

PATROLLING

Spring/Summer 2013 75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC. VOLUME 27 ISSUE IV



Best Ranger
Competition, 2013,
Prussic climb.

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

RANGER RENDEZVOUS / REUNION 2013

JULY 22 – 28, 2013

FT. BENNING (COLUMBUS), GA

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

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

(Same rate as the 2011 Reunion.)

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

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

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

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

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

2013 REUNION

22 – 28 JULY, 2013

REGISTRATION FORM

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

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

NAME _____ MEMBERSHIP # _____

UNIT AFFILIATION _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

I will be accompanied by _____ guests*

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

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

REGISTRATION FEE PER PERSON @ \$40.00 \$ _____

BANQUET TICKETS # _____ @ \$40.00 \$ _____

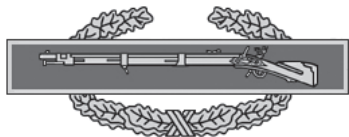
TOTAL PAID \$ _____

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

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

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

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



WHO WE ARE

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

OUR MISSION

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

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

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

WHAT WE DO

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

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

SECTION 2: Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol

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

SECTION 3: Long Range Patrol

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

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

SECTION 4: 75th Infantry Ranger Companies

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

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

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

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

PRESIDENTS

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

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

SECTION 5: Vietnamese Ranger Advisors BDQ

All units of the Biet Dong Quan (BDQ).

SECTION 6: 75th Ranger Regiment

- A. 1st Battalion (Ranger) 75th Inf., activated in 1974.
- B. 2nd Battalion (Ranger) 75th Inf., activated in 1974.
- C. 3rd Battalion (Ranger) 75th Inf., activated in 1984.
- D. 75th Ranger Special Troops Battalion, activated in 2007.
- E. 75th Ranger Regiment HHC Company, activated in 1984.

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



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

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

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

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

POSTMASTER

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

WEB SITE & MAGAZINE NEWS

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

There are a number of changes that will be implemented in this and future editions of the magazine and the website. I have alluded to them elsewhere in this issue and we will go into much greater detail in the December issue, but for the present they are:

All electronic submissions, to the magazine and/or the web site must be sent to patrolling@75thrra.com. These submissions will automatically go to, the magazine editor (me), the webmaster, David Regenthal, and to the Association President. If you need to send a hard copy or to mail an ad or other submission to the magazine and/or website send it to:

75th Ranger Rgt. Assn., Inc.

Patrolling Magazine

PO Box 28333

Baltimore, MD 21234

Remember, ALL correspondences, electronic or print, should be sent to the above addresses.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Joe Little



Joe Little

VOLUNTEERING is generally considered an altruistic activity and is intended to promote good or improve human quality of life. In return, this activity produces a feeling of self-worth and respect; however, there is no financial gain.

As this will be the last Patrolling magazine before Ranger Rendezvous I wanted to take advantage of the opportunity to log my thanks to everyone who assisted (or otherwise intended but circumstances prevented) assisting me over the past two years. Rather than a long list, permit me to make a general thanks, thereby not leaving anyone out . . .

Some of you are aware that I experienced some health setbacks, and additional surgical experiences, over the past year and a half. There were times when I strongly considered passing the torch to others but because of the encouragement of some (and threats of others) I decided to stay on, and just do the best I can. That would have been impossible without the backup and assistance of more than a couple souls who have requested to remain nameless. But again, thank you! There were still others that stepped up to help me or, more importantly, our association. We had representation at all funerals when sufficient lead time was available.

We had requests for the "Once an Eagle" ceremony after the funeral had taken place. Marshall Huckaby and other members he called on took care of this. Our 75th Gold Star Mother Sandee Rouse has been a true champion for the families of fallen Rangers making this organization a step above all others. While I agree it was Emmett's vision, it is you Sandee, and Jill, and Ruth, now joined by Diane, who are what makes this difficult and painful mission work so well. It is so important. Our board is discussing how we can provide additional support for our Gold Stars.

Marshall Huckaby has had his plate full since he was asked to be the State Coordinator. I had seen by way of emails, Marshall, how you and Sandee support each other. I recall when Emmett spoke to me (as then president) about the many funerals he attended and how draining it was. I am grateful to you both for taking this effort to the next level. You're making

certain that our fallen Brothers & Families are treated with Respect, Honor and dignity, that they all deserve. It is amazing that you are able to motivate our members to respond, often with little time to get it together. Just want you, and all who have contributed to this worthy endeavor to know that your efforts are appreciated at all levels.

Ranger Hall of Fame. I was thinking, as I watched the elite of today's Rangers compete during the Best Ranger Competition, that I was once young (I only said young)! It made me to see both past and present legacy at Best Ranger and at Ranger Hall of Fame. Reviewing packets prior and during RHOF voting at Regiment was an honor. Congratulations to 2013 RHOF inductees. Many of us know these men and I hope will show your support at the induction ceremonies during Ranger Rendezvous.

Here, in alphabetical order, are the selected 2013 Ranger Hall of Fame Inductees:

SGM Matthew Barrena
MSG Thomas Bragg
LTC James Dabney
CSM Robert Gilbert
CSM Doug Greenway
SGM Patrick Hurley
CSM Joe Mattison
CSM Andrew McFowler
MSG-E7 Vincent Melillo
MSG Howard Mullen
GEN Peter Schoomaker
CSM William Smith
LTC Fredrick Spaulding
LTG Gary Speer
MAJ Carleton Vencill
CSM Charles Williams

BUSINESS. In the past year we've experienced growing pains and made changes. Some worked, others did not. You read in last issue about combining some of the magazine and website

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

functions and responsibilities which lead to the formation of a "media group" with John Chester in lead on the magazine and David Regenthal on the website. We expect to see great things from them and I encourage you to support their efforts when and wherever possible.

We also had Scott Billingslea represent us in my place last year at Best Ranger and RHOE board voting. Scott has been our liaison with regiment and UD for 3rd BN. Thank You Scott.

RANGER RENDEZVOUS 2013. Holiday Inn North, in Columbus is again our host hotel. John Chester has the lead on prepping for our reunion along with Scott Billingslea providing able support. We met this April at Best Ranger to put a program together for all to enjoy. Calloway Gardens, the Association BBQ, with the banquet to be held at Iron Works. Things in are in planning stage for a tour of Andersonville Prison Camp, and the Shooting range.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP. Meeting to be held at Hotel on Saturday morning 27 July for all current members.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (2013-2015).

The following members expressed interest and will seek nomination for the positions as indicated (below). The Bylaws state that all those running for office will be members in good standing and, It is also states, "Individuals desiring to be Executive Officers or Unit Directors must clearly state to the membership that they have, or will make available, their time for Association business and the funds to defray personal expenses while conducting Association business."

President: Bill Anton

1st VP: Scott Billingslea

2nd VP: Kevin Ingraham

Sec: Tom Sove

Treasure: Roger Crunk

Our speakers at this years dinner will be

Gary O'Neil and Cory Remsburg.

Old Warrior was founded by Mr. **Gary O'Neal**. His story is both amazing and inspiring. After 40 years with the US Army Rangers and Special Forces, Chief Warrant Officer Gary Lee O'Neal (Ret.) defines Old Warrior. Trained from childhood in the warrior traditions of the Oglala Sioux, Mr. O'Neal epitomizes the spirit of the Ranger/Green Beret. Drafted in 1969, Mr. O'Neal reenlisted, serving multiple combat tours in Vietnam with multiple elite teams — from the 173rd Airborne Brigade line company, Battalion Reconnaissance (Recon), Long Range Reconnaissance Patrols (LRRPS), and Company C-75th Rangers to the 5th Special Forces Group (SFG). He served on some of the most dangerous missions of the war including special reconnaissance, Prisoner of War (POW) rescue, sniper operations and classified operations involving multinational forces.

Tossed like a rag doll by an exploding 500-pound bomb, U.S. Army **Ranger Cory Remsburg** landed face down in a canal. He lay motionless as his buddies scrambled to find him. Gunshots rang out, and the company took cover in a fresh crater formed by the improvised explosive device that killed one soldier and critically wounded others, including Cory.

They huddled, waiting for the helicopters. On that deadly October morning in 2009, Afghan insurgents ended Cory's eight-year run as an elite combat infantryman, but an unconquerable spirit has guided the Gilbert man through years of recovery. (more about Cory here: <http://www.azcentral.com/community/gilbert/articles/20130523injured-soldier-gets-warm-welcome.html>)

Please I hope to see all of you at Ranger Rendezvous 2013 Please check website for any/and all updates as you have read; not all is cast in stone and there are items not mentioned here due to time constraints. Therefore; check our website at <http://www.75thrra.com>

To all I failed to mention, as there are several that supported me and are still doing so. Thank You so much,

Hooah! RLTW
Joe Little

TREASURER'S MESSAGE

By Roger Crunk

75th Ranger regiment Assoc. Balance Sheet Accrual Basis As of February 15, 2013

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

CD	26,590.53
Columbus Bank & Trust	2,989.49
Family Fund	44,367.37
First Community Bank	19,685.69
Total Checking/Savings	93,633.08
Total Current Assets	93,633.08

TOTAL ASSETS 93,633.08

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity

Opening Balance Equity	97,343.80
Unrestricted Net Assets	-11,856.58
Net Income	8,145.86
Total Equity	93,633.08

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 93,633.08

MEDIA STAFF'S MESSAGE

By John Chester & David Regenthal



John Chester

By: John Chester

It seems like a couple days ago I was in a tizzy getting ready for Reunion/Rendezvous 2011, and here I am again, doing the same thing, (deja' vous all over again) for Reunion/Rendezvous 2013. At least, at that time I told myself that this would be the last time, that I could lay back and enjoy the next one, (2013). Oh well, some things are not meant to be. Make sure that you have your reservations made and your registration in Tom Sove's hand as soon as possible.

Times have been quite interesting on the media front for the last couple of months, between an old dog (me) trying to learn new tricks (Windows 8 ©), all the other new technology, and the reunion preparation, it has been kind of hectic. David and I are trying a new system that will do a number of things automatically, it will send invoices at the expiration date of a member's year, (one year from the date of his joining), rather than all memberships expiring June 30 every year. The practice has been to extend each new membership to the end of the year after an individual has joined. The Association is losing lots of money this way, and we need to pick up that slack. An additional benefit will be that all the invoices will not come in all at once and that the cash flow will be a lot more constant through the year.

Mary Anne & I went to Best Ranger this year, and once again, I left feeling my age. I got tired just watching those guys.

Results are below:

A team from Fort Benning, representing the Ranger Training Brigade has won the 2013 David E. Granger Best Ranger Competition.

Sgt. 1st Class Raymond M. Santiago and Sgt. 1st Class Timothy S. Briggs were named the winners of the 60-hour event, which concluded late in the afternoon of April 14. Sgt. 1st Class John M. Gendron and Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Horsager, a team from the 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Benning, were awarded second place.

Rounding out the top three, in third place were Sgt. 1st Class Samuel E. Leritz and Staff Sgt. Christopher Brouard, a

team representing the 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Benning. The winning team, and the teams that finished the competition, were recognized at an awards ceremony at Marshall Auditorium in McGinnis-Wickam Hall.

Of the 49 teams that started the event the morning of April 12, 24 finished the three-day event.



We met up with Joe Little our President, and Marshall Huckabee, our State Coordinator at the competition. We did agree, we weren't in that kind of shape back in the day. We did get the final on-site Reunion coordination accomplished with the Holiday Inn, and a lot of other administrative finished. Below is a photo of us at our best.



L to R: Marshall Huckabee, John Chester & Joe Little, Hear no Evil, Speak no Evil & See no Evil. Once again, I'm in the middle.

MEDIA STAFF'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

By: David Regenthal

Thanks, in large part to the efforts of the people that print our magazine, we have recovered and posted more than 30 back issue of Patrolling to the website. They're downloadable, in PDF format.

For folks that were unable to plan early, to attend the Ranger Rendezvous due to job or other issues, you can speed things up by using the website. You can register, pre-pay, and get the latest schedule of events there. One of the leading questions I get is, "why are the day/times for things nailed down yet?" The answer is simple . . . we've got to wait until the active duty is able to finalize what they are doing. For those of us no longer in uniform, we've got to remember, there's a war going on . . . the needs and responsibilities of the Army are subject to change, so we need to remain flexible.

We're working on new membership cards (yes, really!). I know this has been a long standing discrepancy but it's one we hope to have resolved by, and for, this summer's reunion. If you are going to be there please be sure to pre-register so we'll know to have a card for you (if they are ready).

Address and/or e-mail address changes. While this is something of a no-brainer, it bears repeating: For all members whose dues are current and expect to receive a magazine . . . If you're "mail to" address has changed you'll need to let us know so that we can update your record and then you will continue to receive your copy of Patrolling.

This issue is a combined, Spring/Summer 2013. The two preceding issues were Summer/Fall 2012, delivered at year end, and Winter 2012 which you should have received approximately 60-75 days ago. We expect to be back on schedule with a Fall 2013 issue not too long after Ranger Rendezvous. We decided it made more sense to hold until after the reunion because there will be a change in leadership, probably some unit directors and possibly appointed positions. In any event we want to be able to report that news as well as pictures and information from the reunion, unit news, and the new leadership from all levels.

We wish to thank the members, officers, and advocates (and those who stepped up to the plate in the absence of others) for all that they have done to the benefit of the association over the past two years. Some are going to be a tough act to follow . . . others, well . . . they gave what they had to give and you can't ask more than that from a man. We're hoping there will be some genuine competition for these non-paying, small thanks, and little recognition opportunities. You can ask anyone that has served in any capacity . . . it's not a popularity contest. My advice: If you don't have the time available . . . head for the hills and don't let anyone talk you into it cause that dawg ain't never gonna hunt.

See you in Columbus.

P.S. Unit Directors, you owe me mug shots.

Regenthal

GOLD STAR

By Jill Stephenson

Hello from Minnesota; where it snows well into May! I must say in my 40+ years of living here, this was one of the longest winters I can remember. I left the Minneapolis St. Paul airport on May 3rd during a blizzard and could not take off until the wings of the plane were de-iced! I was headed for Atlanta and then up to Dahlenega for the Critter Cook out! Sadly, I traded a May blizzard for three straight days of cold rain. However, I am not a complainer, so I am going to turn this towards all the good things happening. Who care's about the weather, right?



I was invited to Dahlenega by my wonderful friend Sherry and had the privilege of meeting more of my Ranger family. I had a great time re-tracing some of the places where my son Ben walked while he went to Ranger School and then recycled in that very place. A small group of the KillerMans Sons (Ranger motorcycle club) had rode up for the event and were kind enough to find a dedication to Ben on the wall in one of the Planning buildings and then take me to it. It touched my heart to see such a thing and I felt deeply honored to be in a place that has had a profound effect on thousands of Rangers over the years. One of my local Ranger family members is CSM (Ret) John Roy who spent some time in Dahlenega way back in the early 1950's. He gave me a photo of himself and two fellow Rangers that was taken in 1953 at Camp Merrill to donate to the current owner of the bar/restaurant on post. They were pretty excited to receive such a nostalgic photo. I would like to go back to Dahlenega and spend more time exploring and touch my feet onto the Appalachian Trail. Fast forward a few weeks and I was in Washington DC over Memorial weekend. Along with numerous other Rangers, Ben is laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery in the hallowed section 60. CPL Ryan McGhee's resting place is only steps away from Ben's as they were killed just two months apart. I have spent three out the last four years at Arlington/Washington DC for Memorial weekend. It's certainly a

patriotic place to be, but of course filled with the somber reminders of the many sacrifices that have been made in the name of Freedom, God, Country and Family. I have made friends in section 60 and often see the same people each time I go. This last time I met the sister in law and her family of a fellow 3/75 Ranger. They had taught their kids all about Ben and each knew his name and recognized his photo. It was refreshing to see such values being taught to their children.

Three days after I arrived home from Arlington I was on my way to Steven's Point, Wisconsin (about four hours from where I live) to speak at an All Airborne gathering. I was asked to tell Ben's story and share why he wanted to join the Army and become a Ranger. There were four WWII veterans at this event, including one who also made the trek from Minnesota. I am always very honored to be in the presence of these great men and eagerly find them and tell them so. Ben's great grandfather was a WWII veteran. The selfless sacrifices of these men is reason number one why Ben wanted to join the Army. I will be speaking to a group of local employers at the end of the month who are committed to making the return to work for employees who have had a family member die due to active military duty, more transparent. I am pleased to know that there is a genuine concern for this and am anxious to address this very important issue. I will not be highlighting my personal experience, but sharing the collective advice/wisdom of several other Gold Star families who were generous enough to share with me. I am more than happy to be the voice of my fellow Gold Star families and am hopeful that positive results will come soon. For the past two years I have hosted the Ben Kopp Memorial Ride in mid July. It's a motorcycle ride to honor Ben and all who have served our great country. Monies raised go to local charitable organizations who support our veterans and their families. Over the past two years we have raised \$25,000. This year is ramping up to be the best yet. Stay tuned for the final numbers on participants (last year we

GOLD STAR (CONTINUED)

had 230 motorcycles!) and dollars! The BKMR is an event that brings people of my community together to honor our veterans and show them they are supported and cared for. Had Ben come home, he would have very likely needed to tap into some of the resources available. If you see me at Ranger Rendezvous be sure to ask me how it went.

Speaking of Ranger Rendezvous, hard to believe it's a little over a month away and that this will already be my second one. As always, I look forward to seeing old friends and making new friends. Most of all, I look forward to spending time with my Ranger family. For those of you making the trip, travel safe and I'll see you soon! For those who aren't able to make it, thank you for all you have done and continue to do in the name of freedom. God bless! RLTW!



