 2012.**



**Dave Barfield, Gary Hall &
Patsy Hall, Nashville, 2012.**



**Lucien Gene Pope & Dave
Gates, Nashville, 2012.**



D/151 LRP/RANGER

Unit Director - Leon Moore

No Submission



F/51 LRP

Unit Director - Russell Dillon

The 2013 F/51 LRP Reunion is going to be in Louisville Ky from May 15 through May 19 2013. The hotel is at Fairfield Inn and Suites in downtown Louisville. The rate is going to be \$97 per day For those without computers the reservation number is 1.502.569.3553. For those that choose to come in a couple of days early or who want to stay a couple of days over, you should contact Cortney Johnson at 1.502.855.5009. Cortney is the sales rep who is handling the F/51 Reunion.

Cortney has suggested that the sooner you make your extended stay reservations the better. All reservations should be in by 17 April 2013 to get the \$97 rate. For those with computer or



have access to a computer from the library or from a relative or friend the web site is www.cwp.marriott.com/sdffd/cofreunion.

Lurch and Tom will be doing the pickup and returns to the airport if needed. There is a shuttle that has a reasonable cost. The airport is only 10 minutes from the hotel

Lurch said that most sights are within walking distance and those that do not want to walk there are \$.50 trolly fares to

get you from place to place. Lurch has also said that depending on how many vehicles we have, we may have to rent a bus for one planned trip.



LRRP DETACHMENT-3RD ID

Unit Director - Michael McClintock

I want to talk to you about leadership, particularly in light of current events. It was almost 52 years ago, in January 1961, that I dropped out of high school to join the U.S. Army. I wanted to join the army because, dumbass that I was, I thought the uniforms looked cool, especially the fatigues with their multi-colored tapes and patches—you know, the ones Bob Murphy said we looked like Mexican generals in...no camo, no subdued patches, all green, worn with white t-shirts and blocked Ridgeway caps. That was the way it was when I arrived in Schweinfurt, W. Germany in June 1961.

Actually we did look pretty sharp with in spit-shined boots and starched fatigues...but that was largely appearance and was in no way an indication of capability, readiness or spirit. It was what we were told to look like and we did it—or else. Yes, we had discipline but it was imposed upon us. And that's my point. You can tell people what to do and they will do it, perhaps grudgingly, but they will do it knowing that if they don't there will be a price to pay. We looked sharp and we could march and our barracks were immaculate, as were our wall- and foot-lockers, but our attitudes sucked. Why? Because we were not being led, we were being pushed. And as soon as we got any free time it was off to the EM Club or across the street to the Lili Marlene or downtown Schweinfurt to the La Paloma Bar to drink and fight. Then came the subsequent company punishment and retribution by the NCOs. I was starting to get used to this routine after about nine months, but I knew that with another 21 months to go I would end up a drunk and a permanent E-2.

That's when I heard about the 3rd ID LRRP Detachment and when I began to understand what leadership was. A number of the NCOs in my unit had been in the 3779 Provisional Long Range Patrol Company during the winter of 1961. They became the cadre for the new 3rd ID Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) Detachment being formed in Bad Kissingen. All of them were Korean War veterans and most were Airborne and Ranger qualified veterans. Several of my PFC and SP4 buddies also volunteered, but when I tried to volunteer I was told that I would not be accepted because I did not have a high school diploma. Well, I had earned my GED



and only needed one more credit to graduate (albeit a year late), so I got a 3-day pass and traveled to Bad Kissingen for an interview with the detachment CO, CPT Ed Jentz, an Airborne Ranger. I have to admit that CPT Jentz grilled me pretty good, but I must have given him some good answers because he said he would like to have me in his unit. I think I grew a little taller that day and went back to my TO&E unit to put in my papers. By March 1962 I was on my way to Bad Kissingen in a jeep with the detachment clerk, SP4 Mel Stelling. I knew I was going to a good unit when Mel and I stopped at several Gasthauses on the way.

The next day reality set in with the detachment XO, 1LT John Peyton, another Airborne Ranger, leading PT and the dreaded morning run. I was hurting, but knew I had to keep up. I was not going to drop out and no one else did either. I soon learned that everyone in the unit looked up to Ed Jentz and would do anything he asked. I also learned the reason why. He led instead of pushed. He did PT with the troops and hurt like the rest of us during the daily run—and run we did, every day, rain or snow. The other units thought we were crazy when we ran during snowstorms and in the rain. We actually started to like it because it set us apart from the rest of the units in the Kaserne. Ed Jentz valued performance over appearance. That's why, God bless him, we rarely had barracks inspections...no more spending all night Friday stripping and polishing the hardwood floors in those old Schweinfurt Wehrmacht barracks only to stand by for hours Saturday morning waiting for the company commander and 1SG to come into our squad room and trash it. It was more important to Ed that our commo equipment worked properly and that our gear was packed and ready to go on a moment's notice. He had high standards and we respected them. It would not do for us to go into town and fight and risk a DR, which would get us returned to unit in a flash. It was also helpful that we shared the barracks with the MPs and they took care of us (it was either that or we beat them up).

