

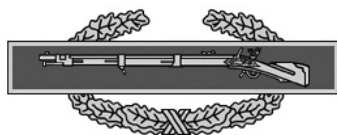
PATROLLING

SPRING 2012 75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC. VOLUME 26 ISSUE IV

*Sgt. Michael Malchow, 75th
Ranger Regiment, rappels
during the 2010 Best Ranger
competition at Fort Benning,
Ga. (Photo: Daren Reehl)*

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



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

OUR MISSION

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

WHAT WE DO

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

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

SECTION 2: Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol

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

SECTION 3: Long Range Patrol

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

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

SECTION 4: 75th Infantry Ranger Companies

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

We have funded trips for families to visit their wounded sons and husbands while they were in the hospital. We have purchased a learning program soft ware for the son of one young Ranger who had a brain tumor removed. The Army took care of the surgery, but no means existed to purchase the learning program. We fund the purchase of several awards for graduates of RIP and Ranger School. We have contributed to each of the three Battalion's Memorial Funds and Ranger Balls, and to the Airborne Memorial at Ft. Benning. We have bi-annual reunions and business meetings. Our Officers, (President, 1st & 2nd Vice-Presidents, Secretary & Treasurer), are elected at this business meeting. This reunion coincides with the 75th Ranger Regiment's Ranger Rendezvous, and is at Columbus, GA. (Ft. Benning). We have off year reunions at various locations around the country.

PRESIDENTS

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

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

SECTION 5: Vietnamese Ranger Advisors

BDQ
All units of the Biet Dong Quan (BDQ).

SECTION 6: 75th Ranger Regiment

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

SECTION 7: Long Range Surveillance:
Any Long Range Surveillance Company or Detachment that can trace its' lineage to, or is currently assigned to a Brigade or larger element that was deployed to Vietnam as listed in section 2, 3 or 4 above.



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WEB SITE & MAGAZINE NEWS

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

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

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

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

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TREASURER'S MESSAGE

By Roger Crunk

75th Ranger Regiment Association Balance Sheet As of December 31, 2011

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

CD	26,523.68
Columbus Bank & Trust	463.04
Family Fund	30,895.99
First Community Bank	12,474.60
Total Checking/Savings	70,357.31
Total Current Assets	70,357.31
TOTAL ASSETS	70,357.31

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity

Opening Balance Equity	97,343.80
Net Income	-26,986.49
Total Equity	70,357.31
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	70,357.31

GOLD STAR

By Sandee Rouse

Taking Chances

By: Ruth Stonesifer

Taking Chances has become a way of life for me since my son's death by venturing from my comfort zone, saying yes to work on projects that will test me. I believe in my heart that it is my son orchestrating another great learning experience. This certainly was the case for my involvement on the Dover Port Mortuary Independent Review Subcommittee in light of the recent bad press.



You may have read reports of misconduct, whistle blowers, retaliations, and investigations; and of course, the landfill problem reportedly where some incinerated cremations of our Fallen ended up; complete with a visual of dump trucks and sea gulls circling above. These accounts were hard to fathom for Gold Star Families and many others. People lost faith in 'Dover.'

Little did I know how involved I would become by all these events when I downloaded the movie Taking Chance. That is where my educational

GOLD STAR (CONTINUED)

journey begins. It is about a Marine who volunteers to escort LCPL Chance Phelps killed in Iraq back to his home state of Wyoming. His escort duty starts at Dover Port Mortuary, the place where most of our Fallen arrive.

Even though my son did not come through Dover in 2001, I needed to see a similar scenario to learn what might have happened with Kris as he was prepared at the Landstuhl Mortuary in Germany for his return to our family.

It took time to marshal the courage to view the movie and face the memories, however in the end, it was a good cry. I came away with a greater appreciation for the men and women who work at our military mortuaries. Although not actually filmed at Dover Port Mortuary, what is depicted in the movie shows the most respectful care for our Fallen. This care was reaffirmed by my actual visit to the facility.

The "Angel Flights" as they are known come into Dover AFB mostly in the middle of the night. An Honor Guard and detail of about forty assemble on the tarmac for the dignified transfer of remains. Family members have already been flown into Philadelphia, met by casualty assistance officials and escorted to Dover, housed at the Fisher House or in local hotels, counseled by the clergy and trained professionals while waiting for the return of their loved ones to American soil.

During the dignified transfer, Marines carry Marines, Navy carry Navy, as does the Army and Air Force for their Fallen. They volunteer for this late night duty with no consideration for the alarm clock that will call them to duty the next morning. They are back on duty the next day to process the Fallen.

There are many steps to positively identify, autopsy, clean, and finally dress the Fallen in immaculately prepared uniforms with attention to every detail. They are then placed in their casket and released for the journey home.

When it is announced a Fallen is ready for escort, everyone who can leave what they are doing assembles at the front door courtyard to render honors. Our committee had the honor to witness a Fallen Soldier leaving for Maryland. A privilege I will never forget as the hearse drove around the circle while we all paid tribute; no cameras, no media, just respect.

My faith in what they do at Dover has never wavered. To think otherwise would invalidate the many visits to the Campus for the Families of the Fallen where there is comfortable space for the families to be briefed and counseled, and a beautiful garden and chapel for meditation. I was privileged to participate in

the ground breaking and dedication of the adjacent Fisher House used to accommodate Gold Star Families.

When the Secretary of Defense, Leon Panetta appointed me to serve on this subcommittee, I hoped that in some small way I could do something for my country. I was honored to work with a remarkable group of individuals; two retired senior military members, three funeral home/mortuary professionals, one medical examiner, a former US Representative, an executive director for Veteran's Services, all with expertise and credentials beyond compare. Then there was myself, representing the Gold Star Family voice, a responsibility not taken lightly by me.

At the very first meeting, we were intent on our mission: to review what had happened, see if the solutions put in place were working, and make recommendations for additional improvements. We started our review in December of 2011. The Defense Health Board took care of all the logistics and their entire staff were equally dedicated putting in long hours writing and re-writing the report. We were indebted to their joint devotion to our common purpose.

The details of the report can be viewed at the Defense Health Board website and was accepted by them on Feb 21, 2011 with no revisions to the twenty recommendations, then presented to the Secretary of Defense, Leon Panetta on Feb 27, 2012.

There is one last concern I would like to address. The landfill issue was the most disturbing. It seemed the entire Nation was outraged that this could happen to our most cherished heroes. I needed to come to terms with it not only as a Gold Star Mother but as an American. This is what I have concluded.

Almost right after you emerge from the fog of hearing, "We regret to inform you," you focus on the only life line thrown to you in this perfect storm: "He did not die in vain."

While you wait for your loved one to return home, you begin to associate those lofty words with soaring thoughts that this foreign nation your loved one just gave his or her life for, will somehow become a free country with a democratic process. This illusion evaporates when you can finally face the news hour again. Your reality becomes that you will never see this 'utopia'. You start to doubt those words that have sustained you from day one; "He did not die in vain."

You begin to look for a higher purpose in a more tangible way. Mine is the fact that the safety procedures put in place by the Night Stalkers and the Ranger Regiment have saved countless lives. My son did not die in vain on those measures alone.

GOLD STAR (CONTINUED)

On our mortuary visit we saw the comprehensive study of the fallen using modern technology to redesign equipment that will better protect more lives.

The autopsy specimens collected from the fallen in theater are saved in perpetuity. Should future questions arise, they will have the tissue samples to make valuable comparisons. This insures solutions we can only imagine. Gold Star Families may not fully realize this layer of learning and the future contributions from their loved ones' Ultimate Sacrifice.

As disturbing as it is to imagine even a small amount of a loved one's cremation remains ending up in a landfill, I see this as the biggest lesson of all for our Military and our Nation. Steps have been taken and procedures are being implemented that this disrespect for our Nation's Heroes will never happen again. They did not die in vain on that one pledge alone.

It is my hope and prayer that everyone who has a part in helping with our Nation's Fallen will set aside their personal feelings and agendas and focus on the ultimate mission. They did not die in vain.

My job as a committee member is complete. Flying home from the last meeting, I was filled with a sense of serenity and

a bit of melancholy. I realized this was a once in a lifetime opportunity, experiencing instant friendships with total strangers all committed to the same resolute purpose.

On the plane, I watched the movie Taking Chance one last time to focus on the compassion and intensity I saw in the eyes of the mortuary personnel. That empathy was first observed in Col. Tom Joyce who came to Dover at the right time to help restore morale. He was chosen for a reason. His leadership has inspired his team to excel and redefine their mission, caring for our Nation's Fallen with respect and dignity. I feel in my heart that they are back on track with policies and procedures designed to eliminate any problems they may experience in the future. You have to be dedicated over and beyond the call of duty to do this type of work.

This legacy of learning will continue. My trust is not misplaced. They did not die in vain.

Ruth Stonesifer,
Proud Gold Star Mother of Army Ranger Kristofor Stonesifer,
KIA 19 Oct 2001

Ed Note: This article was also submitted for publication to TAPS.

STATE ADVOCATE

By Marshall Huckaby

STATE COORDINATORS, A noble calling. LRRP Team 3A Members Returned After 30 Years

On May 31, 1967, PFC Brian K. McGar, PFC Joseph E. Fitzgerald, riflemen; SGT John A. Jakovac, ammo bearer; CPL Charles G. Rogerson, and SP4 Carl D. Flower were members of a 25th ID LRRP Team 3A deployed in Quang Ngai Province, South Vietnam. Upon insertion the team was in immediate enemy contact and radio contact with the patrol was lost, as the patrol failed to make a scheduled report at 2145 hours. On the morning of June 1, the bodies of Rogerson and Flower were discovered in fresh graves, while Jakovac, Fitzgerald and McGar were to be declared MIA for over 30 years.

APRIL 9, 1997 - ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY
I wasn't a State Advocate at this time and have very little contact with the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, but did receive a call about the remains of 25th LRRP Team 3 A being returned home and interred in Arlington National Cemetery. I attended the ceremony along with Dave Regenthal, Bill

Mrkvicka, Jeff Sandell, Rich Martin, Marshall Huckaby, Eugene Simpson, Dan Nate, Nancy Smoyer (A Donut Dolly), and Bill Shanaman who had been Company Commander from early '68 until around the end of July/early August '68.

There were just a few of the people who were present to pay homage to these fallen warriors and their families. During the ceremony we did our best to look like the young soldiers we once were.



STATE COORDINATORS

Although that was over 14 years ago, I can still feel the impact of my participation in the service and clearly remember just how much it meant to the families of the fallen for us to be there.

STATE ADVOCATE (CONTINUED)

Gene Tucker My fellow 25th ID LRRP from 1966, Gene Tucker has been responsible for coordinating the State Coordinator program until recently. Gene reluctantly decided to relinquish this duty due to his own personal circumstances. The work that Gene has done deserves a hearty "Well done" and our gratitude.

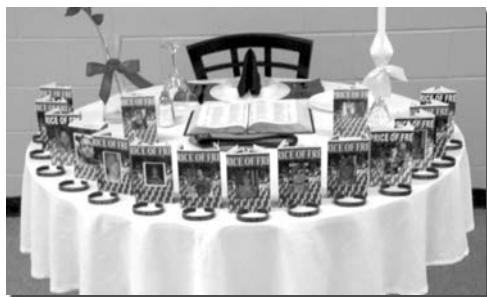
I had previously been one of the State Coordinators for Georgia and at the 75th RRA Rendezvous 2011 in Columbus, I accepted the challenge to assume Gene's duties as coordinator of the STATE COORDINATOR PROGRAM.

Hardly a week had gone by before I received notification that an Active duty Ranger had fallen and the services of a State Coordinator was needed in NJ. Fortunately for me, Dan Nate was already aware of the situation and was already moving to be of assistance to the family. Needless to say I hit the panic mode as I feel very strongly that representation of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association is both needed and appreciated by the member's family. I had one of the 75th RRA Silver Coins of my own so I sent it overnight to Dan Nate so he would have it for presentation to the family.

Dan informed me that everything went well and he will be available to assist the family as long as they want him to.

A few days afterward, I received word that the 25th ID LRRP XO from 1966 had passed away last year, and just the other day I received word of a member of D Company, 75th Infantry (Ranger) had passed on.

THE PRICE OF FREEDOM



I was notified by Gold Star Mother Sandee Rouse of a memorial ceremony being held on November 4th 2011 by the 1/75th Ranger Battalion for two of their Fallen Rangers. I attended along with Sandee, and 25th ID LRRPs Sam Wright and Rick Ellison.

There were many active duty Rangers, Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Retired personnel as well as members of the fallen Ranger's families at this very moving ceremony.

As the ceremony progressed and during the comments by the Battalion Commander it became very apparent of the high regard, comradeship, and bond that the members of the 1/75th have for each other.

I am still awe struck by the military bearing, courtesy, and sense of duty that these Rangers display and I was honored to be in their presence.

CALL TO DUTY!

For those who may be unaware, the intention of the STATE COORDINATOR PROGRAM is to have members of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association contact the family and/or Funeral Home, as appropriate, to make our presence and availability known.

For active duty Rangers, the Gold Star Mothers / Gold Star Wives meet with the family and provide them a Silver 75th Ranger Regiment Association RRA Coin. The 75th RRA State Advocate also initiates contact to make the presence of the 75th RRA known.

Upon receipt of notification of the passing of a member of the 75th RRA, the State Coordinator nearest to the location of the service would be notified and sent a Bronze 75th Ranger Regiment Association coin for presentation to the family.

To make the program manageable, we should have "regional" coordinators, North East, South East, Midwest, North West and South West. The State Coordinators would fall under their respective regions. This allows us to be timely and to reduce the load and/or travel of individual coordinators. For the program to be successful there needs to be a number of coordinators in each state especially with a state the size of California.

We do not want any fallen warrior to be laid to rest without the family knowing that we care.

If you are now, have been previously, or will accept the challenge of being a State Coordinator, then please let me know. I am working on updating the roster and need your current/updated information.

Go to the 75th RRA Website, and under advocates, you can send me an email with your current information, email address, and/or contact Information. We really need all the support we can get for this program.

If you will also check the website, you will see a link for fallen ranger. The purpose of this link is to provide an easy and

STATE ADVOCATE (CONTINUED)

expedient means of notifying us of a fallen ranger. PLEASE make you family members aware of this link and tell them to let us know ASAP if it is your time.

There is no mechanism under this program for individual expense reimbursement, but your reward will be the knowledge

that your friends and the 75th Ranger Regiment Association will be present at your final roll call.

Please consider serving once more by becoming a part of the State Coordinator program.
Marshall.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

By Kevin Ingraham

Our thanks to those association officers, unit directors and members who sent submissions.

If you've never written anything for Patrolling, please consider doing so. Don't think that you have nothing to say or lack any experiences worth sharing. If you are eligible for membership in this august band of brothers, then you have something to share! It doesn't have to be about the time you held off a regiment of NVA with nothing but a P-38 and empty c-rat cans or threw a nuclear hand grenade 500 meters and wiped out an Iraqi battalion. It can be fun and light – we were all cherries once right? You officers have a different first day out perspective than us privates, for example – so enlighten us. I once wrote about Big Foot sightings in my battalion's training areas and about a ranger SNCO who was a major influence in my life. Both submissions were well received - if Sasquatch made for good reading, then your (mis)adventure will too. If you think you can't write, no problem, we can make it work.

Photos and graphics must be submitted separate from the articles! Caption every image and indicate within the article where you want the image to appear. Separating graphics from docs is time consuming, especially from pdfs which I cannot do at all. You might be asked to resubmit the article and if the deadline is looming, an article might get rejected for that issue. You can also just send in a photo or several by themselves. Just tell me what you want in the captions.

Submission deadlines are printed on page two of every issue. The cutoff for the next issue is the 15th of February, May, August and November. When should you send in your article? ANYTIME! When you see something of interest, write it up and get it in while the iron is hot. It'll get into the next issue. Just had a unit event or linkup? Write it up and edit your photos while memories are still fresh and pass the buck to me. Missing a deadline is not a 25 point negative spot report. If the issue has already gone to the printer, we'll just enter it into the

next issue. Association officers and unit directors should strive to get pen to paper every quarter, please. Submissions can be for feature articles or for your unit's column, please make sure to send them through your U.D., if any. If you don't have an active U.D., send it right in to me to make sure your outfit is represented. All members are welcome to submit photos, writing or links.

Photography: due to space constraints, most photos in Patrolling are very small. To get the most out of a photo, submit pictures with the minimum 'dead space' around the subject. Learning to frame a subject will increase viewer interest. Submit digital photos with the highest resolution. This allows us to expand the photo if space allows and increases your chances for making a cover. If scanning, remember that scanners cannot add resolution to prints. Experiment with scanner settings to find the best resolution you can get before the scanned image begins distorting. Your historical pictures are valuable; please get them scanned to preserve the images even if you don't share them with the membership.

Editing is kept at a minimum consistent with association bylaws. I edit for space or to avoid grammatical whoppers as necessary. If you know you can't write, no problem – submit something anyway. I'll make you look good. The AP guidebook and the Oxford English Dictionary dominate.

Cover Photo Credits: Front cover: SGT Michael Malchow, 75th Ranger Regt. 2010 Best Ranger competition. US Army photo by Daren Reehl.

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

Social Security Taxation Update 08

Unless you file a request for withholding income tax from your Social Security benefits, they will not deduct any withholding. This can mean that you owe taxes on as much as 85% of your Social Security if you have other income and the result will be a significant tax bill next April. You can ask Social Security to withhold federal taxes from your Social Security when you apply for benefits. If you are already receiving benefits or if you want to change or stop your withholding, you'll need a form W-4V from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). This form is used for both the civilian and military community as DFAS will only deduct additional taxes from your retirement/annuity pay if requested via a W-2P. You can download the W-4V form from <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw4v.pdf> or call the IRS at 1-800-829-3676 and ask for Form W-4V, Voluntary Withholding Request to be sent to you. (If you are deaf or hard of hearing, call the IRS TTY number, 1-800-829-4059.)

When you complete the form, you will need to select the percentage of your monthly benefit amount you want withheld. You can have 7%, 10%, 15% or 25% of your monthly benefit withheld for federal taxes only. There is no provision for withholding for state income tax. Note: Only the percentages noted can be withheld. Flat dollar amounts are not accepted. If you want to know how much a particular percentage is equal to in dollars, call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778). Sign the form and mail it to Jamaica Teleservice Center, PPO Box 5800, Jamaica New York 11431-5800. If you need more information about tax withholding, read IRS Publication 554, Tax Guide for Seniors, and Publication 915, Social Security and Equivalent Railroad Retirement Benefits. Please keep in mind that changing your withholding does not change your tax liability and you will have to pay any remaining amount owed when you file your return next April.

If you want DFAS to withhold additional taxes from your military pension or annuity use a W-4P form and send to Defense Finance and Accounting Center, U.S. Military Annuitant Pay, POB 7131, London, KY 40742-7131. There is no restriction on the additional dollar amount of withholding you can request.

The form can be downloaded from <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw4p.pdf>. [Source: Various Mar 2012 ++]

VA Budget 2013 Update 03

On 29 FEB the Senate's Committee on Veterans Affairs (SVAC) held its first hearing on the FY2013 proposed budget and the FY2014 Advanced funding budget. It was an extremely well attended hearing by the Senators of the Committee. Along with Chairman Patty Murray (D-WA) and Ranking Member Richard Burr (R-NC), Senators Akaka (D-HI), Isakson (R-), Brown (D-OH), Brown (R-MA), Tester (D-MT), Boozman (R-AR), Begich (D-AK), Johanns (R-NE), Moran (R-KS), and Isakson (R-GA). And most of them stayed! This is dramatic. They all were probably happy to be in a hearing where there is a proposed increase in the budget; rather than a dramatic cut. (4.5% increase in discretionary funding.) For approximately 2 hours Secretary Shinkeki and his Under Secretaries of Health, Benefits, Memorial Affairs, the Assistant Secretary for IT and Chief Financial Officer answered questions about the VA operations and needs.

It was very interesting to learn that 67% of Iraq Afghanistan veterans have enrolled in the VA and that the VA is estimating that 600,000 more veterans will enroll in the VA in the next 5 years. That is a huge increase in needed services and claims. When asked how they were going to control the 1 million+ backlog in claims decisions with this dramatic increase in enrollees, they said (yet again,) that IT improvements will improve the situation. It is hoped that now that the VA has dramatically increased the number of claims adjusters to handle the cases they will provide the continuing training to their employees so that the initial decisions will be correct and consistent across the country. The Committee was also concerned about the proposed cuts in major construction and non-recurring maintenance, the availability of mental health care to veterans (especially in rural areas), the continued inefficiency of the VA's information hotline and, of course what can be done to increase employment for veterans. [Source: TREA News for the Enlisted 2 Mar 2012 ++]

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.

Environmental Hazards in Iraq and Afghanistan

The information in this section is copied from VA Training Letter 10-03, dated April 26, 2010. For a full copy of this document, contact the associate editor.

Purpose

This training letter will serve three main purposes. First, it will inform regional office employees on specific environmental hazard incidents that present potential health risks to service members and Veterans. Second, it provides guidance on handling claims for disabilities potentially resulting from exposure to environmental hazards while on active duty. Third, it provides "fact sheets" that may serve as valuable resources for VA examiners when they conduct Compensation and Pension (C&P) examinations associated with such exposure. The information and guidelines provided will ensure claims are processed in an objective and compassionate manner across all regional offices.

Numerous environmental hazards in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other military installations that could potentially present health risks to service members and Veterans have been identified. The hazards discussed in this training letter are as follows: (1) Large burn pits throughout Iraq, Afghanistan, and Djibouti on the Horn of Africa; (2) "particulate matter" in Iraq and Afghanistan; (3) a large sulfur fire at Mishraq State Sulfur Mine near Mosul, Iraq; (4) hexavalent chromium exposure at the Qarmat Ali Water Treatment Plant in Basrah, Iraq; (5) contaminated drinking water at Camp LeJeune, North Carolina; and (6) pollutants from a waste incinerator near the Naval Air Facility (NAF) at Atsugi, Japan.

Burn Pits

Exposure to open burn pits has created significant concern among veterans and their families. The most widely publicized of these is the burn pit at Joint Base Balad. The air base at Balad, also known as Logistic Support Area (LSA) Anaconda, is located in Northern Iraq approximately 68 kilometers (km) north of Baghdad and 1.5 km from the Tigris River. It occupies a

25-square kilometer site and is home to approximately 25,000 military, civilian, and coalition personnel. According to the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventative Medicine (USACHPPM), the amount of solid waste burned at Balad was estimated at about 2 tons of material per day in the early stages of troop deployment and increasing up to several hundred tons per day.

The Balad burn pit occupies approximately 10 acres. The burned waste products include, but are not limited to: plastics and Styrofoam, metal/aluminum cans, rubber, chemicals (such as, paints, solvents), petroleum and lubricant products, munitions and other unexploded ordnance, wood waste, medical and human waste, and incomplete combustion by-products. Jet fuel is used as the accelerant. The pits do not effectively burn the volume of waste generated, and smoke from the burn pit blows over the Air Base and into living areas.

The air sampling performed at Balad and discussed in an unclassified 2008 assessment tested and detected all of the following: (1) Particulate matter; (2) Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons; (3) Volatile Organic Compounds; and (4) Toxic Organic Halogenated Dioxins and Furans (dioxins).

Particulate Matter in Iraq, Afghanistan and Djibouti

"Particulate matter" (PM) is a complex mixture of extremely small particles and liquid droplets. PM is made up of a number of components, including acids (such as nitrates and sulfates), organic chemicals, metals, and soil or dust particles. Although PM emissions from natural and manmade sources are generally found worldwide, the PM levels in Southwest Asia are naturally higher and may present a health risk to service members. The size of particles is directly linked to their potential for causing health problems, with the smaller particles being considered more harmful. Particles that are 10 micrometers in diameter or smaller are the particles that generally pass through the throat and nose and enter the lungs. Once inhaled, these powder-like particles can affect the heart and lungs and cause serious health effects.

HEALTH ISSUES (CONTINUED)

Primary sources of PM in Southwest Asia include dust storms and emissions from local industries. The DoD conducted a year-long sampling survey to characterize the chemistry and mineralogy of the PM at 15 sites in OIF and OEF. These results were published by the Desert Research Institute in 2008 and are being reviewed by the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Toxicology. The widespread existence of burn pits only exacerbates the high concentrations of PM in Iraq and Afghanistan. DoD stated in their 2008 Balad assessment, that emission from burns pits, among other things, “may increase localized concentration of 2.5 micrometer PM and other potentially toxic air pollutants.”

Most studies relate PM exposure data to respiratory and cardiopulmonary health effects in specific susceptible general population subgroups to include young children, the elderly, and especially those with existing asthma or cardiopulmonary disease. DoD collected approximately 60 air samples at Balad from January to April 2007 and assessed for PM. In total, 50 of the 60 samples registered above the military exposure guidelines.

Sulphur Fire at Mishraq State Sulphur Mine Near Mosul, Iraq.

In a nutshell, if you were near Mosul in the April-May, 2003 timeframe, you are at risk. (my words). Service members involved with suppressing this fire experienced irritation, minor burns, and effects such as blood-tinged nasal mucus. Some have been found to have long-term respiratory conditions such as “constrictive bronchiolitis.”

Contaminated Drinking Water at Camp LeJeune, North Carolina.

From the 1950s through the mid-1980s, persons residing or working at the U.S. Marine Corps Base at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, were potentially exposed to drinking water contaminated with volatile organic compounds. Two of the eight water treatment facilities supplying water to the base were contaminated with either trichloroethylene (TCE) or tetrachloroethylene (perchloroethylene, or PCE) from an off-base dry cleaning facility. The Department of Health and Human Services' Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) estimated that TCE and PCE drinking water levels exceeded current standards from 1957 to 1987 and represented a public health hazard. The heavily contaminated wells were shut down in February 1985, but it is estimated that over one million individuals, including civilians and children, may have been exposed.

Priority of Claims Processing. Because of the potential of receiving claims due to exposure to environmental hazards from veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, VA employees should review VBA Letter 20-07-19 dated February 6, 2009, to determine if “priority processing” procedures apply.

VA Cancer Treatment

Older men treated for cancer at Veterans Health Administration hospitals do just as well, if not better, than men covered by Medicare, a new study suggests. That finding is a testament to massive changes in the organization of the VHA started in the mid-1990s that made patient care more coordinated, strengthened preventive care and allowed medical mistakes to be spotted faster, researchers said. It seems like the VA is doing a good job of taking care of veterans, which is obviously a good story,” said Mary Beth Landrum, the study’s lead author from Harvard Medical School in Boston. The finding, she added, “does hint at the fact that this reorganization of health care may really work well” -- and could be a model for health care reform in the United States. Landrum and her colleagues compared men’s chances of surviving a diagnosis of colon or rectal cancer, lung cancer, lymphoma or bone marrow cancer depending on whether they were treated at VHA hospitals or through Medicare, the government insurance program for the elderly, from 2001 through 2004.

All of the men were older than 65, while those treated at the VHA -- which is responsible for some 6.1 million veterans -- were more likely to be African American and from poorer communities. After accounting for as many differences as they could between the two groups of patients, the researchers found that men treated for colon cancer at the VHA survived an average of four years and one month after their diagnosis, compared to three years and seven months among Medicare patients. That improved survival seemed largely due to comprehensive screening at the VHA, and earlier diagnoses as a result. Guidelines recommended checking for signs of colon cancer in most adults age 50 to 75 every ten years with colonoscopy, or at shorter intervals if other screening methods are used. The same pattern held for men with non-small cell lung cancer: those treated at the VA lived an average of eight months post-diagnosis, while those on Medicare survived an average of six months. There were no differences in survival for rectal cancer, small-cell lung cancer, lymphoma or bone marrow cancer based on how men got their care.

HEALTH ISSUES (CONTINUED)

The researchers said they can't be sure that some VHA patients lived longer because they got better treatment, in part because Landrum's team may not have been able to factor in all possible differences between the two groups of men. It's hard to be definitive about any of this," Landrum told Reuters Health. Still, she added, "There's really no evidence that outcomes are worse at the VA, and they may in fact be better." There are lessons to be learned" from the VHA's turnaround, said Dr. Stephen Edge, from the Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, New York, who wrote a commentary accompanying the new study in the Journal of Clinical Oncology. For example, he told Reuters Health, the VHA was the first organization to start widely using electronic medical records, so that the same patient could be treated at a VHA hospital in California one day, and another VHA hospital in New York the next. The veterans' organization also started a quality improvement program for surgeons to evaluate complications occurring during surgery, Edge added, which is now being used at a national level outside of the VHA. What achieves quality improvement is setting up a culture of change, a culture of quality, where people are rewarded for bringing up problems and not punished for bringing up problems," he said. An organizational commitment to quality works." [Source: Chicago Tribune Reuters Health Geneva Pittman article 9 Mar 2012 ++]

PTSD Update 92

There seems to be growing evidence supporting a suspicion that The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA) and some other veteran service organizations (VSOs) have been holding- that

DoD has been using the diagnosis of a "personality disorder" to deny a member of the military benefits. "Personality disorder" is a preexisting condition according to the Pentagon. Members of the military discharged with this finding are not entitled to retirement or disability benefits. Since 2001 over 31,000 service members have been discharged due to "personality disorder." The disorder results in inflexible badly adaptive behavior that may "impair performance and relationships." Many organizations believe that the Pentagon has been using this diagnosis to get rid of those they think are troublemakers or to save money instead of diagnosing PTSD.