Ranger Ben Kopp's mother Jill Stephenson, Badger Chapter Chair Frank Morris, and 1st Sgt Ray Nelson, 96, Beloit, F/325 GIR, 82nd. Ray fought at the LaFiere Bridge in Normandy, one of WWII's most fierce battles. Jill's son, Ben Kopp, was KIA in Afghanistan. Jill, a nationally recognized speaker for our troops, traveled All The Way from Rosemount, MN and inspired us all!

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.

VA RELEASES HEART PATIENT STUDY

Submitted by VA Advocate, Dan Nate, F co.

Patients taking WARFARIN, a widely used blood-thinning pill that requires careful monitoring, have similar outcomes whether they come to a clinic or use a self-testing device at home, according to a recent Department of Veteran Affairs study published in the Oct. 21 issue of The New England Journal of Medicine. This is good news for heart patients who live far from clinics or are HOMEBOUND. The authors of the VA study expected home-monitoring to work better than clinical monitoring, partly because self-testing can be done at home more frequently, enabling patient readings to be adjusted more regularly and more quickly. An abstract of the study is available on the New England Journal of Medicine website. For more on Veteran health benefits, visit the Military.com Benefits channel.

PROTECT YOURSELF WHILE TRAVELING

Submitted by 75th RRA Advocate Dan Nate

Have you ever thought how you would get to the hospital and back home if you experienced a serious illness or injury while traveling? On a recent cross-country driving trip with his wife and grandchildren, Edward Jackson fell, hitting his head and breaking both wrists. He was taken to the nearest clinic and then airlifted to the regional medical center where his fractures were treated. Once released from the hospital, Jackson had to deal with physical pain, financial issues and the disruption of his vacation. Then he had to figure out how he and his family would make it 1,200 miles back home. Medical insurance covered a portion of his emergency transportation TO the hospital, but he was left with a large deductible and co-

payment obligation. Likewise, his health insurance wouldn't take care of the expense and arrangement to get him and his family back home.

With a pre-paid medical transportation plan, he and his family (including his grandchildren) could have received transportation home. If he had an extended hospital stay, all arrangements and accommodations for his family would have been covered under the plan too. Unfortunately, accidents happen. Health insurance and credit card protection services don't offer full protection like an air medical transportation provides.

For more information on how to receive travel health protection for you and your family members, please contact the MEMBER BENEFITS DEPARTMENT at 1-800-821-2606, option 3.

Since this article was "borrowed" from the November/December VFW magazine, it is safe to assume that there is some connection, and most likely would mean a membership, but maybe not. Give them a call and inquire. It's a veteran thing. Be prepared. Perhaps we can "buy into the plan", per time of use, at a discounted price by joining the company, en masse?

MAY NEED ALTERNATIVE TO PULLED MEDICATIONS

SUBMITTED BY VA Advocate, Dan Nate

I wrote last about the "pulling" or eradication of the pain-reliever DARVON, once the best friend of the service corpman and the medical field. After many years, tests and deaths, it was finally yanked. Not a word about those of us that were issued it while serving, or of any claim info YET.

HEALTH (CONTINUED)

The worst thing facing us now, is why they finally pulled it, and what will they use to replace it, and lastly, how much medical damage did we do to ourselves taking this drug in all sorts of doses and situations.

In November, 2010, the FDA removed DARVON (propoxyphene) and DARVOCET (propoxyphene w/ acetaminophen) from the market. They also asked generic-drug makers to stop marketing medications that contained propoxyphene. This came after the manufacturer of the drugs completed a study (at the request of the FDA) that showed propoxyphene put patients at risk of potentially serious and sometimes fatal heart-rhythm abnormalities.

Known side-effects of propoxyphene include: constipation, dizziness, headache, vomiting, allergic reactions, sedation, coma, hallucinations cardiac arrest, drug toxicity, convulsions, accidental or intentional overdoses, respiratory arrest, suicide, dependence, mental-status changes, cardiac rhythm abnormalities, heart attack, congestive heart failure, and death.

How long have you taken DARVON, which contains propoxyphene? For how long? At what units, bases, stations were you just thrown a handful of some unknown dosage? I still have (3) cases of (6) containers each, of DARVON orange and grey, the big fat ones that NEVER wanted to go down your throat, 500mg.each! How many are suffering heart abnormalities from the usage, and the abusive handing out of such a dangerous drug. It has been an Army and VA standard issue drug. No wonder we're eating OMEPRAZOLE daily to calm the pain and reactions to esophageal damage done by this drug.

KNOW THE SIGNS OF DIABETES

Submitted by 75th RRA Advocate Dan Nate

Diabetes affects your body's ability to use blood sugar for energy. It's a chronic condition that, while serious, CAN be managed. There are four (4) main types of diabetes. With type 1 (previously known as juvenile diabetes), the body's immune system destroys insulin-producing cells in the pancreas. Type 2 is the most common type and accounts for 90-95%

of people with the disease. Pre-diabetes (impaired glucose tolerance) and insulin resistance affect about 57 million Americans. Gestational diabetes, which affects about 4% of all pregnancies, increases complications for Mother and child.

High blood sugar slowly injures the blood vessels, nerves and organs in your body. The higher your blood sugar is—and the longer it stays high—the worse the damage will be. Diabetics are at increased risk for several serious complications, including:

- nerve pain, burning sensation and numbness (peripheral neuropathy);
- heart disease and stroke (these cause at least 65% of diabetes-related deaths);
- kidney failure (diabetic neuropathy);
- gangrene and amputation from serious, non-healing infections of the legs and feet;
- dental and skin problems;
- erectile dysfunction;
- blindness, cataracts, glaucoma and other serious eye conditions.

SYMPTOMS

Because of how wide-spread diabetes is in the United States and how many people are as yet UNDIAGNOSED, everyone should learn and know the signs of this disease. The list of symptoms below is offered by Web.MD.com's Diabetes Health Center, which is available at: diabetes.webmd.com:

- excessive thirst and appetite;
- increased urination (sometimes as often as every hour);
- unusual or unexplained weight loss or gain;
- fatigue and general weakness;
- nausea, perhaps vomiting;
- blurry or spotty vision or seeing flashes;
- dry mouth
- excessively sweet breath that smells like nail-polish remover;
- slow-healing sores or cuts (this could mean damage to blood vessels);
- itching skin, especially in the groin or vaginal area;
- in women, frequent vaginal infections;

HEALTH (CONTINUED)

- recurring yeast infections (in men and women);
- numbness, tingling, burning pain, or swelling in the feet or hands (potentially a sign that diabetic neuropathy has set-in);
- chest pain or shortness of breath (a sign diabetes-related heart disease or blood vessel problems);
- frequent bloating, belching, constipation, nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, or belly pain after you eat (i.e., gastroparesis);
- heavy or reduced sweating;
- feeling weak or dizzy after you stand up quickly;
- not knowing when your bladder is full, or having problems voiding (emptying your bladder);
- not being able to tell when your blood sugar is low (hypoglycemia unawareness).

Call your doctor if you feel nauseated, weak, and excessively thirsty; are urinating very frequently; have abdominal pain; and are breathing more deeply and rapidly than normal. These are signs of ketoacidosis, a potentially deadly complication of type 1 diabetes, stated the WebMD authors. You may need immediate medical attention.

Also contact your physician if you're having weakness and fainting spells; are experiencing a rapid heartbeat, trembling and excessive sweating; and feel irritable, hungry or suddenly drowsy. You could be developing hypoglycemia—low blood sugar. You may need to eat or drink a carbohydrate snack quickly to avoid more serious complications. Keeping blood sugar under control is the single most important factor in preventing diabetes-related complications, noted the WebMD authors. Please note that smoking and alcohol consumption increase your risk for serious side effects from diabetes.

Sources: American Diabetes Association (ADA), www.diabetes.org/diabetes-basics/diabetes-statistics. Data taken from the National Diabetes Fact Sheet, 2007, the last year for which these data are available, according to the ADA.

CONGRESS PROVIDES VA WITH AUTHORITY TO PAY FOR EMERGENCY CARE IN NON-VA FACILITIES

SUBMITTED BY 75TH Ranger advocate Dan Nate

I wrote this so far back that many have forgotten to use it, refer to it, or that it exists. Now, just of late, 2 of my friends have had difficulties getting the best medical treatment for their emergency needs, so I am re-writing it. If it seems old, you've read it, but make a copy for your wife to have in case she needs it for you, or for herself. This refers to an article I submitted originally back in the Fall issue of Patrolling, 2001. The new ruling was written on July 25th, 2001, at 1:03 P.M., under the above title. I would suggest that we each carry a folded enveloped copy of this in each vehicle's glove compartment for a "just-in-case" while traveling, or if you are in the south, which seems to have their VA facilities too far "spread-out" for convenient visitations, let alone emergencies.

The last friend I helped with this was in severe congestive heart failure, lives in Southport region of N.C. and was instructed, in his condition? to travel to Fayetteville, for VA evaluation. In heart failure, with 22 pounds of fluid around his heart, just get in your car and travel 3 1/2 hours to Fayetteville and we'll take a look. RIGHT. He could hardly move, let alone drive 3 1/2 hours in his condition. Needless to say I told him to go to the nearest hospital emergency room that has a heart-treatment unit, which he did, and then we started the dealing with the VA hospital. Fred and I won. Using these simple rules, so will you, IF you remember to look in your glove compartment and hand them a COPY of this communication. Any problems, sue the hell out-of-them.

"Congress recently provided the VA with new authority to PAY for emergency care in non-VA facilities for veterans enrolled in the VA health care system. The new benefit will pay for emergency care rendered for non-service-connected conditions for enrolled veterans who have no other source of

HEALTH (CONTINUED)

payment for the care. It also allows said veteran to save his/her life first by going to the nearest facility ASAP, and worry about costs (which are covered) later.

Although the new authority was made effective May 29th, 2000, VA could not process and pay the claims until regulations were implemented.

This benefit is a safety net for enrolled veterans who have no other means of paying a private facility emergency bill, or who cannot afford the time or the pain to get to the nearest VA facility, but are in dire straits, health/life-wise. To qualify you must meet all of the following criteria:

- you were provided care in a hospital emergency department or similar facility providing emergency care.
- you are enrolled in the VA health care system.
- you have been provided care by a VA health care provider within the last 24 months.
- you are financially liable to the provider of the emergency treatment, FOR that treatment.
- you have no other form of health care insurance.
- you do not have coverage under Medicare, Medicaid, or a state program.
- you have no other contractual or legal recourse against a third party that will pay all or part of the bill.
- DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OR OTHER FEDERAL FACILITIES WERE NOT FEASIBLY AVAILABLE AT TIME OF THE EMERGENCY!!!

VA will reimburse health care providers for ALL MEDICAL SERVICES necessary to stabilize your condition up to the

point where you can be transferred to an approved VA health care facility. VA will pay up to 70% of the applicable Medicare rate and the VA payment will be considered and accepted as payment in full. If you are an eligible veteran, a VA facility is NOT feasibly available, and you believe your health or life is in immediate danger, report directly to the closest emergency room. **YOU DO NOT NEED PRIOR APPROVAL!** You, your representative, or the treating facility should then contact the nearest VA as soon as possible (within 24 hours) to arrange a transfer to VA care, if hospitalization is required.

If you are hospitalized at a private facility, VA will be in regular contact with your private physician(s) at the private facility. As soon as your CODITION IS STABILIZED, VA will arrange to transport you to a VA, or VA-designated facility. VA will pay for your for your emergency care services only until your condition is stabilized. If you stay beyond that point, you will assume responsibility for the payment of costs associated with the treatment. VA will assist with transportation arrangements and may be able to pay for such expenses. You should contact your local facility for current guidelines.

If you are billed for emergency care services, contact your local VA health care facility and a representative will assist you in resolving the issue. To resolve claim issues, VA has established official appeals processes to make sure your case is thoroughly reviewed.

For more information contact the nearest VA health care facility or call (1-877-222-8387) or the number(s) given you by your local VA facility.

[Source: e-Nuclear Veterans News Vol. 01, Issue 05, 18 June, 2001.]

FEATURE ARTICLES

2013 Distinguished/Honorary Member of the Regiment (D/HMOR) Inductees

1. The following individuals have been selected for induction as Distinguished/Honorary Members of the Regiment:

- CSM Darrin J. Bohn
- CW5 Billy Frazier Jr.
- MAJ Scott M. Gilpatrick
- SGM Michael "Ted" Kennedy
- CSM Bobby G. Lane
- CSM Bradley K. Meyers
- CSM Eddie L. Noland
- COL Frederick M. O'Donnell
- COL Michael C. Okita
- CSM Philip S. Pich

- CSM James D. Pippin
- CW5 Dionisio Rivera-Lugo
- CSM Kenneth M. Turner
- CSM James (Jack) E. Voyles
- Ms. Christina Bartruff (Honorary)
- Mr. James P. Regan (Honorary)

2. The D/HMOR Induction ceremony will be held on Tuesday, 23 July 2013 at 1430 in Marshall Auditorium, Bldg. 4, Ft. Benning, GA. Formal invitations and instructions for Inductees and their guests to follow.

3. POC for this memorandum is RS9 NCOIC, SSG Rodeheaver, 706-545-2437.

NATHAN A. RODEHEAVER
SSG, USA

2013 Ranger Hall of Fame Inductees

1. References:

- a. Ranger Hall of Fame Bylaws, 16 November 2012
- b. Ranger Hall of Fame MOI, 19 November 2012

2. The following individuals have been voted into the 2013 Ranger Hall of Fame:

- SGM Matthew Barrena
- MSG Thomas Bragg
- LTC James Dabney
- CSM Robert Gilbert
- CSM Doug Greenway
- SGM Patrick Hurley
- CSM Joe Mattison
- CSM Andrew McFowler
- SFC Vincent Melillo

- MSG Howard Mullen
- GEN Peter Schoomaker
- CSM William Smith
- LTC Fredrick Spaulding
- LTG Gary Speer
- MAJ Carleton Vencill
- CSM Charles Williams

3. The Ranger Training Brigade will host the induction ceremony and send official invitations NLT 26 May 2013 IAW the Ranger Hall of Fame MOI, 19 November 2012.

4. Point of contact for the 2013 Ranger Hall of Fame is the 75th Ranger Regiment RS9 office, (706) 545-2437 or via email 75RR-RHOF@soc.mil.

Rangers Lead The Way!

Bob Gilbert, founder of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc., will be inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame.

By: John Chester

Our principal founder, will be inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame at the 2013 Ranger Rendezvous/Reunion. Bob has been active in the Ranger Community since his retirement from active duty. In 1986, he was the prime mover in the formation of this Association. He served two terms as President, (I'm told that the second term was occasioned when he left the meeting for a bathroom break) and has advised and counseled

just about every President since then. I certainly appreciated his advice during my term as President. A short bio follows.

CSM (Ret.) Gilbert began Army service before WW II was officially over with the 712th & 772nd Military Police



FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)



Battalions for five years including assignment with the original 3rd Infantry Old Guard during 1947-48.

Following a first tour during the Korean War from 1950-1951 he moved to Airborne, Ranger and Special Forces assignments with the 82nd Airborne

Division, 11th Airborne Division, 101st Airborne Division, 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team as a machine gunner during a 2nd tour in Korea and Japan, 508th Airborne Regimental Combat Team, 1st Airborne Battle Group 506th Infantry, 3rd Special Forces, 42nd Company the Airborne School; three tours with the Army Ranger School as a Senior Instructor, Chief Instructor and Sergeant Major. Assignment to the 2nd and 9th South Vietnamese Cavalry Squadrons in the Mekong Delta as a Senior Cavalry Scout during 1965/66. Retired as 1st Brigade CSM of the 24th Infantry Division.

Following Army retirement he obtained a Degree in Criminal Justice and was employed as a Special Agent (SA) for the Department of Defense conducting investigations for individuals and Defense Industry businesses concerning National Security in California and Georgia before retiring as a Journeyman Investigator.

During employment in California he exposed two Defense Contractor subordinate elements for cheating American Taxpayers. A final case closed during December 1984 before transferring to Georgia involved one Thomas Patrick Cavanagh.

After building a case on Cavanagh, an employee of Northrup Aviation at Newbury Park, CA, Cavanagh continued evading interview/interrogation and transferred to Los Angeles. Gilbert transferred his investigative effort to a Los Angeles Office briefing the next investigator before leaving for Georgia.

On December 18, 1984 Cavanagh was arrested by the FBI charged with attempting to sell classified documents on stealth aircraft technology to the Soviets. Cavanagh pled guilty to two counts of espionage and on 23 May 1985 was sentenced to two concurrent life terms in Prison.

At Columbus, GA. SA Gilbert was involved with some of the 1st and 3rd Ranger Battalion and Regimental Hq's security matters and other units. His investigations prevented three civilian security risks from obtaining employment at the Regimental Headquarters Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility. As Operation Desert Storm began SA Gilbert's investigation caused removal of one security risk in the 3rd Ranger Battalion Staff.

CSM Gilbert considers it a privilege to have served with and/or known numerous members of the 101st Airborne Division LRRP, Company F/58th Infantry LRP and L/75 Company Rangers.

That is true for all other LRRP, LRP and 75th Rangers plus the Indiana National Guard LRP and Rangers he has met since forming the 75th Ranger Regiment Association at the request of the 101st Abn. Div. members during their first June 1986 reunion.

He considers them all United States Army Rangers whose formal Ranger training was not at any stateside school graduating with a tab, but on the job training in war. They are the only modern Rangers whose training and acceptance by their peers was in ground combat against an armed enemy.