So here's my point. Ed Jentz, John Peyton and the NCOs in the 3rd ID LRRP Detachment in 1962 were leaders. They knew how to motivate and encourage their subordinates to

LRRP DETACHMENT-3RD ID (Continued)

achieve their goals instead of beating us down with overbearing duress. Of course, the desired ends could be achieved by both means, but by making us feel that we wanted to do what our leaders wanted us to do, we did so willingly and put more effort into doing it as opposed to doing as little as possible, and doing it with a surly attitude. I grew a lot with the 3rd ID LRRPs and I learned some lessons that helped me succeed in college and in my career after I got out of the Army. For this I, and my enlisted LRRP companions, want to say thank you to COL Ed Jentz (ret.), LTC John Peyton (ret), SGM Mike Tardif (ret.), SFC Bobby McMeans (ret.), SFC Robert "Red Dog" Schroeder (ret.) and the other NCO's of the 3rd ID LRRP Detachment. A special thanks goes out to SGT Clifford Mize (KIA). You were one badass mothuh! Your Ranger training served you well and we all admired and respected you. At 69 years old I am one of the younger guys, but I suspect that it

won't be too much longer before we all get to meet at the Big Rally Point in the Sky—you know, I'm kinda looking forward to it, but not too soon.

McGeek sends.



ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ)

Unit Director - Bill Miller



Fellow Rangers and Co Vans:

SIT REP: Graduation

On September 6, 2012 Lt. Col Bob Reitz, Bob's wife Suellen and I attended the graduation ceremony from Basic Combat Training of Miss Ho Ngoc (Kim) at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. She is the daughter of Ha Nguyen and the late Col. Ho Van Hoa. Col. Hoa was the Battalion Commander of the 35th Vietnamese Ranger Bn. And was the youngest Battalion Commander within the Ranger hierarchy. Lt. Col Reitz was the Senior Advisor to the 35th Bn. Upon graduation Kim was posted to Fort Mead, MD to attend Quartermaster School. I have since learned that she was named the Distinguished Honor Graduate of the Course. Our congratulations go out to her and her entire family.



Sad News

Command Sergeant Major (R)
Charles F. Waters

It is with sadness that I have to report the passing of Command Sergeant Major (R) Charles F. Waters September 18, 2012.

Chuck enlisted into the Marine Corp at age 14 and served in the Pacific Theater from Jan 1943 to Aug 1944. After his discharge from the Marines he enlisted into the Army in 1947, serving with the 82nd Airborne until volunteering for the Airborne Ranger Companies during the Korean War. In Nov 1950 after Graduating

from the first Ranger Training Cycle, he was sent to Korea with the 1st Ranger Airborne Company. He later served as one of the Commandants of the 101st Airborne RECONDO School at Fort Campbell, KY. Chuck served his third war with the Special Forces for two tours of duty in Vietnam. He was selected to be one of the early advisors to the Vietnamese Special Forces and Ranger units.

Following his retirement in Sept 1964 he went on to earn his Masters Degree and became a teacher. In June 2006 he was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame. Chuck was an icon around Fort Benning and will be sorely missed. Chucks ashes were spread of Fryar Field from and airplane. Godspeed Chuck.

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (Continued)

**Warrant Officer Class Two
Arthur (Robbie) Robinson**

Again I am saddened to report the passing of Warrant Officer Arthur (Robbie) Robinson on 10 October 2012. Robbie served with the AATTV in South Vietnam from 11 Dec 1967 to 3 Dec 1968. He served with the 11th ARVN Artillery, Quang Tri during Dec 67-Jan 68. From Feb to July 68 he served with

the 1/1 ARVN, 1st Division and from Aug to Dec 68 he served at Duc My ARVN Ranger Training Center.

During Robbie's career he was awarded numerous awards and decorations. He was awarded the DCM (Distinguished Conduct Medal) while with the AATTV. His citation reads as follows:

After enlisting in the Australian Regular Army in 1950 Warrant Officer Robinson served in several appointments as a physical training instructor until his discharge in 1963. He was awarded the British Empire Medal in 1957 for his outstanding service. He rejoined the Regular Army in 1966 and was posted to Vietnam to the Australian Army Training Team in Dec 1967.

On 1 March 1968 Warrant Officer Robinson was an advisor to the 1st Bn, 1st Regiment, Army of the Republic of Vietnam which was on a search and clear operation in Quang Tri Province. The Battalion encountered an entrenched North Vietnamese Battalion and became pinned down by heavy and accurate enemy fire. During a critical phase of the battle a rifle company on the left flank of the Battalion was forced to withdraw creating a precarious situation. Warrant Officer Robinson quickly realized that the company must go forward and retake the lost ground before the enemy reacted. Disregarding the heavy enemy fire he moved across to the company, reorganized them and personally led the assault which recaptured the lost ground. Under enemy fire he carried to safety a seriously wounded soldier, possibly saving the soldier's life. Warrant Officer Robinson's bravery and devotion to duty were an inspiration to the Vietnamese soldiers and contributed significantly to the success of the operation in which 129 enemy were killed. On a number of occasions he has shown exemplary conduct under fire and his professionalism and outstanding leadership have earned the respect and admiration of those who have served with him.

Robbie was also awarded the U. S. Bronze Star with V device and the Army Commendation Medal. Robbie was an Honorary Inductee into the Ranger Hall of Fame in 1999. We will miss you Robbie.