Recently an Army ombudsman wrote that a doctor at Madigan Army Hospital said that a PTSD diagnosis cost the government \$1.5 million and that his colleagues should be good stewards of tax money. After this report came out 14 service members who had their PTSD diagnosis reversed were examined again- this time at the new Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. Six were reinstated. Then on 28 FEB while testifying before the Senate Budget Committee Secretary of Defense was asked about the Madigan controversy by Senator Patty Murray (D-WA). The Secretary responded: "I was very concerned when I got the report about what happened at Madigan. I think it reflects the fact that frankly we have not learned how to effectively deal with that, and we have to. We need to make sure we have the psychiatrists, the psychologists, and the medical people who can make these evaluations because these are real problems" [Source: TREA News for the Enlisted 2 Mar 2012 ++]



3d Ranger Company patrol near the Imjin River, April, 1951. From the left, starting with the BAR gunner is Bob Parker, Roy Smyth, Chester Powell, unknown, Elmer McCullough, Aubrey Copeland and unknown. (US Army photo SC365634)

FEATURE ARTICLES

Army Rangers test new software-defined radio

By Kris Osborn. Army News Service via USASOC Release 120213-01 FEBRUARY 13, 2012.

WASHINGTON The U.S. Army's 75th Ranger Regiment in Afghanistan recently completed an operational assessment of the software-programmable Joint Tactical Radio Systems, or JTRS, Rifleman Radio. The assessment highlighted the radio's ability to share combat-relevant information, voice and data across small units in real time.

"We have just entered the era of the networked Soldier," said Col. John Zavarelli, program manager, Joint Program Executive Office, or JPEO JTRS, Handheld Manpack Small. "The individual rifleman now has a game-changing capability."

The Operational Assessment marked the first formal combat use of the single-channel, software-defined Rifleman Radio, which uses Soldier Radio Waveform, or SRW, a high bandwidth waveform which draws upon a larger part of the available spectrum compared to legacy radios to share information and "network" forces.

Rifleman Radio is part of a family of software-programmable JTRS radios, which make use of NSA-certified encryption to safeguard and transmit information. The radios are built to send packets of data, voice, video and images via multiple waveforms between static command centers, vehicles on-the-move and even dismounted individual Soldiers on patrol.

The operational assessment of Rifleman Radio is part of an overall acquisition strategy aimed at rapidly and effectively harnessing Soldier feedback as a vital element of procurement and technology development efforts, said Brig. Gen. Michael Williamson, Joint Program Executive Officer, JTRS.

"This is a near perfect example of how early engagement by the warfighter working closely with the PM and the acquisition community can deliver capability smarter and faster," said Williamson. "There was a tremendous amount of work done by the program manager, the Rangers and the acquisition leadership within the DOD and the Army to achieve this milestone."

The general said the Rangers spent a lot of time using the radios and "clearly had a significant level of confidence" in the system. Rangers liked the size, weight and power of the Rifleman Radio, which provided a battery life of up to ten hours and increased the units' ability to communicate despite obstacles such as buildings and nearby terrain.

The elite Ranger unit, which outfitted multiple platoons with the Rifleman Radio while conducting various tactical missions in Afghanistan, indicated that the systems greatly assisted their unit's ability to exchange key information such as position location information faster, further and more efficiently across the force, Zavarelli said.

"Communications were effective and reliable," Zavarelli said. "Team leaders and squad leaders benefitted from the position location information because of the information carried by the SRW waveform."

Rifleman Radio and SRW allowed the Ranger units to establish a mobile, ad-hoc network. Using that network, squad leaders, commanders and dismounted infantry shared and viewed mission essential information using small, hand-held, end-user devices with display screens. The devices displayed digital maps that allowed users to view surrounding terrain and to also locate nearby friendly forces, Zavarelli explained.

"The Rangers felt the radio was very effective for conducting infantry operations, especially at the small unit level," Zavarelli said. "Rifleman Radio allowed them to execute missions very rapidly because they had an improved awareness of where they were in relation to surrounding troops. Mission Command decisions were achieved faster."

Using the software programmable Rifleman Radio and SRW, the Rangers were able to "network" voice, data and information across deploying units in austere environments, without needing to rely upon a "fixed" infrastructure or GPS system to communicate across the unit while on the move.

"With the SRW networking waveform all you have to do is get to the next node," Zavarelli said. "The waveform that we were using is critical to bending around corners. Instead of having to push through obstacles you just have to hop to the next node. They were in a situation where the networking function worked well for them."

The success of this Rifleman Radio Operational Assessment, which included 125 radios, is expected to inform ongoing JPEO JTRS, Army and U.S. Special Operations Command considerations regarding planned future deployments of the radio. In fact, further development of the JTRS Rifleman Radio is being greatly assisted by feedback from Army Rangers who used the device in theater.

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Overall, incorporating feedback from the Rangers is consistent with the aims of the Army's ongoing bi-annual Network Integration Evaluations, which are geared toward identifying, integrating and assessing capability, systems and technologies for Soldiers before they are sent to theater, Williamson explained.

Sua Sponte: The Forging of a Modern American Ranger

By: Dick Couch, Ketchum, Idaho

In the fall of 2010, I began a journey with Ranger Assessment and Selection Level One (RASP 1) Class 09-10. On 6 September, there were 159 airborne-qualified souls assigned to Class 09-10. On 5 November, Class 09-10 graduated, and 39 newly-minted Rangers donned their Tan Berets to join the ranks of the 75th Ranger Regiment. I was privileged to observe the process—transformation actually—on just how these soldiers were selected, molded, and groomed for duty in the Regiment. Day by day, evolution by evolution, I was able to observe just how the Ranger training cadres went about selecting the warriors for their Regiment and sending those non-selectees on to other Army units better for the experience of RASP.

Sua Sponte is about RASP 1, but is also about the selection of officers and senior NCOs for leadership in the Regiment (RASP 2), SURT or Small Unit Ranger Tactics which prepares Regimental Rangers for Ranger School, and Ranger School—specifically, the relationship of the School to the Regiment. But the focus is RASP 1 and the process that takes young, and often not so young, enlisted soldiers and makes them into Rangers for seamless integration into a Ranger fire team. I was also fortunate to be allowed to follow some of the new Rangers from Class 09-10 (the 9th RASP 1 class of 2010) to Hunter Army Airfield and the 1st Ranger Battalion. There I was able to observe how the 1/75 prepares their new battalion Rangers for combat rotation. It was quite a journey, both for the new Rangers and for myself.

This was not my first SOF-training rodeo. I have written books on the training of Navy SEALs—first of those, *The Warrior Elite*, which detailed SEAL basic training. In 2006 I spent a year at Camp Mackall embedded with Special Forces and the “Q-Course.” From this came *Chosen Soldier: The Making of a Special Forces Warrior*. It takes about eighteen months to make a Green Beret; two and a half years to produce a qualified, deployable Navy SEAL. In light of this, I had often wondered how the 75th Ranger Regiment accomplished their assessment, selection, and initial training is just two months

Placing a premium upon Soldier feedback is a key element of the Army's “agile process” approach to acquisition, which seeks to expedite development and delivery of emerging technologies by evaluating them in tactically-relevant, combat-like scenarios such as the NIE. Ultimately, the Army plans to broadly deploy the JTRS Rifleman Radio across the entire force.

(only recently extended from a single month) and how they prepared their new Rangers for combat rotation in just four months, sometimes less. Now I know, and it's my hope that Sua Sponte will tell others how this amazing transformation takes place in such a short time.

All branches of the military are cultures, and all special operations components are certainly distinct cultures. SEALs are generalists with a broad range of maritime military skills. They must cover the full spectrum of special-operations disciplines, and so their training is lengthy and they, by design and culture, are quite versatile. Special Forces are also called on for their versatility but their stock and trade, and what sets them apart, is their expertise in working closely with foreign military cultures. Their ability to conduct foreign internal defense and unconventional warfare is essential for a good resolution in our current engagements. As Admiral Bill McRaven said in his testimony before congress last September, “We will not kill our way to victory in Afghanistan.” Much of our success in that tribal nation will depend of the Village Stabilization Programs and our ability to train the Afghans to take up the fight. The 75th Rangers are neither SEALs nor Green Berets; They are pure raiders. While the SEALs and Special Forces engage in the important work of FID and UW, the Rangers assault elements have kept the insurgent forces, first in Iraq and now in Afghanistan, in check and on the run. As one Ranger Platoon Sergeant told me, “It's not brain surgery; it's combat assault. But we do it better, more effectively, and more consistently than anyone in the battlespace.”

Yet, in my opinion, it's not the mission set nor their superb tactical execution, or even their exemplary combat record over the last decade, that sets these Rangers apart. It is their standards and a near-religious adherence to that standard that defines the culture of the 75th Ranger Regiment. As on Battalion Command Sergeant major put it, “Our standards are the same as Army standards, but we not only enforce them; we live by them.” Or as one cadre sergeant said, “It's easy to get to Regiment but it's harder to stay in Regiment.” What he was saying is that it's hard to live up to the Ranger standard—not just in training, but in your operational and personal life. And from what I say during the RASP process, it is plenty hard just to get to Regiment.

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Special Forces say you have to earn your Beret every day; For the SEALs, it's earning your Trident (the SEAL pin) every day. I found that when a Ranger First Sergeant of Platoon Sergeant tells their Rangers that they must earn their Scroll every day, it goes to the core living by a very explicit standard. Anything else is unacceptable, and the 75th Ranger Regiment, from my observation, is far less tolerant than their SOF brothers regarding this rigorous adherence to standard.

Those who review my books often give me high marks for

accuracy and authenticity, but I'm just as often cited for being too close to my subject matter or for bonding too closely to those I write about. On this I'm probably guilty, but it's hard not to be. These guys are great, and it's quite easy to be awed by their dedication and professionalism. The 75th Ranger Regiment represents our American warrior culture at its finest. I was honored to be afforded the opportunity to be in the company of the 75th Rangers and the fine young men who struggle to count themselves as one of the best. I hope Sua Sponte does them justice. Rangers Lead the Way!

LOST PATROL GATHERING 2012

WHERE: Coeur d'Alene Resort, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
(www.cdaresort.com)

WHEN: October 4 – 7, 2012 (3 nites)

FOR WHOM: Any Rangers, any era, along with spouses or significant others

***** THIS IS A NON-SMOKING RESORT *****

Lots of you guys have been to these Gatherings before. We've been doing this Ranger Reunion since 1997. We went to this resort in Idaho in 2008. It was great fun. They treated us like royalty. It is a magnificent resort on the shores of Lake Coeur d'Alene, at the base of the foothills for the Bitterroot Mountains. I was up there 2 weeks ago. They just finished an extensive renovation project, and the place is awesome.

Room prices are gonna start at \$99/night. That's 50% off their normal rates. If you want an upgrade, no problem. There are several different types of rooms, just look on their website, and tell me what you want. You can have a room with either 1 King bed, or 2 Queen-sized beds. If 2 guys share a room, and upgraded room is pretty cheap. Upgraded rooms have a better view, and most have a small, private balcony with a little table & chairs (outside).

Getting there is easy. Fly into Spokane, WA. Then you can either rent a car for 3–4 days, or take their shuttle. The resort is approximately 35 miles east of the Spokane Airport. The normal cost per person, for the "round-trip" in the shuttle bus (airport to resort...then back to the airport), is \$69 plus a \$15 gratuity to the driver. We'll get this same service for \$49 and a \$10 gratuity. All of those arrangements will be made ahead of time. You guys with "military hop" privileges could also try to wrangle a flight into Fairchild AFB, which is right outside of Spokane.

I have reserved a block of 50 rooms at the discounted price. If you want to go, send me a check for \$150, along with your

room preferences. Of that \$150, I'll put \$110 down as a deposit towards the cost of your room. You pay the balance when you check out. The other \$40 goes into our Entertainment Fund. That Fund pays for the cost of 2 adjoining Hospitality Suites which we'll have available 24/7 while we are there. It also pays for the "entertainment" we have on Friday nite for 2 hours or so, as well as the 1st stocking of our Ranger Bar in the Hospitality Suite.

This resort has a full service spa...something the ladies really liked in '08. Think of it as a way to make amends for all the times YOU'VE rubbed them the WRONG way. We will have a dinner cruise on Saturday night, as we did in 2008. It was very enjoyable, and the food was excellent. One of my APLs (likely Wayne Getz or Jeff Pribyl) will be taking care of that. It cost us, I think, \$42 per person in 2008. You will get more details on that from Rangers Getz or Pribyl, and pay them for the Banquet.

Any unfilled rooms in our "Block of 50" revert back to "Resort Control" as of Aug 24th, so get your rooms ASAP. I figure this will sell out anyways, and the resort will be full, so your chances of getting something at the last minute are not too good.

You smokers can have your cigs and cigars on the balconies of the Hospitality Suite, or any private rooms that have balconies. We did that in 2008, and it was not a problem.

Questions? Email me thru the Ranger Facebook Group, or send it to: DCL55@msn.com (My cell: 916-759-3444)
Send checks (\$150) to me at:

Dave Lukoskie
9618 Swan Lake Dr.
Granite Bay, CA 95746

Feel free to ask the guys who've been to these Gatherings in the past. They are always a very LARGE time.

That is all. Hope to see you there. RLTW!!

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

The Pointe du Hoc Foundation
P.O. Box 562
DuPont, WA 98327

Rangers,

I have been asked to help accomplish one more mission to help spread the word about the Pointe Du Hoc Foundation (PDHF). Recently Col (R) Mike Okita recruited me to ruck up and help the fundraising committee raise funds for the memorial so that we can break ground in March 2012. The Pointe Du Hoc Foundation is a non-profit organization (501 3C), which was established to recognize and commemorate the 2nd Battalion Rangers and their families. The first mission of PDHF is to construct a fitting memorial to honor the courage, fortitude and selfless sacrifice of all of those who have served and supported our Battalion. This memorial will be dedicated to the 2nd Battalion's greatest heroes- our fallen Rangers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country, many of whom we have known or served with.

While reviewing the foundation's database, I came across the names of old friends of mine, some of whom have already donated \$1000 or more to the foundation. You can't imagine the amount of pride I felt when I saw the list of the donors that included two great Ranger CSMs. Their generosity and esprit de corps inspired me to write this letter to all of you and ask you to please consider joining me in matching their \$1000 donation to this great cause.

All of us have had the privilege of serving in the 2nd Ranger Battalion at one time or another. If you are like me, from the firsthand experience of serving with some of the finest caliber of soldiers and leaders, you became a better soldier. By serving in the 2nd Ranger Battalion I gained the skills, knowledge and willingness to shoulder

more than my share of any task, making me successful in every endeavor that I have undertaken. I am certain that for me, the 2nd Ranger Battalion was instrumental in my gaining these skills and attributes, and for this I will be eternally grateful and can never fully repay those leaders who have influenced me. (Or perhaps molded me?)

We Rangers form a bond among warriors, family and friends that last a lifetime and often not matched in civilian organizations or other military units. It's because of this great experience and comradeship that we all experienced from being part of the 2nd Ranger Battalion family that I am asking you to volunteer once again and please donate \$1000.00 to the Pointe Du Hoc Foundation. I hope that you will join me in living up to the 1st Stanza of our Ranger Creed, which helped guide me through the tough years "...I will always endeavor to uphold the prestige, honor, and high esprit de corps of my Ranger Regiment." I cannot think of a better way of supporting our fellow Rangers than by supporting the building of this memorial.

I know that not everyone can readily donate \$1000, but any donation that can be spared for this worthy project will help get us closer to accomplishing our mission. For more information or to donate go to www.pointeduhocfoundation.com.

There is one other request that I make of each of you; if you have the email address and/or contact information of our old comrades please send that information to me so that I can help grow the list of our old friends, and help us to reconnect once again. Please send the information to me at maganafam@nventure.com.

Frank Magaña
CSM 2/75 (from '92 to '96)

Army Rangers see big drop in 'preventable' deaths with do-it-yourself battlefield medicine

By AP Medical Writer Lindsey Tanner.
Published: August 15, 2011.

CHICAGO — When Army Ranger Leroy Petry's hand was blown off by a grenade as he was saving his comrades in battle, he knew just what to do. He used his remaining hand to twist a tourniquet around his arm to avoid bleeding to death.

Sgt. 1st Class Petry, awarded the Medal of Honor last month, was with a regiment trained in do-it-yourself battlefield treatment. That kind of quick care on the field led to a 92 percent survival rate for the regiment over more than seven years, a study found.

Of the 32 deaths, just one had wounds considered potentially survivable, in this case massive bleeding. That Ranger died from post-surgery complications.

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The study found a 3 percent death rate from potentially survivable causes in the 75th Regiment between October 2001 and April 2010. That compares with a 24 percent rate in a previously reported set of U.S. military deaths in Iraq and Afghanistan, which included troops who didn't have the Ranger-style training, the study authors said.

Petry "is a prime example of how this works," said lead author Dr. Russ Kotwal of the Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, N.C. President Barack Obama awarded Petry his medal in a ceremony where he shook the Ranger's new robotic hand. Historically, about 90 percent of combat-related deaths have occurred in the field, before troops reached a medical facility. Mindful of that, the Rangers adopted a new approach more than a decade ago, focusing on certain types of injuries, after a review of casualties in previous wars.

The idea is straightforward: There aren't enough doctors or medics to treat battlefield wounds, so Rangers must be equipped with their own first aid devices and trained to use them. "If you can't do it to yourself, then you grab somebody to do it for you," Kotwal said.

The study, published Monday in Archives of Surgery, details the Rangers' approach, which also has been adopted in some other parts of the military. The focus is immediately treating the three main types of "potentially survivable" injuries: extreme bleeding from arms or legs, collapsed lungs from chest trauma, and airway blockage, including blood or tissue caught in the throat.

Soldiers are equipped with tourniquets, special wound dressings and needles used to treat major chest injuries. Their medical training is considered "as important as shooting,"

said Dr. John Holcomb, the study's senior author. "To really inculcate this training and mentality into the entire regiment takes a couple of years," Holcomb said.

Master Sgt. Harold Montgomery, a medic, said he's "an absolute believer" in the approach. He said he has seen non-medics administer treatment without qualms. "The one time you see them flustered" is treating severe chest wounds, which can cause air to fill the chest cavity and collapse the lungs. Treatment "is sticking a big needle into somebody's chest" to deflate the air build-up. "It can quickly save a life," but non-medics sometimes seek assurance from more medically experienced comrades about when it's really needed, Montgomery said.

Causes of injuries and deaths examined in the study included explosive devices and gunshot wounds, which accounted for half of the deaths. Most battlefield treatment focused on controlling bleeding and non-medical personnel applied 42 percent of the tourniquets.

The approach studied teaches soldiers "to take a deep breath" in the middle of combat and "fall back on a basic set of concepts and maneuvers shown by this study to increase survival of those wounded," said Dr. Todd Rasmussen, an Air Force surgeon who is the deputy commander of the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research in San Antonio, Texas.

It is being adopted in some military settings and by police in nonmilitary settings, "to overcome the chaos of these types of events, whether it is an explosion on the battlefield or a live shooter at a mall," Rasmussen said. He was not involved in the study.

Online: Archives of Surgery: www.archsurg.com

The following is intended to be a new set of stories that will appear periodically in Patrolling. They chronicle CSM (ret) Mike Kelso's experiences with the 3 Commando, Rhodesian Light Infantry. After doing a tour with the 82nd Airborne, he got out and joined the RLI in 1977. After his tour with the RLI was up, he went on to a long and very successful career in the Ranger Regiment. This career culminated with him being inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame in 2010.

First Contact

By: CSM (Ret) Mike Kelso

I arrived in Salisbury on an Air Rhodesia flight from Jo'burg. The date was 12 June, 1977. It was after 1800 and I was to report to the Army's recruiting office the next day. Being new

to Rhodesia and seeing no soldiers in uniform, I caught a taxi into the city. Salisbury was a very modern city and I spent the night at the Ambassador hotel. After a few beers, Lions as I recall, I was completely broke and hoping the Army would accept my enlistment. As I finished my beer I contemplated how I had ended up in Rhodesia.

In the late spring of 1975 I was a sergeant serving in the 82nd Airborne Division. I had volunteered for the US Army Airborne at the beginning of my senior year in high school, September 1973. For me another year of school was a waste as I had met all my graduation requirements. Since watching the TV series Combat as a kid I knew I wanted to be a soldier. So why wait? Of course, my parents weren't all that happy about having a high school drop out in the family. I convinced them

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the US Army wasn't all that bad since I was thinking about enlisting in the Foreign Legion.

In Fayetteville, outside the gate of Fort Bragg, were many army surplus stores. I remember one being downtown off Hay Street and across the railroad tracks. One Saturday I was killing time until the bars opened. Hay Street was the strip where young paratroopers and their pay soon parted. Anything and everything was available on Hay Street. On the counter of the surplus store the first issue of a new magazine, *Soldier of Fortune*, was prominently displayed. What a great magazine! It certainly influenced my life and I still have the issue. Years later, Bob Brown, the publisher would sign the cover for me.

Soldier of Fortune's first issue included two articles on Rhodesia. Rhodesia's struggle with communist supported terrorists attempting to overthrow the white minority government had begun years earlier. The second of the two articles dealt with the security forces, both police and army, and their professionalism. Included in the article were the addresses of the respective recruiting offices. Several months later, I wrote to the army recruiter asking for information. In the summer of 1976, still on active duty, I received a packet from Salisbury containing information on the Rhodesian Army. Much like any other army's recruiting propaganda, "Join the Army, See the World"; it told of pay and benefits, organization and included an application for service. Somehow, the recruiting brochures didn't mention visits to Mozambique or Zambia!

I completed my three year tour in the army and left for home, Kansas City, in September 1976. Having thoughts of becoming a history teacher I enrolled in the local community college. Though a good student it became apparent to me that I was not the teacher type. One of the incentives of purchasing a subscription to *Soldier of Fortune* was two posters. One of a Rhodesian villager, a victim of terrorists, and the second, the famous Rhodesian Army recruiting poster, "Be A Man Among Men". It hung on the wall of my room at home. I was studying for an examination final when the poster caught my eye. What the hell! The next day I filled out the application and posted it to Rhodesia.

It was a Saturday when my father threw a letter to me with the comment, "I think you've been expecting this." The envelope had a Rhodesian stamp. Wow! Inside was an offer to join the Rhodesian Army with assignment to the Rhodesian Light Infantry. I would enlist as a trooper with 5 year's service for pay. That came out to around \$320 Rhodesian or about the same as I made as a sergeant in the US Army \$530.

The morning after arriving in Rhodesia I showed up at the Army's recruiting office located at Phillips House on Gordon Avenue. Upon arrival I told a young soldier I had orders to report on this day. He was polite, told me to take a seat, that I would see the recruiter. A few minutes later Major Nick Lamprecht, who had signed the contract back in February, called me into his office. After a discussion lasting only a few minutes Major Lamprecht swore me into the Rhodesian Army with assignment to the Rhodesian Light Infantry.

As it were, two RLI corporals were headed to Cranborne Barracks so they offered me a lift. After passing through the secured gate I was dropped off in front of the Training Troop orderly room. I checked in with the clerk and was told to wait. The Training Troop Officer Commanding, Captain Cooper would speak with me shortly. So far, so good. I had not seen many soldiers and was anxious to see Captain Cooper.

After a few minutes Captain Cooper marched past into his office. He soon ordered me to report. I was most anxious to get on with it. Being in civilian clothes and not knowing the Rhodesian way of doing things I stood at attention in front of his desk without the salute. Captain Cooper gave me a look over and told me to stand at ease. Ten minutes later after discussing my reasons for wanting to enlist in his army and my prior service he gave me very good news. I wasn't really sure of the duration of training in the RLI but I certainly wasn't looking forward to the three or so (actually four) months I thought would be the norm. However, the Officer Commanding made my day when he told me I would be joining Training Troop Course 158 currently in their 12th week of training.

I saw in Captain Cooper a no nonsense officer. Though I didn't see much of the OC during my four weeks at Training Troop I was impressed by his professional demeanor. I consider him a standup officer who looked and acted like the professional soldier he was. Interestingly, he wore his RLI badge centered on his beret with even folds to left and right. I made the mistake of reporting to the RLI wearing a beard. Needless to say, Captain Cooper didn't think much of my appearance. His last words to me went something like this, "...next time I see you, you had better have that f...beard shaved off." Civilian clothes or not, I saluted as I left the Captain's office.

I was readily accepted by the twenty or so recruits in Intake 158. CPL Robbertze, CPL Housten-Brown and L/CPL Graham were our NCO instructors. All were experienced warriors, hard and strict but fair, as it should be. I considered myself very fortunate to have missed the first 12 weeks of training troop. As a new recruit you experienced all the "breaking down and then

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standing up” that turned worthless civilians into disciplined Soldiers. That I did not need. However, our NCO’s definitely didn’t lift and shift the four weeks I was in their “care”. I even learned a new phrase while in training troop, “bloody useless c...!” A phrase that was applied quite regularly to those slow on the uptake. Other inspiring terms included waster and wanker. Letting us know we still weren’t full fledged troopers those last few weeks our NCOs continued the steady physical training (which I needed), the always fun change parade and the occasional barracks room “destruction”.

Of course, my biggest challenge was learning Rhodesian Army drill! Definitely not the drill we used in the US Army. With a lot of personal attention from L/CPL Graham it didn’t take long before I was turning with precision and stomping my feet with the best of them. One day on the drill square, the domain of the Regimental Sergeant Major, I sensed a presence behind me. I then felt a stick on my shoulder. The RSM had quietly appeared to observe the training. He proceeded to tell me, in a slow and meaningful way, the proper way to lift my knee parallel to the ground and the correct way to drive my heel into the position of attention. RSM Springer was a most impressive Warrant Officer. To this day when I watch the movie *The Wild Geese*, the RSM played by Jack Watson always reminds me of the RSM.

During my four weeks in 158 we conducted two field training exercises, a guard posting to a Lake Kariba resort and Alouette III familiarization. The exercise I remember most was a recce of a local kraal. I was paired up with a private from the Rhodesia Regiment, Lamerick Muzowera. I am not sure of the exact purpose of the exercise other than to infiltrate and exfiltrate the kraal without getting compromised. What was most interesting, after we inserted from a Bedford truck, Muzowera found the nearest pile of cow dung which he proceeded to wipe on his uniform. He explained it was to fool the dogs. Or maybe it was to screw with the new Yank. What did I know, on went the cow dung. I don’t know if dung was the reason or if it was the curfew but we weren’t compromised. During the recce we listened into an argument between a husband and wife. Trying not to laugh, Muzowera later explained they were arguing about the husband’s other girlfriends. My four weeks at training troop went by quickly and I asked for posting to 3 Commando which was granted.

I arrived at 3 Commando’s orderly room with four or five other guys including Frank Neave. Frank was a Scot with prior service in one of the Brit para battalions. We had hit it off in training troop and Frank convinced me 3 Commando was the posting to ask for. Frank was a great soldier and I was

saddened to hear of his death after the war in an accidental electrocution. The first member of 3 Commando we saw was CPL Marty Hudson. Marty, the Quartermaster, ran the orderly room with skill and organization and there wasn’t a thing he wouldn’t do to help any trooper in need. After filling out the obligatory paperwork I was assigned to 12 Troop. Frank went to 11 Troop. As I recall the Commando was going on R&R having just returned from a bush trip. We were shown where to bunk and told to report back in the morning.

The next Monday a group of us reported to New Sarum airbase for Rhodesian Para Course 75/77. Though I was parachute qualified I didn’t mind going through Rhodesia’s course taught by the Air Force. The course was only two weeks long with the second week consisting of nine jumps. Unlike the US Army’s jump school, there was no physical training associated with the course and the technical training was easy. There were no 34 foot or 250 foot towers and no mindless screwing with the future paras. During the war Rhodesia conducted hundreds of parachute assaults, the most by any country in history. They were very successful causing untold damage to the terrorists.

Jumping out of the Paradak, the famous C-47 Dakota of WWII fame was a great experience. A beautiful but slow bird, the Paradak was a jumper’s dream with a jump speed of 80 knots providing a nice easy opening shock. As the only trooper with jump experience I was given the door position on our eighth jump, the night jump. Since most of our jumps with the 82nd Airborne Division were at night it was green light go. After our ninth jump on 2 September our class was presented with Rhodesian parachute wings by Colonel Ron Reid-Daly. COL Reid-Daly was the legendary Rhodesian warrior, commander of the Selous Scouts and former RSM of the RLI. To have him present our wings was a momentous event which I have never forgotten.