After a lifetime of service to his country and to the Ranger community, I can think of no one more deserving of this honor. I am proud to have known Bob and am grateful for the time he spent with me showing me where some of the bones were buried. He has been an immense presence for the Association, and I am sure that he will continue to be in the future.

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Ranger Combat Medic named USASOC Medic of the Year

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

“Never shall I fail my comrades...” Ranger Creed

Something that every Ranger lives by, however when a Ranger is wounded in combat, a Ranger Combat Medic has the life of his fellow Ranger literally in his hands. This year's U.S. Army Special Operations Command Medic of the Year takes this part of the Ranger Creed to a whole new level.

For his mentoring skills, tactical knowledge and casualty management proficiency, Staff Sgt. Christopher Hutchison, Company Senior Medic, Company A, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment has been named U.S. Army Special Operations Command Medic of the Year. This is the fourth year in a row that a Combat Medic from the 75th Ranger Regiment has been awarded this prestigious honor.

“It is so surreal. I don't think I did anything at all to deserve this award,” said Hutchison. “It's humbling to even be considered for such a significant award.”

Hutchison has provided medical coverage on more than 275 combat missions and has demonstrated excellence on every single one of them, according to his nomination letter. “Hutch has always been assertive with training and his combat medic skills,” said Cpt. Andrew Fisher, Battalion Physician Assistant, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. “He takes the extra time to ensure his subordinate medics are trained to the best of their ability.”

During a recent combat deployment to Afghanistan, Hutchison was on the objective when an Afghan Soldier, suffered a gunshot wound to the chest. Hutchison was the second medic to arrive and quickly took the lead. “Staff Sgt. Hutchison directed the application of occlusive dressings and a saline lock; provided instructions to set up a litter and hypothermia prevention dressings, provided adequate pain management and turned over all required medical documentation before loading him onto a rotary wing casualty evacuation platform,” said Fisher.

“I was just doing my job,” said Hutchison. “I was on target with junior medics and they are so well trained that I didn't have to micro manage the care they were providing.”

After evacuating the Afghan Soldier, Hutchison encountered one local national who was wounded and one was very seriously wounded with gunshot wounds to the chest and pelvis. “After quickly assessing and treating the patient for life-threatening wounds, Staff Sgt. Hutchison recognized the need for additional treatment and resuscitation,” said Fisher. “He recognized the patient was bleeding internally, and treated him with one dose of Traexamic Acid and the patient responded immediately to the lifesaving measure.”



Staff Sgt. Christopher Hutchison, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment.

Hutchison was the first combat medic to administer TXA, which is a clotting agent that until recently had been authorized for use in the pre-hospital environment by special operation forces medics. “The patient was evacuated to the nearest medical treatment facility, where he underwent multiple surgeries and made a complete recovery,” said Fisher. “Staff Sgt. Hutchison received accolades from the medical providers for his assertive and accurate treatments.”

Ranger combat medics are first and foremost, Rangers first as Hutchison demonstrated during a combat mission in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan. After a combat engagement which involved an aerial gun run with an AC-130 Gunship, a small element from the Ranger platoon was tasked with the clearance of the known enemy fighting position. Hutchison was traveling behind the lead team as they were engaged by multiple enemy combatants from fortified positions.

“We were surprised that after the gunship engagement, the enemy was still alive and maneuvering on us,” said Hutchison. “We were pinned down for just a few minutes until we reengaged the enemy combatants.”

Hutchison identified the lead team was fixed by enemy fire and ran, under fire, to the team's right flank. He was within 15 meters of an enemy machine gun position, and rounds were impacting all around him. Hutchison repeatedly exposed himself to machine gun fire in order to suppress the enemy position with small arms and fragmentation grenades.

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

"His decisive action allowed the remainder of the team to prepare for a flanking maneuver," said Fisher. "His clear and accurate reporting to the Squad Leader on the enemy positions, painted a concise picture on the composition and disposition of the enemy on the ridgeline."

When the decision was made to fall back to allow for another aerial gun run, Hutchison increased his fire suppression and maneuvered to cover the remainder of the squad's withdrawal. Throughout the movement down the mountain, Hutchison provided covering fire as the squad moved from position to position.

"You don't think," said Hutchison. "You react to the battle drill – the guy was shooting at us from 15 feet away and you absolutely rely on your training; straight up Infantry Ranger tactics." Once out of small arms range, Hutchison moved throughout the Platoon's positions, ensuring no Rangers were wounded by enemy fire; for these actions, he was awarded the Joint Service Commendation Medal for Valor.

"Staff Sgt. Hutchison is a devoted and extraordinary Ranger Medic," said Fisher. "He possesses all the moral qualities and maturity needed to excel both personally and professionally. He is an immeasurable asset to our organization and his moral compass and discipline are beyond reproach."

"He is constantly looking for new and innovative ways to bring better lifesaving measures to the battlefield," said Fisher. "His skills are second to none and his competence sets him apart from other medics as he was chosen as a junior NCO to become a company senior medic."

Hutchison was presented with an Army Commendation Medal at an awards ceremony held Jan. 18 at Hunter Army Airfield, Ga. Hutchison's military 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, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Warrior Leader Course, U.S. Army Ranger Course and the Jumpmaster Course. The Combat Medic Course is taught at Fort Sam Houston, Texas and provided Hutchison with his Emergency Medical Technician-Basic Certification and qualified him as a combat medic.

Hutchison also attended the Special Operations Combat Medic Course at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The intensive six month course teaches extensive training in anatomy and



Col. Peter Benson, Command Surgeon for U.S. Army Special Operations Command presents Staff Sgt. Christopher Hutchison with an Army Commendation Medal for his achievement in winning the 2012 USASOC Combat Medic of the Year award. Staff Sgt. Hutchison is the Company Senior Medic, Company A, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. (Photo by Tracy A. Bailey, 75th Ranger Regiment Public Affairs)

physiology, kinetics of trauma, advanced trauma skills and procedures, Trauma Combat Casualty Care and combat trauma management. Hutchison completed a 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 two rotations at the Grady Trauma Center, Atlanta, Ga.

Hutchison has deployed five times in support of Operation Enduring Freedom for a total of 19 months deployed. His decorations include the Ranger Tab, Combat Medical Badge, and Parachutist Badge.

He has also been awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Joint Services Commendation medal for Valor (two awards), Army Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal (two awards), Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Combat Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, and the NATO Medal.

Hutchison, a native of Idaho Falls, Idaho, is married with two children. In his spare time, he enjoys snowboarding and spending time with his family. He graduated from Skyline High School High School in Idaho Falls.

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Thanksgiving in Jonestown

BY: William D. Scanlan

SGM-US Army Retired, RLTW

1/101 LRRP & B/75th Rangers

In 1978 I served in the US Army as a Platoon Sergeant in A Co (Airborne), 3rd Bn, 5th Inf., 193rd Bde. in the Panama Canal Zone.

The morning of 20 November 1978 had been routine line infantry training until I was called to the orderly room by the commander, CPT John Keneally (later killed while commanding the 3rd Ranger Bn during training). I was directed at that time to prepare an honor guard for Congressman Leo Ryan reportedly killed in Guyana, South America, although little other information was known at that time. (I had previously thought Guyana was in Africa and couldn't figure why the body was passing through the Canal Zone.)

The designated type of mission rapidly changed as information on a multiple murder and the mass suicide of a religious cult became available. I was now directed by CPT Keneally to prepare for a rapid deployment of a security/intelligence gathering party for United States Southern Command. I suggested we have long range communication and medical assets that could be provided by 3rd Bn, 5th Special Forces Group in addition to our unit capabilities. We were told by the Guyanese Government the only weapons allowed would be standard issue .45 pistols with one clip per individual as there was no perceived threat.

That afternoon we were told there might be as many as 400 survivors of the "Peoples Temple" in and around Jonestown, Guyana, quite possibly high on drugs, with their leader, Jim Jones. We were not on their welcome list.

I recommended and explained to COL Gordon, the South Com Task Force Commander that based on current information, the threat certainly required more than pistols for a personal security plan. COL Gordon agreed and was able to additionally get us clearance at the "highest level" to allow small arms (M-16's) as well as the potential need for riot control gear (C. S. Grenades and protective masks) to insure our ability to control any situations that might arise from an unruly crowd.

Task Force South departed for Guyana by C-130 on 21 November 78, 1978, at approximately 0100 and arrived at Tamuri Airport Georgetown, Guyana that morning shortly after daylight. The remainder of the first day was spent setting up a Tactical Operations center at the airport and getting an accurate picture of what assets were available. Our team was denied permission to proceed to Jonestown at 17:20 hours local by the Guyanese Air Ministry for apparent political reasons, but we were told there seemed to be dead people all over the place -- hundreds of them. Things were becoming very interesting by this time.

The next morning our team was allowed to proceed to Mathew's Ridge, a small runway in the jungle in the vicinity of Jonestown, capable of landing fixed wing aircraft. We were in a twin engine Army C-12 aircraft. Our first attempt to land was unsuccessful due to heavy cloud cover, and we returned to Georgetown. Several hours' later weather lifted, and we proceeded to and landed at Matthews Ridge. We then loaded a Guyanese UH-1 helicopter and headed to Jonestown - all six of us. It was a short, uneventful flight, and the helicopter soon started its landing approach to Jonestown. You could smell the stench of decaying bodies before we landed. Time to "lock & load." Bodies were all over the place, quite a sight.

The first order of business in Jonestown was to scout/recon the area to see if our team members were able to locate any survivors, as it was impossible to secure the area. (Very large area for only 6 men) Our party broke down into three, two-man teams and skirted the built-up areas along the edges of the jungle. The teams returned to our LZ after several hours with the same results -- no People's Temple survivors had been located up to this point. The smell was beyond description. If you haven't been exposed to bodies in the tropics in advanced stages of decomposition, you couldn't possibly understand. The stench was not very pleasant and there was no way to avoid or mask it. We then scouted the extensive built-up area next and were really surprised at what was found.

Jonestown had been well planned and built in a very functional manner to house and support the approximately 1,000 Temple members. There was a great deal more than one would expect in the way of construction equipment, vehicles and tractors etc. in the middle of a dense jungle area that was not even mapped. Many small cottage-type structures for housing

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

existed. The better equipped houses were designated for the more important members and had electricity for lighting and some even with air-conditioning, a real luxury. Power was supplied by several large generators centrally located. Sidewalks made out of wooden slats connected the many different areas, very impressive. We found larger barracks-type buildings for the general population. A central commissary for food storage with dry goods and freezers stacked with meat was located close to the main pavilion. A well-stocked machine shop, medical dispensary fully stocked with pharmaceuticals, drugs and high-tech equipment surprised even our Brigade Surgeon, who had arrived on one of the following afternoon lifts. They had even built a laundry facility on site. Jonestown had been constructed with amazing detail, highly organized - almost beyond belief. The largest structure and center of Jonestown was the Pavilion/Temple Meeting Hall. Most of the bodies were in and around this location.

We continued to familiarize ourselves with Jonestown as a plan was being formulated based on what we thought our mission was. The search for survivors soon ended as the only living Individuals seemed to be the Guyanese soldiers on the outskirts of the area. All buildings had been thoroughly ransacked as nothing was in place. I wondered if we had been denied access the day prior to allow the Guyanese Army to have time to go through everything in detail before our team came in.

By this time, late morning or early afternoon a second lift in the Guyanese helicopter arrived with the Task Force Commander COL Gordon and the remainder of our team. We briefed him up and gave him our plan of action. SFC Jennings, 5th SF Gp, got a bulldozer running so we could excavate a large hole, dump the corpses in it and be done with it. All the bosses seemed to agree and COL Gordon presented the idea to the Guyanese official. We were told to put everything on hold until final "blessings" came from the host government. Not to be!!

As it turned out, the Guyanese government was afraid if the Temple members were buried on site, the site would become a mecca for more cult weirdoes. They did not want a new influx of this type in their country. We were forced to go to Plan B -- bag the bodies, move them to an LZ for pick up by helicopter after they were bagged and fly them back to Georgetown for transport back to the United States for possible identification -- a daunting task to say the least with 900 plus decaying

bodies. The initial problem was a lack of body bags and heavy lift helicopter capabilities. We requested Army CH47's; but at the time, few, if any, had in-flight refueling capabilities -- a necessity for this mission to be efficient.

The Army provided a flight of four UH1-H's with extra fuel bladders to extend their range. Their lift capacity was simply not sufficient, only 4 to 6 bodies at a time because of the extra fuel weight. As it turned out the UH1-H mission commander was Chief Warrant Officer, Bob Price out of Ft. Benning. Mr. Price used to fly MedEvac for the Florida Ranger Camp in my R.I. days, and I knew him well. I made a request to him to round up some beer, and low and behold, the next day two cases of the local "Banks Beer" were flown in. This was enough for two bottles per man as our numbers had increased due to the arrival of Army grave resignation personnel.

SOUTHCOM finally got the Air Force to provide heavy lift with five or six CH53 "Jolly Green Giants" with in-flight refueling capabilities. (The CH53s had operational maintenance issues with either three or four breaking down and becoming unusable in the mission.) The tempo then picked up. First day, forty bodies out; second day, two hundred and sixty-seven bodies out; third day, three hundred and eleven bodies out; last day, two hundred and ninety-two bodies out.

Thanksgiving dinner came in the form of turkey TV type dinners in lieu of C-rations and were provided on 23 November 78. It was an interesting location to celebrate this traditional holiday. The only one that didn't get a dinner was "yours truly" as we were one meal short. The next day the rear area sent my holiday meal.

Many small but interesting incidents/stories took place in Jonestown. I still have my little green Army "Memoranda" notebook with all the details, facts, personal data and equipment lists, as well as original Orders Number 236-23 to Joint Task Force South. Good stuff!! I also have many pictures of the Jonestown operation that are interesting to say the least. Here are two of the lighter moments:

Loading bodies became a challenge by the third day. Morale seemed to need a boost so I felt some humor would perk things up. I came up with what I thought was a good way to see how Air Force Jolly Green crews would re-act to a situational change, and hopefully, give everyone a good laugh.

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

The body bags containing remains had been arriving at the LZ faster than we could airlift them out. The back-up was caused by the high number of maintenance failures of the Ch-53's, long flight time back to Georgetown, and in-flight refueling. Each time the Ch-53's made it in, we'd check with the crew chief and load as many bodies as he would allow on the bird. The numbers kept increasing so we just started stacking body bags the full length of the cargo compartment. Opportunity! The time was right and the plan was executed --

We put CPL John Corson, one of our physical light-weights, who was definitely very much alive, in a body bag just prior to the next CH53 touchdown. After loading 15 or 20 bodies with the aid of the Air Force crew, we slipped the special body bag up the ramp. We then moved the bag forward and placed CPL Corson on top of the body bags close to the Air force crew. CPL Corson followed the plan precisely. After about thirty seconds as the Air Force crew tugged on the body bag to make more room, Corson started kicking, trashing and screaming while inside the bag. The crew chief bailed out the forward window in full escape mode. The flight engineer ran at full speed out the rear ramp blowing past the Army personnel. All the Army types had a good laugh but the Air Force was not pleased.

The aircraft commander got out of his seat and was very hostile towards me in particular since I was pointed out as the originator of the prank. After giving me a thorough x-rated verbal reaming, he eventually mellowed and everyone had a good laugh.

Before that lift departed, I gave all the crew members a blank check from Jim Jones's personal checking account. The commander of the Air Force crew left with the assurance there would be no more LZ pranks.

Ranger Instructor Observations

BY: William D. Scanlan

I became a Ranger Instructor (RI) following my assignment in the then independent "B Co, 75th Rangers." I served in the Florida Ranger Camp from December, 1973 until May, 1978. Many of the old 3rd Plt, B/75 squad and team leaders eventually served as RI's at the Florida Camp in that time frame - Jim "Bugs" Moran, George Nick, Bobby Henderson, Bob Hensley, Jim Coughlin and Cpl Herrin, to name a few.

I also had an additional run-in with the Guyanese OIC, Major Johnson who tried to get my team to do one last task before our departure. He insisted we bury "Mr. Mugs," a large chimpanzee Jim Jones kept caged in an enclosure. This creature was as big as a man and in a very advanced stage of decomposition, nasty to the max. Mr. Mugs had been executed with a gunshot to the head. (The bullet hole was plainly visible clearly shown in a picture I took.) I made it clear in no uncertain terms that none of my men would be involved with this as it had nothing to do with our mission. Mr. Mugs could be dealt with by the Guyanese. Major Johnson felt it was beneath his position and again tried to task our enlisted types. This guy was a real piece of work and had caused us previous aggravations as we worked on human remains. Our OIC, 1st LT Russ Musser, a Ranger who lead from the front and not concerned about "Political Correctness," backed us completely, and we all headed for the LZ and departure. I was the last American to board the last CH53 at 1848 hrs 25 November 78. My parting "Good Will" gesture to Major Johnson, the Communist/Socialist Guyanese OIC was to take a fire ax and demolished Jim Joneses large colored TV that Major Johnson said he had planned to keep for personal use. This individual had been a real pain in the rear and didn't seem to care for us Ranger/SF types and how we accomplished our mission. That is another story.

Many questions remain to this day as to what really took place in Jonestown. True answers may never be known. I do know the cult members did not all die by the method (poison) and the time frames that were given to the media.

The Jonestown saga was the **Times/Newsweek** top story of 1978, and the Ranger/SF community was an integral part of this significant event in the forward area with the emphasis on *forward*. (Jonestown itself)

As RI's we witnessed many humorous --

"I can't believe what a Ranger student just did."

"It is just so ridiculous."

"It has to be a true incident. It could not possibly be created."