Sit Rep

On September 13th through 15th the Ranger Advisors held a reunion and monument dedication at the National Infantry and Soldiers Museum in Columbus, GA. On Sept 14 the monument dedication was held at the Museum's "Walk of Honor". Major General (R) Edison E. Scholes was the guest speaker.

On Saturday Sept 15th we were invited by Col. Kyle Lear the Ranger Training Brigade Commander to attend an airborne drop onto Fryar Field. Many advisors and their wives attended the drop and then went and toured Ranger Hall of Fame. Saturday evening we held our banquet at the Infantry Museum and Lt. General (R) Freddy McFarren was our guest speaker. General McFarren was a Ranger Advisor in I Corp as a Captain. A great time was had by all and we look forward to the next reunion.



ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (Continued)**THE SOUND THAT BINDS**

By Keith Nightingale

Unique to all that served in Vietnam is the UH1H helicopter. It was both devil and angel and it served as both extremely well. Whether a LRRP, US or RVN soldier or civilian, whether, NVA, VC, Allied or civilian, it provided a sound and sense that lives with us all today. It is the one sound that immediately clears the clouds of time and freshens the forgotten images within our mind. It will be the sound track of our last moments on earth. It was a simple machine—a single engine, a single blade and four man crew—yet like the Model T, it transformed us all and performed tasks the engineers and designers never imagined. For soldiers, it was the worst and best of friends but it was the one binding material in a tapestry of a war of many pieces.

The smell was always hot, filled with diesel fumes, sharp drafts accentuated by gritty sand, laterite and anxious vibrations. It always held the spell of the unknown and the anxiety of learning what was next and what might be. It was an unavoidable magnet for the heavily laden soldier who donkey-trotted to its squat shaking shape through the haze and blast of dirt, stepped on the OD skid, turned and dropped his ruck on the cool aluminum deck. Reaching inside with his rifle or machine gun, a soldier would grasp a floor ring with a finger as an extra precaution of physics for those moments when the now airborne bird would break into a sharp turn revealing all ground or all sky to the helpless riders all very mindful of the impending weight on their backs. The relentless weight of the ruck combined with the stress of varying motion caused fingers and floor rings to bind almost as one. Constant was the vibration, smell of hydraulic fluid, flashes of visionary images and the occasional burst of a ground-fed odor-rotting fish, dank swampy heat, cordite or simply the continuous sinuous currents of Vietnam's weather-cold and driven mist in the Northern monsoon or the wall of heated humidity in the southern dry season. Blotting it out and shading the effect was the constant sound of the single rotating blade as it ate a piece of the air, struggling to overcome the momentary physics of the weather.

To divert anxiety, a soldier/piece of freight, might reflect on his home away from home. The door gunners were usually calm which was emotionally helpful. Each gun had a C ration fruit can at the ammo box clip entrance to the feed mechanism of the machine gun. The gun had a large circular aiming sight unlike the ground pounder version. That had the advantage of being able to fix on targets from the air considerably further than normal ground acquisition. Pears, Apricots, Apple Sauce or Fruit Cocktail, it all worked. Fruit cans had just the right width to smoothly feed the belt into the gun which was always a good thing. Some gunners carried a large oil can much like old locomotive engineers to squeeze on the barrel to keep it cool. Usually this was accompanied by a large OD towel or a khaki wound pack bandage to allow a rubdown without a burned hand. Under the gunners seat was usually a small dairy-box filled with extra ammo boxes, smoke grenades, water, flare pistol, C rats and a couple of well-worn paperbacks. The gun itself might be attached to the roof of the helicopter with a bungi cord and harness. This allowed the adventurous gunners to unattach the gun from the pintle and fire it manually while standing on the skid with only the thinnest of connectivity to the bird. These were people you wanted near you—particularly on extractions.

The pilots were more mysterious. You only saw parts of them as they labored behind the armored seats. An arm, a helmeted head and the occasional fingered hand as it moved across the dials and switches on the ceiling above. The armored side panels covered their outside legs—an advantage the passenger did not enjoy. Sometimes, a face, shielded behind helmeted sunshades, would turn around to impart a question with a glance or display a sense of anxiety with large white-circled eyes—this was not a welcoming look as the sounds of external issues fought to override the sounds of mechanics in flight. Yet, as a whole, the pilots got you there, took you back and kept you maintained. You never remembered names, if at all you knew them, but you always remembered the ride and the sound.

Behind each pilot seat usually ran a stretch of wire or silk attaching belt. It would have arrayed a variety of handy items for immediate use. Smoke grenades were the bulk of the attachment inventory—most colors and a couple of white phosphorous if a dramatic marking was needed. Sometimes, trip flares or hand grenades would be included depending on the location and mission. Hand grenades were a rare exception as even pilots knew they exploded—not always where intended. It was just a short arm motion for a door gunner to pluck an inventory item off the string, pull the pin and pitch it which was the point of the arrangement. You didn't want to be in a helicopter when such an act occurred as that usually meant there was an issue. Soldiers don't like issues that involve them. It usually means a long day or a very short one—neither of which is a good thing.