My first deployment to the bush began with the 3 Commando convoy to the eastern highlands. The base at Mtoko reminded me of firebases I had seen on the evening news about Vietnam. Consisting of an airstrip, cinder block buildings, tents and half-assed bunkers on the perimeter it was our home for the next six weeks. In 12 Troop we were fortunate to be led by two of the finest Soldiers I ever served with. LT Mark Adams was our Troop Leader. Mark was a solid warrior leader who was strictly regulation. Everything was done to standard. Sergeant Derek Taylor our Troop Sergeant was an outstanding Soldier. He was field savvy and a disciplined warrior who took care of his men. Both Adams and Taylor were the epitome of professionalism.

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The moment I had anticipated with cautious enthusiasm started with the base siren sounding the morning of my fifth day in the bush. We had finished breakfast and were getting ready for a weapons class when the call for fire force sounded. Immediately the men of 12 Troop grabbed their kit and headed for the heli pad. I was assigned to SGT Taylor's stick which included L/CPL Hughes, the MAG 58 gunner Terry Hammond and me. Terry was a good guy who had taken it upon himself to show me the ropes. Actually I don't remember any "hazing" upon joining 12 Troop other than good natured kidding. Arriving at the helipad, I applied for the first time when it mattered, our dark brown and black camouflage paint. The camo was applied by fingers leaving streaks across our face and other exposed flesh. A few minutes after arriving at the Alouette III Sgt Taylor joined us from the ops brief. A British South African Police stick had observed a group of terrors in camp. By this time the blades were turning and we loaded our helicopters.

The swirling red dirt of the strip began to dissipate as our G-car (troop carrier) bird lifted off. We had had an orientation ride during training troop but this was the real deal. I was headed to war as a Rhodesian Commando. Of course I was nervous, that sort of nervousness experienced before any action that is dangerous. But in my past that meant jumping out of C130s, not going into a fire fight! As the G-car flew over the broken terrain of eastern Rhodesia I tried to remember the lessons we were taught in training troop. I do remember thinking SGT Taylor's stick consisted of very experienced warriors. Watch and learn. Keep your head in the game. As the flight moved ever closer to the terrorist sighting Terry leaned towards me and asked how I was doing? I nodded my head, gripped my FN rifle a little tighter, and told him I was OK. He gave me a thumbs up and smiled. He told me it was not a big deal, nothing to worry about.

The air assault contingent arrived over the objective area and began to circle. MAJ Strong, our Officer Commanding 3 Commando, directed the fight from his K-car (Control bird). After several minutes of boring holes in the sky the Alouette III dropped towards the ground. SGT Taylor gave us a look and the bird began to hover over the tall grass. Terry gave me a tap on the leg and I followed him out. We were located in an area of tall grass, 4 or so feet high, with several small trees scattered about. We kneeled as the bird lifted off then Taylor led us toward a small hilltop thirty or so meters away. I remember the stick was arranged in line with L/CPL Hughes on the far right, then SGT Taylor, Terry with the MAG 58 and then me on the left. As far as I knew we were the only troopies on the ground. Taking my cue from Terry who was several meters to my right we moved slowly toward the base of the hill. Little did I know I would soon be engaged in my first firefight.

It wasn't all that hot but the sweat still trickled into my eyes. It didn't help that camo paint was mixed in with the sweat. I heard helicopters flying in the distance but had yet to hear any firing. The stick arrived where the hill began to slope upward. I had only Terry in sight. We stopped briefly, I saw Terry get up and motion me to move forward. Staying in line with Terry, I began to climb the slightly sloping hill while sweeping the front and sides with my eyes. The hill was probably 20-30 meters high with a couple of trees on the crown. A third of the way up the hill I heard my first shots fired in anger. Two AK rounds cracked within hearing, then a third. Immediately, I heard Terry yell, "Hey, Yank! You had better get down. That bastard is shooting at you!" He then loosed a burst of 7.62 at the crown of the hill. Welcome to 12 Troop!

I quickly knelt down and began looking for the terrorist. Terry fired a couple more bursts and then stood up. He looked over at me motioning to move forward. He had a more relaxed attitude and I soon saw why. Coming down the hill was SGT Taylor with a young terrorist capture. Taylor had come up behind the Charlie Tango and took him prisoner. So this was the guy shooting at me. After several minutes a G-car arrived and the terrorist was thrown on board. He would soon be in possession of Special Branch. Monitoring his radio, SGT Taylor led us back up the hill and down the other side. I had yet to fire my FN.

The other side of the hill was a small valley with a small stream and several trees. The terrain was fairly flat and scattered throughout were instances of mostly flat exposed rock without much cover. The grass was still 3-4 feet high concealing the flat rocks. Trees were common and obscured the view after several meters. SGT Taylor put us back in line and we began to move forward up the valley. We heard shooting some distance away but Taylor kept us sweeping in the same direction. Terry and I were still on the right of the stick with a small hill mass to our right. My second wartime experience was about to occur.

Terry and I began to move forward with 10 yards separation. The going was slow as we were cautious advancing through the waist high grass. The wind was blowing slightly and I could see white smoke through the tree tops off to our right front. It turned out to be a grass fire started by tracers. I continued to position off Terry but could not see L/CPL Hughes or SGT Taylor. They were out of sight to Terry's right. As we swept forward Terry and I fired into likely cover to flush any bad guys.

After a few meters we broke through the tall grass to one of the flat rocks. It was 10 feet or so in diameter and lying on the rock was a wounded terrorist though I saw no blood. Why was

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he lying in the open and not hiding in the bush? I immediately aimed my FN while Terry positioned his machine gun to cover the tango. The terr was lying face down with his hands underneath him. We could tell he was still alive as his body shook, probably from fear. I looked to Terry for guidance as this was certainly not a situation I had experience with. I thought we would have another capture for Special Branch to interrogate. Not to be.

The communist terrorist was wearing denim jeans, a blue shirt and an olive green jacket. He appeared to be in his late teens. I could see no weapon. Amazingly I had now seen two live terrorists within 45 minutes of my first contact. Terry approached the terr giving him a quick kick with his boot. The terr reacted with a small cry but did not rise up. Terry took a few steps backward and aimed his MAG 58 at the Charlie Tango. I was a cherry when it came to people suffering violent death. As Terry aimed his gun, I thought, here we go, and turned my head. I heard a burst of 7.62. Simultaneous with turning back to look, I heard Terry swear and fire a second burst. His first burst missed! I had a ring side seat as his second burst took the top of the terrorist's head off. I was transfixed as the bad guy's brain went flying through the air.

Terry and I stood looking at the dead terrorist as SGT Taylor and L/CPL Hughes came up. Terry reported what happened in a straight forward manner. The stick leader reported the death. Another dead terrorist or "floppie"! We continued to sweep through the tall grass for another hundred meters or so. The contact ended with the death of eight or nine terrorists. I saw the dead after they were loaded on a Bedford. They were thrown on top of one another like sacks of miele, a hell of a way to end up. I felt no sympathy for the terrorist dead. Their cause was not the cause of freedom but one of dictatorship. As far as I was concerned they were communists and deserved killing.

I want to stress that the RLI took prisoners whenever feasible. They were valuable for information and perhaps could be "turned" to Rhodesia's advantage. But we never risked the life of a troopie in order to capture a live terrorist. During a contact if it moved it was shot.

I consider it the greatest of honors to have served Rhodesia in the Rhodesian Light Infantry. They were the finest light infantry in the world and the best of mates. I would participate in several more fire fights including the parachute assault on the Vanduzi terrorist camp near Chimoio. I was again in SGT Taylor's stick along with L/CPL Hughes and Trevor McIlwaine. Trevor was our MAG 58 gunner. Hughes and I were an anti-tank team with him carrying a RPG-7. We carried 4 rockets and an AT mine. During the Chimoio operation Terry Hammond was seriously wounded and invalided out of the army. But I will always remember my first contact as a rifleman in a "stick" of 12 Troop, 3 Commando, 1st Battalion, Rhodesian Light Infantry.



I Died at Anzio

Senon S. Chavez, A Ranger's Story

Anzio was a prime example of the horror of war. It was a place where thousands died and death had no regard for nationality or status. Some who died disappeared forever in the mud and swamps. And, of many of those who survived, it can be said that Anzio took their souls.

May Anzio never happen again.

-excerpt, Carlo D'este, Fatal Decision

We lived in San Patricio, New Mexico, a small little community nestled on the Rio Ruidoso (Noisy River) drainage, draining

the southeast range of Sierra Blanca. Land of enchantment, land of chile--spelled with an "e", not an "i". No kidney beans or tomatoes to spoil the taste. Our chile was roasted, peeled, and eaten with a generous amount of garlic and trace of salt. Ours was a ranching farming community, peopled by persons of mostly Mexican heritage. Sheep and the raising of apples were the mainstays. This was Lincoln County, home to Billy the Kid, Sheriff William Brady, Pat Garrett and the rest of the history of the guvachos.

My younger sister and I were adopted into the Yisidro and Pablita Chavez family. It was a big family with eighteen children. Our mother had died when I was four, and my father had no one to take care of us. He was married and had

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thirteen children. We lived for a year in Juarez, Mexico with my mother's relatives. Not liking it my dad appealed to his sister to take us in.

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

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

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

Senon ran the horse with some mares into the corral, segregated him and with the help of half the men in the valley got the stud hogtied and saddled. It was a big social event. Drinking wine was heavy then. They turned Senon loose into the open area in the orchard. It was a rodeo. Alacran unloaded him, Senon got back on. This went on through the morning, interspersed with hits of "La Copita", the wine the men favored. Senon was getting into it and so was Alacran. I was nine years old and I was impressed. Alacran, full of piss and vigor, was snorting, bucking, farting and shitting, all at the same time, and having a harder time unloading his tormenter as it went on. By sheer imposition of his will, Senon broke that stud from bucking and eventually into a good saddle horse. I never forgot that. As I got older Senon took me under his wing and I helped him ride the range on horseback taking care of our sheep and cattle. He taught me how to hunt, stalk, read sign, kill and dress the game. The family had three hundred head of sheep and dogs running wild in a pack could quickly disseminate a flock. Our job was eliminating the dogs. Senon was a crack shot. About this time I started to realize that there was something more to Senon, something that he missed. It was those quiet times, that faraway look he would get, and the features in his face would get such sadness. Sometimes he would take to the wine bottle for days. I knew better then to ask, and bit my tongue.

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

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

Brig. Gen. William Orlando Darby, a 1933 graduate from the United States Military Academy at West Point was the organizer and commander of the 1st, 3d and 4th Ranger Battalions. The 1st Ranger Battalion was activated on 19 June, 1942 at Carrickfergus, Northern Ireland. These battalions, known as Darby's Rangers, were commanded by Darby during most of their existence during World War II.

In order to better clarify the events Senon Chavez went through I contacted James Altieri, whom I had met at the fiftieth anniversary of the Rangers at Ft. Benning, Georgia on 19 June 1992. Mr. Altieri began his career with the formation of the Rangers in Ireland, as an enlisted man. Starting a T/5 (technical corporal), Mr. Altieri rose through the ranks and upon receiving a battlefield commission, became a platoon leader. He became company commander of F Co, 4th Ranger Battalion at Anzio. He went on to write two books, *The Spearheaders*, and *Darby's Rangers*, an account of the Rangers in the North Africa, Sicily and Italian campaigns, culminating with the demise of the 1st and 3rd Ranger Battalions of Darby's Rangers at Cisterna. Mr. Altieri did confirm in both verbal and document proof that Senon S. Chavez is carried on the 1st and 3rd Battalion rosters. I used a military biography of William O. Darby by Michael J. King, *Darby's Rangers* by Mr. Altieri, *Rangers in WW II* by Robert Black, and documents from the Darby Foundation in Ft. Smith, Arkansas (Darby's place of birth), to place Senon in the events that happened. I was amazed with the recollection that Senon had, and the accuracy they reflected when compared with my resources. This was done with a series of taped interviews in December of 1993. There have been many books written on Anzio and history concurs that Anzio was one of the bloodiest chapters of World War II.

On that December evening I turned on my tape recorder and asked my first question of my adopted older brother, uncle, father, benefactor and brother Ranger. "Did you talk to anyone about the Rangers," I asked and like a flood it came out. Senon said: "No, nobody, nobody knew nothing, and I thought to myself, I am going to have to keep this to myself. It took me a long, long time to talk. I remember talking to

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

you about the Rangers. That was about it. See people would start talking about the war and what they had done. I did this and I did that, but for me nothing. So now I have to get it out, because if people don't believe me I don't either, to me it's all a dream. I am not talking about myself, I'm talking for everybody, the whole outfit. That's what makes it. I tell people, I died at Anzio. I do not know why I live. I am part of the living dead. Out of all the people on a landing craft at Sicily, I am the only one that survived. We were hit by an M-88 howitzer round. All I remember was coming to the surface of the water and having legs, arms and a body parts landing all around me. It was a horrible shock to see this. I had been in all the campaigns from North Africa up the Sicilian boot and up the Italian mainland but still, nothing compared to Anzio."

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

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

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

OPERATION TORCH

ARZEW, ALGERIA, NORTH AFRICA

Mr. Alteiri's records confirm that PFC Senon Chavez joined the 1st Ranger Battalion on 28 January, 1943 at Arzew, North Africa. He arrived with 7 officers and 101 enlisted men from Ft. Devens, Mass. They got a resounding welcome when they arrived at the Ranger area. The Ranger veterans sprayed the area under the vehicles of the replacements with automatic weapons fire. Some of the newly intimidated replacements including Senon went to existing companies. Company E would be Senon's new home. The remainder were formed into Company "G," which Lt. Col Darby established as a temporary training detachment.

SENEDE STATION, TUNISIA

On 7 February, the 1st Ranger Battalion was flown to Tebessa, Tunisia. From there they were trucked five miles east to II Corps headquarters. Two days later the battalion went to Gafsa where it received the mission of raiding an enemy hilltop position, manned by Italians protecting Sened Pass, with the purpose of harassing the enemy, destroying his men and equipment, and conducting reconnaissance.

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

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

By 0100 hours the Rangers had advanced to within 200 meters of the Italian position. At that point the enemy became suspicious and starting firing bursts of cannon, machine guns and rifle fire that went high, revealing their positions to the Rangers. Pfc. Elmer W. Garrison, the only ranger to die at Sened, had his head blown off by one of the cannon. In Darby's words, "we rushed them with bayonets and knives and gave them everything we had, we went in particularly for bayonet work, but we also caught a lot of them in their underground dugouts with our tommy guns and hand grenades." The Rangers drove the Italians off their position, killing seventy-five, capturing eleven men, five machine guns and a 50mm antitank weapon. This took less than thirty minutes. The Rangers suffered one killed and twenty wounded.

Senon's remarks to me about Sened Station were "We caught them in their foxholes and we killed them all with knives and bayonets, and later Axis Sally who would talk and play songs for us Americans. Every morning after Sened Station

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

we would hear her on the radio say; "every Ranger that will be captured, will be killed by his own knife." So they did not like us, they didn't like us at all. That is why we never carried anything identifying us as Rangers. If captured you would not tell them you were a Ranger." My only thoughts while Senon mentioned this was what a way to get broke into combat!

KASSERINE, TUNISIA

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

Two days after the Sened raid, the Axis offensive hit with an attack at Sidi Bou Zid. Orders were given for the evacuation of Gafsa. The 1st Ranger Battalion was tasked with fighting a rearguard action, while covering the withdrawal of II Corps, in some cases in chaos. It was a hazardous mission, on foot across an open plain, armed only with rifles, machine guns and sticky grenades and attacked by German Stuka dive bombers. Senon remembered that it angered the Rangers that the American army was retreating. The Rangers took up positions east of Feriana and were ordered to hold Dernia Pass and the road to Tebessa and there they remained on the defensive until March. Meanwhile, at Kassarine Pass, the 168th Regimental Combat Team was wiped out by Rommel's panzers. The Axis offensive in late February had ground to halt.

On 13 March, 1943, Darby's Rangers became II Corp's reserve under the command of General George S. Patton. On 13 March they moved to the vicinity of Dernia, Tunisia and attached to the 1st Infantry Division. On 17 March, the Rangers, along with the 16th and 18th Regimental Combat Teams attacked Gafsa at 1000 hours, found the town lightly defended and quickly captured it. There were no Ranger casualties.

DJEBEL el ANK

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

The 1st Infantry Division received a warning order on 20 March, to attack along the Gafsa-Gabes road to take the commanding high ground. Less than a mile east of El Guettar, the road forked into two branches. The southern branch led to Gabes. The northern branch, known as the Gumtree Road, passed through Djebel el Ank pass and on to Mahares on the sea.

The plan of attack called for the 18th Infantry to attack toward Gabes. The plan of attack along the Gumtree Road was a joint operation. The 26th Infantry would attack frontally up the Djebel el Ank pass, with the Rangers infiltrating enemy lines and attacking the positions on Djebel el Ank pass from the rear. At the pass, the enemy gun batteries were protected by emplaced automatic weapons and the naturally defensible terrain in the shape of a funnel. The 26th Infantry, attacking frontally, would find themselves going into the wide mouth of the funnel and get hammered by heavy weapons fire in the constricting neck of the pass. The Rangers mission while formidable and hazardous was vital to the success of the operation and the saving of lives of the men of the 26th Infantry. With information gathered by two nights of Ranger patrolling and by Darby personally leading a daylight reconnaissance, he was able to map out a route to get his Rangers behind the enemy undetected. On the night of 20 March the Rangers made a six-mile march over terrain the enemy thought to be impassable. Over a torturous succession of hills and gorges in the dark, the Rangers made their way to a rocky plateau that overlooked the Italian positions rear at Djebel el Ank pass. There they awaited the dawn.

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

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

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

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

On 21 March, the Rangers returned to El Guettar and moved into division reserve. On 23 March, the Axis counter attacked westward along the Gabes-Gafsa road wanting to regain ground lost. The attack fell upon the 1st Infantry Division and the Rangers were again called onto the front lines as a conventional infantry unit. The Rangers fell in on the left flank of the 3rd Battalion, 16th Infantry. The position was attacked at 1830 hours by dive-bombers and sixty tanks and a battalion of dismounted infantry from the 10th Panzer Division. The attack was broken up by heavy American artillery fire. Through the rest of the month of March into mid April, the Rangers were used in conventional infantry defensive positions in and around El Guettar, plugging any potential hotspots that might arise. This cost the Rangers three killed and eighteen wounded. By 10 April, all the Ranger companies were reunited in Gafsa. The African campaign was over for the Rangers. Over 32,000 men of the Axis armies had been killed and 200,000 captured. The 1st Ranger Battalion was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for the Battle of El Guettar.

To support the impending invasion of Sicily, General Patton instructed Darby to come up with plans for the formation of two additional Ranger battalions. After approval from General Marshall, (Chief of Staff) Darby visited all replacement centers for volunteers for the formation of the two additional units. Darby, using his veterans from the 1st Ranger Battalion as cadre, organized the 3d and 4th Ranger Battalions on 20 May 1943 in North Africa. With all three ranger battalions known as Force Ranger, and Darby commanding the 1st Ranger Battalion and in overall command of Force Ranger, Sicily awaited the Rangers.

Senon, as a combat veteran of the 1st Ranger Battalion, was shifted over to the 3d Ranger Battalion. He would be commanded by Major Herm Dammer. Senon remembers that while with the 1st they would say; "there goes Darby with his four hundred thieves," and when he was with the 3d the saying would go; "here comes Dammer and his four hundred goats!"

OPERATION HUSKY (Invasion of Sicily)

Senon with the 3d Ranger Battalion moved to Bizerte, Tunisia to join General Lucian Truscott's 3d Infantry Division, to whom they would be attached for the upcoming operation. While at Bizerte, Dammer's Rangers participated in practice landings on LCI's (landing craft, infantry) to prepare them for the invasion. Senon recalls; "they loaded us on troop ships on 4 July and the Germans bombed us right there at the docks hitting a troop ship anchored next to mine. While en-route to Sicily, we ran into a big storm and everyone got really sea sick."

The plan of attack called for the 3d Ranger Battalion to land three miles west of Licata Green Beach (San Mollarella), seize all enemy installations on the beach, then attack in the direction of Mount Sole, regroup and attack Licata from the west. This was in conjunction with a pincer movement involving a forty-five thousand man force involved in the landings.

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

The aggressive action and careful planning paid off for the men of the 3d Ranger Battalion. Only two men were wounded during this action, one of whom later died. The 3d Ranger Battalion's mission accomplished, they were placed in division reserve.

On 15 July, the 3d Rangers were to spearhead a "reconnaissance in force" down the Favara-Agrigento road (Highway 122), bypass Agrigento and take Montaperto, then continue toward the port city of Porto Empedocle, twenty-five miles away. It would give Patton's Seventh Army a port closer to the front to support the drive to Palermo.

1900 hours found the 3d Rangers on a night march toward their objectives. They hit a roadblock around 0400 and attacked using fire and maneuver tactics. They took prisoner the 165 Italian survivors and sent them under guard to Favara.

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

Pushing forward, they climbed the tall hill on which Montaperto was situated and took their first objective without incident. On the other side of the hill directly under Montaperto, they spotted four Italian artillery batteries. Using their machine guns, rifles and ten 60mm mortars, they brought to bear

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

devastating fire on the enemy position. Within minutes the Italian artillery men were dead and their ammunition for the guns was exploding.

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

By 1400 Dammer had his battalion together and commenced the attack on Porto Empedocle. Overrunning machine gun emplacements and a series of house to house fighting, the Rangers took their objective. They set to building a hasty POW compound out of necessity. The 3d Ranger Battalion had captured 91 Germans and 675 Italians that day alone! They had one Ranger killed. Senon remembers this operation as fast paced and action packed. Every bit of luck was on the side of the Rangers. It was truly a dream operation and every Ranger working as a team. So far out in front of other friendly forces, we could only be aggressive and it paid off, he commented.

The rest of July was spent in relative ease for the men of the 3d Rangers. They pulled minor guard and POW guard duties. When arriving in Palermo, Senon recalls some street fighting. He remembers: "I got away from my company and stayed for three days and two nights in a hotel. Eating chicken, bread and drinking vino. The young women would bring us anything we wanted. When we got back they were waiting for us and were in the process of pulling out."

On 7 August, the 3d Ranger Battalion was attached to the 3d Infantry Division. Two days later they were moved to San Agata and given fifty pack mules. For the next nine days they operated totally independent and traversed over 100 miles of incredibly rough terrain while rooting out pockets of resistance in the high mountains overlooking Messina. Senon recalls that he could see the mountains in Italy. At the conclusion of his "mule packing days", Senon, with the 3d Rangers were returned to Corleone to join the 1st and 4th Rangers and prepare for the invasion of Italy.

OPERATION AVALANCHE (INVASION OF ITALY) SALERNO-CHIUNZI PASS

The Ranger Force consisted of the 1st, 3rd, and 4th Ranger Battalions with Number 2 and Number 41 British Commando and Company C and D of the 83rd Chemical Battalion (4.2-inch mortar). The Ranger Force mission in the operational

plan for Avalanche was to spearhead for British X Corps. The Rangers were to land at Maiori, (several miles north of Salerno) destroy enemy coastal defenses, move inland about six miles and seize the high ground overlooking the plains and roads that led north to Naples from Salerno. The British Commandos were to land to the right of the Rangers to seize the northern side of Salerno. The coast on which the Rangers would land was mountainous with few beaches. Maiori's beach was a small inlet that measured about half a mile from end to end. The military value was that it is astride a draw that led northward into the mountains, eventually crossing that at Chiunzi Pass. The only road to Maiori followed this draw over the pass, winding down onto the Plain of Naples.

Darby and his Rangers boarded Landing Craft Infantry (LCI) in Palermo and sailed north in the early hours of 8 September. They joined up with the huge convoy of the Allied invasion fleet heading for Salerno.

The Rangers landed smoothly with no organized resistance. The Germans figuring on the smallness of the beach of Maiori, were not defending it in strength. The Rangers quickly moved on their objectives.

Senon and the 3d Rangers mission was to occupy the high terrain overlooking Pagani. They arrived without incident at 0900 and settled in on Mount di Chiunzi. The battalion had one company south of the pass, three companies astride the ridge north of the pass and two companies in reserve. They had attached three additional companies from the 1st Rangers. The Rangers overlooked the main supply route of the Germans and was an artillery observer's dream post. Using the 4.2 inch mortars, Allied cruisers support, and the big guns from the British battleship Howe, they plastered the Germans' effort to resupply troops and supplies to the battle raging south of Salerno. Darby's comments on this were; "If ever there was an artilleryman's dream, here it was. The enemy on the plain was the most beautiful target I believe I have ever seen."

The Germans' response was vicious. They brought to bear as much artillery they could muster and pounded the Ranger positions. The whirling of shrapnel was constant and long lasting. The close proximity to the constant detonation of high explosives, shrapnel, shaken like rag dolls in their holes, lack of water, sickness and tension took its toll. Senon recalls: "A particular eight hours stretch of continuous pounding by artillery was terrible. It left us reeling. Everybody was crying and screaming like crazy, crazy people. It was shell shock bad, I mean bad. They took some people down to the hospital. They were completely shell shocked. I can still hear the sound of the shells as they came in."

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

The Germans tried dislodging the Rangers with frontal assaults but failed. The Rangers held the high ground.

On 17 September, elements of the 4th Ranger Battalion relieved the 3d Ranger Battalion and they went into a bivouac area by Polvica. On 18 September, the 1st and 3d Ranger Battalions were attached to the 82nd Airborne Division as division reserve. The Rangers remained in the Sala-Polvico-Pigno area. On 29 September, the 1st and 3d Rangers marched ten miles to Castellammare and bivouacked near the town and were joined by the Fourth Rangers. On 1 October Naples fell. The Ranger Force moved into Naples.

The 1st and 3d Ranger Battalions were awarded a Presidential Unit Citation for their actions at Salerno.

Reeling from the onslaught of the Allies, the Germans were determined to delay south of Rome as long as possible. The enemy's defensive line was known as the Winter Line. The Mignano Gap was the southern entrance to the Liri Valley, the gateway to Rome. The gap, a break in the mountains upon which the Winter Line was based, was dominated by high ground to its right and left. If the road to Rome was to be opened, the high ground that controlled it would have to be taken. The Germans using the winter weather and terrain to their advantage, and dug in on these high peaks were determined to make the Allies pay in blood. The Allies faced six infantry, three mechanized infantry, and three Panzer divisions of the German Tenth Army.

On 10 October, The 1st and 3d Rangers were moved by truck fifty miles to San Lazzaro, near Amalfi, Italy.

On 29 November, Senon and the 3d Rangers left Caiazzo by truck for Venafro, a six hour journey. II Corps command wanted a reconnaissance of the northern slopes of Mount Sammucro, which overlooked San Pietro. By 4 December, the Rangers were patrolling the craggy peaks looking for the enemy. The key terrain in this area was Hill 950. On 7 December, they were ordered to take Hill 950. Senon and the 3d Rangers moved from Venafro toward the objective. At 1800 hours they moved through Ceppagna and then started climbing a ridge that ran northwest to Hill 950. They ran into German machine guns dominating the ridge. The Rangers assaulted, eliminated the guns and continued forward, fighting their way to the top of Hill 950 and taking it at 0600 hours 8 December. Senon and his friends did not hold it long. Daylight saw the Germans unload a ferocious hail of machine-gun and artillery fire, driving the Rangers off the hilltop. Taking high casualties, they withdrew.

The Rangers were ordered to retake the hill the following day. A heavy barrage of artillery preceded the attack and the Rangers assaulted at 0530 hours, retaking Hill 950 at 0600. The Germans withdrew pounding the hilltop with artillery. A series of fights developed at platoon and squad levels on the surrounding ridges and hills during the next few days. On 14 December, the 3d Rangers were relieved by the 3 Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment. The Rangers withdrew to an area near Pozzuoli. On 20 December, Senon and the 3d Rangers were pulled back to Lucrino Station near Naples, for a much deserved rest and recreation. I can imagine what fun the Rangers had enjoying the sins of Naples!

The Rangers enjoyed their stay in Naples. It was a brief adventure, but they do not call you a spearheader by dallying at the bar. Another operation was in the making. The Rangers settled down to recruiting and training. The Rangers practiced night amphibious landings.

When the 3d and 4th Rangers were established in North Africa, Darby was not allocated a headquarters to command all three battalions. The difficulty of commanding the 1st Rangers and the Ranger Force was unreasonable. He had voiced that to the War Department but fell on deaf ears. Finally he was granted a headquarters company and a temporary formation of a unit called the 6615th Ranger Force (Provisional).

Darby was promoted to colonel and in complete command of the Ranger Force. A classmate of Darby's, Major Jack Dobson took command of the 1st Rangers. Major Alvah Miller became Senon's new commander of the 3d Rangers. Major Roy Murray remained in command of the 4th Rangers. Major Herman Dammer became executive officer of the Ranger Force.