We held a Kangaroo Court where RI foul-ups during cycle were brought to light in front of the cadre at the Gator Lounge. Sentences were beer rounds for cadre found guilty. (More to follow at a later date) Following are several incidents in which I was directly involved:

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

The Fighting Position Creature

I was walking as the Platoon Sergeant RI and “Fast Frank” Holbrook was the Platoon Leader RI in the Florida Phase FTX in the mid 1970s. With part of our mission complete, we arrived with the student platoon in our designated NDP area. The Ranger student chain of command was told to dig in until the next mission was received. The old Arrow Shaped, chest-deep fighting positions were required to be dug in the soft Florida sand and difficult to construct to say the least. “Fast Frank” and I settled down in the CP area and waited for NDP completion before checking the perimeter.

The usual prep sounds were suddenly broken by horrendous loud screaming and commotion in one sector. What could have possibly caused such a breach of noise discipline? All RI's know and Ranger students learn Murphy's Law will get you at times regardless of how well you plan for contingencies. We immediately checked the area and found the cause - a whaling student, totally babbling, “It got me. It got me. I was attacked.” (Don't remember the precise verbage) The mystery was soon solved. He had received the double whammy from a skunk. Not only had he been sprayed, he had also been bitten several times since the skunk had gotten in the fighting position with him. The skunk had either fallen into the position or the student had dug into its burrow -- bad for the skunk, worse for the student. It was a no-win situation.

Now all Rangers know, the Florida phase hits the student when he is tired, hungry and physically and mentally beat down, but this only added insult to injury. As I recall, the student was medevaced by vehicle with his gear, wounds and fragrance. He ended up getting a series of rabies shots and had to recycle through the Florida phase because of missed training time.

Swamp Monster No. 2:

As an RI many times we would leave an ambush site to coordinate with the guerilla force on how to react as the ambush was sprung (One RI always remained with the students.) We knew the approximate time and the direction of travel that the aggressors would approach the ambush site down the narrow sand trails. Direct coordination was always better than radio as more specifics could be given; such as, split the group, first group initiate ambush and get killed, second group follow up and hit the students as they searched the kill zone, etc. Normally this turned into a real gaggle. The Florida phase ambushes usually take place at zero dark, early hours and this was no exception.

On this particular day, I was about as tired as the Ranger students. I walked about 300 meters in the aggressor approach direction but couldn't locate the support bad guys. After about 30 minutes, I caught myself starting to nod off. I came up with what I thought was the perfect solution – I lay down in the middle of the sand trail where the aggressor force couldn't possibly get by me if I should doze off. I did. The plan worked but not exactly as I had expected. I failed to hear the approach, and the aggressor point man apparently thought I was a log and stepped directly on me. I woke up startled with a loud groan and immediate pandemonium broke out. The bad guys must have mistaken me for the “Great East Bay Swamp Monster.” They scattered in sheer terror dropping equipment, screaming and yelling. The noise was heard all the way back at the ambush site. It took another 30 – 45 minutes to round up the support troops, get them calmed down, recover equipment and send them into the ambush site. What a night!

Where Is It?

All Ranger school RI's know Ranger students have the ability to lose almost anything, regardless of size. Thus the “Ranger Assist” cord AKA “dummy cord” is a mandatory requirement to prevent loss of specific items. This is just one of many dummy cord incidents.

I was walking as the PSG RI with then Cpt John Keneally on the Florida phase FTX. One responsibility of the PSG RI is to insure no sensitive items are left or lost during the training mission. We had been directed to and dug in at a designated NDP and all was routine for several hours. A new mission was received, NDP closed out and movement began about one hour before BMNT to proceed to our linkup site.

I validated the head count and had learned to always physically touch major items that were carried by students. We had almost cleared the NDP when I touched a Ranger student with no weapon.

I passed the word to “halt” and asked him, “Where is your M16?” His reply bowled me over. “I don't have an M16, I am a machine gunner.” My second question, “Where is your M-60 then?” (Ranger student - looking at his dummy cord not attached to anything) His response was, “Duh?” (My flashlight now turned on showed his glazed, totally uncomprehending look.)

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

By this time CPT Keneally had come back to see what the holdup was. Needless to say, he was livid. The platoon file did an about face; flashlights were turned on, and a shoulder-to-shoulder sweep of the NDP area was conducted. No M-60 was found. Tempers and daylight were rising, and the search continued. I had personally counted the sensitive equipment and the emplacement of both M-60s when we set up the NDP. It had to be there.

CPT Keneally and I were running out of time and knew the missing M-60 needed to be reported. We were standing around where we thought the old gun position was located. Tempers and frustration peaked to the point CPT Keneally turned around and bellowed some choice verbage and violently

kicked the sand. Low and behold - I looked down and saw the front sight blade of the missing machine gun. The Ranger student had buried the M-60 when he and his Ranger buddy filled in their position. Item now recovered. We proceeded to a successful link-up on time. Two students received major negative spot reports. It had been a long walk.

Ed. Note:

Bill Scanlan served 28 years active duty and retired as a CSM. His Ranger type assignments include 1/101 LRRP, B/75, Ranger Department R.I- Florida phase, A Co (Airborne) 3/5 Inf. His overseas assignments took him to Germany, Viet Nam, Panama, Task force South-Jonestown Guyana

Task Force Ranger 20 Year Reunion and Fundraiser October 3rd – 6th Itinerary

October 3rd: Accommodations reserved at the **Marriot Solana in Westlake, TX.**
Movement to the **James Casey Joyce VFW** for dinner and drinks. (6:00 pm 'til 10:00pm)
Address: 3420 Avenue K suite 122 Plano, TX 75074
Transportation provided for the evening.

October 4th: All accommodations moved to the: **Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center**
Address: 1501 Gaylord Trail Grapevine, TX 76051 (817) 778-1000 for reservations noon to 5:00 pm

Charity silent auction and raffle. Top Dollar winners will be invited to meet and greet. There will be Rifles, autographed books, Three Rangers Whiskey (special TFR run) hunts, just to Name a few items. Merchandise will also be available for sale to the public such as coins, hats and shirts. All proceeds will be dispersed to Gallant Few, Lead The Way Fund, & The Nightstalker's Association.

Meet and Greet (6:00 pm 'til the last man drops) We will honor our sponsors for their support and take a moment to honor our Gold Star Families of our brothers who gave all on that fateful day, and those that have passed since.

October 5th: **20th Annual Mogadishu Mile Memorial Run** (8:00am) for charity with a 10,000 plus attendance. All proceeds from this event will benefit the Special Operations Warrior Foundation. Transportation provided if needed.
Afternoon: **BBQ at the Perot Ranch** Transportation provided by the Gaylord Texan

October 6th: 7:00am – 9:00am **Private TFR breakfast**
9:00am – 10:00am **Private church service** with Jeff Struecker

RLTW! NSDQ!

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

10th Annual LRRP/LRP/Ranger Cookout

By: John Chester

On Sunday, May 26, 2013, Mary Anne & I held our 10th Annual cookout at our house in Baltimore. I learned some years ago that if I do all the burger & dog cooking, it ain't a lot of fun at all, (for me), so we switched the menu to BBQ chicken & real New Orleans jambalya, both of which I get from a local BBQ house and a local Cajun restaurant. Both are probably healthier than cheeseburgers and hot dogs anyway. We had around 50 Ranger/LRRPs and guests and a good time was had by all.



Part of the setting and the spread.

We were quite heavy on 25th Inf Div guys (F/75 RGR – F/50 LRP), Joe Cassilly (DAV'S 2012 Man of the Year), Rick Ellison, Marshall Huckabee, Chuck Thomas & Dave Regenthal were there as well as Ken Bosley & his wife Peaches, Bill & Sue Gross, Brent Gulik, Ralph & Janet Timmons, our neighbors, Rosalie & Jerry & their grandkids, some other neighbors, my daughter, Hillary and our grandson, Jack. Smitty, one of the guys I met at the local Vet Center was there as well. If I forgot anyone, just attribute it to age. (One of the few premiums of getting age, I can make excuses like that.)

One of my team leaders from Vietnam, Fred Fones was there from Arizona, he comes a couple times a year, stay a couple of weeks, we re-fight the war, tell lies about how many times we saved each other's lives, and generally make Mary Anne's life a lot more interesting.

One thing that is pretty amazing: we have been doing this for the last 10 years, the Sunday before Memorial Day, and every year the weather has been perfect, never any rain or storms. I took that to mean that GRITS (Great Ranger in the Sky) obviously approves of the enterprise. Here are some photos of the gathering.



Mary Anne tending to business, getting it done.



Fred Fones, one of mine from Vietnam, holding forth on matters of interest.



Chuck Thomas (R) & Joe Cassilly.



Dave Regenthal.

Ralph Timmons giving me some direction. Looks like I'm not real interested.



(L to R),
Me,
Brent Gulik
& Chuck
Thomas.



Some of the folks next to the chicken run.

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

ENTITLEMENTS

BY: Dave Regenthal '68-69

If you look it up with Wikipedia you'll find it says something like this: An entitlement is a guarantee of access to benefits based on established rights or by legislation. A "right" is itself an entitlement associated with a moral or social principle, such that an "entitlement" is a provision made in accordance with legal framework of a society. Typically, entitlements are laws based on concepts of principle ("rights") which are themselves based in concepts of social equality or enfranchisement.

Of course what that definition doesn't say is that, in the case of America's social programs, that most of us pay into these systems our entire working lives. Maybe it's my imagination but it seems like there are a number of legislators acting like "entitlements" is a dirty word . . . that somehow it's the fault of the recipient that we're in the economic situation we're in as a country and that things like social security and medicare/medicaid should be cut back or done away with altogether. I'm going to quit while I'm still ahead as we're not a political organization, and my point is not political. I recently learned something that may be of value to a few of you.

I lost my mother on Veterans Day last year. She didn't accumulate any wealth to speak of in her lifetime, mostly because she shared or gave away pretty much anything she had. My mom was the best . . . I will never get over her passing.

In between her first and second stroke she ended up in a long term care facility, in a "Medicaid" bed. She didn't have much, save her sense of humor and a little one bedroom co-op out in the New Jersey Pinelands. If you don't know much about Medicaid, the way it works is you aren't allowed to have any money (at least not beyond \$1500 or so). You can "spend down" by pre-paying funeral expenses, necessities, and end of life stuff. Anything else, by the time you are certified eligible for Medicaid, must be surrendered (and you can't gift it to friends or relatives as the "lookback" period is 60 months in most states). My sister managed mom's affairs and, while wading through the bureaucracy, did a super job . . . one which I both

admire and am thankful I did not have to do.

One of the things I learned was that congress had written into Medicaid legislation, under the Department of Health and Human Services, a provision where the potential Medicaid recipient could transfer property (both real, and money . . . which is also property) without penalty. There are a number of bullet points here but I'll focus on the one with which I have experience which reads, in part, **"States are prohibited from making estate recoveries: from a surviving child who is under 21, or is blind or permanently disabled (according to the SSI/Medicaid definition of "disability"), no matter where he or she lives."**

So what does this mean to me? Well, while no longer a child, I am still (and always be) my mother's child. Additionally I am considered disabled by the SSA, and permanent and total by the VA, (at 100 percent). While not wishing to do anything that might impact negatively on mom's eligibility I suggested that my sister request a reading on the topic from the good folks at senior services (in Ocean County). I did go as far as to say that I wasn't interested in anyone's opinion, rather that I wanted to know what it said under current law. After a couple months, in followup, my sister told me that the agent had asked his boss who said, "No, that I was not eligible because I was no longer a child." This is where you go back and read the statement above regarding recovery.

At first I thought, let it go . . . Mom's little place, at current market value was only worth \$15-20,000 at best. And, the proceeds from sale would go into a system that ultimately benefits the poor. But then it occurred to me that there might be a brother or sister veteran in similar circumstance, making a factual answer that much more important. I then decided to look a little further into the matter. In my research I found a fairly recent case which addressed the issue, and was squarely on point. The case was from the US District Court, District of New Jersey (where my mom had lived her entire life). In that particular case it was about \$203,000 that the Medicaid applicant had transferred to her daughter, triggering transfer penalties (which would have translated to a lengthy period of

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

ineligibility). This case was submitted both on behalf of the individual(s), and that of a class of persons similarly situated. The result of which was the plaintiffs winning their argument (case against the state).

I have no special training which permits me to dispense legal advice, that's what lawyers are for. It's likely that Medicaid law varies from state to state so while your mileage may vary, I suspect, the federal version would take priority in the event of conflict. My only purpose is to share information that may be useful to some in our community albeit now or at some future date.

I should add to this that I was lucky. I was able to work through this without the assistance of an attorney. While the county official I crossed swords with was a worthy opponent, I recognize that he was only doing his as he had been told to do it. He was courteous and professional throughout and, in the end became a driving force to help facilitate the transfer from my mother to me. And if I know anything at all about my mother, it would be that she would be so pleased that my wife and I are enjoying her little place in the pines.

UNIT REPORTS



1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Steve Cochran

Hello Rangers,

I hope your getting along well whether active duty, retired, or working on your next career. I've talked to and received stories from different Rangers in an effort to generate new members to the 75th Ranger Regiment, 1/75th Patrolling Magazine and provide updates on both active-duty and retired Rangers.

Once you've been in a Ranger Battalion or Ranger Unit you become a different person. I recently had a good Ranger friend tell me in a conversation that by being around guys that are at the top of the food chain, it causes you to elevate yourself to the same higher standards. Subsequently what is a normal standard is no longer good enough. This coincides with anything else you do in life. With that in mind I'd like to encourage each one of us to use good judgment when going out to have a good time and tip a few cold ones. It can become easy to let a good time turn into a disaster if we become complacent thinking nothing can happen to us or I haven't had too much to drink. Every one of us owes it to our fellow Rangers, soldiers, friends, and families, to be mindful regardless of what activity we're involved in. When it comes to drinking I am an advocate against drinking and driving. I recommend there always be a designated driver and when there isn't one, we should leave our keys in the barracks or at home and take a cab so you don't become a statistic.

MG Kenneth C. Leuer (Ret), is the Chairman of the National Ranger Memorial Foundation and former University of Iowa National Wrestling Champion. was recently nominated to be the Honorary Captain for a wrestling meet between the Iowa Hawkeyes and Penn State on February 1, 2013. he finished a perfect senior season in 1956 by winning the 191 pound NCAA Championship. He was named an All-American in 1955 and 1956 and finished as the NCAA runner up in 1955. He won a Big Ten title that same year and finished his Hawkeye career with a record of 86-5-2 and a pair of All-American honors. He graduated from the University of Iowa in 1956 with a degree in Business Administration and a commission as a 2LT



in the U.S. Army. In 1974, MG Leuer was hand-picked by the Army Chief of Staff Gen. Creighton Abrams, and given the Abrams Charter for formation of the modern Ranger Battalions. He co-authored the "Ranger Creed" and established Ranger standards that are still practiced today and were demonstrated in combat in operation urgent fury in Grenada, just cause in Panama, and Desert Storm in the Kuwait Theater of Operations. He served 32 years in the United States Army Infantry, rising to

the rank of MG and inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame in 1992. He still remains active and other Ranger organization's today.

Recently being contacted by Ranger and Chaplain Richard (Tex) Wandke (LTC/Ret.) I discovered he served with the 43rd Vietnamese Rangers as an Advisor in Vietnam in 1965-1966. He then commanded A Co 1/35th Infantry 4th Infantry Division, then a LRRP Unit for the 3rd Brigade and C Co 1/12 Infantry during the 1968-1969 time frame. He was wounded in a Search and Destroy operation and Medically evacuated from Vietnam. He attended the Advance Course, Served as the Operations Officer for the Mountain Ranger Camp, then as Deputy Operations Officer/Operations Officer for the Ranger Department when they were creating the Ranger Battalions 1971-1972. He then served as the Deputy Senior Staff Advisor for the Ranger High Command (Vietnamese) in 1972-1973.

He did not get a chance to serve with the Ranger Battalions but as you can see he has contributed to the Ranger mission throughout his career in the Army. In 2002 he was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame and remains active in a number of Ranger organization's. He is a Chaplain for the Legion of Valor and also the Awards Chairman. He also had the honor of being elected as the National Commander for 1994 through 1995. He entered Service in 1963 with a Commission as a 2LT from the University of Maine ROTC Program as a Distinguished Military Student. He retired in 1988 as a LTC and then taught JROTC for 19 years in California.

1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)

As a result of my contact with Chaplain Wandke, an application was forwarded for SGT Craig D Warfel to fill out and upon returning it to the Legion of Valor SGT Warfel will be inducted into the Legion of Valor in recognition of his accomplishments. SGT Craig D Warfel is a paradigm for not only other Rangers, but other soldiers and humanity. I will keep this updated as soon as I find out anything else.

The very nature of the American experience is such that on any given day, any one of us might find ourselves in the company of heroes. Conversely, it is the nature of heroes that more often than not, they are content to move anonymously among us. They harbor a tendency to belong to another time and place, slightly beyond the reach of everyday dialogue. Moreover, it is within that "other time and place," stripped of politics and grand ideals that men have acted not for the praise of heroics, but on behalf of their brothers.

RLTW,
Steve Cochran

Sheila Dudley has her seventh grandchild-tally is now five boys and two girls! Emerson grace Worley is this little fellow's name and was born May 7, 2013 at 7 lbs. 14 oz., and 21 inches long. Grandma is doing fine!

The 2013 SSG Jason Dahlke Adventure Race Event will be held Saturday, June 1, 2013, 8:30 AM, at Fort McAllister/Richmond Hill, Georgia in remembrance of him. The 1/75th Sua Sponte Foundation will host a barbecue cook-off at the event! Come out and enjoy the event, the fun, the barbecue, and meet some new friends after the run.