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (Continued)

The bird lifts off in a slow, struggling and shaking manner. Dust clouds obscure any view a soldier may have. Quickly, with a few subtle swings, the bird is above the dust and a cool encompassing wind blows through. Sweat is quickly dried, eyes clear and a thousand feet of altitude show the world below. Colors are muted but objects clear. The rows of wooden hootches, the airfield, local villages, an old B52 strike, the mottled trail left by a Ranchhand spray mission and the open reflective water of a river or lake are crisp in sight. The initial anxiety of the flight or mission recede as the constantly moving and soothing motion picture and soundtrack unfolds. In time, one is aware of the mass of UH1H's coalescing in a line in front of and behind you. Other strings of birds may be left or right of you-all surging toward some small speck in the front lost to your view. Each is a mirror image of the other-two to three laden soldiers sitting on the edge looking at you and your accompanying passengers all going to the same place with the same sense of anxiety and uncertainty but borne on a similar steed and sound.

In time, one senses the birds coalescing as they approach the objective. Perhaps a furtive glance or sweeping arc of flight reveals the landing zone. Smoke erupts in columns-initially visible as blue grey against the sky. The location is clearly discernible as a trembling spot surrounded by a vast green carpet of flat jungle or a sharp point of a jutting ridge. As the bird gets closer, a soldier can now see the small FAC aircraft working well-below, the sudden sweeping curve of the bombing runs and the small puffs as artillery impacts. A sense of immense loneliness can begin to obscure one's mind as the world's greatest theatre raises its curtain. Even closer now, with anxious eyes and short breath, a soldier can make out his destination. The smoke is now the dirty grey black of munitions with only the slightest hint of orange upon ignition. No Hollywood effect is at work. Here, the physics of explosions are clearly evident as pressure and mass over light.

The pilot turns around to give a thumbs up or simply ignores his load as he struggles to maintain position with multiple birds dropping power through smoke swirls, uplifting newly created debris, sparks and flaming ash. The soldiers instinctively grasp their weapons tighter, look furtively between the upcoming ground and the pilot and mentally strain to find some anchor point for the next few seconds of life. If this is the first lift in, the door gunners will be firing rapidly in sweeping motions of the gun but this will be largely unknown and unfelt to the soldiers. They will now be focused on the quickly approaching ground and the point where they might safely exit. Getting out is now very important. Suddenly, the gunners may rapidly point to the ground and shout "GO" or there may just be the jolt of the skids hitting the ground and the soldiers

instinctively lurch out of the bird, slam into the ground and focus on the very small part of the world they now can see. The empty birds, under full power, squeeze massive amounts of air and debris down on the exited soldiers blinding them to the smallest view. Very quickly, there is a sudden shroud of silence as the birds retreat into the distance and the soldiers begin their recovery into a cohesive organization losing that sound.

On various occasions and weather dependent, the birds return. Some to provide necessary logistics, some command visits and some medevacs. On the rarest and best of occasions, they arrive to take you home. Always they have the same sweet sound which resonates with every soldier who ever heard it. It is the sound of life, hope for life and what may be. It is a sound that never will be forgotten. It is your and our sound.

Logistics is always a trial. Pilots don't like it, field soldiers need it and weather is indiscriminate. Log flights also mean mail and a connection to home and where real people live and live real lives. Here is an aberrant aspect of life that only that sound can relieve. Often there is no landing zone or the area is so hot that a pilot's sense of purpose may become blurred. Ground commander's beg and plead on the radio for support that is met with equivocations or insoluble issues. Rations are stretched from four to six days, cigarettes become serious barter items and soldiers begin to turn inward. In some cases, perhaps only minutes after landing, fire fights break out. The machine guns begin their carnivorous song. Rifle ammunition and grenades are expended with gargantuan appetites. The air is filled with an all-encompassing sound that shuts each soldier into his own small world-shooting, loading, shooting, loading, shooting, loading until he has to quickly reach into the depth of his ruck, past the extra rations, past the extra rain poncho, past the spare paperback, to the eight M16 magazines forming the bottom of the load-never thought he would need them. A resupply is desperately needed. In some time, a sound is heard over the din of battle. A steady whomp whomp whomp that says; The World is here. Help is on the way. Hang in there. The soldier turns back to the business at hand with a renewed confidence. Wind parts the canopy and things begin to crash through the tree tops. Some cases have smoke grenades attached-these are the really important stuff-medical supplies, codes and maybe mail. The sound drifts off in the distance and things are better for the moment. The sound brings both a psychological and a material relief.

Wounds are hard to manage. The body is all soft flesh, integrated parts and an emotional burden for those that have to watch its deterioration. If the body is an engine, blood is the gasoline.-when it runs out, so does life. Its important the parts get quickly fixed and the blood is restored to a useful

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (Continued)

level. If not, the soldier becomes another piece of battlefield detritus. A field medic has the ability to stop external blood flow-less internal. He can replace blood with fluid but its not blood. He can treat for shock but he can't always stop it. He is at the mercy of his ability and the nature of the wound. Bright red is surface bleeding he can manage but dark red, almost tar-colored, is deep, visceral and beyond his ability to manage. Dark is the essence of the casualties interior. He needs the help that only that sound can bring. If an LZ exists, its wonderful and easy. If not, difficult options remain. The bird weaves back and forth above the canopy as the pilot struggles to find the location of the casualty. He begins a steady hover as he lowers the litter on a cable. The gunner or helo medic looks down at the small figures below and tries to wiggle the litter and cable through the tall canopy to the small upreaching figures below. In time, the litter is filled and the cable retreats -the helo crew still carefully managing the cable as it wends skyward. The cable hits its anchor, the litter is pulled in and the pilot pulls pitch and quickly disappears-but the retreating sound is heard by all and the silent universal thought-There but for the Grace of God go I-and it will be to that sound.