OPERATION SHINGLE

ANZIO-NETTUNO AND CISTERNA di LITTORIA

As 1943 came to a close the American Fifth Army had failed to attain their final objectives, the Liri Valley and the town of Cassino that anchored the Gustav Line. They were protected by the natural barriers of the Garigliano and Rapido rivers. On the Adriatic side of the Allied front, the Eighth Army commanded by Montgomery had not done any better. The exhausted Eighth Army had been forced to a halt in the battered town of Ortona. The Allies were at a stalemate having bled and exhausted their resources breaching the Winter Line and faced a determined German defense that used mountainous terrain and winter weather to their advantage. To counter this, the Allied High Command planned an amphibious end run to outflank the German southern front.

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Some thirty miles south of Rome, the place targeted for an invasion landing was a pleasant bathing resort and sea-port by the name of Anzio. A mile south was the twin town of Nettuno. To both combatants, Anzio would become a name that signified everything brutal and evil that comes with war. They might also have remembered that it was the birthplace of the Roman Emperor Nero, and that it was in the theatre of ancient Anzio that Nero is supposed to have fiddled while Rome burned.

The Allies believed that amphibious landing at Anzio, followed by a drive on the Alban Hills (Colli Laziali) would cause the enemy resistance to crumble in the south, and leave Rome open to the Fifth Army. It would give a boost to Allied morale, and a blow to German confidence.

The VI (U.S.) Corps, under the command of Major General John Lucas would be the invasion force (40,000 men). Part of this command was Ranger Force, which consisted of 1st, 3d, and 4th Ranger Battalions, the 509th Parachute Infantry Battalion, 83rd Chemical Battalion (4.2 inch mortars), and Company H, 36th Engineers.

The Ranger Force mission in Operation Shingle was to spearhead the landing and in order of priority was to overcome beach defenses, clear the town and form a defensive perimeter and clear the beach area between Anzio and Nettuno. Contact the British 1st Division on the left and the US 3d Infantry Division on right, and become attached to 3d Infantry Division, under command of Major General Lucian Truscott, when contact was established.

In detail, Senon and the 3d Rangers would land on Yellow Beach two hours after the 1st and 4th Ranger Battalions, pass through the 4th Rangers, clear the town of Anzio of the enemy, and destroy coastal defenses and enemy installations in its area of operation.

On 20th January, Senon boarded his ship, the Ulster Monarch at Baia, Italy a small port north of Naples. They set sail on the 21st of January. Destiny beckoned.

At midnight the ships were anchored several miles off the port of Anzio. They had not been detected. The Allies had caught the Germans off guard, believing the invasion force would land further north. The objective area was undefended.

The first assault waves carrying the 1st and 4th Rangers landed at Anzio Yellow Beach at 0200 hours, 22 January, exactly H-hour. At 0300 Senon landed with B Company, 3d Ranger Battalion pushing to the northwest end of town where they captured a four-gun battery of 100mm howitzers.

Senon recalls; "About ninety minutes after we landed, it was still dark, I was walking point for my section, on the side of a small dirt road, when a small German car, like a jeep, a reconnaissance car with three German officers came driving up. I opened up on them getting two, with the other officer getting away. There were some holes in the car but it was drivable. I claimed it for myself but they wanted to take it away. Lt. Palumbo said, "He got it, it's his." The lieutenant and I drove that car around for a little while and eventually back toward the beach area."

By midnight, VI Corps had poured in more than 36,000 men, and had expanded the beachhead inland by three miles. The landings had been a success. Meanwhile the German reaction to the Anzio landings was a total commitment of stopping the Allies and eventual destruction of the beachhead. Receiving word of the landings at the German Command Center South under Field Marshal Albert Kesselring, a flurry of telephone and wireless orders were issued. Calls went out as far away as Germany, Yugoslavia, and France, ordering units into the Anzio area. By midnight on the 22nd, the German forces numbered twenty thousand and the majority were paratroopers and panzer grenadiers.

The Fifth Army attack on the Gustav Line that preceded the Anzio landings had failed. This attack at the Cassino front was designed to link up with the beachhead troops. The landing at Anzio had failed to divert German forces manning the Gustav Line. The stage was set for a protracted and bloody siege.

On 23 January, the Rangers expanded their patrolling north of Anzio to depth of several miles. The tempo of German artillery and Luftwaffe directed against the port and front line sections increased. On 24 January, the Ranger Force had reached the railroad bed, two miles south of Carrocetta. Overhead the air war was raging. German air strength had never been seen at this magnitude.

Senon recalls that until the 28th of January, the Rangers were involved in a series of fights. Trying to expand and consolidate defensive lines with the British on the left, they were blasted by artillery and mortar fire and strafed by aircraft, increasing with ferocity as the Germans reinforced their defensive sectors. He felt the Germans were readying for an all out offensive against them. On the afternoon of the 28th he recalls; "We got word that we would be relieved by the British. That night we were trucked to the 3d Division area that was in the northeast section of the beachhead. Something was up and I knew that whatever it we would be in the thick of it."

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

“CISTERNA di LATINA”

The Allied high command was voicing concern that VI Corps was not expanding their beachhead fast enough. Lucas had planned his offensive for 29 January but set it back for twenty-four hours allowing the newly arrived 1st Armored Division time to get ready--an unknowing fatal mistake.

Lucas's plan called for two-pronged advance. On the eastern flank, the 3d Infantry Division was to push to Cisterna and seize it, cut Highway 7, and be prepared to continue on to Velletri. The western flank would be the main attack, the British 1st Infantry Division was to advance to Albano. They would first seize the rail and road junction of Campoleone by advancing from the factory. Meanwhile General Ernest Harmon's 1st Armored Division would be on their left, making a wide swing round Campoleone to come in on the Colli Laziali from the west.

The three ranger battalions, attached to the 3d Division, would spearhead the attack on Cisterna. The 1st and 3d Ranger Battalions were to cross the line of departure at 0100 hours 30 January and advance under the cover of darkness to Cisterna, led by the 1st Rangers. Using the Pantano Ditch for cover, they would infiltrate between two strong-points manned by the Herman Goering Division. The Fosso di Pansno was a partially dry extension of the Mussolini Canal and would provide cover for the Rangers to within one and one-half miles of Cisterna. The rest of the way would be across open ground, laced with ditches to the outskirts of town. Darby stressed the importance of the 1st and 3d Rangers infiltrating Cisterna before dawn and avoiding enemy contact enroute. If trouble arose, the 3d Rangers would cover it, allowing the 1st Rangers to continue on to Cisterna. The 4th Ranger Battalion, with an eight-man mine sweeping party attached, would cross the line of departure at 0200 hours, advancing up the Conca-Feminamorta-Cisterna road, clearing the road of mines and enemy. According to the 3d Division recon reports, the road itself was lightly held. One hour later the main attack would follow.

During the night of the 29th unknown to Allied intelligence, the Germans had reinforced the Herman Goering Division. Fresh troops of the 26th Panzer Division that had just arrived from the Eighth Army front. Instead of a battalion size unit as expected, two full divisions now sealed the gaps where the Rangers were headed. At Anzio, German troop numbers now exceeded 71,000 men.

Senon recalls that the 29th was spent busily getting ready for the night attack. He cleaned his weapon thoroughly, resupplied with a generous supply of sticky grenades, and 45

caliber ammo for his Thompson submachine gun. He would also carry a couple of rocket shells for the bazooka gunners. He honed his knife to a razor sharp edge. Senon tried to eat as much as possible and refilled the one canteen he would be carrying. He said his prayers and towards the afternoon tried to get some sleep. Senon felt it would be long hard night.

Senon recalls they took off from their bivouac area around 2100 hours. It was bitterly cold. They crossed the canal, got off the road and sat to wait for over an hour until H hour. Not moving, he started getting real cold and shivering.

Darby moved his command post forward and set up in an isolated farmhouse near the line of departure and to the right of the Feminimorta-Cisterna road. At 0100 hours on 30 January, the 767 men of the 1st and 3d Ranger Battalions entered the Pantano Ditch in single file and disappeared into the darkness. One hour later the 4th Ranger Battalion began moving along the ditches on both sides of the road towards Feminimorta. There was a deathly silence on the battlefield as the Rangers passed the point of no return.

Senon with B Company, 3d Ranger Battalion remembers; “We had been on the move a couple of hours when we heard a few short bursts to the left and behind us. A few minutes later I heard machine-guns firing and all hell broke loose and figured the Fourth was into a fight. Flares started going off and we all hit the ground to keep from being seen.”

James Altieri, who was the company commander of Fox Company, 4th Rangers and was on the road to Feminimorta that morning describes it in his book as follows:

“Thrusting up the road at the head of the column, the leading scouts searched both sides of the ditches for signs of the enemy. Less than half a mile from the starting point a lone machine pistol opened up on the point. Then, out of the black night, coming from far out into the fields on both sides of the road, machine-gun tracers suddenly magnified into a solid wall of flaming steel.

Swiftly, the leading company attacked at close quarters with grenades and bayonets. Two machine-gun nests were wiped out, but others seemed to rise out of the ground to take their places. After two ferocious assaults that failed to penetrate the solid line, the company, with many killed and wounded, including the commander, was forced to hold up in a shallow ditch. Every inch of ground seemed covered by deadly grazing fire, and enemy mortar shells were landing in the fields along both sides of the road.”

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Meanwhile the 1st and 3d Rangers were having their own problems. Four radio operators that were supposed to accompany them were lost to the force. The second problem was that the 3d Rangers lost contact with the 1st about halfway to the objective. Major Dobson in command of the 1st Rangers, split his command. Capt. Charles Shunstrom took command of the 1st Rangers three rear companies and sent a runner back to make contact with the 3d. Major Dobson with his three lead companies continued on towards Cisterna.

Senon recalls that they had a hard time moving forward because of all the flares going off and they having to get down to keep from being seen. It didn't feel right that they were passing enemy troops on both sides and they weren't taking fire. Word had come down the line that the 1st Rangers had been killing sentries with knives. He figured that any second all hell was going to break loose. They could hear a big fight going on to the rear and sides of where they had come from. German artillery was landing very heavy in that area. Senon remembers; "Just before it got light we crossed a tree-lined road and jumped into this ditch, moving towards Cisterna, we kept passing German artillery positions. We were so close I could hear them speaking German as they fired their guns. Just as it started getting light we heard a lot of screaming from up the front, no firing, just screaming, it raised the hair on my neck."

Quoting from an account given to an Associated Press War Correspondent by Major Dobson:

"...Enemy patrols crossed in front of us and both sides but missed us. Two groups of German sentries were encountered and killed with knives by our point, led by Lt James Fowler, who killed two of them himself."

'...We set up our radio and tried to contact Col. Darby's headquarters but the radio failed. By this time, it was quite apparent that there was no one on either our right or left, and firing about two miles to our rear indicated that the infantry regiments were away behind."

"...We crept on through some unoccupied German trenches for about a quarter of a mile, then came out on the very level expanse leading to Cisterna. From the trenches, we started to run, hoping to reach the town before the sun rose. Approximately six hundred yards from the outskirts of Cisterna, we passed what appeared to be a German bivouac area. At this point, things began to pop."

"...A German got up from a foxhole and began to scream when he saw us. In the ensuing melee, using only knives and bayonets,

forward elements of the First Battalion killed approximately one hundred Germans as they tried to get out of their foxholes."

"...We continued for about four hundred yards more and tried to reach a small ridge along the edge of the town. At this point, Sgt. Heiser of A Company crawled forward and knocked out three successive machine-gun posts by creeping up, tossing a grenade, then going in with a bayonet."

"...By then we were running into real trouble. The enemy fire was too hot for us to keep moving forward. We consolidated a position astride a lateral road outside of town parallel to a canal. It was without cover, but it was the best available."

"...The Germans' first counterattack came from our rear, from the direction of our own lines, in the form of seventeen tanks and armored, self-propelled guns. They overran our position, but we knocked out fifteen of them with bazookas, grenades and about everything else we could lay our hands on. I saw one of our sergeants trying to plaster a sticky bomb on a German tank turret when a bazooka shot hit it on the other side. It knocked him into the air and he did a complete somersault but landed running. All these tanks and guns were burning and exploding in the middle of our position at one time, a beautiful sight."

Senon recalls that he had just crossed Highway 7 and was moving up an irrigation ditch at dawn. He started hearing all kinds of shooting from up front where the First Rangers were. Senon remembers; "When it got light enough, I could see a farmhouse about fifty yards to the left and ahead. I saw movement and hit the ground as the Germans opened up. The fire was coming from both sides of the ditch, machine-gun and rifle fire. I heard this deep throated booming, like a machine-gun and could see large chunks of dirt flying off the tops of the ditch to my front. It didn't take long to figure out that it was a flak-wagon shooting point blank. Somebody got it with a bazooka. We got orders to keep moving forward, towards the First Rangers. German artillery was impacting all around us as we made our way forward. You wouldn't dare stick your head up above the ditch or you would get killed. The grazing fire was just thick with every kind of machine-gun they had, being used. As I moved forward I had to crawl over men that had been shot and fallen into the ditch. There was a little water flowing in the ditch, but as the battle raged on, it turned to solid blood."

"...Sometime during the fight I cannot remember when, I seen this little ditch that ran off toward a little shed. My Thompson was packed with mud and stuff from crawling around and I needed to clean it. I remember seeing this friend of mine and having a conversation with him. I told him, "lets crawl over

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

to that shed and clean our weapons. We're not going to do anything with these rifles like they are." He said, "No, when they see us in there, their going to blow it with artillery." I told him they wouldn't see us but he replied, "No I'll stay here." "So I crawled over there and got in the shed and cleaned my rifle. I pulled a can of cheese out of my trouser pocket to eat and it had a bullet hole in it. I reached for my canteen to take a drink of water and it also had a bullet hole in it. I couldn't recall it happening.

"...I finished and crawled back out of the shed and started crawling back down the little ditch towards him. I could see him looking at me over the ditch and I was hollering and talking to him telling him he should have come with me. As I got closer I noticed he was staring at me with his eyes wide open, not moving. I found a little red hole between his eyes. A sniper got him I guess because it was right between the eyes. I remember thinking he should have gone with me."

"...My section was involved on an attack on a farmhouse. We got ten-twelve Germans in there and some machine guns. I could hear and see armored guns, tanks and flak wagons with infantry troops behind them coming from the direction we had come from. The cannons were shooting up the length of the ditch at us. The fight stretched on so long it turned into a blur. We were fighting for our lives and using anything we could get our hands on. The whole time it seemed every kind of artillery shell was busting among us. Some time during the fight I heard that my battalion commander, Major Miller had been killed by artillery. He was a good man...so many brave men."

The operation had hinged on moving to Cisterna undetected, but now the ditch they had used had turned into a death trap. Four miles deep into enemy territory, the Germans surrounded the Rangers and sealed their escape back to U.S. lines. The supporting units that were supposed to be on their flanks had been stopped two miles back. The Rangers were isolated yet they fought on.

I would like to add a different perspective to the fight B Company, Third Rangers experienced. This account from Mr. Altieri's book is given by T/5 James Reilly, also of B Company. Reilly states:

"At first light we heard a lot of shooting up ahead. The First Battalion was having a fight. Then suddenly everything happened at once. Hidden near a haystack on our left, a Jerry flakwagon opened up with a point-blank barrage of 20mm flak. Then sniper and machine-gun fire began cracking at us from both flanks. They were so close we could throw stones

at them. We all hit the ground fast. One of our sections went after a bunch of Jerries in a farmhouse about fifty yards to the left of the canal. The boys fought their way into the building and killed off ten of them who had several machine-guns set up inside and mortars in the rear. Our company was right alongside the road running north-south into Cisterna. We were fairly well dispersed along a deep irrigation ditch."

"...Moving up the irrigation ditch (it might have been a small canal) we advanced about a hundred yards, wading through knee-deep water. Then three more armored guns came up the road with cannons blasting into our ditch. Our rocket gunners waited until they came close, then let them have it with sticky grenades and finished them off. We waited until they had all cleared the flak-wagon, then we raked them with BARS and rifle fire. It was just like shooting ducks, only with more satisfaction. Lieutenants Palumbo and Johnston with the aid of a grenadier knocked one out and took five prisoners. But while marching them down a ditch they tried to make break, so we had to shoot them down."

"...All around us the fighting was getting real hot. Some of the companies broke up several attempts by Jerry infantry to close with us. But most of the attacking was being done by Rangers, trying to get into the farm buildings which the Germans held. Machine-gun fire and sniper fire were taking a heavy toll on our fellows."

"...We were all certain that the trap had closed, but we were still hoping for reinforcements. We had the Jerries so they couldn't move out in front of us, but far out to our left we saw a helluva lot of 'em going around to our rear. Shortly we heard a lot of roaring motors. They sounded just like our tanks. We were happy as hell, thinking our armor had broken through to rescue us. Our elation gave way to bitter disappointment because they were German tanks and armored guns coming from our rear. We would be lucky to hold out much longer against another full-scale attack. I had one clip of M-1 rounds left in my belt. I had fired my own two bandoliers and a belt-load and also two bandoliers and belt-load I had taken off a dead Ranger."

"...Shortly after, the Germans advancing behind some Mark VI tanks attacked the sector that the remainder of "E" Company was defending. They captured some of "E" Company and marched the up to a strongpoint where a Ranger section was causing them a lot of trouble. Using the captured Rangers as hostages, they told them to come out and surrender or they would shoot the prisoners. They refused, and told the Jerries to come and get them. They fired at the Jerries, trying to kill them

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

so the others could escape. They got quite a few, but those they didn't get, killed seven or eight of the Rangers to prove they meant business. The boys couldn't keep on shooting and have the bastards take it out on the Rangers...The section had no alternative but to come out."

Senon remembers that by noon he ran out of ammo. Everyone had run out of ammo. He had picked up an M-1 and had what was left of a full clip in the rifle. He recalls; "In my mind I didn't want to give up. I had worked my way into a vineyard that was on a slight slope about forty yards from the ditch and road. I was trying to figure a way to escape or play dead. I could see a bunch of tanks and Germans herding captured Rangers in front of them and heading our direction. They would shoot into ditches once in awhile and knew they were killing wounded Rangers. I noticed this one particular German. He stood out because he was kind of fat. About hundred yards away I had seen him bayonet two Rangers in the back. As they got closer, about sixty yards away I could hear him yelling in perfect English to these Rangers in a house to come out or he would kill the Rangers. Suddenly they started shooting these men. All that morning I had been killing Germans but I cannot recall any of it. I remember this one though. I shot him through the heart and he fell like a pig. He was fat and dropped like a pig. There was still some shooting and I don't think the Germans knew where the shot came from or they would have killed me. I could hear some of the fellows that knew me saying, "hey Chavez give up, their going to kill you if you don't." Finally I stood up and started walking towards the road. On the way I seen a dead Ranger and I stooped down and grabbed his water canteen. I noticed a pack of cigarettes in his shirt pocket and took those also. They were not mine for long."

Sgt. Maj. Robert Ehalt of the 1st Ranger Battalion was the last person to talk to Darby from the battlefield. Ehalt radioed Darby at 1230 hours telling him that he himself had only five men left, and that German tanks were closing in. "So long Colonel," he finally said, "maybe when it's all over I'll see you again." Darby replied, "Ehalt, I leave everything in your hands. Tell the men I am with them to the end." Sgt. Maj. Ehalt then destroyed the radio. Darby feeling the emotional impact of losing his command, put his head down on his arms and gave himself over to grief.

Of the 767 Rangers of the 1st and 3d Ranger Battalions who had started toward Cisterna, only six returned, the rest were either dead or captured per the official history.

Senon S. Chavez spent the remainder of the war in prisoner of war camps. It was a brutal and harrowing experience.

With the annihilation of the 1st and 3d Ranger Battalions at Cisterna and the 4th Ranger Battalion taking over fifty percent casualties at Feminimorta trying to come to the aid of their brother Rangers, Darby's Rangers ceased to exist. What remained of the 4th Battalion was shipped to the United States and disbanded with newer members being transferred to the 1st Special Service Force.

Colonel William Orlando Darby was killed in action on 30 April, 1945 in the Po Valley, Italy, with the Tenth Mountain Division. He died two days before the Germans surrendered Italy. The demise of the Rangers was only the beginning battle in the defense of the Anzio beachhead. Many thousands of men would bleed and die in the coming months. Cisterna was finally taken on 25 May, 1944, by the 3d Infantry Division. The breakout off the Anzio beachhead was finally accomplished on 1 June, 1944.

In June after the combatants had moved on towards Rome, the local farmers dug holes and buried some of the dead who had lain in the Pantano Ditch and elsewhere in the fields outside of Cisterna since the end of January. Many German and GI corpses were buried in mass graves and covered by a bulldozer in the Pantano Ditch, which has since been renamed the Ditch of Holy Souls. The area around the ditch has been officially designated as a battlefield.

7,862 Americans are buried at the American military cemetery at Nettuno. A marble memorial commemorates the 3,094 Americans missing in action, lost in the ditches and mud of Anzio who were never found. 2,300 British are buried outside of Anzio, in the British military cemetery.

In memory of the Rangers, the citizens of Cisterna have renamed the Feminimorta-Cisterna highway the Via Ranger, and signed a peace pact by becoming twinned towns with Fort Smith, Arkansas, the birthplace of Colonel William O. Darby.

On Christmas Day of 1993, a month and few days short of the fiftieth anniversary of Cisterna, Senon picked me up so we could ride together and have Christmas dinner at our sister's house. He was seventy-seven years old and when he turned to walk out the door I realized he was wearing his colors, for me. For only I could understand and appreciate the significance. On the back of the black coat he was wearing was the silkscreen of an eagle, with its wings flared back and the talons outstretched and across the top in red lettering were the words "Rangers Lead the Way."

UNIT REPORTS



1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Todd M. Currie

Twelve 1st Bn Rangers get Silver Stars for Afghan Heroics

By Michelle Tan – Army Times,
Sunday Mar 25, 2012.



Twelve soldiers from 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, were awarded the Silver Star during a ceremony March 16 at Hunter Army Airfield, Ga. The soldiers were honored — two of them posthumously — with the nation's third-highest award for valor for actions spanning two deployments to Afghanistan.

Here are their stories.

Sgt. 1st Class Michael A. Eiermann

On May 19, 2010, more than 20 armed insurgents attacked Bagram Airfield, one of the largest U.S. bases in Afghanistan, with direct and indirect fire. The enemy breached the outer perimeter of Bagram, and the platoon-sized element of enemy fighters began a coordinated attack against multiple guard towers and observation points.

SFC Michael A. Eiermann, a platoon sergeant, saw tracer rounds and rocket-propelled grenades flying over his position inside Bagram. SFC Eiermann, who has deployed 13 times and is now a first sergeant, and his soldiers had just arrived in Afghanistan the night before. He immediately ordered his men to get their weapons and seek cover.

As the battle raged on, the Rangers heard a loud explosion, and the soldiers at the inner walls of Bagram's security perimeter began calling for a medic.

"I grabbed my platoon medic and a squad and ran toward the portion of the wall where they were calling for a medic," Eiermann said.



The soldiers ran about 250 meters toward an active minefield that was on the border of the inner perimeter of Bagram. The wounded had stepped on a land mine. Eiermann and his medic moved through the minefield under enemy small arms, machine gun and RPG fire, with Eiermann clearing the



Todd Currie

route to the casualties with his footsteps. When they reached the casualties, who were about 20 meters inside the minefield, Eiermann directed and coordinated the treatment of the two critically wounded soldiers. One of the soldiers had lost a leg, while the other had been peppered with shrapnel from the exploding land mine, Eiermann said. Eiermann continued to expose himself to sporadic direct and indirect enemy fire by making multiple trips through the minefield to get litters for the wounded. After the medic treated the soldiers, he and Eiermann moved them out of the minefield and into a waiting ambulance. Eiermann downplayed his actions on that day. "To me, they were guys who needed help, and my medic and I were in the right place with the right resources to render aid, so we did," he said.

Sgt. Todd D. Mark and Sgt. Dylan J. Maynard

During a combat operation on Nov. 15, 2010, in Afghanistan's Kunar province, Sgt Dylan J. Maynard and Sgt Todd D. Mark and his military working dog chased a group of enemy fighters down a steep cliff while SSG Kevin M. Pape conducted overwatch on nearby high ground. As the group moved toward their objective, Pape killed one enemy fighter and then moved to kill a second enemy fighter. As Pape fought off the enemy, he unknowingly exposed himself to a cave where 15 to 20 enemy fighters were holed up. The enemy hit Pape in the abdomen with machine-gun fire, mortally wounding him.

Mark, who was about 10 meters away, moved toward the cave, killing the enemy machine gunner. As he continued to move toward the cave, he was joined by Maynard, who saw Pape fall to the ground. The two Rangers engaged six to eight enemy fighters who were fleeing the cave, killing at least two of them. Maynard then crawled toward Pape while Mark remained exposed in front of the cave to provide security. At that time, Mark reported what had happened over the radio and talked

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reinforcements into their location. When the platoon sergeant and medic arrived, Mark filled them in and continued to find enemy targets inside the cave.

As the soldiers moved toward Pape, they received two bursts of machine-gun fire. Mark, standing exposed in the enemy's field of fire, engaged the enemy machine gunner, either killing him or causing him to seek cover. This enabled Maynard and the other Rangers to pull Pape to safety so the medic could tend to his wounds. Maynard and the medic worked for an hour to treat Pape, who did not survive. Under intense enemy fire, Mark stood his ground, calmly engaging the enemy and providing security for his fellow soldiers. His actions denied the enemy the chance to flee the cave or regroup and assault the Rangers.

Maynard, meanwhile, moved Pape to the medevac landing zone, all the while under enemy fire. Maynard killed one enemy fighter, but during this time, Sgt. Eric Cox sustained a gunshot wound to his neck and jaw and fell about 10 feet off a path and into the open, vulnerable to enemy fire. Maynard and two other Rangers quickly raced toward Cox and dragged him back to safety. Cox has since recovered.

Once at the landing zone, Maynard continued to provide security and fight off the enemy, leading his men until the helicopter arrived to evacuate the casualties.

Maynard said he didn't think twice about running into the open to get Pape or Cox. "I just knew I needed to get out there and get them as quickly as possible," he said. "If I was shot, I know every man that stands beside me would run out there themselves, they would put themselves in harm's way to get to me."

That's why Maynard, who has deployed seven times, said he has mixed feelings about receiving the Silver Star. "It's pretty hard to say you're deserving of that when you've seen so many amazing, valorous things occur," he said. "But it's cool to accept it and it's humbling, and it's good to know I did my job right."

Sgt. 1st Class Michael A. Duchesne

On June 13, 2011, PSG Michael A. Duchesne and his soldiers were part of a daylight mission to interdict a suspected suicide bomber.

When Duchesne arrived at the target compound, he saw a man trying to escape. He sent a portion of his soldiers to stop the fleeing man while he and the medic covered the team's sector of fire. At that moment, the enemy inside the compound opened fire. Duchesne was hit in the chest plate, which caused the bullet to break off and pierce his right forearm. Despite his wounds, which later would require 22 staples to close, Duchesne continued to fight and direct his soldiers' fire onto known enemy positions.

"I had a medic with me and he was able to bandage me up really quickly," Duchesne said. "I wasn't losing blood or anything like that, and I felt I could still run things on the ground."

Duchesne refused to leave his men even after his platoon leader called for a medevac. Duchesne also refused painkillers, knowing that they would impair his ability to fight. "I think when you get a traumatic injury like that, your body tends to manage the pain itself," he said. "It was manageable pain."

He then moved to the northern end of the compound, directed effective fires and lobbed grenades at enemy positions. During these critical moments in the battle, Duchesne gave his rifle to one of his squad leaders whose own weapon had malfunctioned. For the next 90 minutes of fighting, Duchesne was armed only with a sidearm, but he continued to fight and maneuver his platoon. When the force finally assaulted the target compound, Duchesne discovered an enemy fighter in the rubble, holding a grenade. Duchesne quickly killed the enemy with his pistol. "Despite his wounds and loss of blood, his courage under fire and calm, competent decisions prevented further injury to the assault force," according to the narrative accompanying his award. Duchesne finally was medevaced almost three hours after he was wounded. He spent about three weeks recovering, then returned to duty. He downplays his actions on that day.

"It's nice to be recognized, but I don't feel like I did anything special," he said. "It's just one of those things that comes with the job."

Staff Sgt. Ethan P. Killeen

During a raid on a known enemy village in Paktika province on June 13, 2011, a joint task force whose mission was to kill or capture terrorists was engaged on three separate occasions within an hour of arriving on the ground. Staff Sgt. Jeremy A. Katzenberger was killed, and the task force called for a quick-reaction force to be brought in to clear the primary target compounds.

SSG Ethan P. Killeen's team was tasked with clearing the compounds. After successfully clearing the first compound, Killeen prepared his squad to move on to the second compound. After the escalation of force elicited no response, the Rangers moved to assault and clear the southern buildings and then the eastern portion of the compound. As the soldiers entered the final building on the southeastern side of the compound, Killeen, his Bravo team and the mortar section leader found themselves in a small room that led down a narrow hallway that seemed to be a dead end. When Killeen reached the elbow in the hallway, he discovered an opening to the north. He immediately came under heavy machine gun and small arms fire from the back of an adjoining room.