I would like to let 1/75 know that we have confirmed the date for the Vogeler/Ranger Memorial Golf Tournament. The event will be held Monday 14 Oct 2013, and we would like to extend an invitation to all of the men of the Battalion to join us in this day of remembrance. Lance's family would like everyone to know, that even if they are not playing, all are invited to partake in this event, honoring our fallen soldiers.

An icon "Range Control" Building T7901

by Joe Caligiure, Jr.

Building T7901 was at one time the first sign of civilization when entering Fort Stewart from Richmond Hill and therefore became one of the most recognizable buildings on post. Originally built as a barracks in 1941 the building served as a classroom in the 50s and Range control. Units from the 3ID, 24 ID, 75th Rangers, numerous reserve and National Guard

units, tenant units, USMC, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and many other active Army units and law-enforcement departments have trained here and came through that old building not to mention fish and wildlife, forestry, sportsman, endangered and threatened species managers and anything that happens outside the main post area is coordinated through Range control even flying over Fort Stewart, Georgia had to be cleared through Range operation.

Whenever you entered the building it had a warmth about it, you felt comfortable in the unassuming surroundings. It felt like an old friend to those who worked there and to the customers who came time again. On the other hand it can be intimidating to those entering for the first time because you know you just entered an icon that has supported the United States military through four wars and numerous operations. If those walls could talk?

The building floor was so cold, your feet would be numb during the winter months. A new floor was installed over the old one and another floor over those two, making three floors, not counting the sub-floor. Despite the obvious defects, the Range Control building somehow commanded respect and had a sense of history about it. A one-seat latrine was shared by male and female alike. There was no hot water in the latrine until 1992. Central heat and air was non-existent, and we relied on electric heaters and fans until we all got window units that could produce heat and air. When a coffee pot was plugged in, circuit breakers tripped, and lightning seemed to love that building and its electronics.

The building housed numerous bugs and spiders in its nooks and crannies. Stray cats had kittens under it, and it served as a temporary home to snakes, armadillos and the famous Range Control mascot, Timex, the cat. The old chimney was home to bats and sometimes chimney swifts. Hurricanes and severe thunderstorms only managed to blow a few shingles off the roof. The building stood up to everything thrown at it for over 70 years.

The old building will be missed, the memories, the people, the exceptional work done there, the events hosted there and, of course, the pride of working in the most recognizable building on Ft. Stewart next to post headquarters and being a member of an organization that is second to none. It will be like losing an old friend. I know every time I turn onto Ga. Hwy 144, I will look over at the spot where the old building stood and be saddened by its absence. Another chapter of Ft. Stewart's proud history has closed, opening a new chapter for Range Control and those who look to it for guidance and support.

1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)**SUBJECT: 10TH ANNUAL A CO 1/75 7 MSG
ANDY FERNANDEZ MEMORIAL REUNION
JUNE 27-30 (REQUEST FOR RSVPs)**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are about 7.5 weeks out from the reunion. I know several of you told me that you have plans to make it. What I want to do is gather RSVPs so I can provide the Battalion and Kevin Barry's, as well as Pat Howard (who will be cooking the Low Country Boil) a good estimate of how many folks will show up. Even if you're a "No," that's fine. I understand and can remove you from future emails for this year's reunion if you wish. If you're a "Maybe," that's fine too. I will set up the RSVP spreadsheet to reflect that.

If you're a "Yes," please indicate the following:

- How many of you in your party
- Inclusive Dates
- Playing Golf am
- Fishing on Fri am
- Attending Kevin Barry's Fri night for dinner (off menu, self pay)
- Attending Bn & Co Tours Sat morning
- Attending Low Country Boil @ Thunderbolt Landing Sat afternoon
- Attending KBs Sat night after the Low Country Boil
- Which hotel (if applicable) you are staying at.

This will help me a lot, so your responses are appreciated.

If you are interested in fishing, please email Joe Crowley directly @ joseph.a.crowley@bankofamerica.com

Below is a rehash of the details of this weekend, to include hotel accommodation options. Only 3.5 weeks to book a room under these rates.

Looking forward to seeing as many of you and your spouses & families as possible.

RLTW!
Dave

We are all set for the 10th Annual A Co, 1/75 & MSG Andy Fernandez Memorial Reunion on June 27-30 in Savannah.

Below are the details. Let me know what questions you have. My server won't let me send this out to 150 people, so these emails are going out in four waves. So if you don't see someone in the "To:" section, it may not mean they didn't get this. Please forward to others that you want to ensure are notified.

Send me email addresses and full names of anyone you think I many not have in my address book.

***If anyone knows how I can send a future blast email at one time vs four different waves, let me know. I am not an IT wizard for sure.

For reunion veterans, the plan (events) are the same as the last 3-4 years. Obviously, you can arrive any day that works for you and your spouse/kids.

- Thur June 27: Dinner TBD
- Fri June 28:
- Fishing trip (TBD-Joe Crowley is The IC, so let him know if you want to fish. He will send more info later. His email: joseph.a.crowley@bankofamerica.com)
- Golf: if we have at least a few folks who want to (more the merrier), let me know. We will shoot for an 8:30ish tee time(s). Henderson or Southbridge.
- 1830: Toast to Andy and dinner. (Off menu like last year) 2nd floor @ KBs till close
- Sat: 29 Jun:
- 1000: Begin Bn and A Co Tour/Ranger Static Display
- 1200: 1/75 Ranger Memorial Guided Tour led by Super Dave Ermer
- 1530: Low Country Boil @ Thunderbolt Landing led by the culinary wizardry of Pat Howard
- 1930: KBs 2nd Floor till close....
- Sun 30 Jun: no planned events; depart at your leisure

HOTEL OPTIONS:

There is an international YMCA Convention in Savannah that same weekend. So, if you are even tentative about making it, I would suggest booking a hotel anyway. You can always cancel (most hotels) w/o penalty depending on their terms and conditions.

That said, with the invaluable help of Shelia Dudley (she and Super Dave are credited for greatly improving our reunions every year for access and logistics), we have two hotel option with guaranteed group rate (not including taxes or parking fee). Price may seem high, but it is summer, Sav, and a competing convention (supply and demand):

Please CALL the hotel to book your room. This reservation cannot be done via their websites:

Hilton Garden Inn Historic Savannah
321 West Bay Street
Savannah, GA 31401
Phone: 912-721-5000
Fax: 912-790-7070

1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)

\$169 per night rate (not including tax or parking)

Group ID: 313974

Group Name: A Co 1/75 RGR/MSG

Andy Fernandez Memorial Reunion

Cancellation Policy: 24 hours prior to check-in.

Deadline to book a room, if any rooms are available (our 15 rate locked reserved rooms) is May 27, 2013.

The ONLY have King Bed rooms. Two Queen beds are NOT available.

The other hotel option is:

The Inn at Ellis Square

201 West Bay St

Savannah, GA 31401

The room rate is also \$169, excluding taxes and parking. Please call for reservation and say you are with the Ranger Group to lock in this group rate. They are holding 15 rooms for each night for us.

Please call:

Wendy Reitz, Sales Coordinator

Inn at Ellis Square

Direct Line: 912-236-1024

Hotel: 912-236-4440

Email: innatellissquare@gmail.com

www.innatellissquare.com

Cancellation Policy: 72 Hours prior

The deadline for reservations is also May 27, 2013.

RLTW!

Dave

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

Unit Director - Kevin Ingraham



Rangers,

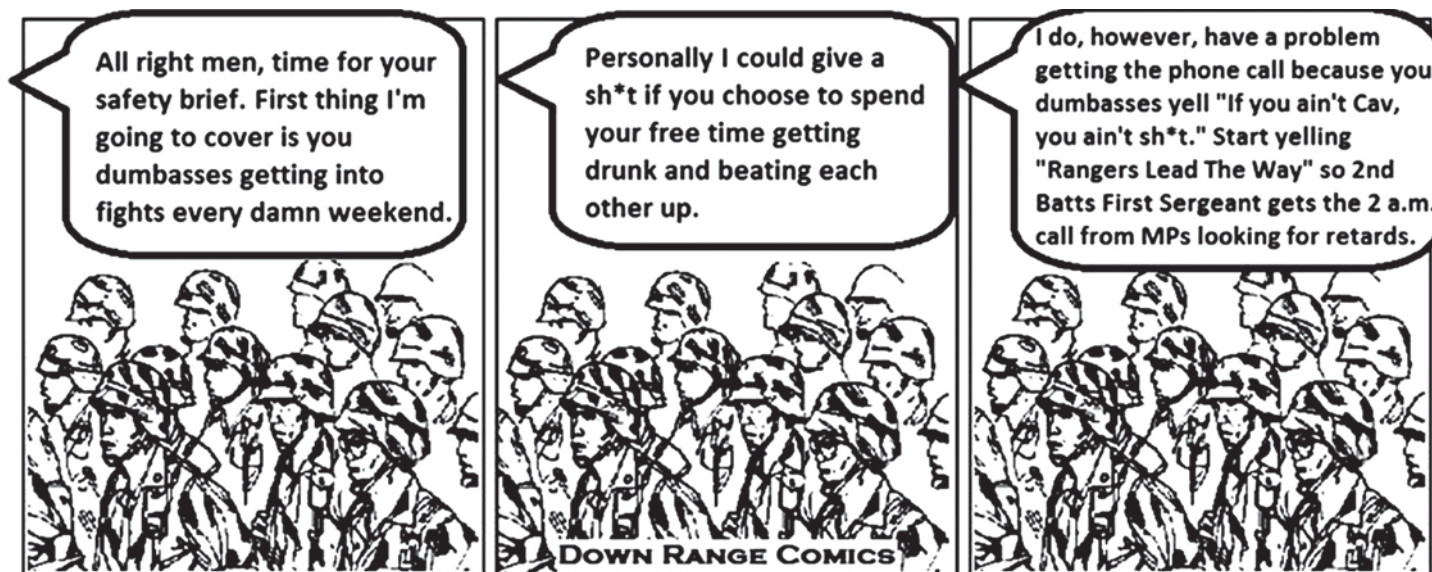
Getting back into the swing of things here again, had a rather unpleasant year in 2012, to put it mildly and I needed to break from non-income duties for a bit, hence, no column last issue.

This will be brief, full reporting recommences with the next issue. Since the battalion returned from its 15th deployment last summer, they've dedicated our new memorial. The story and photos next go around, along with reporting on the latest awards ceremony which at the time of writing is still a couple weeks away.

This might come as a surprise to many, but both the Regiment and Battalion have Facebook pages! Besides the public and 'closed' social 2d Batt forums various rangers have organized

around FB, (there are at least four of these) the actual serving battalion has an official page of its own as a "government organization." These are great places to track what the unit is up to and they post some excellent photos—all cleared for opsec—and mostly taken by professional photographers. Go to Facebook and search (exactly as spelled here) "2d Ranger Battalion" and you should see the official unit page. While you're at it, the official regimental page also has some great coverage of ongoing 2d Batt training and activities. Find them at "The 75th Ranger Regiment"; it's also listed as "government organization." Again, type as shown or you'll suffer the airsoft and dress-up rangers. Around the end of February they posted some cool coverage of JTAK training. Our own FOs practicing directing strikes by A-10s providing some shots worthy of magazine covers.

2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)



Courtesy of Down Range Comics, (www.facebook.com/pages/Down-Range-Comics)

Concerning the named bricks at the memorial many of you have purchased from the Pont du Hoc Memorial Foundation; my understanding is that come spring, those bricks that have worn will be redone to a more durable standard.

Most of us FOGs have observed that men who have successfully completed a tour in battalion tend to be successful in whatever endeavors they engage in life, often rising to the top in their chosen professions. Or they might just do amazing things. One might think that after spending four years in an airborne-ranger line company, Tom Giblin would have had enough of self-propelled travel, hauling his home on his back and sleeping in the rain. But as a SNL star of that era would put it “nooooooooo...”



Tom 'Doc' Giblin, C Co medic with a roll of critical medical supply!
Photo: Danny Crow.

Since it was summertime when he ETSed, Tom decided to enjoy the sun and return home in upstate New York on his bicycle. Yessir—on two wheels and no motor all the way across the continent. And once he arrived in New York, he decided that wasn't enough, “let's make it an it



an ocean to ocean trip” and over the Catskill Mountains he went, all the way to Rhode Island.

Tom and I knew each other casually while in battalion but had no idea that we had grown up about two miles apart. Some fifteen years after I left Batt, we crossed paths again at a party in our hometown in Binghamton, NY. We exchanged the far recognition signal “the hell do I know you from?” and the near recognition signal “what are you doing here in this town?” It's now 2013 and Ranger Giblin still looks like he could make the ride.



October 1974. Before he became the 'Rock', he once comprised about a third of the battalion's enlisted strength.
Photo: CSM Shiffer.



Col Robert Howard promotes MSG Shiffer to Sergeant Major in 2003.
Photo: CSM Shiffer.

2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)

**LTC Powell,
CO, in
Alaska,
1979.
Photo:
Bill Elliott.**

One of the missions of *Patrolling* is to preserve as much of our oral tradition as possible. One of these years I'm going to convince Rock Shiffer to commit to the written word the legend of the 'chucks. It was also the night he entered Ranger legend. 'Nuff said for now. Rock's army career started with

his being one of the very first enlisted arrivals to the freshly established ranger battalion and was capped by a highly successful deployment to Iraq as command sergeant major of a National Guard infantry battalion.

GRENADA RANGERS! I still need your input for the 30th anniversary *Patrolling* issue! Any input from any aspect will be useful—photos too! Has anyone of you ever been back? ASAP please.

The 2013 reunion is almost upon us—the Holiday Inn North is taking reservations now. Make sure you find me there and make an introduction.

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

Unit Director - Scott Billingslea

Rangers,

Hope this issue finds you all well. We just recently closed out another successful Best Ranger Competition here on Ft Benning. This was highlighted, for me at least, by a reunion of some of my old Platoon, 1A....tagged by CSM (Ret) Jerry McClain many moons ago as "The Glory Boys". We rented some cabins at Uchee Creek and someone made the mistake of bringing some moonshine.

Old age and too much beer prevents me from remembering all those in attendance, but a sampling would include Tony Wisyanski, Chip Beyer, Bill Breen, John Lanpher, Chris Sallee, Perry "Doc" Black, Mike Smith, Ryan Booser, CSM (Ret) Bobby Lane, Mike "Bubba" Moore, Wayne Sebring, Jeff Hunter and quite a few others from the late 80's to mid-



90's timeframe. A special thanks to 1SG Mullinax for allowing us the use of the Alpha Company bar on Saturday night, as well as the CQ that night.

You might have noticed that there was no article in this space in the last issue and for that I apologize.

I'm actively looking for someone to step up and assume the role of 3/75 Unit Director. I've been asked by Joe Little and John Chester to throw my name in the hat for VP during the next election at the upcoming Ranger Rendezvous. In addition, I've been honored to be in this role for about 5 years now, and its time for some fresh blood. If you're interested then please reach out to me or any of the officers of the Association.

RLTW!

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

Unit Director - Ron Dahle

No Submission



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

Unit Director - Mark L. Thompson

Greetings and Salutations!

This edition of Patrolling should be arriving prior to your departure for the 2013 Ranger Rendezvous, for those of you planning to attend. You can see the dates for the Rendezvous elsewhere, so I won't bother publishing them here. I plan to try to attend this year on behalf of the unit.

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

The author's schedule has been a little insane lately since the high school lacrosse team I coach is now an official PIAA team (Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association) (it was a lacrosse "club" until this year). This has meant that we now have the opportunity to practice or play a game six days a week, with Sundays off. We just finished a stretch of eleven games in fifteen days, so from the end of February until the latter part of May, my time for anything besides work or lacrosse is somewhat limited. Once the season ends, I'll try to be a little better about checking in on Facebook regularly and checking up on the rest of you guys. And yes, once you are over sixty you can keep up with teenage boys six days a week, but you will feel it in the morning... every morning...

R.I.P. SAM SNYDER AND KENNETH KUBASIK

MSG (Ret.) Sam Snyder and Kenneth Kubasik passed away since the last article was submitted. We reported Pat Smith's passing in the last article. We tried to see if someone was available to attend Captain Kubasik's memorial service, but were unsuccessful in finding someone close enough with the ability to attend. Doc Wentzel, Gary O'Neal, and Leo Starkey attended Sam Snyder's memorial service at the Special Forces Chapel on Smoke Bomb Hill, Ft. Bragg, on behalf of the rest of us.

Sam Snyder of CCN-SOG, B/75, and Special Forces passed away 9 January, 2013. There was a memorial service at the Special Forces Chapel at Fort Bragg, NC, Tuesday (29 January, 2013) at 1400 hours.



As Doc Wentzel said, Sam was never flashy, but highly dependable and low-key, and you could always count on him to get the job done in a quiet, professional manner.

Sam served in the 82nd, later Group, was one of the Mike Force NCO's for CCN-SOG, returned to the States, served as a LRRP team leader in B/75, and later returned to Group, where, among other things, he served as an instructor on the (then) Operations and Intelligence course.

We'll miss Sam in his denim coveralls at the Ranger Rendezvous this year. He was a calm and always instructional presence with an encyclopedic knowledge of Special Operations history and applications. R.I.P., Sam – I'll pack your best cookies and potato chips! (If you knew Sam, you'll know what that meant)...

RLTW/DOL.

Leo Starkey kindly submitted both photos and video of Sam's Memorial Service on Facebook, so we are publishing some of them here.



Doc Wentzel at Sam's Memorial Service



Gary O'Neal at Sam's Memorial Service



Sam Snyder's Memorial Service

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

As Dirty Eddie White said about Joe Gooden (after his passing): He was just a good soldier...We all felt the same way about Sam. I can't think of a better epitaph for anyone than that.