Cutting a landing zone is a standard soldier task. Often, to hear the helicopter's song, the impossible becomes a requirement and miracles abound. Sweat-filled eyes, blood blistered hands, energy-expended and with a breath of desperation and desire, soldiers attack a small space to carve out sufficient open air for the helicopter to land. Land to bring in what's needed, take out what's not and to remind them that someone out there cares. Perhaps some explosives are used-usually for the bigger trees but most often its soldiers and machetes or the side of an e-tool. Done under the pressure of an encroaching enemy, it's a combination of high adrenalin rush and simple dumb luck-small bullet, big space. In time, an opening is made and the sky revealed. A sound encroaches before a vision. Eyes turn toward the newly created void and the bird appears. The blade tips seem so much larger than the newly-columned sky. Volumes of dirt, grass, leaves and twigs sweep upward and are then driven fiercely downward through the blades as the pilot struggles to do a completely vertical descent through the narrow column he has been provided. Below, the soldiers both cower and revel in the free-flowing air. The trash is blinding but the moving air feels so great. Somehow, the pilot lands in a space that seems smaller than his blade radius. In reverse, the sound builds and then recedes into the distance-always that sound. Bringing and taking away.

Extraction is an emotional highlight of any soldier's journey. Regardless of the austerity and issues of the home base, for that moment, it is a highly desired location and the focus of thought. It will be provided by that familiar vehicle of sound. The Pickup Zone in the bush is relatively open or if on an established firebase or hilltop position, a marked fixed location. The soldiers awaiting extraction, close to the location undertake their assigned duties-security, formation alignment or LZ marking. Each is focused on the task at hand and tends to blot out other issues. As each soldier senses his moment of removal is about to arrive, his auditory sense becomes keen and his visceral instinct searches for that single sweet song that only one instrument can play. When registered, his eyes look up and he sees what his mind has imaged. He focuses on the sound and the sight and both become larger as they fill his body. He quickly steps unto the skid and up into the aluminum cocoon. Turning outward now, he grasps his weapon with one hand and with the other holds the cargo ring on the floor-as he did when he first arrived at this location. Reversing the flow of travel, he approaches what he temporarily calls home. Landing again in a swirl of dust, diesel and grinding sand, he offloads and trudges toward his assembly point. The sounds retreat in his ears but he knows he will hear them again. He always will.

Quote

"Training and education are two different things. Training gives you a skill set to perform a specific task. Education provides you with academic theory for problem-solving issues."

- Master Sergeant Juan Lopez, USMC

Mu Nau
Bill Miller
Unit Director



MERRILL'S MARAUDERS

MULES, MULES & MORE MULES

By Edward A. Rock, Sr.

We cursed them, hated them, wished we had never seen them, and at times, wanted to get rid of them...then came Burma...with its mountains, jungle trails, snakes, malaria, monsoons, Jap mortars and bullets. Without a word of complaint or a lack of courage "THEY" transported artillery, ammunitions, tents, food, medicine, and under enemy fire evacuated our wounded. Soon we were depending upon them, got to love them, we would cling to their tails up the trails and through the streams, and a few GI's are here today because one stopped a bullet or shrapnel meant for him. Named "Mike," "Ragtail," "Rajah," "Charlie," "Myrtle," "Flop Ears," and many others I never knew fell in battle, mortally wounded.

"THEY" were the horses and mules used in the China-Burma-India Theater of Operations, and especially by the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional) known as "Merrill's Marauders" and the 475th Infantry with the 124th Cavalry Regiment (Texas Guard) known as "Mar's Force." The horses and mules arrived in Calcutta, some from the United States, aboard the Virginia and others came from Australia. Their first stop was at Alipore Remount Depot outside of Calcutta, and there reloaded in box cars for rail transportation to Pandu. From Pandu they were loaded into "eight horses 1mules" tractortrailers and taken to the major remount depot at Barapani. Located south of Shillong in the Khasi Hills, its official designation was Remount Depot, Shillong, Assam, India (APO 495).

The depot was operated by the 253rd Quartermaster Remount Squadron, activated 5 March 1943 at Fort Reno, Oklahoma (per G.O. No. 38, Hq. VII Service Cmd, Dallas, Texas). It was August 1944, when the 253rd Quartermaster Remount Squadron was up to full T O&E strength comprised of Headquarters, Medical and Veterinary Detachments, when they departed the United States for Karachi, India. A short time after arriving at Karachi, the outfit shipped by rail via Pandu, to their permanent station at Shillong in the Khasi Hills. Here in the village of Barapani, a remount depot was constructed, consisting of Headquarters Basha, mess hall, supply basha, corrals, feeding racks, shoeing shop, veterinary hospital, and British Army tents for living quarters. This was done after a major project of malaria control was completed, Major L. T. Burns was commanding officer with 1st Lt. R. A. Silberberg the liaison and remount officer,



office chief of quartermaster, Hq, CBI Theater. In October 1944, additional personnel of Troop A, 252nd Quartermaster Remount Squadron was assigned and arrived with the first 25 or 30 horses.