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"Probably on my second step into the room, I received AK47 and [machine gun] fire," he said. He was shot in the upper left leg. "I was able to turn and engage the individual who shot me," Killeen said. "Then he shot me in the left hand, I shot him, he shot me. But I was able to keep engaging him."

Killeen sustained multiple gunshot wounds to his left hand and arm and his left leg. As the shooting intensified, the room began to fill with smoke and dust. When he realized that the rest of his squad and the rest of the QRF in the adjacent compound were at risk of being ambushed from behind, Killeen rolled onto his back and engaged the machine gun position while simultaneously warning his squad about the threat they faced. In the chaos, a military working dog entered the building and became disoriented by the dust and smoke.

"Our canine came in the room, noticed me and mistakenly latched on to me, thinking I was an enemy combatant," Killeen said. The dog bit down on Killeen's right — and uninjured — forearm. "They're good biters," he said with a laugh. "I can attest to that."

Killeen found himself firing at a heavily fortified machine gun position that was less than three meters away while severely wounded and with a dog latched to his shooting arm. Despite the odds, Killeen knew that his squad faced imminent danger, and if given the chance, the enemy machine gunner could shift his fire to the squad. Killeen fought off the dog so he could keep firing at the enemy. He also continued to call out to his squad through the dense smoke, dust and enemy fire, alerting them to the enemy's location and the makeup of their position. Killeen refused to give up his ground, remaining where he was until his squad reached him and tried to move him to safety. Even then, Killeen refused to go, gesturing toward the barricaded enemy fighters with his fractured arm and mangled left hand.

"The thing I was thinking most was to stay in the fight," Killeen said. "I just wanted to keep engaging the enemy and keep swinging. Luckily, I was able to fight through it."

Killeen, who has been deployed seven times, said he is humbled to receive the Silver Star. "You're not sure whether you feel comfortable receiving the same award as so many other outstanding soldiers," he said. "You hope you're worthy."

Killeen said he has mostly recovered from his wounds but still has work to do on his left hand. The gunshot to his hand almost severed his thumb and damaged the bone, tendon and nerves around the thumb. "It shouldn't be too long until I'm back to full strength," he said. "For the most part, I'll be running and gunning soon."

Capt. Jonathan F. Logan

On July 21, 2011, soldiers moved out to destroy an enemy encampment of about 30 armed fighters. As the soldiers moved toward their objective, they came under heavy fire and Cpt Jonathan F. Logan's element became pinned down from "what seemed like every angle," he said. As the soldiers continued to fight, one of the Rangers was shot in the shoulder. Unaware of the enemy's location, the Rangers took cover in a wadi, or dry riverbed, where they remained pinned down by intense and accurate enemy fire. Another team from the task force set up a support-by-fire position and tried to suppress the enemy fire. But as they moved up the ridgeline, the enemy fired on them, killing one service member.

The team broke contact and recovered its casualty, leaving Logan and his men isolated and surrounded by a well-armed enemy.

"At that point, I had several enemy personnel surrounding my team's position," Logan said. "Most importantly, one of my soldiers was shot three times and severely wounded, and he and two others were pinned down behind a small mountain face or rock."

The enemy continued moving in on the group from all sides. Logan, realizing his team was pinned down by fire from the north and east, quickly took charge and ordered two of his soldiers to coordinate the suppression of the enemy to the east. Logan then exposed himself to heavy enemy fire as he began climbing 130 meters up the ridgeline to kill the enemy to the south. Under heavy fire, Logan got within 15 feet of the fortified enemy position and fired his M4 and threw a grenade at the two fighters inside.

"I was in a position where I could climb a rock face and move up and destroy that position," Logan said.

His actions saved the lives of three of his teammates and destroyed a fighting position that had pinned down and inflicted multiple casualties on the assault force. But Logan wasn't done.

"I noticed several more enemy personnel coming out of a cave that was a little further up this mountain we were fighting outside of," he said. "They continued to engage us, and the only way to eliminate or at least suppress that threat in order to allow us to regroup, I had to move up again and mark that enemy position for our helicopters to engage."

Logan crawled another 120 meters or so to the second fortified enemy fighting position. Out of grenades, he used a smoke grenade to mark the enemy's position for an air weapons team. But the team was unable to find and engage the enemy because of their position and the steep cliffs on both sides of

1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)

the wadi. Logan, knowing it was impossible to safely fall back without the air weapons team engaging the enemy bunker, again exposed himself to enemy fire and placed a flash-bang at the entrance of the entrenched fighting position. Using the heat signature from the flash-bang, the air weapons team fired on the enemy position and gave Logan enough cover to rejoin the rest of his team. However, the area was still hot, with the enemy on all sides and bunker complexes that had not been cleared. Logan determined that the only way his team would survive was to authorize fire missions danger-close to their position. He authorized the joint terminal attack controller to call in enemy positions to the air weapons teams.

After three danger-close fire missions, Logan quickly organized a plan to get his Rangers out of the kill zone. The plan involved hitting the last remaining enemy position that separated the Rangers from the rest of the joint task force with a Hellfire missile, and coordinating even more cover from the air weapons team as his soldiers bounded back and suppressed the enemy from the ground.

The entire engagement seemed to last “forever,” Logan said, but he downplayed his actions. “I was in the right place in the right time, doing my job, because I want to bring my men home,” he said.

Sgt. Jonathan K. Peney (posthumous award)

On the night of May 31, 2010, soldiers from D Company, 1st Battalion, conducted a helicopter assault raid. Sgt Jonathan K. Peney, a platoon medic, joined the ground forces as they moved to clear the objective and establish security so that they could continue their operations the following day. Shortly after dawn, multiple concealed enemy fighters began firing on the soldiers. Enemy fire was pouring in from the south, east and west, almost immediately hitting Sgt. James Knuppenburg, a Ranger team leader who was on a rooftop on the northern end of the objective. “We were taking [rocket-propelled grenades], recoilless rifle fire, machine gun fire, AK47 fire, and we still had that team on the rooftop,” said Capt. Andrew Fisher, the physician assistant for 1st Battalion who was on the ground that day.

Knuppenburg was hit twice — in the right arm and on the right side of his chest. It soon became obvious that the enemy was targeting the squad that was pinned down and exposed on the roof. When the call came for a medic, Peney didn’t hesitate, Fisher said. “The whole time we were under such heavy, heavy fire,” he said. “It was such heavy contact that no one could move, but without hesitation, he just went up there. He heard his buddy was hurt and he went up there.”

Peney, who was in the main courtyard of the objective, ran to the base of a ladder that was leaning against the south wall of

the compound and climbed up through the barrage of enemy fire to reach Knuppenburg. When he reached the top of the ladder, Peney was shot in the lower right flank, right above his hipbone, Fisher said. Peney made it to the roof, but once he climbed over the ledge, he collapsed, Fisher said. Fisher, who was in a different part of the compound, and two other Rangers rushed up the ladder to treat Peney and Knuppenburg. Peney later died from his wounds. The attack on the soldiers would end up lasting more than an hour, with enemy fighters firing on the soldiers from three directions and from distances as close as 150 meters. Peney’s action “inspired the men of the platoon to gain fire superiority over the enemy,” according to the narrative accompanying his award.

The platoon poured an “overwhelming” volley of fire, enabling the pinned-down squad to move off the roof, and the soldiers continued to repel enemy attacks for the rest of the day.

Fisher, who arrived at 1st Battalion at the same time as Peney, described the young soldier as confident and intelligent. “He was very inquisitive and always trying to pull one on you and see if he could stump you a little bit,” he said. “He was a skinny little kid ... but very determined and a very happy kid who really enjoyed doing his job. He was just fearless.”

Staff Sgt. Trevor D. Tow

SSG Trevor D. Tow was a squad leader when he and his soldiers from 2nd Platoon, C Company, came under intense enemy fire during an operation in Afghanistan on Aug. 18, 2010.

On that mission, the soldiers had cleared two compounds in a village controlled by the enemy and were moving to clear a third. When they got there, Tow led soldiers from 2nd Squad to the second floor, up an exterior staircase. As they cleared the area, an enemy fighter dropped two grenades and fired 20 to 30 rounds from an AK47 down onto the soldiers. Tow immediately returned fire and directed his soldiers to do the same. Spc. Christopher Wright was hit by multiple AK47 rounds, and seeing his soldier wounded and unable to defend himself, Tow moved alone farther out into the open to engage the enemy. When the enemy fighter moved back and sought cover, Tow reloaded his M4 and gave directions to his soldiers, all the while staying in the open to provide security. As his men moved Wright to cover, another enemy fighter appeared on the roof and began firing on the soldiers.

Tow, seeing the threat to his men, turned on his tactical light to distract the enemy fighter and draw attention to himself. Tow stood his ground, and with the enemy only 10 feet away, he began fighting back, exchanging fire with the enemy fighter. With the enemy fighter focused on Tow, the rest of the squad pulled Wright to safety. At that point, a second enemy fighter appeared and began firing on Tow with an AK47.

1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)

With rounds from both enemy weapons flying by his head, body and feet and hitting the ground around him, Tow continued to fight in the open by himself. Another Ranger then moved into the open to fight alongside Tow, who shortly afterward killed one enemy fighter. The two Rangers then focused their fire on the second enemy fighter, killing him. As the rest of the squad provided aid to Wright, Tow remained in the open. As he was providing security for his men, he saw a third enemy fighter moving toward them. That enemy fighter threw three grenades that landed as close as 10 feet away from Tow. Tow continued to stand his ground, firing back at the insurgent. The two exchanged fire until Tow managed to kill the enemy. Wright did not survive.

Sgt. Martin A. Lugo (posthumous award)

On Aug. 18, 2010, the same day that Tow and his soldiers were on their mission, Sgt. Martin A. Lugo, a rifle squad leader, and his soldiers were in a different part of Afghanistan, preparing for their own operation.

Lugo and his team were tasked with isolating the northern side of the tree line and suppressing the enemy to allow another team to assault from the south to the north. However, the assault force came under effective enemy fire. Lugo and his team immediately laid down suppressive fire, but realizing that the assault force was pinned down and the entrenched enemy had superior cover, Lugo led his team toward the northernmost side of the trench. This enabled the assault force to move to cover.

As Lugo moved toward the enemy position, he identified two enemy fighters with automatic weapons. With no regard for his own safety, Lugo moved up until he was just meters away from the enemy. He exposed himself to engage and eliminate the enemy, but was mortally wounded in the process. His actions are credited with saving the lives of at least five of his teammates.

Staff Sgt. John M. Rowland

As a Ranger assault force prepared to raid an enemy compound on Aug. 28, 2010, they were spotted by an enemy fighter. SSG John M. Rowland, a squad leader, climbed onto the roof of the southwestern corner of the target compound, where an enemy fighter began shooting at him with an AK47. Rowland fired back, killing the insurgent. This action, however, drew fire from three more enemy fighters, including one who had a machine gun that was oriented toward the door of the compound. Because of Rowland's quick reaction and engagement of the enemy, the greatest volume of fire was directed at him instead of the main assault force.

During this time, another Ranger joined Rowland on the roof and they continued to draw fire from the enemy. Exposed and without cover, Rowland maintained his position and continued to fight, killing two enemy fighters and severely wounding the fighter with the machine gun.

Rowland's "accurate engagement and destruction of three entrenched fighters enabled the assault force to gain entry into the compound without receiving devastating fire and successfully secure the target compound," according to the narrative accompanying his award. Rowland is credited with not only saving the lives of his fellow soldiers, but those of the "numerous" women and children in the compound.

Sgt. 1st Class Keith A. Morges and Sgt. Alan D. Solomon

On Oct. 26, 2010, soldiers received intelligence showing that a high-value target had been located in a small village. Information received throughout the day showed armed enemy fighters were moving in and out of the village, and aircraft flying in the area were being engaged with small arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades.

As the Rangers prepared to move toward the target compound, they began taking fire from an enemy machine gun position. As the soldiers moved toward the compound, they heard enemy fighters were moving toward them, and they began receiving harassing fire from multiple directions. Once the Rangers entered and cleared the compound, they began taking effective machine gun and small arms fire from the west and southwest.

PSG Keith A. Morges immediately left the compound and moved to the west side to reinforce the blocking position there. He bounded forward about 25 meters under a hail of enemy machine gun and small arms fire, suppressing the enemy positions as he moved. Once he got to the blocking position, Morges moved out of a covered position multiple times so he could engage and suppress the enemy, which kept attacking from multiple directions.

Also reinforcing the blocking position was Sgt Alan D. Solomon, who began providing suppressive fire on the enemy. After being under fire for about 40 minutes, Morges continued to engage the enemy positions and coordinated for an ammunition resupply for the soldiers at the blocking position. To get the ammo, Solomon exposed himself to heavy enemy fire as he ran back to the compound. Carrying as much ammunition as he could, Solomon ran back to the blocking position, again under intense enemy fire. When enemy RPGs landed near the blocking position, Solomon ran through the incoming fire and found seven of his comrades on the ground. As the platoon medic, Solomon quickly and deliberately triaged all the Rangers and focused on the two most critically wounded patients.

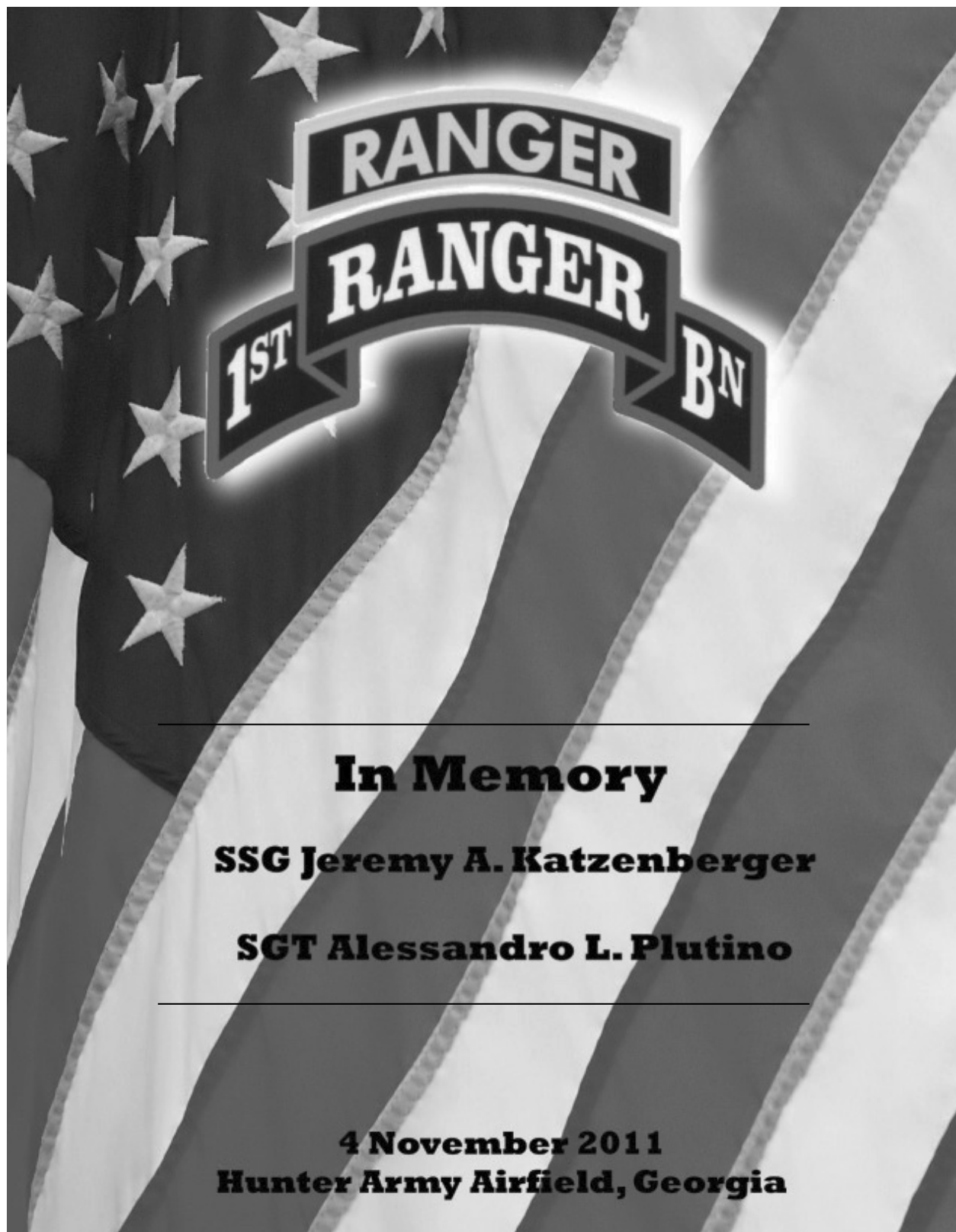
Meanwhile, Morges came up with a plan to break contact under fire and move the casualties to safety. As his Rangers moved the wounded, Morges continued to suppress the enemy, not leaving until everyone else had moved to cover. He then led the Rangers away to a different position and helped establish a helicopter landing zone.

1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)

As the helicopters landed to pick up the platoon, they began receiving heavy enemy fire from the southern wood line. Solomon used his body to shield his patients from the gunfire while Morges remained in the open to suppress the enemy so his soldiers could get onto the helicopters. After loading

his patients, Solomon then joined Morges in suppressing the enemy. The men are credited with saving the lives of several platoon members.

(Submitted by the associate editor and edited for space)





2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Kevin Ingraham

Battalion Memorial Ceremony, 7 February.

On 7 February, the Rangers of 2d Ranger Battalion honored and remembered fallen Rangers of their most recent combat deployment to Afghanistan. In his speech, the Battalion Commander, **Kevin Ingraham** LTC Hodne



commented on the selfless sacrifices that the four fallen Rangers made and their enduring memories they left their comrades.

"We honor the Ranger Fire Team Leader, SGT Tyler Holtz, who bravely led his fellow Rangers in an assault against an enemy position. He led from the front and in doing so put himself at far greater risk. He left us with the enduring memory of a brave giant of a man.

We honor the Ranger Rifleman, SPC Ricardo Cerros, who pulled his wounded Platoon Sergeant from harm's way... and went on to later shield him from the blast of an enemy grenade. In doing so, he lost his life. He left us with the enduring memory of the unassuming warrior who you want at your side when the chips were down.

We honor the Ranger Automatic Rifleman, PFC Christopher Horns, who continued to press the fight in spite of multiple explosions that previously wounded other Rangers from his Platoon. In doing so, he was mortally wounded by another detonation. He left us with the enduring memory of a motivated young Ranger recognized as a leader among his peers.

We honor the Ranger Joint Terminal Attack Controller, SFC Kris Domeij, who volunteered to leave the staff and serve with a Ranger Rifle Company to complete the mission. In doing so, we lost one of our senior noncommissioned officers. He left us with the enduring memory of a true professional...one who lived and loved to the fullest."



OUR 2d Battalion Memorial Foundation—Please Read:

The Pointe du Hoc Foundation

Rangers,

I have been asked to help accomplish one more mission to help spread the word about the Pointe Du Hoc Foundation (PDHF). Recently Col (R) Mike Okita recruited me to ruck up and help the fundraising committee raise funds for the memorial so that we can break ground in March 2012. The Pointe

Du Hoc Foundation is a non-profit organization (501 3C), which was established to recognize and commemorate the 2nd Battalion Rangers and their families. The first mission of PDHF is to construct a fitting memorial to honor the courage, fortitude and selfless sacrifice of all of those who have served and supported our Battalion. This memorial will be dedicated to the 2nd Battalion's greatest heroes- our fallen Rangers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country, many of whom we have known or served with.

While reviewing the foundation's database, I came across the names of old friends of mine, some of whom have already donated \$1000 or more to the foundation. You can't imagine the amount of pride I felt when I saw the list of the donors that included two great Ranger CSMs. Their generosity and esprit de corps inspired me to write this letter to all of you and ask you to please consider joining me in matching their \$1000 donation to this great cause.

All of us have had the privilege of serving in the 2nd Ranger Battalion at one time or another. If you are like me, from the firsthand experience of serving with some of the finest caliber of soldiers and leaders, you became a better soldier. By serving in the 2nd Ranger Battalion I gained the skills, knowledge and willingness to shoulder more than my share of any task, making me successful in every endeavor that I have undertaken. I am certain that for me, the 2nd Ranger Battalion was instrumental in my gaining these skills and attributes, and for this I will be eternally grateful and can never fully repay those leaders who have influenced me. (Or perhaps molded me?)

We Rangers form a bond among warriors, family and friends that last a lifetime and often not matched in civilian organizations or other military units. It's because of this great experience and comradeship that we all experienced from being part of the 2nd Ranger Battalion family that I am asking



**The Memorial Obelisk
now honors Tyler Holtz,
Ricardo Cerros,
Christopher Horns and
Kris Domeij.**

2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)

you to volunteer once again and please donate \$1000.00 to the Pointe Du Hoc Foundation. I hope that you will join me in living up to the 1st Stanza of our Ranger Creed, which helped guide me through the tough years "...I will always endeavor to uphold the prestige, honor, and high esprit de corps of my Ranger Regiment." I cannot think of a better way of supporting our fellow Rangers than by supporting the building of this memorial.

I know that not everyone can readily donate \$1000, but any donation that can be spared for this worthy project will help get us closer to accomplishing our mission. For more information or to donate go to www.pointeduhocfoundation.com.

There is one other request that I make of each of you; if you have the email address and/or contact information of our old comrades please send that information to me so that I can help grow the list of our old friends, and help us to reconnect once again. Please send the information to me at maganafam@nventure.com.

(s) Frank Magaña 2d Bn CSM 1992-1996.

The Pointe Du Hoc Foundation, P.O. Box 562, DuPont, WA 98327



The French memorial at Pointe du Hoc. The tip of the point is just visible in the lower right. June 2, 2007. ("SeaBass" photo)

When You Serve in the 2d Ranger Battalion, You Walk With Giants

For a literal, as well as figurative giant, late '70s rangers needed to look no further than the command sergeant major, CSM Joseph Gooden. I suggest you flick back to the B-75 chapter in this issue and read some recollections of the legendary era when he was the first sergeant of that company. The B-75 rangers are collecting more stories about Ranger Gooden and will publish them in future issues. They are discussing a Ranger Hall of Fame nomination—this is something 2d Battalion should get behind as well. Make some notes and get them to me.

For a few years in the mid-1970s, the Ranger course included a three day SERE experience early in the Florida phase in an effort to familiarize soldiers with the rigors of Asian communist-style imprisonment. Suffice it to say that this experience provided some of the most vivid memories of Ranger School.

One of the luminaries in Ranger Class 9-76 was a prior-service Special Forces NCO named Dennis Thompson. He had already had some "OJT" in SERE from 1968 to '73 with a North Vietnamese cadre so the Ranger committee exempted him from this mock camp. Afterward, the cadre decided that rather than present the usual classes, they let Ranger Thompson give the lectures and Q&A. The insights he provided us about the realities of captivity was likely the most practical instruction we could have received. The class was already in awe of him long before this, as he was going through RS in his late thirties after his PW experience had multiplied the stresses of age. Our exposure to SERE training elevated Thompson to near mythological status. Throughout the course, no matter how miserable the conditions or the physical pain he was suffering, he simply drove on, shedding pain like water. I suppose the Zen-like qualities that one develops in order to survive the privations of solitary confinement and torture are just the qualities that allow one to appear to stroll through a ranger course as if it were an inconvenience and not a rite of passage.

Thompson earned his tab and went on to Lewis where he became 1SG of HHC. I had just read the first postwar book published about the Vietnam POW experience and loaned it to him. He would come into my barracks room (shared with Juan Robles) after hours with the book and tell us the backstories. We learned a lot from him and I used a lot of his material to teach PW survival in SF unit training years later. He had no elevated ego issues at all—without losing any authority, he respected his subordinate rangers as professionals who had different jobs, not lesser ones. 1SG Thompson was the ultimate professional. When you serve in the 2d Ranger Battalion, you serve with giants.



Dennis L. Thompson in Vietnam.

2d Batt News and Stuff.

H Company (Ranger) 75th Infantry is the Vietnam War Ranger/LRP company whose history and honors were selected by DA to be the direct lineage of 2d Battalion. Another link between past and present rangers will be forged on Wednesday, June 6—an auspicious enough date in Battalion history. The company guidon of H Company (Ranger) 75th Infantry will be formally presented to the 2d Ranger Battalion by one of H-75's former commanders, LTC(Rtd) William Anton. Ft Lewis area LRP/rangers should try to attend. Contact me or Bill Anton, the H-75 unit director, for details of time and place.

Do you know that 2d Batt has pages on the Association's website? Follow the 'unit' tabs until you come to '2/75' and click on that. Inside there are tabs for history pages, the

2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)

casualty page and a place for photographs. As I write, the only active tab is the battalion's fatality list.

The webmaster, Dave Reganthal and I recently updated the casualty page to correct dates and details and include rangers overlooked over the years. Those who were killed in action or while training are so noted. We thought it important to remember rangers who died off duty while assigned but chose to leave off the causes due to privacy concerns.

We welcome submissions and suggestions for improving our area of the Association website.

What the Rangers are up to when not at the War (1):



**2d Ranger Bn Ball
on February 16.
CSM Daryl Thies,
LTC(R) William
Anton (H-75) LTC(P)
David Hodne. (Bill
Anton photo)**

What the Rangers are up to when not at the War (2): This article appeared in the Eastern Oregon newspaper warning neighbors about some unusual goings-on at the local airport.

Rangers Practicing Airfield Seizure Tactics in Pendleton

By: Joseph Ditzler, reporter for the Eastern Oregon.

The Eastern Oregon Regional Airport will come under assault Monday by an elite military team supported by an array of specialized aircraft. Don't be alarmed. They're on our side. And it's only a drill.

The 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, a U.S. Army unit stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, returns Monday through Thursday to Pendleton, where it staged a similar exercise 10 years ago, said Ranger spokeswoman Tracy A. Bailey of Fort Benning, Ga. Expect plenty of noise, particularly aircraft noise, during the two nights the 800-member contingent is practicing its airfield seizure tactics, Bailey said. The Rangers use noisy simulated munitions and pyrotechnics as well. She said the Army knows the exercise makes a racket and it appreciates the city's indulgence those two nights. "It's your American Rangers training in your backyard," Bailey said Wednesday.

She said most activity will take place Monday and Wednesday night. Troops will parachute into the area while aircraft circle

the skies above. The exercise may be noisy but there won't be much to see, according to Bailey and Pendleton Police Chief Stuart Roberts. For one, everything takes place at night. Two, the Rangers are skilled at concealment. "It's covert. It's training like real life," Roberts said.

The public is advised to stay away, he said. Traffic on Airport Road will be restricted to only authorized visitors during the exercise hours. Local police and military patrols will be on hand to intercept the curious hoping for a glimpse of the Ranger exercise, he said. "They are hyper-sensitive about safety and security," Roberts said.

The Rangers make use of the airport terminal, normally an empty place after the last of two regularly scheduled daily flights by SeaPort airline departs at 7:30 p.m. for Portland, said airport manager Larry Dalrymple. He said the airport opens again to the public in time for the 6:30 a.m. flight. He said airspace above the area will be restricted. Dalrymple said he had a first-hand look at the last Ranger exercise at the airport in 2002. "I observed. It was very impressive, and that's all I'm allowed to say," he said.

Second Battalion has served in Iraq and Afghanistan carrying out raids, patrols and ambushes. In Afghanistan, it targeted key leaders in the Taliban and Haqqani network, a Taliban ally. Its work is largely unheralded but effective, Bailey said. "These men are quiet professionals, what they do never makes the news," she said.

The armada of aircraft that supports them is another matter. Bailey described an inventory that would stagger any aviation buff:

- MC-130 Combat Talon: a specialized version of the sturdy C-130 used for inserting and removing special operations troops
- AC-130 Spectre: another C-130 version, this one a powerful gunship
- AH-6 Little Bird: a light reconnaissance and attack helicopter
- CV-22 Osprey: the latest in aviation technology, a tilt-rotor aircraft that takes off and lands like a helicopter but flies as a fixed-wing aircraft
- C-17 Globemaster: the workhorse airlifter for the U.S. Air Force; flies globally, inserts troops, supplies, weapons locally

Along with the Rangers come units of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment from Fort Campbell, Ky., and Air Force Special Operations Command from Hurlburt Field, Fla. Some may act as "opposition forces" in the exercise, Bailey said. She said most of the men and women taking part in the exercise will be in and out of the airport and not seen around town. Small groups of troops taking part may be in town, dressed as civilians, driving nondescript vehicles and scouting the area as part of the exercise, said Roberts and Bailey.

2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)

This story originally appeared in the East Oregonian online edition: March 15, 2012. Edited for space.

What Rangers are up to when not at the War (3):

By: LTC David Hodne, Commanding.