KUBASIK MEMORIAL SERVICE – 29 DECEMBER 2012
Captain Kenneth Kubasik was the CO of B/75 from 1971-1972, when he was replaced by Captain Sealon "Doc" Wentzel. B/75 served, among many other things, as an inbound and outbound "transit point" assignment for many Rangers and Special Forces personnel either on the way to or returning from service in Southeast Asia or the Republic of Vietnam.

We received this information today from Larry Coleman (via the Special Forces Association): **Kubasik, Kenneth F. D-3678, Chapter 39**

Chapter 39 reported that Kenn Kubasik died on 15 November, 2012, from complications of a stroke. There will be a memorial Service for Kenn at 1400 on Saturday, 29 December, 2012, at the Jeter Funeral Home, 311 N. Friendswood Dr., Friendswood, TX 77546. That would have been Kenn's birthday and the family thought it is an appropriate day for the service. When Kenn joined the SFA in 1987 he reported the following assignments:

HQ Co. 77th SFG 1960 – 1961

A Co 7th SFG 1961 - 1962 (Ft. Bragg and White Star)

Training Group 1962

D Co. 5th SFG 1963 1965 (Ft. Bragg and RVN)

He also served with the 75th Rangers 1971 - 1972.

(Editors note: Captain Kubasik was the Commanding Officer of Co. B (RGR) 75th Infantry (ABN) during that period.

MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day is upcoming, and this is just a reminder for all of you planning to travel to D.C. for Rolling Thunder and any of the other annual ceremonies. Also, given the recent events at the Boston Marathon, a reasonable amount of caution is probably in order anytime you are around large crowds in public venues.

RANGER BREAKFAST

I don't remember who started it (although I suspect it may have been Bill Acebes and his wife Brenda), but within the last year a lot of Rangers have started organizing local "Ranger Breakfasts" across the country on the first Saturday of every month. For those of you not on Facebook (there is a group there listing all the local "breakfasts"), contact one of the other guys who is on FB and have them relay the information about a local one, if you are interested.

B/75 COINS

Leo Starkey had a bunch of B/75 coins made at his own expense. We included photos of the front and back of the coins in the last issue. If there is enough interest in more of the coins, Leo might be able to be convinced to have more made. You may order as many of the coins as you like. The cost is \$13.50 each which covers the cost plus postage. Believe that he has twenty still available as of this writing. I'm sure if the demand exceeds his supply, Leo would be glad to have more made, if there were enough orders that he would not be left holding the bag, so to speak. Leo can be contacted at:

Leo B. Starkey

5207 Sequoia Rd

Fayetteville, NC 28304

Mobile Phone: 910-257-5231

HEARD FROM:

Paul Carlisle

Richard Cole

Zeke Evaro

Stephen Foote

Tony Harley

Bill Hill

Gerry Laviano

Tim Leadbeater

Bill Mathiak

Mike Moser

Gary O'Neal

James Parker

Jeff Rice

Howard Stokes

John Henry Voyles

Doc Wentzel

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

Steve Murphy

Steve has recently returned from the West Coast of Africa where he got to spend a wonderful six months or so sunning himself while indulging in some anti-piracy activity off the coast (with some other Rangers, all part of Don Feeney's group). I believe he made it to the most recent Ranger Breakfast in Savannah, as well as Saint Patty's day and Best Ranger after returning home to Karen and the family. Welcome home, Steve.

Doc Wentzel

Doc lives in Hickory, NC. If you want to contact him, his cell phone number is: 828-216-9501.

Please keep in mind that Doc is now a single father to a 16-year-old daughter, as well as two sons (one is an E7 in the Regiment, the other is in college). In other words, please don't call him at 0300, cuz he has family responsibilities to

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

discharge. Doc's wife passed away suddenly from cancer a year or so ago, so he is raising his children on his own.

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

Joe Conlon

Don Bruce informed us that Joe Conlon finally received a Silver Star (just a few years delayed) for actions he performed as an E6 while assigned to MACV-SOG. The award was made public at the Special Operations Association convention last year, after declassification. Congratulations, Joe!!

Larry Coleman

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

David Cummings

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

Greg Phillips

Greg is now officially retired and settled into his new home in Myrtle Beach with his wife, Min, and their dog, Ziggy. I believe that his most recent cancer checkup resulted in a positive outcome for him. Am not certain of this, but it appeared (last time I checked) that he and the family may be considering a move to Thailand.

Don Purdy

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

Leo Starkey

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

communications I managed to monitor) that he is in the process of moving. Will update as soon as I have an address.

Richard Stutsman

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

Mike Moser

Mike and his wife Bonnie continue to run Moser's Pheasant Creek. If anyone is interested in holding a hunting outing, please contact Mike at:

www.moserspheasantcreek.com

502 County Road 327

Franklin, MO 65250

(660) 848-2621

NAME CHANGE OF FACEBOOK GROUP

We have also changed the name of the Facebook group to:
VII Corp LRRP, C/58LRP, B/75

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

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

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

Until next time:

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

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

Marc L. Thompson

Unit Director

Email: mthomp@ptd.net

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

By the time this appears in Patrolling, our bi-annual 75th Ranger Association will be history. As most of you are, or should be well aware of, our Reunion is (was) the week of

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

July 22 Columbus, home of Ft. Benning and the 3rd Battalion Rangers. To date, I've not heard from very many of you and I hope that is because you are as busy as I and just haven't gotten around to it. Times a'wastin for securing reservations at Reunion HQ at the Manchester Rd Holiday Inn North in Columbus. So far I've heard from Tom Forde, Zeke Evaro, Stan Harrell and Larry Fee. I may have forgotten others, but we expect several more, as is usually the case.

There is no pressing business for us to consider, except for the election of a new President and Officers for our VII Corps LRRP Association. If you are interested or know of someone who is or you would like to nominate someone, let me know or bring it up at our only formal dinner meeting, to be determined. Please, give it some thought so we don't look stupid calling for an election, not that some of us don't anyway.

Everything's been pretty quiet on the home front and I guess that's good, so I have little to report. I would, however, like to apologize for the paucity of photos that appeared in the last edition of Patrolling. I forwarded several, but only one got printed. Since I just learned how to do it, I probably screwed up royally. In particular, I wanted the picture of

Bernie Homiak and his Grandson at a school Veterans' Day celebration printed, but it was one that didn't get through. I'm sorry Bernie; maybe we can get it in the 2014 Spring edition where it will still be more timely.

I almost forgot: We have reserved a double bed room at the above Holiday Inn for ANYONE who may have trouble making the reunion because of tight budget restraints. There will be no charge to you, so don't sweat it. Let me, Tom Forde or Zeke know. If there are no takers, we'll give it back to the Holiday Inn.

Re the 2nd Battalion's Pointe du Hoc Foundation and our commitment to raise a thousand dollars, I am proud to announce that we have met our goal, and at Tom's suggestion, we will present a check for the thousand dollars to the Foundation representative at the Reunion.

That's it, guys. Keep an eye out for each other and stay in touch. See you in July at the 75th RRA in Columbus.

Dick Foster, President
USA LRRP (Abn) Co. Association
VII Corps

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

Unit Director - Del Ayers

Remembering

Our treasure is the experience we shared as soldiers in Vietnam that will last the lifetime we have. As our memories of daring do are lost with the deaths of our brothers in arms we do not falter in the common cause of honoring service.

Two of ours have recently marched to join the men we remember and will hold our place in the formation we all earned.

As we "Walk" our brothers "Out" the young men and women who are stepping up to be tomorrows old warriors have our best wishes and carry our pride forward.

Regis H. Murphy

Stalwart Warrior serving with the 101st ABN, Special Forces as advisor to a China's Nung Company, founding member of E Co Long Range Patrol Inf Airborne, Team leader with E20



and C Co. 75th Rangers in Vietnam. A career professional soldier, retiring as a 1st Sgt.

A Police Officer, Department of Defense Contractor, over the road long haul trucker, author, veterans advocate, mentor, son, father, husband, friend, comrade and Vietnam Veteran long before it became popular to be one.

These few words are woefully short of a thousand to paint a picture of Regis Murphy for those who did not know him. We who knew Regis have a thousand pictures in our memory to keep him alive in our hearts.

As the forever young warriors welcome Regis, we old warriors keep all of you alive. We the men of E20/C75 Ranger Association are proud to have served with you.

Tommy Foster

C/75 - E/20 LRP (Continued)

Served with the 173rd and volunteered to serve with C Co. 75th Ranger ABN 1969/1970 with his brother Tony Foster. A man of distinguished military service.

Tommy exemplified the Vietnam Veterans quiet ethos through his continued community service, family values and veterans support. He was a son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, friend and valued citizen.

As our service as Vietnam Veterans is now being recognized, Tommy Foster's life exemplifies the commitment to family,

community and country of the young warriors who proudly left Vietnam and humbly kept our values strong.

As you join the forever young warriors you will always be in our thoughts and live in your family's memories

Life's game of musical chairs will end someday for E20/C75. I would encourage all of us who still have a chair to come to the reunion in July. We are of an age "Long in the tooth" and cannot know who will still have a chair in 2015. Don't miss a chance to play with us still in the game. The last chair will not have anyone to share the cake with.

**D/75**

Unit Director - Richard "Herd" Nelson

Herd Nelson had an accident involving a nasty fall that put him in the hospital initially and then in a Rehab Center to recover from his injuries. The doctor told Herd that he bruised his spinal cord but could expect a full recovery, good news!!! His left knee is giving him problems when he stands and walks but as a good Ranger, Herd expects to be back home soon and will make a full recovery. Herd was up against a time crunch with getting our news out for this edition and needed a little help so I said yes when he ask me to lend a hand, always glad to help a friend and brother in arms. If you can, give Herd a call, I know he would appreciate it.

I was thinking about our unit in Vietnam, about Company D, and ask myself what made it so special? It could have been different if we had been assigned to another unit or served in a different year. It was the best time of my 31 year military career, by far. What I and others experienced while serving with Company D Rangers has directly influenced our lives,



Carl Norris - 'Warlord 16'

mostly in a positive way. As with most things, the people who serve in an organization make it what it is, whether good or bad, in our case we had the best and finest fighting force our nation produced in 1969-1970. That also extended to our air support, the Blue Tigers, D



Trp, 3/17th Air Cavalry. We are blessed and fortunate to have Major Drisko's pilot, Carl Norris (Warlord 1-6) in our group. Carl and his lovely wife Rosie makes the trip to Columbus for our reunions nearly every time. I recently received a picture of their son Mike, being awarded the Bronze Star with "V" and also the CIB second award. Mike retired from SF several years ago and is presently working for the US Army Intelligence; yep we are proud of our children. Carl and Rosie are planning to attend our next reunion and recently told me that all is well with the Norris'.

I was thinking about the pictures and names of former team members I have personally looked at in books and other publications, including the internet and I would like to mention a few of them because I think it's important that we remember each other and the time we spent in Vietnam.

Several years ago I was in Lexington, KY, and was looking at a book at Barnes and Noble titled: "Phantom Warriors: Book 2: More Extraordinary True Combat Stories from LRRPS, LRPS, and Rangers in Vietnam" when I saw a picture of Tom Delaney and his team geared up for a



Team 2-5, D Co. 75th Inf, (RGR)

D/75 (Continued)**Billy Faulks**

mission. As I looked hard at that picture, I remembered each one of those young men and the memories of our time together. They were the best without question. Tom hadn't been a team leader very long when this picture was taken but took any mission he was assigned without hesitation. I remember the first time I saw Tom, laughing and always encouraging everyone he could, never negative, a true leader and asset to any team. Tom retired as a Command Sergeant Major with the 82nd Airborne. Good man, smart and dedicated as they come who defined what a good team leader meant.

Ken Dern was a member of that team. Ken was the RTO in the field, a professional at poker when we were back in the rear. I know this because he won a lot my money and most everybody else who played against him. He was very nice about though, always willing to help you learn to play for a price. Ken was a brave and courageous man who went anywhere anytime when called on to do so, like I said, the best. Ken and Linda are planning to attend the reunion this year; I hope all of you can.

William Fitzgerald was in that picture. I always said that Bill was the smartest of us all, and he was. A college graduate from New York, he showed us what Yankee ingenuity really meant. Bill was not only smart, but a good man in the field, someone I would like to have by my side in a firefight, cut from good material. The last time I saw Fitz in Vietnam was at the hospital in Long Bien after suffering severe wounds on Co D's last field mission. Fitz is now retired and lives in New York. Where do such men originate? He was a true American in every respect.

Besides the scout, Herd Nelson was in that picture. I'm telling you that Herd would fight a circle saw if he got half a chance. He's much mellower now, good thing too. In the field, Herd carried the M60 with a 1000 rounds of 7.62 mm plus other necessities. Herd was the go to guy if you needed firepower. Like other Rangers who carried the M60, Marc (Moe) Lamphere, Ed (Mad dog) Krause and others, you had to have a certain body mass to carry the machine gun, and know how and when to use it. Herd was all that and more. Herd was injured with Ken Dern exiting his Huey on Co D's last mission, a mission that Rangers in our unit will always remember. Herd Nelson was the most loyal and dependable man I ever knew, never turning down any challenge or mission he was ordered

to go, he is also our Unit Director and a good one.

I saw Richard Badmilk's name in a book about Charlie Rangers several years back. Badmilk was reassigned to C Co after D Co was disbanded in April 1970. Badmilk was a warrior in the truest sense who defined bravery and what a Ranger was all about. He lives near Moe in Rosebud, SD, and seen every couple of years by Moe, Herd, Psycho and a few others. It was an honor and privilege to serve with Badmilk and call him my friend and brother.

Since I have mentioned Moe Lamphere a couple times I have to say that besides saving my life on 2 Jan, 1970 when I nearly fell out of a McGuire Rig while been extracted from a contact we were in, Moe is the bravest man I ever knew. You never had to worry about your back with Moe around. He was my brother in arms.

I feel like mentioning a few more, Richard (Bear) Papp was a man of courage and willing to go the extra mile for his team. Bear was on that last mission of Co D with Tom's team, the contact in Cambodia which could have ended in total loss of life if not for brave men like Bear, a pick for my team anytime. I just called Bear and he is doing well and said that he will be at the reunion if he can physically make it, we all have our limitations.

Wally Hawkins, a Ranger from KY was also on Co D's final mission. Wally was one of those professional NCOs the Army produce in 1969 and showed what he was made of when his team was in contact. Severally wounded, Wally stayed with Fitz until help arrived and they could be extracted. Wally lives in Nashville today, a brave and courageous man who can be counted on to complete the mission.

I will close with an apology to those that I didn't mention. Everyone of you has a story, a legacy of bravery and courage. You were once young and willing to answer your country's call. I encourage each one of you to have your yearly physical checkups. You know that War Zone D was heavily sprayed with Agent Orange. Stay alert, see your grandkids grow, you deserve it brothers, until we meet on the high ground, RLTW Mike Warren

**Johnny White, Mike Warren & Moe.**

D/75 (Continued)

**Mike Warren & Marc Lamphere,
my Brothers-in-Arms.**

By: Herd Nelson

Hello everyone as you know from the last article, which Mike Warren wrote I had some serious medical problems and I'll discuss them more at the end of this article, and I am well on the way to recovery.

Moe Lamphere is also recovering at the present

from a hip replacement surgery he had in April. He said when I talked with him today that he had graduated from crutches to a cane. Moe said he isn't sure yet if he and Cindy can make it to the reunion, they have to see how well his recovery from the surgery goes. They always drive in from South Dakota and usually visit other friends that they have around the country.

When I have talked with George (Psycho) Christiansen over the last several months he has talked about the horse he received from his father-in-law. It is a thoroughbred named two Moons and is a granddaughter of Seattle Slew. According to one website I went to it said that it had 30 career starts with 6 first places, 5 second places and 4 thirds. When he first got the horse he didn't have a barn to keep it in so he kept it in the garage until he had an Amish guy build a barn and corral. One day I received an e-mail from him with pictures in which he said that the horse had kicked him. He said that he had a 32 cal. pistol in his pocket at the time and the horse's hoof had hit it. The pictures showed the huge bruise on his leg. Another time when I called him he told me that he had gone out to the garage to feed it and the horse had bitten him. He and the horse have been getting along well since then. He doesn't plan on racing it and when he told me how much it would cost to enter it in a race, I don't blame him. He doesn't get to travel much anymore because he doesn't have anyone to take care of it.

When I last talked to Ed (Maddog) Krause he said he is still recovering from his back surgery. He and his wife Janice were planning on coming to the reunion in July and said they were probably going to stop and see the Warrens on the way down. Speaking of the Warrens, Mike and his wife Sharon are also planning on attending the reunion as well but not until Thursday. Mike is still recovering from his cancer surgery and doing well, and they enjoy taking care of their grandchildren, it certainly keeps both he and Sharon busy.

Gary Olson is planning on joining us at Ft Benning and will be staying at the campgrounds on post as he usually does, and he said he didn't have anything else to add to this article. Also staying at the Benning campgrounds will be Jim and Donna Owen. They have been doing some traveling over the last year starting with their trip to Indiana, South Dakota, and Arizona. Then more recently was their trip to Washington D.C. and the surrounding area. When I was in the nursing home they happened to be in Orlando with some of the D 151 folks and came by to see me before they headed home.