To build the depot, all supplies and equipment had to be transported by truck from Gauhati, 60 miles up a terrible steep and winding one-way mountain road route. There are more curves in it than ten beautiful movie stars put together. In fact, one would turn "green" by the time you rode up from Gauhati to Barapani. In order to have the native carts move over and give you passing room, it was necessary to fire your .45 cal in the air over their heads, which was more effective than a horn blast. By December 1944, the animals that had been sent to the depot totaled over 1600 horses and mules.

In December 1944, an Indian Army Remount Troop comprised of Indian Army Second Personnel were assigned to the depot. Their commanding officer was Honorary Captain Harris Singh Sir-dar Bahadur, a very stately soldier with many years service as a viceroy commissioned officer in the Indian Army. His able executive

was Lt. Subadar Sira Ram, another distinguished officer. The Remount Unit consisted of 189 Syces, who were experienced animal handlers and grooms. During the same month, the 699th QM Remount Troop arrived from Camp Ramgarh, Bihar, and Troop A, 252nd Quartermaster Remount Squadron was re-designated the 475th QM Remount Troop.

Daily, horses and mules were being shipped to and from the remount depot, and by May 1945, the animal census was over 3000 head. Personnel began rotation back to the United States, and Major Burns, now a Lt. Col., was reassigned with Major Wellington now assuming command. Two new 1st Lieutenants, J. Connors and J. Pruitt (rebel to us), arrived and within five months Major Wellington was relieved by Major Rand. The horses and mules were being treated by the 1st Veterinary Company (separate) who arrived from Ledo. The corrals and green pastures of the area around Barapani were good, due to the high altitude and climate. Most of the animals were well, but some had contracted surranegana or swamp fever, and some were disabled. The mules had to be shod every six weeks thus keeping the shoeing shop on a busy schedule. It was rather odd when a tiger got into the corrals and killed a horse, he would devour the horse meat; however if a tiger killed a mule, it would not touch the meat, whereby us mule skinnners used to joke, "that tiger sure missed a good piece of a--!!!!!!"

MERRILL'S MARAUDERS (Continued)

The Foreign Liquidation Commission was given full authority in December 1945 to proceed with the disposition of all horses, mules and equipment at the Remount Depot. The first shipment of horses and mules sent to Calcutta were placed aboard ships and sent to Poland, Yugoslavia, Rumania and other European countries as part of the United State's Lend-Lease Agreements. The second shipment was sent by to China and the Philippines, this was mostly mules for farming. Before disposition could be made, an inventory was taken and records were brought up to date. As the G.I. had a 201 file, so did all the animals. Each was run through the cutting chutes and their Army serial number, which was tattooed behind the left ear, was checked against the records. We maintained 3x5 cards showing date of acquisition or birth, type, color, medical shots, medical disabilities, station of assignment, use (pack, riding, wagon, training, etc.), final date of disposition, and in some cases a name or nickname.

In processing for shipment or sale, those horses and mules with incurable or chronic disease (contracted in India, Burma or China) had to, for humane reasons, be destroyed; not an easy decision to make. Thus, on a cloudy, gloomy, very sad January morning, approximately 125 horses and 75 mules were carefully and slowly led on a "Last Round-up" to an area on the far side of the depot. A trench had been bulldozed approximately 20 feet wide, 20 feet deep, and 200 feet long to use as a burial site. As the "Round-up" reached the area, each disabled or diseased animal was gently led to the edge of this grave where a qualified Army veterinary officer fired a .45 cal slug into the skull between the eyes. After the project was completed, the grave was properly treated with chemicals and covered with dirt, then fenced in. Those of us who watched were not speaking (knowing it needed to be done for humane reasons), watched with heavy hearts, tears in our eyes, lumps in our throats, and feeling that old friends and comrades who had shared our pains of the jungles, monsoons, malaria and enemy fire in battle were gone. As personnel sergeant and a sentimentalist, that evening before sunset I requested the officer-of-the-day to march a rifle squad to the burial site. Complying with the request, a finale farewell volley was fired in salute to those brave, courageous animals who were a proud part of the China-Burma India Theater of Operations history.

Sales of horses and mules were conducted each day with the local villagers of the Khasi Hills and Shillong area attending. Depending upon the quality, prices ranged from 150 dollars to 300 dollars per animal. At times, a Khasi native would come to the personnel office and report that his horse or mule had ran away and he felt it came back to the depot. Usually the person was escorted to the corrals and if he could identify the animal, he went home happy with it in tow. However, if not, then a try for another sale was the procedure, except in a couple of cases where the native would argue and actually put a "Khasi Hills Snake Curse" on the entire depot. Guess, if he protested long

enough and vigorously then he might get a "free" replacement. It cannot be ascertained for sure whether or not the run a ways came back to the corrals and perhaps were resold again???

One hot, miserable morning when the whole world looked black, dark and hopeless, and it seemed that we would never leave India, into headquarters office walked three ragged, dirty natives (thought they came from Tibet). Shaking their heads, muttering "horses, horses, horses," they proceeded to dump out the contents of four or five carpet-like suitcases onto my desk. Out poured thousands upon thousands of rupees, more than I have ever seen, covering the desk, chair and entire floor of the basha. It so happened that those three ragged looking individuals were chiefs of tribes in the Khasi Hills, and who just **BOUGHT OUT THE STORE** ... all 950 horses, 73 mules and all surplus equipment remaining at the remount depot. We were on the way home!!!