Ranger Families and Friends,

On March 25, six of our Rangers competed in the annual Bataan Memorial Death March in White Sands, New Mexico. The Bataan Memorial Death March is a grueling 26.2 mile race through the high desert terrain of White Sands Missile Range, conducted in honor of the service members who defended the Philippine Islands during World War II.

The story of Bataan reflects one of the worst defeats in American military history...a four-month fight for the tiny peninsula of Bataan in the Philippine Islands – the first major land battle for America in World War II. On April 9, 1942, the American forces surrendered to their Japanese captors, who set them (including almost 12,000 American Soldiers) walking sixty-six miles to prison camp, a notorious walk that came to be known as “The Bataan Death March.” Over the years, this race has become quite a tribute to the survivors of Bataan and is popular among military units. Our Rangers competed in the Military “Heavy” category requiring them to race in the desert with 35 pound packs over mountainous terrain.

CSM Thies and I told them to finish among the top 3 teams... in true Ranger fashion, the team finished in 2nd place with a total time of 5 hours and 49 minutes! If you’ve ever run a marathon (without a pack through the sand), you would appreciate how fast this is. For more about the race go to www.bataanmarch.com

It’s worth noting, they accomplished this incredible result in the high desert after training in the “ideal” March conditions in the Pacific Northwest (sleet and rain) and while wrapping up one of our most recent training exercises last Friday prior to the event. These Rangers can accomplish anything. I couldn’t be prouder of our team. <2>

Very respectfully, Dave Hodne

“I’ll never forget my first day...”



The Team.

An “import” discovers that the Ranger world is in another universe.

By John Pace

I’ll never forget my first day at 2nd Batt. I was a SP4, fresh out of jump school, reporting in with two Private E-2s, also fresh out of jump school. The Battalion was deployed at the time and the rear detachment NCOIC was a B Company PSG who had busted an ankle or something and had to be left behind. He was running things out of the B Company orderly room and we were directed to report to him.

Now I was a former leg, an E-4 with three years service when I re-upped under the Ranger option. I also considered myself to be somewhat of a badass. So I took these two wide-eyed privates in tow saying something like: “Just stick with me boys. I’ll show you how this is done. We walked into B Company in all of our AIRBORNE spit shined glory, duffle bags in hand and I paused to figure out which way to go. At once I spy an approaching NCO who has that “knowledgeable look”. In fact it was SSG Frank Major, who hadn’t deployed with the rest of the company because he was headed off to some school or another.

When SSG Major was close enough I said: “Excuse me sarge... can you tell me where the orderly room is? His response was remarkable and stunning. He screamed into my face: “GET DOWN SOLDIER!” I did too. I threw down my duffle bag and dropped into the front leaning rest like I’d been shot. Frank (We later became good friends as R.I.s) bent down and yelled: “NOW...YOU START KNOCKING ‘EM OUT; AND DON’T BOTHER COUNTIN’ ‘EM BECAUSE I WANT YOU TO LISTEN UP. BESIDES, I’LL LET YOU KNOW WHEN I’M TIRED.” I started doing pushups while SSG Major explained to me that: “You don’t call a general GEN; You don’t call a captain CAP; You don’t call a Lieutenant LOO; and you don’t call a sergeant SARGE. THERE AIN’T NO SUCH ANIMAL IN THE ARMY AS A SARGE...AND YOU WILL NOT USE THAT TERM AROUND HERE AGAIN. DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR?” At that point we were on the same sheet of music: “Yes Sergeant!” “RECOVER”, says Frank. Then he continued, “Now, what was your question?” I said: “SERGEANT, could you direct me to the orderly room.” He replied, “Second door on the left...and make sure you knock before you enter, if you’d like to make through the rest of the day.” At that point the two wide-eyed privates who were with me were like: “You go ahead we’ll be right behind you”, while I was wondering what the heck I’d gotten myself into.

When I first met my platoon sergeant, sometime later, he introduced himself and said: “Ranger, there are just a few things you need to do to get along with me. Be where you’re

2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)

supposed to be, when you're supposed to be there, doing what you're supposed to do and in the proper uniform; and you'll stay on my good side. If you DON'T do these things, I'll beat the crap out of you. If by some stretch of the imagination you are a badass and I can't handle you (by the way you don't look like one), I'll go down the hall and get two or three more NCOs and we'll ALL beat the crap out of you. If that happens, don't even think about running to the MPs, or the IG, because I will lie and the rest will swear to it. When the smoke clears, you'll be the one in jail. This is a volunteer unit. No one invited you and you can do the duffle bag drag on out of here anytime you get to feeling weak. Do you have any questions?" "NO SERGEANT." "Good, that being the case, welcome to the Weapons Platoon."

Yes indeed, the 75th is a different world altogether: "Gallantly will I show the world that I am a specially selected and well-trained soldier. My courtesy to superior officers, neatness of dress and care of equipment shall set the example for others to follow."

This Quarter in 2d Battalion History:

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

April 1967. 1st Cavalry Div LRRP components are consolidated at division G-2 and redesignated 1st Cavalry Division LRP Detachment.

April 2002. B Company deploys to Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, followed shortly by the remainder of the battalion. This is 2d's first publically known deployment in the Global War on Terror. 2d Battalion is the first to deploy as a full battalion.

April 22, 2004. CPL Patrick Tillman is killed in action near Sperah, in eastern Afghanistan.

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

May 1, 1970. Teams from H-75th lead the 1st Cavalry and the Vietnamese Airborne Division into Cambodia. By the end of June, Hotel Ranger teams ran over fifty patrols in support of the invasion.

May 9, 1944. Provisional Ranger Group HQ is activated to provide command and control of the 2d and 5th Ranger Battalions in Operation Overlord, the Normandy invasion. LTC James E. Rudder is appointed commander while retaining command of 2d Battalion.



Rangers departing for Operation Overlord, June 4, 1944. Lt Edlin, subject of the book "The Fool Lieutenant" is on the right. (US Army photo)

June 6, 1944. Operation Overlord, the liberation of northwest Europe begins. A, B and C Companies land with the 116th Infantry on Omaha Dog White beach. Dog and Fox Companies scale the heights of Pointe Du Hoc in an attempt to neutralize German gun batteries, thought by pre-invasion intelligence to threaten the American landing beaches. The guns had been moved and were out of action, which didn't prevent the German defenders from conducting a robust defense. Casualties are heavy.

June 29, 1944. The first ever battalion awards ceremony is held in Normandy. Eight Distinguished Service Crosses and fourteen Silver Star Medals are awarded for D-Day battles.

June 30, 1943. Maj. James Earl Rudder assumes command of 2d Ranger Bn. at Camp Forrest.

"Late June" 1944. The "Rangers" diamond is ditched in favor of the scroll. The Army-approved "Rangers" patch was unpopular due to its resemblance to the Sunoco Oil Company's gas station logo. Sessions of "dismounted knuckle drill" were known to occur when other soldiers reminded rangers of this similarity.





3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Scott Billingslea

Rangers,

In addition to a Ranger Cory Smith's incredible run home, I thought



Scott Billingslea

this story was a good illustration of the self-less nature and outstanding leadership of those serving in the Regiment.



Photo by
NATHAN DEEN

day, but the weekend provided him a hunting experience he had not had before.



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

Sgt. 1st Class Kanaan Merriken takes aim as he searches for deer from a "hunting house" Saturday in Eufaula, Ala. Merriken was one of six Rangers from the 75th Ranger Regiment who participated in the Heroes Hunt, a weekend event in which community residents from the Eufaula area guided 21 service members on hunts.

"I've learned more about hunting in the past three days than the past three years," he said. Merriken was one of 21 wounded service members, including Soldiers and Marines, who turned out for the second Heroes Hunt Thursday through Saturday near the Bishop Hill Plantation in Eufaula, Ala.

Heroes Hunt provided a weekend getaway for wounded service members to hunt with members of the local community as their guides. Six of the Soldiers were with the 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Benning. Merriken, who has a 12-year career in the Army, sustained shrapnel injuries to his head and throat while deployed to the Middle East. "Having somewhere to hang out and have a good time, it's a confidence builder, as is knowing you're not alone," Merriken said.

The event was coordinated by retired Army Col. Mike Davis and U.S. Army Reserve Lt. Col. Logan Mitchell. Hunters set out for two hunts each day and were provided lunch, dinner and entertainment at the cabins on the plantation.



Eufaula community supports service members

By NATHAN DEEN / nathan.deen@thebayonet.com

Sgt. 1st Class Kanaan Merriken looked down the scope of his hunting rifle, hoping for any sign of movement in the nearby treelines. The day before, he said he saw more deer than he had ever seen on a hunting trip. Saturday was not so lucky. Perhaps the weather played a role. As lightning began to strike nearby, it was time to head back to camp. He came up empty for the

Mitchell said the first Hunt for the Heroes had only three servicemen. That number went up to 21 this year. "It received a lot of positive feedback from the community," Mitchell said. "We were able to build a pretty good infrastructure between this year and last year to be able to support the people we're hosting this time." "Our goal was to provide a weekend of relaxation. We wanted the weekend to be therapeutic in nature, providing an opportunity for these people who love the outdoors ... who perhaps haven't had the opportunity to do so because of the things that have happened to them.

3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)

We met our primary objective, without question.” Mitchell said he was pleased to see the high amount of community involvement to honor Soldiers who have fought for freedom. In addition to the guides, other residents offered to cook meals for the service members. “The war is winding down, but what has been left in the wake of Iraq are thousands of people who have suffered from injuries,” Mitchell said. “It’s important to realize this is a byproduct of that and for us to do whatever we can to acknowledge the service these people have done for their country.” (ed note: reformatted for space)

Ranger treks 565 miles to Indianapolis to raise awareness about problems veterans face

Cory Smith runs to raise awareness about problems that vets face

By BEN WRIGHT - benw@ledger-enquirer.com

Five weeks after Ranger Cory Smith left Columbus on foot for a 565-mile trip home to Indianapolis he arrived at Monument Circle downtown on Wednesday. “It was great,” said Smith, who was reunited with his 18-month-old daughter, Elleigh, about 2 p.m. “It was great seeing her.”

After leaving the Army, Smith, 28, decided to run home to call attention to homelessness, suicide and other struggles faced by veterans. He left Columbus on Jan. 3. The trip through Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky and into Indiana was expected to take 28 days but it was extended with a right foot injury, a trip to the president’s State of the Union speech and a job interview.



He ended up logging 285 miles on foot and 280 on a bicycle. Smith, who served with the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Benning, teamed up with GallantFew Inc., for the trip. The nonprofit organization helps Rangers return to civilian life with mentoring from Rangers

who have found success after leaving the military.

About 30 runners and Karl Monger, founder and director of GallantFew, joined Smith for the last mile and a half of the trip from White River State Park to downtown. He estimated the crowd at about 80 people along with local media. Monger said he thought Smith was happy to be done. The end of the trip revived memories of the 1994 movie of slow-witted “Forrest Gump,” who spent three years running across America after waking up and finding his girlfriend had left him. “I asked him like Forrest Gump to turn around and head back and he just looked at me,” Monger said.

The trip has generated enough interest among veterans to consider making it an annual event, Monger said. “Since Cory started out with a goal of 565 miles in 28 days to highlight the difficult journey soldiers have going home, we want to ask people to put together a team of 10 and that team would commit to walking, riding or running a combined total of 565 miles during February,” he said. “We could see where people could have people on the team from across the country.”

The event continues to raise awareness of problems faced by veterans. “We have well over 150 veterans come to us for assistance or to help,” Monger said. “It absolutely has been something tremendously important to us.”

While the unemployment for male veterans is close to that of the general population, Monger said he is concerned about the 30 percent unemployment rate for female veterans. “While they have come down on the males, in this snapshot, females are still way out of whack,” he said.

Smith said the trip’s end hasn’t sunk in yet because it was a routine over the last five weeks. “It doesn’t feel like it’s over with,” he said. “I’m so use to doing business after conducting a run. It is just weird cause it hasn’t set in at all.



3d Batt Medic Named USASOC Medic of the Year

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

FORT BENNING, Ga. (USASOC News Service, Jan. 9, 2012) – Courage, bravery, and compassion are all characteristics of an Army combat medic. This year’s U.S. Army Special Operations Command Medic of the Year takes these traits to a whole new level.

For his display of tactical knowledge, rapid decision making capabilities and casualty management skills portrayed in his battlefield care, Staff Sgt. Roberto A. Sevilla of 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment has been named the USASOC Medic of the Year.

“It’s an honor to be recognized, but I wish this award could be shared with those that helped with the casualties such as the junior combat medics and the Ranger First Responders,” said Sevilla.

3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)

It is not uncommon in the 75th Ranger Regiment to find a medic that performs good life-saving medical skills and courage under fire.

“However, Staff Sgt. Sevilla goes the extra mile,” said Capt. Joshua D. Mitchell, 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, battalion surgeon. “He consistently performs well-thought out and complete secondary and tertiary care, and he always provides clear and concise medical updates and medical handoffs even in the fiercest combat environments.”

Sevilla has taught more than 200 Rangers not only basic and advanced life-saving medical tasks but also how to successfully implement and apply Tactical Combat Casualty Care to wounded or injured Rangers, said Mitchell.

During the battalion’s last combat rotation, the assault force was moving to capture a high value target, when one of the Rangers triggered an improvised explosive device resulting in a below the knee amputation. The wounded Ranger immediately placed a tourniquet around his left leg, and his squad leader placed one around his right leg; quick and effective actions that are a testament to Sevilla’s superior medical training to the Rangers. The squad moved the wounded Ranger to a safer environment inside a building and Sevilla placed a second tourniquet to more effectively control the hemorrhaging.

Once the patient was evaluated and stabilized, Sevilla wasted no time in updating the ground force commander with a clear and concise casualty situation report requesting urgent medical evacuation of the casualty. While managing the wounded Ranger, three additional casualties presented themselves to Sevilla with TBI symptoms. Sevilla quickly triaged them with a baseline cognitive evaluation while simultaneously dressing the casualty’s amputated left leg and a missing toe on his right foot.

“I was just doing what I was trained to do and provide the best medical treatment for my fellow Rangers in a timely manner, and get them to the next level of care as soon as possible,” said Sevilla.

Soon after, the assault force medically evacuated the four casualties. As they were being loaded onto the helicopter, Sevilla displayed his advanced medical knowledge by continuing to evaluate the patients for any signs of shock and secondary effects of trauma.

“This speaks volumes to Staff Sgt. Sevilla’s superior management skills and multi-tasking as he was able to assess their TBI symptoms and still treat the wounded Ranger,” said Mitchell. “Throughout the entire incident, he showed that he was not only a highly skilled medic who could perform basic trauma management tasks, but that he could always think ahead to the next step, provide timely updates to command, and give professional level patient hand-offs to the next level of care.”

On another mission, the lead squad was moving around a building in a dense tree line and was attacked by a large improvised explosive device, wounding several Rangers. Following the detonation, Sevilla ran towards the sound of the blast approximately 50 to 100 meters away. He approached the first casualty where a junior medic was attempting to stop the casualty from bleeding out. Displaying solid leadership, Sevilla took charge and instructed the junior medic to continue his intervention while he assessed that there were no other major wounds. Sevilla assessed the casualty’s airway and determined he was having trouble breathing. After his initial manual maneuvers to open the airway were unsuccessful, he quickly adapted and inserted an airway. The first responder for this casualty told Sevilla that “it was getting hard to bag and his chest was not rising as before.” Sevilla immediately needle decompressed the casualty’s chest, allowing for more effective air flow.

On another part of the objective, an additional Ranger had sustained serious wounds and was unresponsive. Upon learning of the second casualty, through radio communication, Sevilla showed superb management and leadership skills by directing the Ranger first responder to begin bag-mask ventilating the casualty while Sevilla sent a junior medic to the other casualty’s location to assess, treat and provide a medical update. Sevilla received a radio report from the junior medic on-site with the second casualty that the Ranger did not have a pulse and was not breathing. Sevilla quickly told the junior medic to insert an airway and an intravenous line and package him in a litter because the medical evacuation asset was less than ten minutes out. With both casualties at the casualty collection point, Sevilla continued to assess and treat the wounded Rangers and prepared them for medical evacuation from a hot landing zone.

“All medical treatments were complete and thorough, a testimony to Staff Sgt. Sevilla’s leadership, maturity, combat composure and superior medical skills,” said Mitchell.

As the casualty evacuation aircraft was on its final approach, one casualty was still without a pulse and one casualty was receiving bagged ventilations with an absent pulse at his wrist. In addition to these two casualties, Sevilla was also taking care of another Ranger who presented with minor shrapnel wounds to the face and mild TBI symptoms.

“Staff Sgt. Sevilla performed a superior hand-off with the flight medics to facilitate the continued care of both severely wounded casualties,” said Mitchell. “Although the Ranger casualty without a pulse was pronounced dead on arrival, at no time did the medical team under Staff Sgt. Sevilla’s guidance fail to provide the casualties the best medical care in the world to afford the Rangers with the best chance for survival.”

3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)

Sevilla's training includes Basic Combat Training, Advanced Individual Training—Combat Medic Course, Basic Airborne Course, Ranger Assessment and Selection Program, Special Operations Combat Medical Skills Course, Warrior Leader Course, Infantry Mortar Platoon Course, and U.S. Army Ranger Course.

The Combat Medic Course is taught at Fort Sam Houston, Texas and provided Sevilla with his Emergency Medical Technician-Basic Certification and qualified him as a combat medic. Sevilla also attended the Special Operations Combat Medic Course at Fort Bragg, N.C. The intensive six-month course teaches extensive training in anatomy and physiology, kinetics of trauma, advanced trauma skills and procedures, Trauma Combat Casualty Care and combat trauma management. Sevilla also completed a one month emergency room/EMT rotation at Tampa General Hospital and Tampa Fire and Rescue in Tampa, Fla. Upon graduation, he received a certification in Advanced Tactical Practitioner. He also completed a one month rotation at the Grady Trauma Center, Atlanta, Ga.

Sevilla has deployed six times in support of the War on Terror with three tours to Iraq and three to Afghanistan for a total of 24 months deployed.

Sevilla's decorations include the Ranger Tab, Combat Medical Badge, Expert Field Medical Badge, and Parachutist Badge. He has also been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Army Achievement Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon and Army Service Ribbon.

Sevilla, a native of San Diego, Calif., is married with one child. In his spare time, he enjoys soccer and spending time with his family. He graduated from Hilltop High School in Chula Vista.

"Staff Sgt. Sevilla is the epitome of a special operations medic through his display of tactical knowledge, rapid decision making capabilities, and casualty management skills portrayed in his battlefield care," said Mitchell. "His discipline and determination to mission accomplishment – saving Rangers and training first responders – is a true testament and definition of a Ranger Combat Medic NCO. He is easily one of the finest NCOs I have ever worked with."

Sevilla has also been named the Special Operation Forces Medic of the Year by the Special Operations Medical Association.

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

Unit Director - Ron Dahle

New Unit Director to be Ron Dahle.

Gentleman,

I am in the process of relocating to northern California. My wife and I have bought a house in Windsor, Ca. and are in the process of moving. As a result I am sending this email to inform you that I am turning over the Unit Director position of A/75, D/17 LRP, V Corp LRRP to Ron Dahle. Ron has held the position



in the past and has expected it going forward. Ron is the author of the soon to be released book "Churning Cauldron" and is working on it's sequel. Ron's email address is mcgoo1138@yahoo.com.

It has been a pleasure representing this unit of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association.

Bill Bohte

Former Unit Director; A/75 , D/17 LRP
& V Corp LRRP



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

Unit Director - Mark L. Thompson

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

FACEBOOK

Not only are there a lot of Rangers from all eras on Facebook now, as well as several "closed" Ranger groups with over 1000 Rangers and family members in the various groups, but we also have a B/75, C/58, and VII Corps LRRP group of our own!.

There must be over a hundred posts each and every day in the groups, covering every topic you can imagine, from photos to health alerts and anything else you can think of. If you want to reconnect with other Rangers from a variety of eras, I can't recommend this enough. If you don't have a Facebook page, go there, create one, search for my ID (it's my name - Marc L. Thompson) and send me a friend request, and I'll invite you to the group. If you are on Facebook and not a "friend" of mine, ask one of the other guys from the unit for an invitation to the group.

Here a few recent photos from the guys in the group...



Fort Lewis 1974: Pappy Haugh's Boys!
Courtesy Greg Phillips

NEWS

In discussing things in the Facebook group, we came up with a few ideas. SGM(R) Don Bruce will take the lead in developing a comprehensive Bio of 1SG Gooden (CSM, (R) (deceased)), which we intend to publish in the next issue. We may also make a formal recommendation for his inclusion in the next Ranger Hall of Fame.

George Horkan was also recently collecting info on CSM (R) Jack Schmidt (deceased) for a complete Bio for him, so I will contact George so that we can publish that here also,



along with a possibility of recommending him for the RHOF. There is a new Jack Schmidt Memorial Bench being constructed near the 1st Battalion in Georgia, information about which I believe you will see elsewhere in this issue, so I won't repeat it here. If I am incorrect, we will publish that info in the next issue.

We will also try to begin compiling as complete a list of all the members of the Unit from its inception who progressed to the rank of SGM or CSM. We may also include a list of all the Unit members who were thereafter commissioned as either Officers or Warrant Officers. As you imagine, this may take some time, but we are getting started on it now.

HOOAH

In the meantime, we are going to tell a story or two about 1SG (CSM) Joseph Gooden. CSM Gooden was in the Second Ranger Company during the Korean War - an all-black unit. President Truman's desegregation of the military was underway, but had not yet "trickled-down" to all the commands, so the 2nd Ranger Company remained an all-black unit during the active fighting in Korea. One of the things that Joe Gooden brought to B/75 as our First Sergeant was the chant of "HOOAH-KILL!" from that illustrious Company. Unit Director's note: The HOOAH above is the old B/75 HOOAH, not the wimpy, half-assed Hooah you tend to hear these days. In tracing the oral history of that expression back, it is beginning to become clear that the first time it was used was in the 2nd Ranger Company in Korea, which is where CSM Joe Gooden started to use it, and he brought it to B/75 when he was the First Sergeant of the unit.

When the B Company Rangers were split to form the cadre of the newly-activated First and Second Ranger Battalions in 1974, we took the (2nd Ranger Company)-B/75 HOOAH with us, which was then adopted in both Battalions, and later spread to general use throughout the Army..

So..... there was a time at Fort Carson when B/75 was one of the two or three active Ranger Companies remaining in the U.S. Army, and the Battalions were not yet started. This was after the wind-down from Vietnam, when the rest of the "VOLAR" Army was rife with drug and race problems. One of the "features" of this situation was that the NCO Club at Carson was "segregated" into different areas by race and other factors. This was not an official segregation, but an

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

“understanding” among various factions of the Legs on the post. Apparently a couple Rangers from B/75 had the temerity to stray into an area where they were not wanted, and were physically “roughed-up” for their transgression. When the word of this got back to the Company, 1SG Gooden fell the entire unit (minus Officers) out into the Company street and double-timed the unit to the NCO Club, where some attitude-adjustment was performed on anyone and everyone else in the NCO Club who objected to the re-integration of the Club into an all-Army NCO establishment.

When CSM Gooden later became the CSM of the 2d Ranger Battalion (according to Kevin Ingraham), his nickname became “Idi Amin”, but for us he was always “Black Jesus”, because any summons to the First Sergeant’s office was a definite “Come To Jesus” meeting. For those who don’t know CSM Gooden, he was huge, as was his successor, Jack Schmidt. Having a HUGE angry pissed-off First Sergeant towering over you and glaring down at you was not high on the list of experiences you wanted to have that week.

My personal favorite Gooden story, though, was the incident in the Grafenvohr Club during Reforger. The unit was transported to Germany to participate in the exercise (much to the dismay and chagrin of the Regular Army guys and their “rules” (but that’s another story)), and after capturing the Opposing Force’s entire Headquarters well prior to the completion of the exercise, B/75 was de-assigned from the exercise. With little to do, the enlisted personnel of the company conducted an informal attendance at the Club. When the MP’s came in to survey the situation (before the fight started – also another story), one of them approached 1SG Gooden, who was wearing his beret, as were the rest of the troops, and said:

“That beret is not authorized headgear in the European Theater, First Sergeant”

1SG Gooden then stood up, towering far above the MP, and said: “Do you want to take it off me, son?”

The MP said: “No, First Sergeant, I don’t think I do....”

... did a prompt about-face, and left the club with his compatriots.

RANGER PISS

Okay, a couple people asked me to post this... which I have never discussed in public before... some of the guys here know it, but I never told anyone about it until about 2004-2005. Kind of a long story, so bear with me.

So there I was, in Ranger School (1972). In the mountains. You may remember the mission that starts by moving uphill into a NDP (night defensive perimeter) on the side of a steep hill, and then you have to move downhill to a road, ambush a convoy, and take prisoners. Once the prisoner snatch is completed and the patrol accounted for, it’s admin time the next morning, and the PL’s, APL’s, etc. for the last 24 hours get graded and debriefed by the RI’s (Ranger Instructors).

We were walking up and down various mountainous terrain doing whatever we were doing, when it started to snow (this was probably about 1700-1800). Being in the column, all my Ranger Buddy and I were doing was following the guys in front of us, staying aware of where we were on the map, and bitching quietly to each other about the snow (like everyone else). For whatever reason, the movement that evening/night was slower than it was supposed to be, so the patrol was running behind schedule. If I recall correctly, one of the Patrol Leaders (PL’s) got somewhat misoriented, which was part of the reason we were running behind schedule. It was a moonless night.

Around midnight or later we were moving up a relatively steep slope in the dark when the column halted. Now I hadn’t been able to find an opportunity to take a leak since we were running late, and didn’t want to be the cause of a break in contact, and thought that this might be my chance to empty my bladder, because my teeth were starting to float. Unfortunately, right at that point, was the change in patrol leadership, so just as I was contemplating how I was going to accomplish my bladder relief, “Ranger Thompson up front” came down the line. I was the new Patrol Leader. This was a platoon-sized element with four squads.

So I bid my Ranger Buddy goodbye and di-di’d up to the front of the column, where the RI asked if I knew where I was, and handed me the usual pine needle. After I showed him on the map, he briefed me on my responsibilities for the NDP, ambush, and prisoner snatch, and told me how late we were running. My bladder was beginning to complain seriously.

Moved the patrol up to a good defensible position, circled it up, told them to get ready to be probed, and got the APL and squad leaders to the center under a poncho with the red flashlight. By this time I was beginning to feel some serious discomfort from my bladder region, but didn’t have the time to do anything about it, although I was squirming a little. Well, maybe more than a little.

I decided that since we were running behind, it was going to difficult to move an entire platoon downhill on a moonless overcast night with everybody running on empty without

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

suffering a break in contact, or possibly arriving at the objective without the entire patrol. It would be a more manageable task to send one squad to perform the ambush, and have the rest of the patrol repel the expected probe(s) of the perimeter, then later move the rest of the patrol down to the ambush site without as much urgency so that we didn't lose anybody.

Now one thing I haven't told you yet about my class was that the majority of the class was brand-new second lieutenants (over 200?), fresh out of the Academy, jump school, and the Infantry Course. In case you aren't familiar with Academy guys, they stick together and watch out for each other, which put the 20-30 enlisted guys in the class (like me and Bill Acebes, among others) at a slight disadvantage (especially when it came to peer ratings, etc.).

So while I'm briefing my fellow students (all Academy guys) under the poncho, they are constantly reminding me that splitting your force is a big no-no (a concept they obviously thought I was unfamiliar with). I (squirming) explained my reasoning, and told them it wouldn't hurt their leadership grades for the patrol, since it was my decision, and my responsibility. I was starting to have pulsating pains radiating down my legs from the groin area.

We worked out radio signals for the requisite checkpoints for the squad being dispatched to perform the ambush, withdrew that squad into the center of the perimeter, collapsed the remainder of the perimeter to cover the vacant perimeter defense (amid much complaining from the guys who had to move into new positions), performed a radio check, and dispatched the ambush squad downhill. By this time I had had to pee so badly for so long that the "I can ignore it" phase had occurred several times, and I wasn't going to make it through another one.

All the PL responsibilities were done for the moment, except for finding an appropriate bivouac spot for myself, so I leaped up from under the poncho, raced downhill to a likely-looking tree in the center of the perimeter, whipped it out and started the fiercest bladder evacuation I had ever experienced. Only, this tree was doing something weird. As I stood there watering the trunk, it started spluttering, and making noises, and making rustling sounds. Then the tone of the noise changed as the stream hit something that did not sound like tree, but suspiciously like... PONCHO!

About that time louder spluttering and shouting started from underneath the poncho, and I realized that one of the RI's had also decided that this was the perfect tree, and he had hunkered down under his poncho on the downhill side of the tree, and I was now watering him!

I made a rapid estimate of the situation, and realized that an immediate hasty retreat was the most prudent course of action, so I turned and ran back uphill to my CP poncho, dove underneath it, trying to get "it" stuffed back in my pants as I ran, and succeeding in pissing all over my pants and leg in the process.