I called my old team leader Tom Delaney this past Sunday, and he said that he and Jan were doing fine and that they were going to be with us at the reunion again. He also told me he had quit smoking toward the end of last year. He and I used to spend a lot of time sitting out in front of the hotel smoking cigarettes. I am glad though that he was able to quit. Bill Fitzgerald got on my case about how I started smoking again when I was in the nursing home after my fall, I do understand that is because with my health issues I really, really shouldn't be smoking at all. He has become a grandfather again as his daughter who is a park ranger in Arizona and her husband had a baby girl. She was his and Kathy's first granddaughter, they have two grown grandsons. Kathy is still out in Arizona with their Daughter for a couple more weeks. Fitz is thinking about traveling to the Benning reunion but isn't sure yet. He loves being with us but doesn't like the traveling to get there, probably because before he retired from the U.S. Marshall Service he was constantly traveling around the country for months at a time.

I called Frank Park yesterday to see how he was doing and he informed me that he was doing well. He did say that he plans on being at Ft. Benning with us, but I forgot to ask him if he was going to bring his girlfriend again so I guess we will just have to wait and see. He didn't have anything else to add to this article at this time. On Sunday I talked with Bear Papp and he wanted me to tell everyone hello, then we talked mostly about my recovery. He was one of our brothers who would call and check on me when I was in the nursing home. Steve Meade called me a couple of weeks ago and told me he was planning to get to the reunion on Sunday. He also told me he talked with Roger Barbe, Tonto Martinez, and both of them are going to try to attend. He said that when he talked with John Kingeter he wasn't sure if he was going to attend this one. When I talked with Don (Vic) Vaccaro he told me that he was going to join us and when asked him if his wife Mary Jane would be coming on down with him he told me but I can't remember what he said because our conversation got interrupted by an incoming call from my physical therapist.

D/75 (Continued)

Carl and Rosie will be attending again and Carl has about completely recovered from his cancer surgery and has had the port removed. Mike, Cindy, & Katie are all also doing well. For those of you who didn't meet them at the last reunion they are their Son, daughter-in-law, and granddaughter. Katie is in college and doing well there. For those of you who don't recognize Carl's name he was one of our Annie Fannie pilots and on the day I got injured on the insertion of our last mission with D Company 75th, he was one of the C and C pilots. They had to come down and extract me and take me to the Evac Hospital. He and Rosie have been attending the Benning reunions since the 2005 one, at the 2007 one we voted to give him a vote at the D Company business meeting in regards to D Company business. We all love those pilots for all of the support they gave us. We all knew that no matter how much trouble we got into in the field they would be there with the Playboy Gunship team to fire up the enemy and get us home safely. And in some cases they called for more Cobras to get us more firepower. We are all alive because of their dedication to get us home safely. His call sign was Warlord 1-6.



**Frank Park, Moe Lamphere, Gary Olsen,
Mike Warren, Carl Norris**
**Front Row: Ken Dern, Bill Fitzgerald,
Richard (Herd) Nelson**

Mike Jaussaud said that he and Vicky would be attending and that Mike was going to make the trip to the wall in D.C. with a bunch of the guys from D 151 from Indians. As I have talked with others who served with D 151 and D 75th the numbers have reached 48 on the trip. If I wasn't still getting physical therapy and starting epidural injections in my lower back I would have made the trip from Florida. I have avoided the wall because I'm not ready yet but with that kind of support I think it would finally be time. Maybe I'll have another opportunity in the future.

Not only will Billy Faulks be attending the reunion but he is planning on killing two hogs for the Bar-B-Que again this year. When I talked with him today I asked if he had caught any monsters while he was out fishing, he had been doing some fishing and catching fish but he doesn't get ramped up until June. I asked him if he planned to go on the D.C. trip but he wasn't sure because his back has been giving him trouble. Jim Owen and he may hook up for the trip and if they don't put that together he might fly. He just has to see how it goes.

Ken and Linda Dern will be attending again this year, which will be great because if Tom, Fitz, Ken and I are all able to attend, all of the surviving members of team 3-5 will be together again and that doesn't happen often. Ken and Linda have been doing well. They will be arriving on Thursday. I was in touch with Bruce Demboski over the week end and he was well. He was the team leader of team 2-5 and was transferred up to L Company after D Company deactivated that is also where team 3-5 went along with Maddog and Leo Suprenant who passed away a year ago this month (May). When he came home from Nam he got out of the service for a while then went back in and stayed until he retired. After he retired he went to work in law enforcement in Arizona for the rest of his working career. I will be adding a photo of team 2-5 with this article.

As for me I told you I would discuss my Injury back in January. On January 29th I was taking a shower getting ready for a couple of doctors' appointments and when I closed my eyes to wash my hair I lost my balance and fell in the tub, I was instantly paralyzed from the neck down, only my face hurt where it was stuck in the corner and the tub. Luckily A woman who cleans house for me was at the house at the time and was able to call 911 for me. The ambulance and fire department were on the scene very quickly, but once inside it took them about 15 to 20 minutes to get me out of the tub and onto a gurney. I was not able to help them at all. Once out of the tub I was able to move my Hands, fingers and feet, but was numb all over, they took me to the closest emergency room where they gave me a CT scan of the head, neck, and lower back and said nothing was broken and asked me if I had anyone I could call to come to pick me up. I told them that I was still numb and they again said that nothing was broken and I would probably get my feeling back pretty soon. So they gave me my clothes and when I was putting on my shorts and tried to stand up my legs were like spaghetti and I fell straight down in the floor in the emergency room. Two male nurses came over and picked me up, pulled my shorts up, and put me in a wheel chair and wheeled me to the waiting room to call a friend to come and pick me up.

D/75 (Continued)

They didn't get anybody to come over and examine my after that fall. Two of my neighbors came down to the hospital to get me and took me home. After they got me home they positioned my phones in rooms where I was able to call if I had to. They also got my office chair and put it by my recliner so I could get around the house or so we thought. Later that evening I had to have a B.M. and I got in the chair and wheeled myself down the hall to the bathroom door but the chair was too big to fit through the door. I tried to hold onto the sink to get to the toilet but ended up falling again and defecated and urinated all over myself. I was able to crawl to the tub and get one leg over the side, so I rolled in and washed myself off then crawled back out of the tub and into my bedroom where I put on clean shorts and called 911 again. The same EMTs and fire fighters came again but this time they took me to a trauma center. This time they got neurosurgeons involved. They determined that when I had fallen the first time I had pinched and bruised my spinal cord in the neck but didn't do any permanent damage and with a lot of Physical therapy

I should make a good recovery. I had to stay in the hospital and then nursing and rehab center for almost two months. It is now the middle of May and I have made a lot of progress, I'm not back fully but am able to take care of myself and drive myself to my doctors' appointments. I had my first epidural today and we'll see how that goes. None the less I will be at the reunion again this year and am looking forward to seeing everyone. I would also like to thank all of my brothers for calling me in the rehab center to check on me.

RLTW Richard (Herd) Nelson



Me in the Nursing home.



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

Unit Director - Rick Stetson

John Massick has been busy cheering on his alma mater, the University of Louisville (winners of the NCAA men's basketball championship and runners-up in the women's tournament) while at the same time planning E Company's 2013 reunion which will be held in Kentucky's city named after King Louis IV of France.

Louisville has a variety of attractions and there will be plenty to keep E Company Rangers busy when we meet in that city from October 20-26. A detailed list of the activities planned will be sent later but besides attending our always-moving memorial service, we will have the chance to venture out to Waterfront Park with its 72 acres of lawns and walking paths; visit the Frazier International History Museum with its display of arms, armor and historical artifacts spanning 1,000 years; tour the Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory where you can order your own personalized baseball bat; or perhaps ride the Belle of Louisville, the oldest Mississippi-style steamboat operating in the United States.



There are numerous other sights to see in Louisville such as Churchill Downs, the home of the Kentucky Derby and Fourth Street Live, the popular retail and entertainment complex. Our reunion headquarters, the Ramada Plaza on the Bluegrass Parkway, is conveniently located and offers shuttle service from the airport and to local shopping centers. All E Company members are urged to let us know they will attend by sending the \$50.00 registration fee to: John Massick, 507 Willowhurst Place, Louisville, KY 40223.

A book that will bring back memories for Vietnam veterans who served in an infantry unit is, "The Boys of '67" by Andrew Wiest. Although it is not about the long range patrol, the book should be of special interest to vets of the 9th Infantry Division, especially those who reported to Fort Riley, Kansas as the division was formed.

The author describes how Old Reliable leaders took incoming soldiers out of reception stations, put them through basic and AIT training and then deployed with them to Vietnam. It was a unique process and Wiest points out a problem that arose for the 9th Division.

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

"The military had not been able to gather together enough experienced non-commissioned officers to do the job, especially in the lowest level of command, that of the squad leader. Normally a squad leader was a staff sergeant (E-6), who might have six to eight years of military experience. ...With no other alternative, the units of the 9th Division decided to identify the most qualified incoming trainees and to elevate many of the best among them to the position of squad leaders. Instead of years of training and experience, these civilians-turned-soldiers would have only a few months of training before being thrown into the crucible of battle. It was to be the new leading the new- putting the chosen young men who until recently had been carefree surfers, schoolboys, and farm laborers into a position of almost unimaginable stress."

When the 9th Division formed a long range patrol platoon shortly before deploying to Vietnam, many of the soldiers not long out of AIT were recruited to become lurps. Some were quickly promoted to positions as team leaders or assistant team leaders and demonstrated they had the qualities necessary for operating behind enemy lines when they successfully completed Jungle Warfare School in Panama and then the MACV Recondo School in Nha Trang. Even though they had been soldiers for less than a year before entering combat, they soon earned the respect of career officers and NCO's as well as the confidence and respect of the men they would lead. They showed again and again that "Rangers lead the way."

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

Unit Director - Tim Walsh

Greetings again!

Not much to pass along this time, must be the winter blahs.

A couple more of our brothers have passed away. Ranger William Sears passed in 2012. He was from Columbia, KY and served with us in 'Nam from Aug. 67 - Aug. 68. And Ranger Mike Landers passed away on Jan. 19 of this year. He was from Plato, MO and served with the 25th ID LRRPS in '66 and '67. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families.

When you receive this there will probably be only weeks until we meet in Columbus, GA for the bi-annual Ranger Regiment Assoc. reunion, July 22-28. I hope to see y'all there. My wife & I will be in the headquarters hotel (Holiday Inn, North-Airport) for the duration.

Theresa & I have moved again. For those of you who don't know, we sold our house in South Rockwood, MI last year and had a house built in Carleton, MI. It's only 10 miles from the old place; we like the area, but not so much the old house. So now we're in the process of unpacking all our accumulated ... ah, stuff and finding a place for it. Theresa has good reason to be less than pleased with all the ... ah, stuff I just had to move (twice in one year) from the old house. I tried to explain that some day in the future I'm certain that I'll need one of those small screwdrivers and moving them from the old house... into the condo we rented for 6 months.. and then moved once



again into the new house was absolutely necessary. She's not at all convinced.

At any rate, our new address is: 9558 Pine Knob Dr., Carleton, MI 48117. And my new email address is: twalshx2@charter.net. My phone stays the same: 313-590-6673.

A word about the OUTSTANDING new coin that Marshall has had made. They are the best coins I have seen. He has pictures of it on the Company website (lrrp.com). Great job, Marshall.

Many of you served with Mike Rohly (aka "Ali Baba"). Mike isn't doing so well lately. He forgets a lot (but remembers things from years ago). He is pretty much house-ridden, only gets out for doctors appts. If you would like to contact him, his wife can pass along the letter. His address is: Lois Smith-Rohly, 405 E. Holme St., Norton, KS 67654-1456.

Well, that's all I have for this issue of Patrolling. I know that I'll have a ton more stuff to pass along after the reunion. Those reunions are always good for catching up with old friends... and old stories.

Live long and prosper.

Tim Walsh



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

Unit Director - Steve Crabtree



RANGER MEMORIAL MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Since the formation of the three Ranger Battalions there are 133 Rangers that have lost their lives either in training or in combat. Many of these men have had bricks engraved in their honor at the National Ranger Memorial at Fort Benning. Seven Rangers from the 1st Battalion, ten from the 2nd Battalion and five from the 3rd Ranger Battalion did not. Thanks to the efforts of Shelia Dudley, Linda Davis and a whole slew of others, the following bricks will be engraved this summer just prior to the Ranger Hall of Fame inductions.

CHRISTOPHER WRIGHT
CO C 1/75TH RGR RGT

JOSEPH W DIMOCK, II
CO E 1/75TH RGR RGT

JUSTIN B ALLEN
CO D 1/75TH RGR RGT

MARTIN A. LUGO
CO C 1/75TH RGR RGT

LANCE H. VOGELER
HHC 1/75TH RGR RGT

TANNER S. HIGGINS
CO D 1/75TH RGR RGT

KEVIN M. PAPE
CO C 1/75TH RGR RGT

JOHN P YOUNG
HHC 2/75TH RGR RGT

WILLIAM J COBB
CO A 2/75TH RGR RGT

VINCENT S BARCLAY
CO A 2/75TH RGR RGT

DREW HARRINGTON
CO A 2/75TH RGR RGT



DEVIN KP PEGUERO
CO C 2/75TH RGR RGT

GEORGE V LIBBY
CO C 2/75TH RGR RGT

CHRIS GATHERCOLE
CO D 2/75TH RGR RGT

THOMAS F DUNCAN
CO C 2/75TH RGR RGT

JOEL D CLARKSON
CO A 2/75TH RGR RGT

THOMAS R MACPHERSON
CO D 2/75TH RGR RGT

ALLEN JOHNSON
3RD BN 75TH RGR RGT

TOBY JOHN YOUNG
3RD BN 75TH RGR RGT

HARRIS GLENN
3RD BN 75TH RGR RGT

JAMES J REGAN
CO C 3/75TH RGR RGT

NEIL SECOR
3RD BN 75TH RGR RGT

To the best of my knowledge, every man who gave it all and was assigned to a Ranger unit since Vietnam will now have a brick at our Memorial. I'm sure that there are Ranger qualified men who were killed in action while serving in other non-Ranger units. If any of you know of any tabbed Rangers who fall into this category let me know and I'll take care of it from this end.

A special HOOAH and thank you goes out to Joe Leuer, Executive Secretary of the National Ranger Memorial Foundation, without whose assistance this would never have happened.



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

Unit Director - William T. Anton

2D Ranger Battalion Valor Award Ceremony 20 March 2013

Lieutenant General Brown, Commander of I Corps (US), Joint Base Lewis-McChord, presented 2d Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment with another Presidential Unit Citation. Through a historical error, 2d Battalion had not been recognized for its participation on the Omaha Beach landing on 6 June 1944. 2d Battalion had previously received a Presidential Unit Citation for its scaling the cliffs at Pointe du Hoc adjacent to Omaha Beach, but with only one-half the battalion. The other half of the Battalion (Companies A, B, and C) had led the assault on Omaha beach ahead of 5th Ranger Battalion. With this Presidential Unit Citation, 2d Ranger Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, may be the only unit who has received two (2) Presidential Units on the same day for two separate actions. Two Silver Stars were presented (one posthumous), along with numerous other valor awards and purple Hearts. The ceremony was held at St. Martin's University Marcus Pavilion, Lacey, Washington.



The 1st Cavalry division Association will hold its 66th Reunion from 5-9 June 2013. The CP will be at the Shiloh Inn and Suites in Killeen, TX.

Reunions are a time for all of us to gather together and say "Welcome Home" and we want each of you to be a part of this great event. Our LRRP/Rangers and the Troopers of the 1st Cavalry Division Association will be meeting once more in Killeen, Texas to celebrate our 66th Annual Reunion. Most of the 1st Cavalry Division will be at Fort Hood during this reunion but we expect some of our Troopers to be deployed. Come and join us for a fun time meeting old friends and making new ones. We are planning numerous events and there will

be opportunities for you to go off on your own and see the surrounding area.

Please register early to assist us in coordinating the best reunion possible. Some events will have limited seating available due to the size of available rooms. All members of the Association must register and pay the Registration Fee in order to attend the reunion. Early registration, December 2012 through 3 May 2013 is \$20 for all members, except those on active duty. Active Duty Troopers pay \$10 to register. Those sending in Registrations post-marked after 3 May 2013 must pay late registration fee of \$40. Family members attending with an Association member, widows of 1st Cavalry Division Troopers and Gold Star Family members that attend do not have to pay a registration fee. Registration forms will be added to this page within the next couple of weeks.

The Shilo Inn Suites Hotel, located at 3701 South W.S. Young Drive in Killeen, will be our Reunion Headquarters. The Shilo is located next to the Killeen Convention and Conference Center which will be the main location for most of our events. The Shilo will also host our Reunion Room and the Crossed Sabers Souvenir Shop.

LODGING

The Shilo Inn & Suites has guaranteed a room rate of \$99 per night plus tax for up to 125 rooms on peak nights and there is no charge for parking. Call (254) 699-0999 reserve a room. The reservation toll-free number is (800) 222-2244. Make sure that you identify yourself as attending the 1st



1st Cavalry Division Association 66th Reunion –
5 to 9 June 2013

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

Cavalry Division Association reunion. The Shilo will provide a voucher for a breakfast in the restaurant, which will be open to support our reunion. The hotel does provide a free shuttle service from the Killeen Airport. Shuttles and rental cars are available at the airport. The hotel is located at 3701 S. W.S. Young Drive in Killeen. The Shilo is a non-smoking hotel but accepts pets. Contact the hotel for details on pets.

We have also blocked rooms at the newly renovated Courtyard Killeen by Marriott, located at 1721 E. Central Texas Expressway. Many of you may recognize this as the address of the hotel which we used to use (Plaza) but this is a much improved and completely renovated hotel with a different owner. The Courtyard Marriott has been gutted and completely remodeled and looks brand new with new plumbing and air conditioning and a fresh new look. To reserve rooms at the Courtyard Marriott call (254) 615-2000 or (800) 321-2211. Again, the room rate is \$99 per night plus tax with free parking available. This is a pet-free, non-smoking hotel.