It was my privilege to serve with the 253rd QM Squadron as its last personnel sergeant up to the date of inactivation. I can still remember 45 days at sea aboard the U.S.S. Gen. H. B. Freeman, with one stop at Freemantle, Australia. After arriving in Calcutta, it was within a week that I experienced a dirty, foul smelling, bug infested train ride, so slow it took two nights to reach Pandu. Who could ever forget riding through the India plains with the drums beating, natives chanting, and air winds filled with the odor of burning cow dung. At Pandu, one boarded an old-time stern wheeler (out of Mark Twain's past), which the current of the Brahmaputra carried about one mile down stream before it could muster up enough steam to cross over to Gauhati. Disembarking at Gauhati, I saw a British officer having trouble trying to keep his eye on three baggage wallahs carrying cases of gin. So quickly, for two rupees, one of the baggage wallahs put a case of gin into the 699th QM Remount Troop mail truck and a way we sped on the road to Barapani.

At the beginning of February 1946, orders were received which transferred the 253rd Quartermaster Squadron and the 475th QM Remount Troop to the 699th QM Remount Troop, thus inactivating the two former units. A total of 30 remaining personnel then proceeded by truck convoy to Balijan, India, from Barapani to await further orders. It was 14 February 1946 when the 699th QM Remount Troop was officially inactivated (per G.O. No. 46, Sq. U.S.F. Int, New Delhi, India). The unit, for its outstanding service, was awarded a unit commendation from Brig. Gen. J. A. Cranston, USA, Commander, Intermediate Section, IBT.

Almost 40 years have passed by with this being my recollection of the last days of the Remount in India. Now all of you go to sleep tonight without wondering ... where in the hell did all them mules go to???

SPECIAL OPERATIONS MEMORIAL UPDATE, 15 November 2012

Regretfully we continued to add more names to the Special Operations Memorial at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, of those brave warriors who have given their lives during their call to duty.

Our losses in August included **Master Sergeant Gregory R. Trent**, 4th Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne); and **Gunnery Sergeant Ryan Jeschke**, **Captain Matthew P. Manoukian**, and **Staff Sergeant Sky R. Mote**, all three with the 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion. Our next losses were **SO1 Patrick D. Feeks** and **SO2 David J. Warsen**, both with SEAL Team 3; and then **PO 1 Darrell L. Enos** and **SSGT Gregory T. Copes**, both with the 3rd Marine Special Operations Battalion.

September losses included **Staff Sergeant Jeremie E. Border** with the 1st Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne); **PFC Charles R. Wills**, 3rd Military Information Support Battalion; **PO2 Dion P. Roberts** with the Naval Special Warfare Group; and **Sergeant First Class Riley G. Stephens** with the 1st Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne).

Special Operations heaviest losses were in October, including **Sergeant First Class Aaron A. Henderson** and **Captain Shawn G. Hogan**, respectively with the 2nd Battalion and 4th Battalion, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne); **Staff Sergeant Justin C. Marquez**, **WO1 Joseph L. Shiro**, and **CW2 Michael S. Dustin**, all with the 1st Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne). Also lost were **Staff Sergeant Thomas R. MacPherson** with USASOC; **Sergeant First Class Ryan J. Savard** with the 2nd Ranger Battalion; and **Staff Sergeant Kashif M. Memom** with the 95th Civil Affairs Battalion, and **Sergeant Clinton Keith Ruiz** with the 9th Psychological Operations Battalion.

This month, November, we lost **SO2 Matthew G. Kantor** of SEAL Team 4.

During Veterans Day ceremonies at the Memorial site we uncovered the names of the following personnel who have been added to the Legacy Section of the Memorial: **Lieutenant General David P. Fridovich**, former commander of the 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne), Special Operations Command Pacific, and deputy commander, USSOCOM;

First Sergeant Emmet L. McKinnis who served with the 77th Special Forces Group in Laos during 1961-62; **Captain Jack Damoth** who had served with Military Assistance Command Vietnam Studies and Observations Group (MACVSOG); and **Major General Mark Clark**, commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command, and former Chief of Staff, USSOCOM.

We hope and pray that as we approach Christmas and the end of the year that we will not be adding any new losses to the Special Operations Memorial. The entire board of the Special Operations Memorial Foundation, Inc sends their sincere wishes for a happy and joyful Christmas.

Geoff Barker



Special Operations Memorial

MacDill AFB, Florida



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The walls flanking the central generic SOF warrior will hold individual engravings in addition to special operations organizational histories. Engravings may be purchased, and designed to reflect either the buyer's name and/or organization, or may memorialize another (past or present) special operator. To maximize the available space, the same individual will not be memorialized more than once. The memorial is located adjacent to the entrance to the US Special Operations Command Headquarters complex, MacDill AFB. Engravings are limited to eighteen (18) letters per line (including spaces) in one or two lines. The two-line limit came into effect on 1 January 2011 in order to conserve space and maintain uniformity. Engravings may be purchased as follows:

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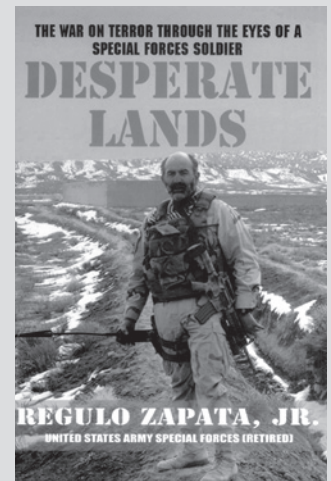
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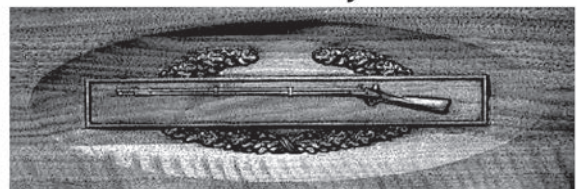
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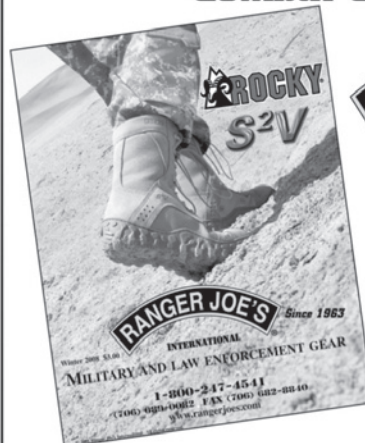
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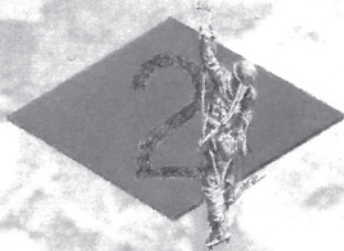
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DuPont, WA 98327



The Pointe du Hoc Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable and educational organization dedicated to honoring those who are serving or have served with the 2d Ranger Battalion, and those who support them. The Foundation seeks to honor, recognize, and commemorate the unique heritage and contributions of US Army Rangers, Ranger Families, and Ranger Civilian employees with an emphasis on 2d Battalion.

www.pointeduhocfoundation.com



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IF YOU OR YOUR FIRM OFFERS GOODS OR SERVICES THAT WOULD APPEAL TO MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY COMMUNITY AND/OR RANGERS, LRP'S OR LRRP'S IN PARTICULAR, OR KNOW SOMEONE THAT DOES, YOU HAVE A CAPTIVE AUDIENCE THAT READS PATROLLING MAGAZINE. CONSIDER PLACING AN AD IN OUR MAGAZINE, PRICES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

SIZE	COST
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Inside back cover (full color)	\$750.00

All of the above prices are for ads for four (4) issues and include a subscription to the magazine for those four issues, as well as a link from the 75thRRA web site to yours. Payment can be made by PayPal, credit card or by check. Contact John Chester at john.chester3@verizon.net or at 410-382-9344 or mail to:

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Wanted



**Your Old Scrolls, Patches, Uniforms and Other
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Contact Jeff at merkj175@gmail.com or 719-649-5338**

Additional Resources

Department of Veteran Affairs website
<http://www.va.gov/>

Gateway to Benefit Information website
<https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/>

Live 24/7 Veterans Chat
<https://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org>

National Homeless Veteran Call Center
1-877-4 AID VET (424-3838)

Vet Center National Directory
http://www2.va.gov/directory/guide/vetcenter_flash.asp



National Veterans
Homeless Hotline
1-877-424-3838

VET Talk Line 24/7
1-855-838-8255

National Caregiver
Support Line
1-855-260-3274

Marine DSTRESS Line
1-877-476-7734

Here to Help

If you are a Veteran or family member of a veteran, the Combat Call Center is here to help you and your family with referral to available VA services, benefits, readjustment counseling and outreach services.

You've earned these benefits and there is no cost to you or your family members.

Our Staff

The Combat Call Center understands and appreciates Veterans' war experiences and are ready to assist veterans and their family members toward a successful post-war adjustment.

96% of our staff are combat Veterans who served in Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, and Iraq and/or Afghanistan

"Keeping the Promise"

We are the people in the VA who are here for you 24/7/365, by providing quality resource and referral in a caring manner. The Call Center understands and appreciates your military service, while assisting you and your family members with information assistance and community resources.

READJUSTMENT COUNSELING SERVICES COMBAT CALL CENTER

1-877-WAR-VETS
(927-8387)

Our Services

Our Combat Call Center offers a wide range of services to help you make a successful transition from military to civilian life. Services include -

- providing relevant information
- referrals for eligible veterans
- referral to local Vet Center individual & group counseling

Am I eligible for resource and referral services?

If you, or a family member, served in the military, then you are eligible for Call Center services.

Does the Combat Call Center have referral services for family members?

Family members of veterans who served in any military service are eligible for resource and referral services.

We Are Here For You

READJUSTMENT COUNSELING SERVICES

*Honor America's Veterans
as Heroes
by providing the highest quality service.*

Combat Call Center



1-877-WAR-VETS (927-8387)

"The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional as to how they perceive the Veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their country."
- George Washington

Vet Center

Combat Call Center

The Combat Call Center is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year by Veteran peers to provide support and referral information for Veterans and family members regarding the full range of readjustment issues following service.

All calls are treated in a confidential manner. No Privacy Act information is taken during the call.

The Combat Call Center has the capability to provide immediate phone connection (warm transfer) to the VA National Crisis Hotline for crises, and to the VA Tele-Nurse Hotline for medical



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