A minute or so later, Charlie Frost, my APL, came back from walking the perimeter making sure we were at 100% alert, and slid under the poncho with me. We had decided to stay at 100% until we got probed, and then go to 25% alert after the probe seemed to be done. The RI was standing in the perimeter complaining loudly, but did not keep it up too long (probably realizing that broadcasting our position wasn't going to be appreciated during the grading).

Shortly thereafter, we got probed a couple times, then went to 25%, waited until the appropriate time, roused the patrol, and moved downhill to link up with the ambush squad (successful), and then went to admin status.

For all of you who have not attended Ranger School, for the admin portion the entire patrol gathers, and the RI's responsible for grading each of the students during the past 24 hours take them aside one-by-one and let them know their grade, and provide guidance. BUT... this time, prior to that exercise, the RI that I had bathed the night before got up in front of the entire patrol and acquainted us with his mishap from the night before, and amid much swearing demanded that the Ranger responsible come forward and "be a man". Now I was born at night, but not last night, and estimated that my chances of graduation would be significantly diminished should I become known as "Ranger Piss" to the entire staff of the school, so I didn't say a word.

I passed the patrol. The Major grading me asked me why I split my force, and I explained my reasoning. Some of the Academy guys were surprised that I didn't fail the patrol because of that. Little did they know what I was really worried about.

HEARD FROM

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 (If anyone notices an incorrect email address here, please contact me so I can update it).

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

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

Until next time:

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

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

Marc L. Thompson

Unit Director

Email: mthomp@ptd.net

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



LRRP's Uniform of the Day – Courtesy Bill Mathiak

VII Corps LRRP Co (ABN)

By: Dick Foster

Spring greetings, Brothers! I realize some of you may wonder what the hell I'm doing sending out a spring quarterly newsletter in the middle of Winter. This should require no explanation, but I will explain. According to your calendar, it is still winter; however, according to the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, it is Spring. So, who are ya gonna believe?

The last couple of months have been pretty busy, for reasons both good and bad. I'll address it all in that order.

Reunion (off-year) Updates: Thanks to Kirk Gibson and John Fisher, we've now settled on the necessary details. We had to change the dates for some very good reasons, viz. money and venues. Because summer is a big tourist season for Harrisburg, local hotels are overpriced and hard to come by with sufficient rooms and amenities to meet our needs. Also, it is difficult to visit the many attractions in the area because of the larger than usual crowds.

For those reasons, changes had to be made. During the week of 14-17 September, we will assemble at the Carlisle Hotel in Harrisburg. We will have available a block of 24 rooms, with two queen or one king bed(s) per room, and one suite for meetings and fish stories and libations. The rooms are \$65.00 per night. Of course, some may want to come earlier or leave later, which will be okay. Contact Rhonda at the Hotel Carlisle at 1-877-718-0592, or on line at www.hotelcarlisle.com, and mention that you are with VII Corps LRRPs.

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One note of consequence: If you, or any of our LRRP brothers you know, cannot afford a room because of tough economic times, get in touch with me, Bill Hill, Zeke Evaro, or Tom Forde and let us know. As LRRPs and Rangers that go back a long time, we cover each others' collective asses. This is no time to let pride get in the way of seeing each other again and reliving the old days. Besides, if you ain't there, we'll talk about you, and like you, it ain't gonna be pretty. All you have to do is get there. You won't go hungry, cold, or sober unless you so choose. Talk to each other out there.

Addresses List

I've finally updated our address list (USPS, e-mail, and phones) and it is available to all. It's free to all dues-paid members and \$2.00 for non-dues-paying members. This update was necessary because so many of you brain-fart, dick-heads move for reasons good or nefarious, and neglect to tell me. I keep getting back so many letters, e-mail failures and phone disconnects, I could shit. For example, Bob Mathiak re-located us through Marc Thompson's establishment of B Co Rangers on Facebook. Hell, I had him marked AWOL for years. He had good reasons for moving, but not for keeping it secret. Welcome back, Bob. Check out the above Facebook account limited only to VII Corps LRRPs, C-58 LRP, and B Co Rangers. I'm not a big fan of FB, but I have to admit, it's worth checking out (B Co Rangers). If after receiving the List, let me know of any errors or updates we're not aware of. Contact each other and stay in touch.

Dues

Don't forget that your annual dues of \$25.00 for 2012 are past due (as of January) to Tom Forde. Late or partial payments are gladly accepted. Once again, if you can't pay because of hardship, let Tom know and he'll take care of it. Times will get better and, in the meantime, we must all stick together. All for one.... Also, if you haven't, I highly recommend you join the 75th Ranger Regiment Association at \$30.00 annually. They are the umbrella organization of which we are a part. They go a long way to supporting our young Rangers and their Families in these trying times. This is one way we have of letting them know that we're behind them through it all, til the end. Get in touch with me for applications for both groups.

Lost Brothers' Obituaries

* LTC "Jungle Jim" Joiner, Rest in Peace. After suffering a long battle with cancer, Jim's wife, Michelle, informed us of his passing on December 29, 2011. He leaves behind his wife, Michelle, sons Chris and Stephan, and step-sons John, Michael, and Timothy, and nine grandchildren.

Jim began his career in the Enlisted Ranks and rose through the Officer Ranks in Vietnam, first as a Platoon Leader and later as a Company Commander, the two positions he was

most proud of. Before retiring after 26 years, he earned several medals of valor, including the Purple Heart, and medals of Commendation. In battle, he commanded a company of the 2nd Airborne Battle Group, 327th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. In civilian life, he continued to serve the 101st Airborne Division Association as a Past President and Chairman (Emeritus) of the Board.

Steve Lengel, Stan Harrell, and I represented the LRRP/Ranger community at Jim's memorial service in Pompano Beach, FL. Several distinguished officers of the 101st Airborne Division Association attended, along with CSM Frank Grippe of the Army's United States Central Command.

LTC "Jungle Jim" Joiner will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery on March 29, 2012 at 9:00 AM. Be there if you can.

** John "Igor" Repecko, Rest in Peace. John's wife, Cheri, informed us of Igor's passing on January 16, 2012, of cancer. At his passing, he was surrounded by his wife of 46 years, Cheri; Sons John Jr (Florence), and Daughters Kellie Lewis (Mike), Kendra Repecko-Batta, Kristie Repecko-McGlynn (Erin), and Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

"Igor" served proudly from 1963-1966 in Company with the USA Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol Co (Abn), VII Corps. You can visit his obituary and Testimonial at www.soliminefuneralhome.com.

We were well represented by Joe Chetwynd and Rick Hathaway, LRRP Brothers of Igor back in the day.

***Sgt. Lawrence H. Mitchell, KIA, June 6, 1967, Republic of Viet-Nam. Rest in Peace.

While Sgt Mitchell was well-documented in our history archives, no one was aware of the fact that he was Killed in Action while serving in the Viet-Nam. After 45 years, Joe Chetwynd, while doing local history research, discovered that Sgt Mitchell was with us in company prior to shipping out to South East Asia.

Information gleamed from the Norwood (MA) Messenger was that Lawrence was the Father of three children, Norbut, Debbie, and a third child he never met. He was married to wife, Marieta, who was pregnant at the time with their third child, when he was killed.

Lawrence Mitchell was 21 years old at the time of his death, having enlisted at 17. While in-country, he was assigned to Tiger Force, 1st Bn of the 327th Infantry, 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division. New to the Recon unit after serving with

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

the United States Army Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol Co, VII Corps in Germany, he died in combat when the helicopter he and his team was in was blown up by enemy fire while they from one hot spot to another. (Robert Mons, 6/28/04).

Sgt Lawrence H. Mitchell was buried with full military honors and a 21-Gun Salute at Highland Cemetery's Vietnam Veterans section, Norwood, MA. He was not forgotten by his Family and the Norwood Community, and he will be remembered by us as long as we exist. Rest in Peace, Sgt. Lawrence Mitchell.

That's about it for now, guys. Take care of yourselves and your Families by staying healthy and keeping in touch. If you're not getting regular checkups and taking care of yourself, it's time you stopped being selfish and started thinking of those who love you. Until next time, we'll all meet on the Carlisle Hotel's Drop Zone with a feet, ass, and head PLF.

Dick Foster, President
VIIcorpslrrpfoster@gmail.com
352-281-0983

Bill Hill, Vice-President
whhill@comcast.net
801-554-4326

Zeke Evaro, Secretary
ezekielevaro@aol.com
336-416-2246

Tom Forde, Treasurer
tbforde@hotmail.com
845-634-1009

Airborne/Rangers Lead the Way. Out.

Just one of the stories of the 1967 Holland
March Team

BACK GROUND

In the summer of 1967, the Company formed a Team of about 20 men, to attend the 'Nijmegen, Marches' in the Netherlands. (four day, 100 mile marches, with full equipment) We would be representatives of the US Army. 25 other nations also attended. The Team was led by, Lt. Golf. The guidon carrier was, SP/4 Bell. The cadence caller was SP/4 Osborne.

STORY

On the fourth day of the marches, We approached a railroad crossing, with the signal coming down. Without missing a step, we stopped, and were marching in place, still chanting the 60's tune, "Mashed Potato Time".

As the crowd on both sides of the road cheered,

A lady ran out to pass out flowers, as she ran back, we could hear her yelling, "My God, they're all drunk".

This was not completely untrue !



LRRP's will be LRP's



1967 Holland March Team – Courtesy Bill Mathiak



The LRP's had boat training.
Boats were not a issue item.
So additional LRP training was required.



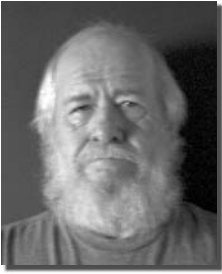
L-R Forde & Moncayo trying to cross the Rhine River (in a trailer?)

LRRP Boat Training – Courtesy Bill Mathiak



C/75 - E/20 LRP

Unit Director - Del Ayers



Del Ayers

ECHO LRP/ CHARLIE RANGER ASSN., INC. WARNING ORDER

(Revised 11/11/11)



After the starlight incident.

1. GATHERING OF RANGER WARRIORS, HHG's, RANGER SISTERS, AND FAMILIES @ THE COLORADO SPRINGS RADISSON HOTEL. 1 – 4 August, 2012.

(Search www.radisson.com/coloradospringsco_airport)

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

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

***You may book your rooms beginning 18 November, 2011, at \$99.00 per night (discounted rate). Mention you are part of the August, 2012 Ranger Gathering.

OPERATIONS ORDER WILL FOLLOW ASAP! L-T



Milt Hendrickson



Oscar Caraway



D/75

Unit Director - Richard "Herd" Nelson

Hello everyone first I need to apologize for not submitting an article for the last issue of this magazine. In November when I was supposed to write it I was having problems with my heart and was just taking it easy. I'll talk more about that later in the article.

Next a little news about our D Company get-together in the Black Hills. We plan to be out there from the 23rd through the 26th of June in Hot springs South Dakota. Plans as they stand so far are arrival and sitting around Moe and Cindy's back yard



for horse shoe pitching and or a swim in the creek. We can also just sit around gabbing on Saturday the 23rd. Then on Sunday breakfast at Moe and Cindy's before we take off for Mount Rushmore and shopping at some of the shops along the way if you like rocks, art, and or mementos, after which we return to Moe and Cindy's for a cookout and more gabbing. Monday we could possibly take an all day trip into the black hills, or possibly a trip to Deadwood, or Devils tower, maybe even a tour through Jewel Cave. (Fourth largest cave in the

D/75 (Continued)

world as of 2008 the last time we were there). We can possibly have Lunch or dinner at the Alpine Inn in Hill City. Tuesday will be the night Blast on the Crazy Horse Mountain Carving and Museum, weather permitting. We will need to get there early and wouldn't get back to Hot Springs until late that night. People can always arrive earlier in the week or stay a little longer. I plan on checking on the price of flight s earlier in the week as opposed to flying in on Saturday and will probably wait to fly out on thursady rather than Wednesday due to our later arrival back from Crazy Horse on Tuesday. Last trip out there in 2010 some of the guys camped in the back yard and some of us stayed at motels in Hot Springs.



**Billy Faulk, Carl, Rosie, Cindy, Katie Norris
with friend Tory by the Pool.**



Our Group Under D Company Banner

When I talked with Moe and also Badmilk they were telling me that they would be involved with the protest march on the VA Hospital in Hot springs on the 25th of February this year, actually 10 days after I had to submit this article. This march is due to the Government trying to reduce services and eventually shutting down the VA Hospital there. When I have told my doctors here at the Orlando VA Clinic that I am going out for a visit to Hot Springs South Dakota they have all told me that was good because if anything was to happen to me the VA at Hot Springs is one of the best in the country. Some of the buildings there are of historic nature as they were there during the Civil War. This closing will mean that the Veterans that live on the Pine Ridge and Rosebud reservations will have to travel an additional two hours to receive less services than they get right now at Hot Springs and there is talk about closing the

smaller Hospital near Sturgis in a few more years at which time the Veterans in South Dakota will have to go to other States to get admitted to a VA Hospital for Care. There are around two thousand Veterans on the Pine Ridge Reservation alone.

I talked with Billy Faulk the other day and he said he has been doing a lot of fishing since he got his new fishing boat around Christmas. He said it was a 29 footer so he has been able to take it over to the coast and do some salt water fishing. He told me to tell those of you who I am able to stay in contact with that if you wanted to come down to Macon or Savannah and go fishing with him you are welcome to do so. He does plan on attending the South Dakota get together this summer.

II talked with Vic Viccaro a couple of weeks ago and they are doing well and he told me that if I was every experiencing poor health that was interfering with my ability to write and submit one of these articles to give him a call and he would try to help out. He also agreed to follow up on my request to have a copy of the patrolling Magazine sent to Dave Capik's family since they wanted to see the obit and Photos I included in the issue after he passed. The e-mail I sent must have gotten lost in cyber space. I received an e-mail from Mark, Dave's brother, informing me that they had received a copy, so well done Vic. He said the family was very appreciative of the support they received from the Ranger Brothers.

Tom Delaney told me that everything was pretty much status Quo wih him and Jan, and he was just waiting until the weather warmed up enough that he can start fishing again. They are hoping to be able to make the trip to South Dakota but it will depend in when their granddaughter has to have her surgery. She will be having it during a semester break. I didn't get into any detail with him about it other than he said it was to repair another botched surgery she had in the past.

I talked with Ed "Maddog" Krause in the beginning of January after Green Bay lost their play-off game and he told me he was still healing from the spinal surgery he had last year. Things were going well as far as his recovery was concerned. I also talked with George "Psycho" Christiansen about the same time and he asked me how the weather was and I told him it was in the high seventies and that I was running my air conditioner that day, so when we had our first cold front come through he called me and said I bet you aren't running your air today. We both had a good laugh over that one. He and Julie and their dogs are doing well.

Carl and Rosie Norris are doing well, he told me to tell everyone that his cancer was still in remission. He and Rosie are planning to join us in South Dakota this summer and then possibly another trip to Germany where Rosie is from. He said that Katie their granddaughter is working part time after

D/75 (Continued)

school and has bought herself a car, so now she and her friend Tory go out to the Post gym after school to work out. Carl says they are probably also looking for good looking young soldiers. I told him to remind her that they didn't have any rangers there. He said she will soon be turning 18.

I talked with Frank Park and he told me that he was not going to be able to join us in South Dakota this year and that he was enjoying his retirement. When I asked if he was still Bartending he said yes a couple of days a week. He said that Frank Jr. would have his 20 years in this year but plans on staying in the service for another 4 years at least. He will be leaving the 10th mountain Division this June and returning to the Ranger training brigade. He will be Cadre at the mountain training portion of Ranger school in Dahlonga Georgia.

When I called Bill "Fitz" Fitzgerald he said everything was going well with his family and nothing major to report in this article. He did ask me to tell everyone he wishes everyone well. He doesn't think he will be able to join us at the Black Hills get together this year.

Steve Meade said he was doing alright and was hoping to meet us out in South Dakota again this summer. He also said that Roger Barbe and Keiser Sterbinsky were also planning to attend. Mike Warren said that he and Sharon were still enjoying his retirement, and that they are staying busy with the grandchildren's activities.

When I called Gary Olsen he said that he was just hanging around the house or going hunting. He tells me that he has gotten four deer this season. He had hoped to be with us in the black hills this year but something was going to interfere with those plans. I was also able to get in touch with Wally Hawkins and he and Carolyn and doing well. I asked how Matthew was enjoying college and he said he liked school and was also working as a store manager as well.

When I talked with Mike Jaussaud he said he and Vicki were doing alright and had planned on attending the Black hills get-together, but since Vicki's Brother passed away from Cancer they will not be able to go. Her mother had been living with him and so Vicki and Mike will be taking care of her. She is in good health for a woman in her eighties, but a few years ago another driver crossed the center line and caused a heed-on collision which crushed her feet so she is somewhat immobile.

As I said in the beginning of the article I would go into more detail about what happened with my health. I started having some problems with chest pains around the end of October. At that point I started taking it easy since I thought I might be over doing it with the yard work I was trying to get accomplished. When they continued on into November I started spending

a lot of time bed and called my primary care physician. He increased one of my blood pressure medications and told me if they continued to call 911 because he couldn't do anything more until they got some more data during these episodes. On Christmas Eve Morning my defibrillator started hitting me so I dialed 911 and the EMTs were here within 5 minutes. The Defibrillator hit me 3 more times in the ten minutes it took to get me to the emergency room. Turned out I was experiencing Atrial Fibrillation again. So with several injections into my IV line I came back into a normal sinus rhythm and had to spend the rest of that day and the next in the cardiac ICU. I have been to my doctors and cardiologist several times since then and will be going in for another stress test the end of February. I should know how they plan to treat this after that. I would also like to say I have gotten my diabetes and cholesterol under control now and was given a green light to start working in the yard again but to start slow and increase slowly.



Rosie, Cindy and Michael Norris



Tom Delaney, Moe Lamphere, Gary Olsen and Herd with Santa Beard in front of the hotel.



Jim Bohannon, Billy Faulk, Moe Lamphere, Tom Delaney, Herd, Carl Norris, And Mike Jaussaud.



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

Unit Director - Rick Stetson

E/50 – E/75 Soldier Honors

Ancestors

By Duane L. Alire

On November 27, 2011, Roy Barley, a Vietnam LRRP and past National President of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, traveled to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park in Angel Fire, New Mexico. The purpose of his trip to the state park was to honor his ancestors who have served in defense of this country. To honor his ancestors in perpetuity, Roy memorialized the sacrifices they and their families made in answering their country's call to arms by purchasing seven bricks along the park's Veterans Memorial Walkway.



The bricks he purchased bear the names of the following veterans:

1. Isaac Schultz, great-great-great-great grandfather, Roy's great, great, great, great, great grandfather, Christian Otto Schultz, came to America in 1734 from Germany and settled in the Hudson River area around Rhinebeck. Christian Otto was a well educated man – a man of letters – as they used to say and insured his children were also well educated. He had 9 sons – 8 of whom served in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. His second son, Isaac, was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Dutchess County Militia in 1775. Isaac used his education to pursue many ventures with excellent results. His holdings included foundries that produced the chain used to block the Hudson River and cannons for the Continental Army. He also owned grist mills, warehouses, a fleet of sloops that moved commerce up and down the river and a tavern/boarding house.
2. Johnathon Barley, great grandfather, 1861-1865, Civil War, Corporal, 20th New York Militia (also known as the Ulster Guard). The unit was later named the 80th New York Militia. Two memorials to this unit are located at Gettysburg.
3. Raymond Thayer Sr., grandfather. Raymond was a career soldier (1904-1934) who served with Black Jack Pershing in the old Calvary. His last duty station was at West Point, where he was the sergeant-major. Roy recently ordered a brick for Raymond Thayer Sr.

4. John Lukacik, uncle, 1917 – 1919, WWI, PFC, U.S. Army Cavalry.
5. Robert Lukacik, cousin, 1944 – 1945, WWII and Korea, U.S. Navy. Mr. Lukacik served in the South Pacific, during WWII, as one of the "Tin Can Sailors". He served on a Destroyer Escort and lived through several Kamikaze attacks on his ship. At the outbreak of the Korean War, he served in the Navy Reserve and was recalled to active duty.
6. Royal E Barley, father, 1941 – 1945. Royal (Roy) was an aircraft mechanic with the 2nd Fighter Squadron from its beginning in England. From England they went to North Africa with Spitfires and then into Sicily. In Italy the unit received P-51 Mustangs.

7. Roy Barley, 1967-1968, Vietnam. Roy served with E/50, LRP, 9th Infantry Division.



The actual ceremony of placing the bricks occurred on Saturday, September 3, 2011 when more than 300 volunteers and family members gathered at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park to honor America's Veterans. The annual ceremony was conducted by the David Westphall Veterans Foundation, NM Run for the Wall Bikers, and NM State Parks. This year 275 bricks were installed honoring individuals who served from the Revolutionary War through the current war in Afghanistan. As the names are called each inscribed brick is carried by a family member, comrade or volunteer to its designated space.

E/75 - E/50 LRP 9TH DIV LRRP (Continued)

Roy and his wife, Sharon, stand next to "Viking Surprise". Viking Surprise is a UH-1D 64-13670 (Huey) helicopter

and saw service in Vietnam. The Bell Iroquois UH-1D was brought to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park by the New Mexico National Guard in May 1999.

The Barley family tradition of service to America continues as their son, Matt graduated from the U. S. Border Patrol Academy in Artesia, New Mexico on November 25, 2011. The U. S. Border Patrol is one of the few civilian uniformed services in the U. S. Government.

Duane L. Alire, aka "Poncho", served with E/50, 9th Infantry Division form 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.

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

Unit Director - Tim Walsh



Tim Walsh

Greetings!

(Editor's note):
Company F
(Ranger), 75th
Infantry Association
gave a donation to
the Family Fund in

memory of Ranger Ronnie McKinney.
March 10, 2012. Thank you!

Facebook Dave Regenthal has started a Co. F Facebook page for us. Please contact Dave, Bill Mrkvicka or me to get access. We want to keep access restricted to only 25th ID LRRP/LRP/Co. F Ranger guys, no family, friends, ex-wives, etc. And we're going to keep the content relevant to Co. F. No political ramblings, please. There are numerous other avenues for that kind of social networking. We have over 40 members so far! I understand that you have to already be on Facebook to be granted access to the 25thID/LRRP/F/75Ranger page. So get involved and join us on Facebook. It's a great way to keep up with all things LRRP/LRP/F/75.

Company F Video Project Dave has again asked for contributions to the Company F Video Project. He has spent years dragging camera, lights and accessories around to reunions and meetings at the Wall and he still needs more input from us (words, photos). If you have pictures that you'd like included, Dave would like them scanned at a high enough resolution (at least 1280x720 pixels) and sent to him with an explanation.



Many of you have been generous in that regard and Dave would like to thank you. But I know there are many more of us who have stories that need to be told. He offers two ways to get that done: he'll send you an audio recording device or you can write it down and he'll get someone to read it into a recorder for you. This is the kind of thing he needs: 1) this is what happened, 2) these are my specific recollections, 3) this is what I learned about myself or others and 4) this is how I feel about it. Please let Dave know if you have anything to share. This is an important project and we all can be a part of it. I've got this story

(with pictures) about an inflatable boat....

Co. F Shirts I still have two of the outstanding "Cassilly" F/75 polo shirts available. Both are large, one is the patriotic (red, white and blue collar) and the other is white. Both have the 25thID/LRP/F/75 company scroll. You can see an example on our Quartermaster link from the lrrp.com page. These polos are \$37.00 a piece, including shipping. Let me know.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund My wife and I have attended the past two Veteran's Days at the Wall in Washington DC. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) puts on a terrific commemorative service on Veteran's Day, if you're in DC on Veteran's Day it's not to be missed. If you have been there, you know what a memorable experience it is. I'd also like to pass on a challenge offered by the VVMF. They

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

are raising funds to build an Education Center at the Wall. As you know, they raised the funds to build the Wall from veterans, veterans' supporters, loved ones and friends. They need \$40,000,000 to complete the project. As Jan Scruggs has said, if every veteran who has ever worn the uniform during the Vietnam period donated \$5.00 they would have enough to build the center. The VVMF has put out a challenge: they are challenging every veteran to donate what we can in the name of our service branch (Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard). So go to vvmf.org if you are inclined to help out.

Co. F Flower Fund Man, I love this job! I get to hear from the best people in the world - YOU! I'm always happy to hear from you and will do my best to listen and do what I can to help out. I may not always answer my phone at 0DARK30 hrs, but I'll get back to you if you'll leave contact info. Most of you contact me and just want to keep up or have something to pass along. Then there are the calls that nobody wants to get. I'm talking about the calls to tell me that one of our brothers has passed away. It's not my favorite part of the job, but I understand that it has to be done. This past January we lost Rick Booth. Many of you remember Rick and had some very nice things to say about him. Several of us attended his funeral. That brings me to my point in bringing this up. I'd like to ask you what you would like me to do to honor our fallen brothers. We have a Company F fund ("General Fund"), mainly funded by your donations. It's not a lot, but it allows me to periodically send out Company F newsletters ("Pointman") and provide a little "up front" money to have F/75 coins, shirts and other company specific items made. Any cash/profit we receive as the result of selling any of these items goes directly back into the fund. My question has to do with the way we honor our fallen brothers. I have recently received several donations to the F/75 "Flower Fund" to be used exclusively to provide some kind of remembrance to family members of our fallen comrades. (Dave Regenthal has set up a Paypal account for us to use to make donations to the fund, more on that in Pointman.) Many thanks to those who have donated to the Flower Fund. I have also received several suggestions about how to use the fund. They include: a plaque or etched crystal with our "logo" and the name of the fallen brother; or maybe

make a donation to a suitable charity like Wounded Warriors or the 75thRRA Family Fund. I think that flowers, while looking nice at the funeral, wither and lose their appeal fairly quickly, and there's nothing permanent for the family to keep. I also understand that we won't always hear about each of our brothers who passes, so we won't always be sending something to every family. The way I see it there are two choices: 1) have a little something made that can be personalized and sent to the family of the departed when/if we hear about it, or make a donation to a charity, or 2) not do anything for anybody to avoid creating the impression that we unintentionally disrespected someone. Whatever choice we make doesn't mean that individuals can't do something on their own for the family of our fallen brother. If we decide to honor our brothers we need to have a separate flower fund to use. That means we need donations from you.

What I'd like to ask is this: How would YOU like to be remembered? What can we do with our limited funds that your family would like as a remembrance of your service? Marshall Huckaby suggests asking your wife or family what she/they would like. My wife thought it would be worthy to make a donation to a charity. Please let me know what your suggestion would be. I know I'm opening myself up to suggestions, many of which won't be feasible (or legal). But give it some thought and let me know at twalshx2@comcast.net or by phone at 313-590-6673.

Jim Freeman has let us know that his mother passed away in Jan., 2012 and I just found out that Paul Schierholz passed away in 2008. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

In closing I would urge you to visit our company-specific website at lrrp.com. The site was designed and maintained by Dave Regenthal. Dave has done an outstanding job with the site. The site has hundreds of in-country photos, photos and videos of reunions, copies of old Pointman Newsletters, recognized links to other sites of interest and many, many other sources of info. It's highly recommended reading.

That's it for now. Live long and prosper.
Tim Walsh

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

Unit Director - Steve Crabtree

*No Submission*



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

Unit Director - William T. Anton

H Company (Ranger) 75th Infantry is the Vietnam War Ranger/LRP company whose history and honors were selected by DA to be the direct lineage to the present 2d Ranger Battalion.

Another link between past and present rangers will be forged

on Wednesday, June 6—an auspicious enough date in ranger history. The original Vietnam company guidon of H Company will be formally presented to the 2d Ranger Battalion by H-75's unit director, Bill Anton. Ft Lewis area LRP/rangers should try to attend. Contact Bill or Kevin Ingraham, the 2d Batt unit director for details of time and place.



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

Unit Director - David Flores



No Submission



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

Unit Director - Rodger T. Crunk

K/75 (RANGER) REUNION BALTIMORE, MARYLAND AUGUST 8 – 12, 2012

Reunion hotel:
Holiday Inn-Inner Harbor;
301 W. Lombard St.
Baltimore, MD 21201

1-800-Holiday or local 410-685-3500

Reservation Process: Individuals will call the hotel directly for reservations. Please use the group code provided when making all reservations.

Group Name: K75 Ranger Reunion
Block Code: KRR
Group Dates: 08/08/2012 to 08/11/2012
Cut-off date is: 07/09/2012

The hotel is extending the discounted rate 2 days before and after the event. If you wish to extend your stay outside these dates, you will need to make a separate reservation.

Parking: Convenient parking is available at a discounted charge currently \$25.00 per day for hotel guests and conference attendees; subject to change without prior notice.

Banquet: There will be a banquet the evening of August 11, 2012, at Germano's Restaurant in Baltimore's Italian district, known as "Little Italy".



Activities: There will be tours of Ft. McHenry, Birth place of the "Star Spangled Banner", our National Anthem, the Inner Harbor is but 3 blocks away, there are 4 major art museums with in a mile or so, we will be 30 miles away from Washington, DC, home of the Vietnam Memorial Wall and the Smithsonian complex of museums. We are also within about a 50 mile radius of a number of Civil War battle sites, Gettysburg, Antietam, Manassas and Harper's Ferry, for those who are interested. We will be arranging tours to any/all of the above, if there is sufficient interest. There will be a spouses' luncheon at the Women's

Industrial Restaurant, a Baltimore landmark for 130 years, a forum for women to showcase & sell their domestic arts. It was a place war widows went to make extra money to support their families. The luncheon will take place Friday, August 10, 2012. Time TBA.

There is a water taxi from the Inner Harbor to Ft. McHenry and other attractions in and around the Inner Harbor. There are several Navy vessels (the WW II submarine 'Torsk', the 'Constellation', a square rigger circa the War of 1812, and a WW II era Coast Guard Cutter) available for tours. There is also a free bus service, the Charm City Circulator, that allows one to explore the downtown area and environs free of charge. There are also shuttles to the airport and to Washington, DC.

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

I will be accompanied by _____ guests;

NAME(S) _____

Registration fee per person @ \$20.00 \$ _____
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Make checks payable to "K/75", we can also take Visa & Mastercard.

For information about the Baltimore/Washington area, or the banquet, contact John Chester. Phone 410-382-9344. I can e-mail maps of the water taxis, Charm City Shuttle, light rail, hotel location, etc. E-Mail john.chester3@verizon.net. We will have a schedule of other events & tours as we get closer to the dates.



By Gary Linderer and Jerry Gomes

Well, my brothers, it's that time of the year again to begin to make your plans to attend the Association reunion in August. This year's unit rendezvous will be in conjunction with the 101st Abn. Division's Week of the Eagles. 2012 will be a special gathering commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Division and the 40th anniversary of the Division's return from Vietnam. Dates of this event will be August 13-18. Our reunion will run Aug. 15-19. I was fortunate to secure rooms in the Westgate Inn. Almost all of the hotels/motels in Clarksville are already booked up. I've secured 30 rooms with the possibility of getting another 20 with a free hospitality room. I'm currently looking into booking a caterer for our banquet at the hotel that Friday or Saturday night. Rooms are on a first come, first served basis. If we book out, there are a

couple of hotels nearby for overflow. Contact me if you need a room and can't get into the Westgate. Room rates are \$54 per night. Hope you try to make it. As old age approaches we seem to be losing 2 or 3 guys a year. Our opportunities to get together are running out, gentlemen, so come and share the camaraderie while we still can.

Hotel #: 931-645-9084. Tell the clerk you want to book your room for the "101st LRP/Ranger Reunion" to get the \$54 rate. Don't wait too long or you'll end up in one of the overflow hotels. Westgate address: 803 N. 2nd St., Clarksville, TN 37040. You can Google "Westgate Inn, Clarksville, TN" to see their website and get directions to the hotel.

If you plan on flying in to the reunion, book your flight into Nashville (45 mi. away). If you're not renting a car, let me

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

know and we'll make arrangements to pick you up at the airport and get you to Campbell (unless you're coming in on a redeye, then you'll have to wait until someone wakes up).

A few of us will be checking in on the 14th, so if you want to come a day early and party with us, do so. I'll do my best to get the word out through Jerry Gomes, Randy White, and the internet, however, I'm asking each of you to contact the brothers you commo with and let them know about the reunion. There is always someone who doesn't get the word.

If you're not bringing your better half and want to share a room to cut down on costs, let me know and I'll try to find you a compatible roommate.

And now for the rest of the news. Jerry Gomes reported that he attended the Veterans Day ceremonies at Ft. Campbell last November and met CSF vet Gale Whiles who was a graduate of the 101st Recondo School prior to Vietnam. He also ran into a couple of old 101st LRSD troopers, SFC Larry White and First Sergeant Wiley (currently the first shirt of the 801st Maint. Bn.).

Jerry got a call from Tommy Sly, brother of one of our L Co. KIAs, Ranger Johnny Ray Sly. Tommy would love to talk to any of our Rangers who served with or knew his brother. Johnny Sly was killed on the mission in the Ashau where Marvin Duran's team inserted onto a mountaintop to set up a radio relay site and hit an NVA battalion on the LZ. Helluva battle. Tommy's # is 270-303-1055. Give him a call.

Mitch Taylor (F/58 and L/75) contacted Jerry and reported that he's finally settled down in San Diego. He's going to try to make the reunion this year. Mitch needs some support letters for a VA claim confirming that he served in the unit in VN. Let's help a brother. Call Jerry or I for Mitch's contact info.

We've all had our run-ins with posers. Seems like there are more of them out there than real vets. Jerry ran into one recently at his local VFW. Guy claimed to be an 82nd Airborne trooper with all the accompanying war stories and certified BS, boasting about how his records were "sterilized" because of his "top secret" clearance and because of the "black-ops" he ran. When Jerry asked him which unit of the 82nd he served in, he said he couldn't remember. Turned out there was a lot he couldn't remember. Jerry finally had enough and said, "What's your fourth point of contact?"



The war hero looked somewhat puzzled, thought for a moment, then muttered, "Uhhhhh...I guess my wife."

Jerry quietly told him, "You're not airborne. You were never in the 82nd."

The poser said, "You don't believe me?" and immediately departed.

Sic em, Jerry.

I attended the 2011 Ranger Rendezvous at Ft. Benning last August. We had a great turnout from the 101st LRP/Rangers. It was great to be with Kenn Miller, Rey Martinez, Harris Streeter, Dave Walker, John Looney, Gunther Bengston, Mother Rucker, Jim Bacon, Lester Scott, Doc Glasser, Darol Walker, Bob Gilbert, Jim Jackson and several others. As a special treat, Manuel Ortegon (F/58) showed up for his first reunion. He hasn't changed a bit. Great seeing him again. You guys that didn't show missed a great Rendezvous.

Sick Call

Tim Howard, Mike Fujinaga and Jerry Wilson. All are on the mend.

Last Roll Call

Roger "Mitch" Costner (L/75), Joe Canales (F/58) and Marty Dostal (1/101 LRRP). Rest in peace, brothers.

Lost but Found

Ken Munoz (F/58, L/75), Kenny Lafferty (F/58, L/75), Ernie Airington (F/58), Keith Phillips (L/75), Manuel Ortegon (F/58). Welcome home, brothers.

I'm certain that there will be a lot of activities on post in conjunction with the Week of the Eagles. I will get a schedule of events out to anyone who wants one as soon as it is posted. You contact me and let me know that you're coming and want the info. Or, you can Google "Week of the Eagles, 2012" and look for yourself. This is supposed to be a "MAJOR" event for the Division so look for big things.

If you've got anything you want to donate to our banquet auction, bring it. We managed to raise over \$2,200 at the Branson reunion in 2010. We even had a 7mm Mauser we auctioned off. Should have been here. Jerry Morgan, one of our Kingsman pilots, flew a Huey up to Branson from Texas and landed it in the field next to our hotel. Everyone got free rides during the week. Yep, shoulda been here.

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

Call or email me if you plan on attending the reunion so I can keep some sort of order to this endeavor. I've probably forgotten something...I'm getting old. If I did and it's important, call me or email me (I refuse to text) and I'll try to remember what it was. Hope to see you in Clarksville.

Gary Linderer
F/58, L/75
417-331-2834
lindlrp@yahoo.com

Jerry Gnomes
3/506 LRP
503-668-6127
kaye@mthoodcustomhomes.com

Ed. Note: Joseph D. Gregory made a generous donation to the RRA member fund in the name of Rangers Joe Canales, L-75 and Ramon Lopez, L-75.

**M/75 - 71ST LRP - 199TH LRRP**

Unit Director - Don Tillisch

No Submission

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

Unit Director - Robert Henriksen



No Submission

**O/75 - 78TH LRP**

Unit Director - Michael Dolsen

Greetings from Alaska to all my fellow Co. O (Arctic Rangers) 75th Inf. Regiment (Abn) USARAL, & Co. O (Vietnam) Rangers, 75th Inf. Regiment (Abn), and F Co., (LRP) 51st Infantry members.

Well, despite what some may have thought, I'm still here, and I'm not missing in action, as some may have thought. But, here's my sitrep and a very BIG apology to all.

We've had record snow and cold this winter here in Anchorage and Alaska as a whole, and some of which had made national news. Like that which in the coastal town of Cordova, they got over 15 feet dumped on them in 30 days or so. Here in Anchorage, I believe we've had over 100 inches total this winter drop on us. To me, it's a normal winter, but to some it's not. I'm sure many of my fellow Arctic Rangers reading this will remember from our days in the early 70's here as well, along with the sub-zero temps, what that's like.

Now back to me and my sitrep. The fact is, I may have, hell, I have over extended myself to be your Unit Director, and my other life commitments and work to name a few. I'm not retired yet, so work and other responsibilities of life do take a lot of my time, as does family, who in these hard times, are my primary focus. I'm sure you can appreciate that and understand.



I thought I could balance it all, and still be an effective unit director for you all, and make regular submissions here for the Patrolling Magazine, and assist everyone who needed help. But, it doesn't always work out that way, even with the best of intentions. So, besides my non-Ranger life duties, family, and all to focus on, I've tried to focus on at least my fellow Arctic Rangers and our next reunion, this coming end of September in Las Vegas. To date, we've still not located over 100 of the men who served, and really want to find and account for all of them before this next reunion.

I got myself a little bit over extended, hell, a lot over extended, and had to let some things slide to later. Like not sending

in this submission earlier to explain what was happening to me. For that, I am deeply sorry, and I apologize to everyone concerned for this, and not fully doing my duties as your Unit Director. I hope you all will forgive me and try to understand, and I will try my damndest to do better in the coming months. So, if I don't have something in the future for the Patrolling magazine, and you do, whatever it may be, please let me know and I'll get it submitted as soon as possible. Please send them to this email address:

Mike Feller - michigami@kaltelnet.net

O/75 - 78TH LRP (Continued)

I and my fellow Arctic Ranger Point Man; Larry Lee; and other Arctic Rangers, are actively seeking out those of us who are still not accounted for. So that is our primary focus right now, along with getting ready for the next reunion. The latest on it can be found on our web site; www.ocoarcticranger75th.com, so do view it from time to time for the latest news.

In closing, again I hope you all will try to understand and accept my apology for being missing these past several months. Sometime life gets in the way of other things. I know you all have similar issues and I do wish you all the very best in these difficult times.

So, from the "Eyes and Ears of the North", this Arctic Ranger bids you all farewell, and let's stay in touch. ARLTWBC –

Arctic Rangers Lead The Way, But Cooler.

Michael L Dolsen, Unit Director, Co. O/75th RRA

Midwesterners note: Rolling Thunder is sponsoring the Michigan wall on 23-24 June at the Little River Casino, Manistee, MI.

(Editor's note: The day this issue was finished, I received the news that O Co has a new unit director. Mike Feller has volunteered to take the reigns for you. I left Ranger Dolsen's submission alone except to change the O Co email POC to Ranger Feller's. Thank you Ranger Dolsen for your support of your brothers! Ranger Mike Feller's first column will appear in the summer Patrolling.)

**P/75 - 79TH LRP**

Unit Director - Terry B. Roderick



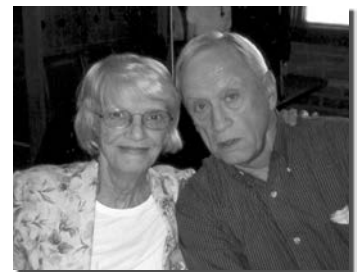
On February 16, 2012, the Papa Company Rangers lost our Matriarch, and the wife of 56 years of our Ranger Daddy, Duke DuShane. Marion DuShane was born on October 19, 1940 and had been having some health issues for the past few years. She and Duke have been the soul and backbone of our company for many years now and her loss will be felt by all of those who had the opportunity and good fortune to meet her over the years, and also by those who only knew of her exploits and contributions to our company as a whole.

Marion had 4 children and 12 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren and more coming down the pike. It's a nice, large, loving family by any measure and she's the main reason. Marion and Duke have both always been the "one constant" in our company that you just felt would always be there. Both have been an integral part of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association and the Columbus, Georgia area for years, and the Ranger Community in general. I could go on and on about her, since she and Duke adopted me years ago and I brag about that every chance I get. There is a huge void in our company due to her loss. She had the opportunity to say good-bye to her



family and loved ones. One day she had 35 family members and friends visiting her and she was able to go home before she passed peacefully in her own bed.

There was a Memorial Service for her at the DuShane home on Sunday, February 19th that was attended by numerous friends and family from around the country. Everyone was asked to wear items to recognize Marion's support for her beloved Atlanta Braves. One thing I read that says a lot about the person she was, was when I noticed that her obituary asked that in lieu of flowers, please make a donation to YOUR favorite charity. Duke and the family would like to thank everyone who expressed their condolences and prayers to his family after their loss. Thanks to Joyce Boatman, Jay Lutz, Jim Femiano, Ted Tilson, Peggy and Sam Burnette, and others in the Ranger community for taking the time out to honor her life.



On December 5, 2011, we lost another Ranger brother, Jim "Stepchild" Gates, of Tuscaloosa, Alabama. James Louis Gates was born on August 4, 1949 and was only 62 when he passed

P/75 - 79TH LRP (Continued)

due to cancer. Services were held on December 10, 2011 and he is interred at Tuscaloosa Memorial Park. In attendance from P/75th Rangers were Riley Miller, teammates Ed Hoppe and Gregg Gain, Duke DuShane, and the daughter of one of our KIA's, Jaci Lawrence. Jaci's Father, Johnny, was killed on April 4, 1971, while serving in P/75th and she and her family have become a wonderful addition to our Ranger family.



I got this from his son, Brad.....There was something special about my dad. These words I write won't come close to describing what it was about him, but those who knew him will know what I mean. You couldn't help but be drawn to him and love being around him. My dad had more friends than anyone I've ever known. It's easy to see why. Jim Gates was one of the kindest, most fun-loving, generous people you could ever meet. He had friends from all walks of life, many I knew and many I didn't. I know one thing about all of those friends, though: he would have done anything for any of them. That was the kind of guy he was: a great guy with an even greater heart. Though I've already shed many tears over losing him, and I'm sure many more to come, I know my dad, and know that he wouldn't want me, or anyone else, to be sad. Truth be told, he would probably want us all to throw a party and have a good time. That's what he did. He lived his life how he wanted to live it, and by doing so, touched so many different people along the way. I'm going to miss him dearly. I'm going to miss hearing his stories about growing up in Eastwood and everyone hanging out at the "little house." I'm going to miss going hunting with him in his most favorite place on earth. I'm going to miss his telephone calls when he was so confused on how to work his laptop or do something on Facebook. Oh, how frustrating those calls could be at times, but what I wouldn't give for one right now. My dad wasn't a perfect dad by any means, but he was my dad, and I'm so proud to be his son. One of the biggest sources of my pride in him and his pride in himself was his

service in the military. Jim "Stepchild" Gates was the toughest of the tough. He served honorably as an Airborne Ranger in Vietnam as a member of Co. P (RANGER) 75th Infantry on Team 1-5 for most of his tour. His bravery in battle earned him an award for valorous action in battle. More than that though, it earned him respect. Jim Gates was not only a true American hero, he was my hero, and my Dad.



I really got to know Stepchild more over the past 4-6 years and he was a rascal and patriot in every way. He was funny and irreverent as heck and just fun to be around. He also was a good Ranger and served with and was very proud of his Killer 15 service in Vietnam with Riley Miller, Spud Gain, Ed Hoppe, and Larry Norris to name a few. I was leaving as he was arriving in P/75th, so I never got to know him as personally as I did at our company gatherings over the years. Jim is from Tuscaloosa, Alabama and was an avid, if not fanatical supporter of the Alabama Crimson Tide. He had just recently moved back into his home that was severely damaged by the tornadoes that ripped through Tuscaloosa earlier this year. Most of his neighborhood had been demolished and he was one of a few who decided to fix their homes and stay in the area. He and I teamed up with Lynn Towne, a WWII Ranger daughter, a while back to bring some joy and love into WWII Ranger Lonnie Johnson's life before he passed around Christmas time a couple of years ago. Some of you may have also sent cards to Ranger Johnson at the rest home he was residing in. We lost him shortly thereafter but just reaching out brought much comfort and attention to Lonnie and his family sure appreciated it. Jim had a huge heart and a singular way about him that was hard to resist or enjoy and this was just a small example. He will be missed by me and many others from our family. Rest in Peace, Stepchild. We have Rangers up there waiting to train you again!! RLTW!! Terry Roderick

I told Stepchild a long time ago that I'd run this story in Patrolling at some point and he wanted his picture in Patrolling. I ran some photos of him but kept this story of his "in reserve" in case I needed something down the line to fill space in my article. As you read it, you will get a feel for the type of Ranger he was. He could find something positive and amusing in nearly any situation. They don't make them like him anymore. Please enjoy his literary attempt that follows. It is unedited and in his own hand..... Rock, what's up?? Terry, I want to see this true story in the Patrolling magazine: "Just Another Day in the Life of a Papa Company Ranger"

P/75 - 79TH LRP (Continued)

Team Killer 15 on mission.....Ho Chi Mihn Trail, at Aideo Pass in Laos, near the DMZ. Team members: Riley "Gypsy" Miller (TL), Jim "Stepchild" Gates, Eddie "Cannon Belly" Neal (KIA March 24, 1971), Gress "Spud" Gain, Allen "Big Al" Ross and Larry Norris (radio name unknown).

Team reaches its ambush site after many clicks. A stream about 25 feet wide and 3-4 feet deep, with a well-used crossing about eight feet wide. Team sets up on little round hill overlooking stream crossing. Team 15 puts out 18 claymores. We're ready, but Stepchild is hot and begins stripping down naked.

Spud says "what the hell you doing? We don't even take out boots off!!" Stepchild retorts "I'm hot, I'm going swimming with these big goldfish! Cover my ass!!" "Cover your own ass and put your clothes back on." Says Gypsy.

Stepchild is really hot by now and walks to the stream crossing and notices hundreds of Ho Chi Mihn sandal prints in sand. He then enters the water and swims with about 20-30 large carp (goldfish) for about thirty minutes. Stepchild looks up and sees five machine guns aimed at him as he floats on his back. Lucky for him, the guns are in the hands of his teammates.

After cooling off, Stepchild returns to team and receives a real good ass-chewing. Now, this story could be so different of the CO had to write Mrs. Gates and tell her that her son is MIA, last seen being pulled under by a thirty foot python while swimming with goldfish.

This mission came up empty handed. Team 15 never got to holler "what you boys doing?" before cutting loose with

much firepower. Back to the club after extraction for cold beer, popcorn and a movie. A day off, repack and then... just another mission in the life of a Papa Company Ranger!" This true story can be verified by all members of "Killer 15." It's a good one, Terry. Let's see it in print!! Love you Ranger, Jim "WHAT YOU BOYS DOIN'?" "BOOM"

Rest in Peace, Stepchild!!

REUNION

Things are moving right along for the upcoming Papa Company Ranger Reunion in Nashville, Tennessee August 15-19, 2012. I'm told the 101st Airborne National Convention is in town the same week. We'll be staying at the Guesthouse Inn and Suites, 2420 Music Valley Dr., Nashville, TN 37214 615-885-4030 or 1-800-21-GUEST (tell them you're in the P/75th Ranger group) or contact Dave Barfield @ 615-430-3622. Things seem to be adding up and Dave assures me he's going to be ready for you all. Out Here!!
RLTW!! Terry Roderick

**D/151 LRP/RANGER**

Unit Director - Leon Moore

No Submission

**F/51 LRP**

Unit Director - Russell Dillon

No Submission

**ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ)**

Unit Director - Bill Miller



No Submission



MERRILL'S MARAUDERS

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



Merrill's Marauders near Nhpum Ga in Northern Burma, late March or early April 1944. (US Army)



Original shoulder sleeve insignia of the 5307th Composite Group on a uniform display at the National Infantry Museum.



Unauthorized shoulder sleeve insignia of the MARS Task Force. This insignia was made in India and was never approved by the U.S. Army. The 475th Infantry Regiment (Long Range Penetration, Special) was part of this task force.

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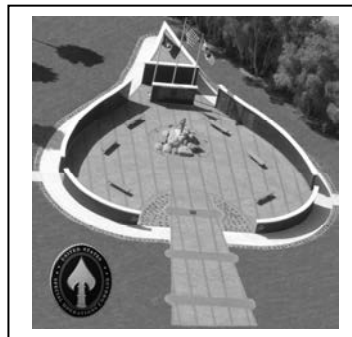
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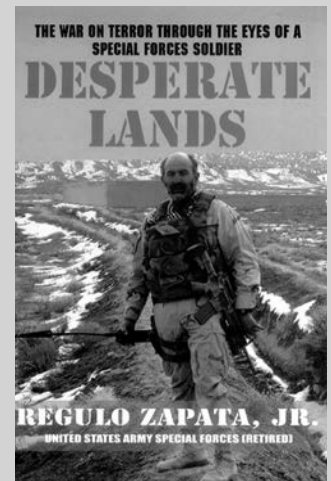
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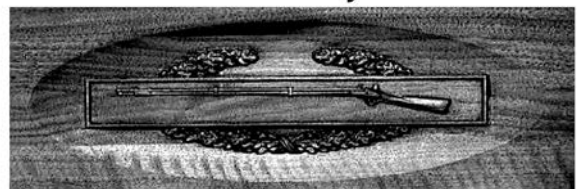
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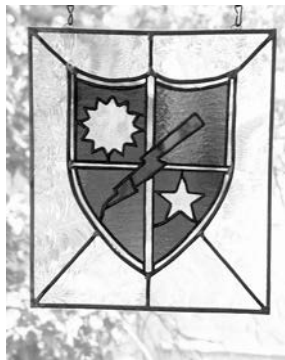
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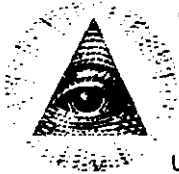
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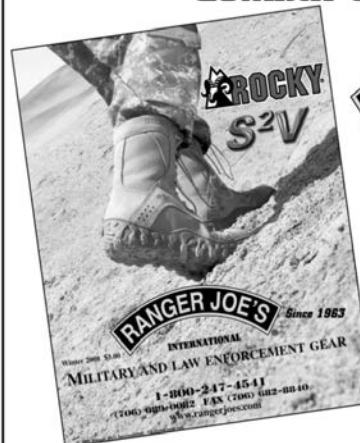
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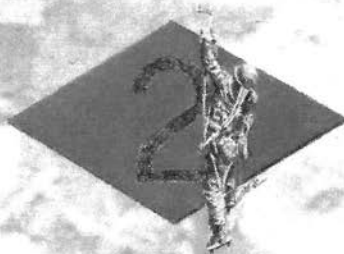
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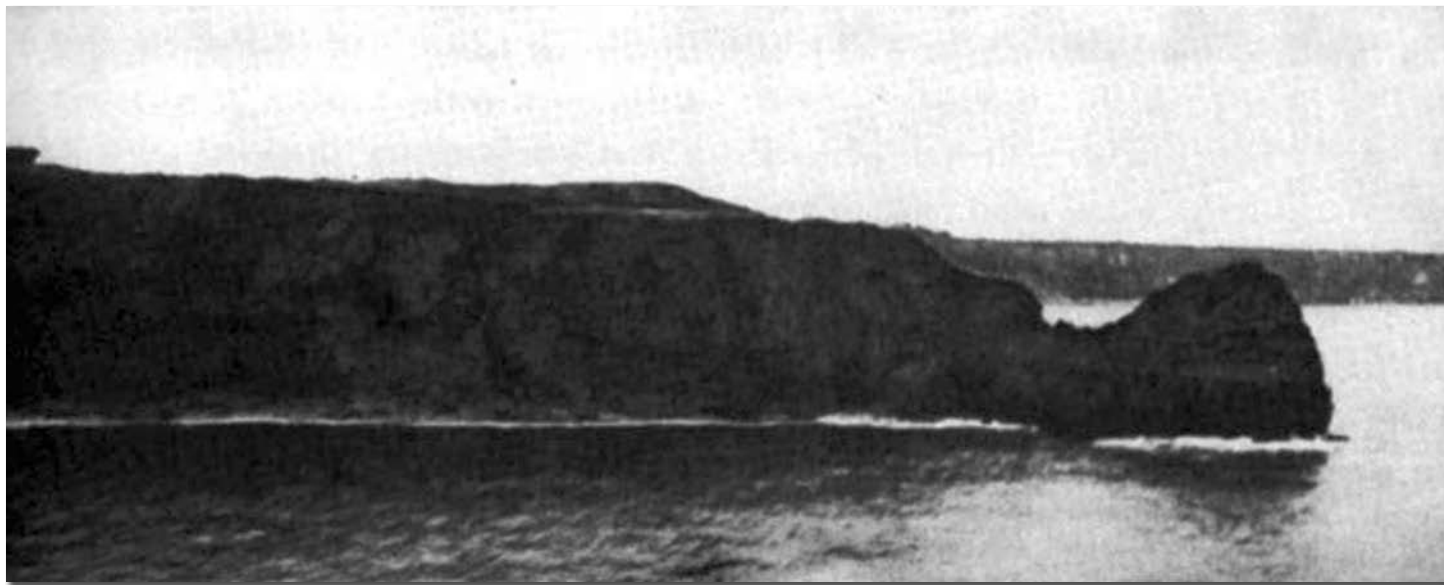
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Pointe du Hoc viewed from the east, 1945. (US Army photo)



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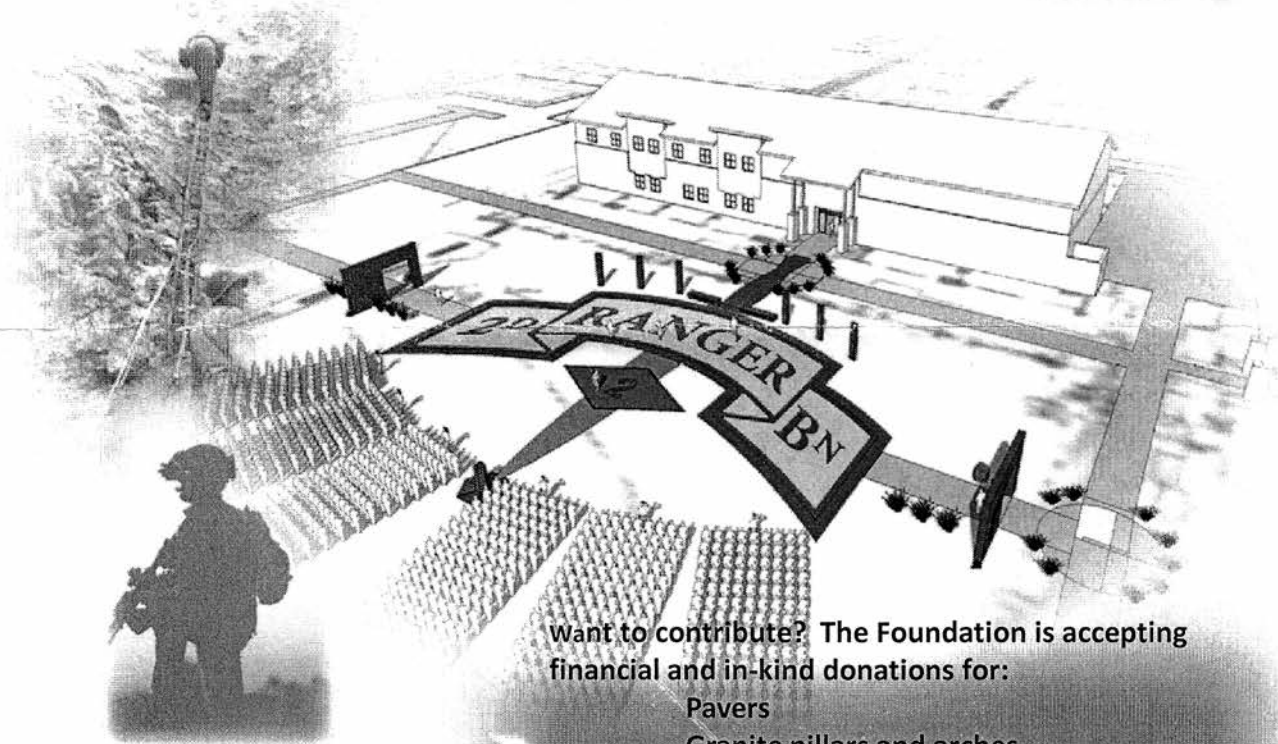
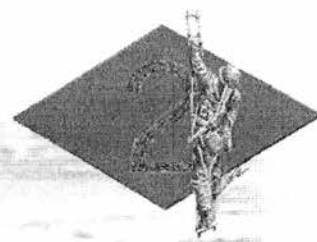
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