We do not reserve rooms for you and making and canceling reservations are your responsibility. As many of you know, Killeen has no hotels large enough to hold our reunion so we will be staying in several different hotels. The Shilo is located next to the KCCC but the rest of the hotels are not within walking distance but are located close to each other. The Association will provide a shuttle bus to move you from one of our many hotels to the Shilo, the KCCC or to the post for any events being held there.

Shilo Inn & Suites - For Reservations call hotel at (254) 699-0999 or central reservations (800) 222-2244
3701 South W.S. Young Drive, Killeen, TX 76542
Courtyard Killeen by Marriott - For Reservations call the hotel at (254) 616-2000 or central reservations (800) 321-2211
1721 E. Central Texas Expressway, Killeen, Texas 76541

The following hotels are also located in Killeen but we will not be providing bus transportation to or from these hotels. No rooms have been blocked at these hotels you will pay the regular room rate.

Holiday Inn (Killeen) - For Reservations call (800) 465-4329 or (254) 690-5511
300 E. Central Texas Expressway, Killen, TX 76541
Candlewood Suites - For Reservations call (877) 226-3539 or (254) 501-3990
2300 Florence Road, Killeen, TX 76541
Fairfield Inn - For Reservations call (888) 236-2427 or (254) 526-3333

200 E. Central Texas Express Way, Killeen, TX 76541
Residence Inn - For Reservations call (888) 236-2427 or (254) 634-1020
400 E. Central Texas Express Way, Killeen, TX 76541

RV PARK INFORMATION

If you are coming in a Recreational Vehicle there is an RV Park directly behind the Killeen Civic and Conference Center. The fee is \$20 per night and they provide electric, water and dump facilities. Contact the KCCC at (254) 501-3888 for additional information. If you are active duty or retired military the West Fort Hood Travel Camp would also work but it is several miles from the KCCC and they do not take reservations. The RV Park in Belton is still open but is no longer a KOA facility.

REUNION EVENT OVERVIEW

The Crossed Sabers Chapter welcomes each of you to Killeen and Fort Hood for the 66th Annual Reunion of the 1st Cavalry Division Association. Please make sure to bring photo identification to ensure that you have no issues getting on post for any events scheduled there. As always, the best part of any reunion is the people that attend. The 1st Cavalry Division Association reunion brings in Troopers from every era of the First Team's history. Troopers that rode horses, fought in the Pacific with MacArthur, occupied Japan, fought in Korea, or stood watch on the DMZ will spend time with the Sky Troopers of Vietnam and the Troopers from Operation Desert Storm, Fort Hood, Bosnia, and the latest combat veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan. The equipment and terrain might be different, but the common bond of serving with America's First Team binds us together. Saddle up and join us in Killeen in 2013!

The 66th Annual Reunion will run from Wednesday, 5 June through Sunday morning, 9 June 2013 and is full of events and time to visit with one another.

This year we will be running our usual events but have added a Golf Tournament (four-person team, best-ball scramble) that will provide support to our Scholarship Foundation on Wednesday. The golf tournament will be held on the Courses of Clear Creek on Fort Hood. We are seeking sponsors to help off-set costs to maximize our income for the Foundation and its scholarship programs. We will have some teams from the active duty Troopers and hope that many reunion attendees will also want to play and enjoy this new addition to our reunion program.

As usual, we will also have our Welcoming Mixer, War Era Lunches, Unit Lunches, Gold Star Family Breakfast, Ladies Tea, Sweetheart Dance, Annual Association Banquet, Group

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

Breakfast and Memorial Service. We will have meetings of the Chapter Presidents, Foundation and Museum Foundation Trustees, the Board of Governors and our General Membership meeting. During our General Membership meeting on Saturday morning, we will hold elections for the Association and both Foundations and select the location for the 2016 reunion. We have bids from several Chapters to host the 2016 reunion and will have specific details to provide at the reunion. Seating for all events is open with the exception of the Reunion Banquet on Saturday night. If you are attending the banquet, you must get your tickets marked with a table number at the Banquet Seating table when picking up your registration packet. If you want to sit with specific people, we recommend that you all go to the Banquet Seating table together with your tickets available. Don't wait until the last minute or we may not be able to accommodate your needs.

Cavalry casual attire is appropriate for all reunion events. We are always questioned about attire for the banquet. Wear what you feel comfortable wearing; a coat and tie, your uniform (if it still fits), casual clothing with open collar, or jeans or shorts. We want you to attend and aren't overly concerned with what you wear, as long as it isn't indecent!

The Association will provide a Reunion Room in the Shilo Hotel during the reunion for you to gather together and enjoy yourself. Drinks in the Reunion Room are free but we ask that you generously donate to help us pay for this room.

The Crossed Sabers Chapter Souvenir Shop will set up a gift shop in the Shilo to sell all kinds of First Team merchandise including shirts, hats, Stetsons, pins, decals and other items to numerous to mention and it's home location will also be open in the 1st Cavalry Division Museum on post. In past years, the CSCSS has created Reunion T-Shirts to purchase at the reunion. Figuring out the correct number and sizes has proven difficult so Michelle will offer you the chance to pre-order your reunion T-Shirt and ensure that you will have one in the size you desire. You can pick the shirt up at reunion or have it shipped to you prior to the reunion if you pay extra for shipping. A Reunion T-shirt may be ordered and the order form will be added to this page soon.

Much of the leadership of the 4th Brigade Combat Team will be deployed in Afghanistan but we will have Troopers from all of our units at Fort Hood. The Division leadership is coordinating a special event on the evening of Friday, 7 June entitled "Spirit of the Cav" and other events on post during that day as well. Busses will transport reunion attendees from the two hotels and KCCC to Fort Hood on Friday for a vehicle display, visits to the 1st Cavalry Division Museum and barn tours of the Horse Cavalry Detachment. Visits to some of the unit areas will also be available and you can get a first-hand look at today's Army. If you haven't been to Fort Hood for a reunion, make sure you attend and see the great Troopers of today's First Team.

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

Unit Director - David Flores



Hello again to all, I hope that everyone is doing well these days. As I am writing this we are about 30 days from our reunion. As always, we are hoping for a great turnout and looking forward to seeing some guys that have not been to a reunion, but we won't call ya, "FNG".

Buzby sent me an article about the "LURPS" that he found in some of his old papers from his time with the company. Turns out it was put out by the 1st Infantry Division. The magazine was called, "Danger Forward".

I wondered if the 1st Infantry Division Museum would have the magazine in their archives. I



e-mailed them and asked if they would take a look. They sent me a copy from the magazine. So I have that article in for this issue. Now the magazine is dated March, 1969, but the guys in the pictures are from 1968.

Thanks to Buzby for sending it to me. Wait, my foggy brain told me maybe Wiggins told me about it and then I e-mailed Buzby. I don't want to screw-up the credit!

OK, read the article!

Dave Flores, Unit Director
I/75-F/52 LRP
1st. Div. LRRP

McCormick Research Center

DANGER

Volume Three, Number One—March 1969

forward ©**The Magazine Of The Big Red One, Vietnam****COMMAND GROUP**

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Assistant Division Commander
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Assistant Division Commander
COL Archie R. Hyle
Chief of Staff

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◀ABOUT THE COVER▶

Major General Orwin C. Talbott, Commanding General, 1st Infantry Division accepts the Gallantry Cross with Palm from Lieutenant General Co Cao Tri, Commanding General of the Vietnamese III Corps Tactical Zone. (Photo by Sp4 Wayne L. Yeager)

DANGER FORWARD, an authorized publication of the US Army, provides timely, authoritative information of professional interest on combat operations, revolutionary development programs and combat support procedures of the First Infantry Division, Vietnam. It serves as a means of expression for views of the Commanding General and achieves command information objectives of the Department of the Army and the First Infantry Division. Material of interest to Division members and the Army in general is invited and should be mailed to: Editor, DANGER FORWARD, Information Office, First Infantry Division, APO 96345. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of Department of the Army. The title DANGER FORWARD is copyrighted by the Society of the First Division.

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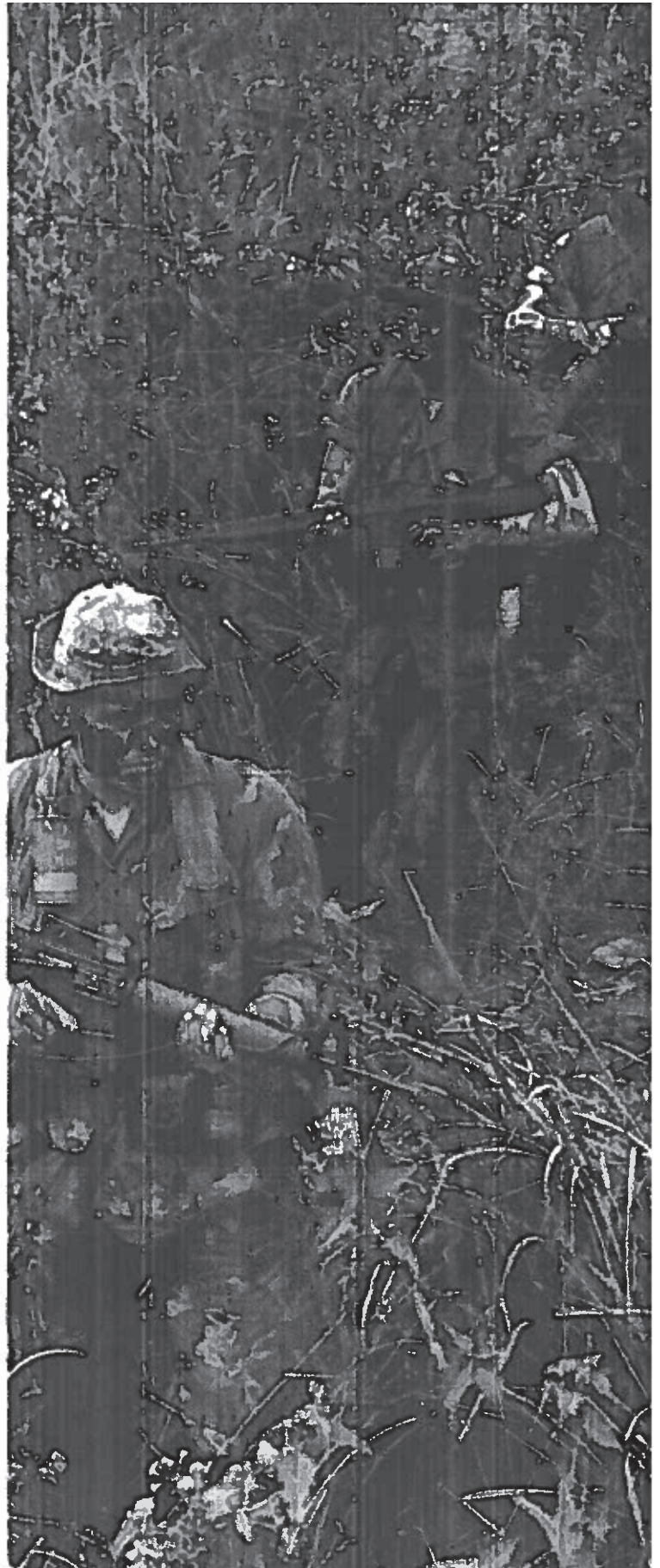
LONG RANGE PATROL

STORY BY

MSG JAMES C. STEPHENSON SR

PHOTOS BY

PFC TONY HALLAS



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



"CHARLIE IS AFRAID OF US NOW. He knows we're there—somewhere—in the jungle, rice paddies or in the grass and underbrush. And he's scared."

The men talking are members of the elite painted-faced Long Range Patrol (LRP) of the 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION. They are the men known as LRPs (pronounced lurps) who keep a closer watch over "Charlie" than "Charlie" does over his rice ration.

But the watchful eye of the LRPs is not what has made the enemy skeptical of meeting up with the small highly-skilled patrol. "It's the 'strike hard' and 'rapid disappear' techniques that we're using," chuckled Staff Sergeant Steve D. Mattoon, Honolulu, a 39-month Vietnam war veteran, with 11 of those months with the Division's LRPs. "This makes the enemy scared. He doesn't know where we are, what bush we're behind. And this confuses the hell out of him."

The sergeant, camouflaged to look more like the jungle than the natural jungle itself, said that the

LRPs do not pick fights with the enemy. "That's not our job. But once he tries to pin us down as has happened on several occasions," added the short, stocky jungle fighter, "we fight back like cornered wildcats. This demolishes the enemy and gives us an opportunity to return with needed information."

The LRPs conduct small patrols consisting of a few highly skilled combat soldiers who function as an intelligence element, or a harassing or combat element. The teams operate on their own in enemy-held territory, usually beyond the immediate support of friendly forces. This is in contrast to the reconnaissance platoons in infantry battalions which normally operate near the rest of their unit.

According to First Lieutenant Jerry M. Davis, a 21-year old platoon leader from Goodfield, Ill., the LRP company consists of a headquarters detachment and two platoons, one attached to the 3d Brigade at Lai Khe, and the other to the 2d Brigade at Di An.



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These adept technicians of war roam the jungles day and night. They are seldom seen, seldom heard, yet they carry on the "eye ball to eye ball" contact of the war. "We see the enemy, we see his cruel, inhuman face, and we listen to his squeaking voice," said Sergeant Ronald Crews, Chandler, Okla. "And we come to hate everything he stands for."

"And when you see a buddy, a close buddy who has helped you out of many tight spots shot down before you," he added sadly, "you want to settle the score—regardless of the odds."

In most instances, however, a LRP team is not prepared to put up a substantial battle against a numerically superior force. "We carry enough ammunition for only a brief contact," explained Private First Class Edward M. Cliff, a five-foot two-inch 115 pound soldier from Waukegan, Ill. "But during that brief moment, the VC think we're a whole company."

The 19-year old soldier, who has been nicknamed "Short Round" because of his size and speed, said the



LRPs' best weapon is their ability to evade the enemy. The youngster had earned the praise of his comrades before he had completed two months with the unit because of his courage demonstrated when they have had to fight their way out of "tight spots."

Once the patrol has been forced into contact with the enemy, each man lays down a substantial base of fire and takes off. This is what they call "immediate action drill." The last man (rear security) saturates the escape route with hand grenades. "And in most instances," related Sergeant Randal J. Harris, a tall athletic-looking 20-year old from Rome, Ga., "the immediate action drill pays off."

He observed that even though the VC live in the jungle and know the terrain, the LRPs can beat them at their own game. "Especially when it comes to losing one's self in the jungles," he chuckled, adjusting his canteen and a couple of plastic bags of water on his belt.

Sergeant Harris relates one experience when his team had been inserted in a heavily jungle-covered area near Lai Khe. "We had just started to set up night camp when we heard voices coming from all directions. We hit the ground and froze."

"A few moments later," he continued, "while we were lying there holding our breath and trying to figure out the situation from behind a cluster of tall, thick

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elephant grass, I saw a small group of "Charlies" standing six meters away. Then an NVA came strolling by, about three meters from where we were hiding. He walked by. Stopped. Started peeping through the woods searching the area, and again stopped. He rammed both hands into his pockets, murmured something and started to walk away. But it was too late. We knew he had spotted us."

"We shot him down and opened up on the rest of them. That's when we found out that we were smack in the middle of an enemy basecamp," explained the tough-looking soldier as the sweat beamed through the greasy camouflaged makeup on his face."

Interrupting, Sergeant Lonnie L. Ray, 22, Fayetteville, N.C., said, "we weren't afraid because we had two elements working for us. One was the psychological fear and state of confusion we created by the surprise attack, and the other, our lightning response. And we used them both to full advantage."

"Before they could reorganize or adjust themselves to what had happened, we were 500 meters (542 yards) away, being extracted by a helicopter," he continued. "And man, that 'bird' looked good!"

"Meanwhile," he said, "the enemy basecamp was being bombarded by artillery, and gunships were in pursuit of the NVA." The support was called in by the LRP's radio operator.

Another close call, according to 19-year old Specialist 4 Gerald Smith, Birmingham, Ala., was when his team was caught in the middle of a rice paddy as 125 VC passed within five meters. "There's no need to lie," chuckled Smith, as he belted a large commando knife to his leg. "The butterflies bounced up and down in my stomach. And to top this, mosquitoes about the size of your finger drew blood from the uncovered portion of my body, and the water leaches brought blood from inside my jungle fatigues. It was one of my most fearful moments since I have been with the LRP's," he recalled.

"All I could do was grit my teeth—harder and harder—to keep from crying out. The only thing that prevented me from doing so, was a voice from out of nowhere. And of course, there were the agonizing faces of my team mates, staring up toward the sky. I guess we were each praying for the other one."

On any mission, regardless of its size, team or platoon, the LRP's are always concerned about their team members. "We have a motto—All For One and One For All—," related Sergeant Horace Lee Watson,

Hazlehurst, Ga. "And we abide by it. A man may be a real 'sorehead' in basecamp, but on a mission he's your best friend."

Watson, 20, and a two-year Vietnam veteran with eight months under his belt with the LRP's, said he encountered the highest morale and spirit of any unit with the LRP's. "We train together, live together, suffer hardships together, and if necessary, even die together."

"But we don't think of dying," interrupted Corporal Charles J. Arnold, a nine month LRP team member from Barnesville, Ohio. "We always know we're coming back alive. We have a lot to live for. Most of us have a high school or college sweetheart waiting back home. Others have a wife and children. Then there are our parents—mothers, fathers and one or two sisters and brothers."

Adding, as he seemed to recall memories of those loved ones he left back home, "Yes, we have a real need to come back alive. And I guess that's why we fight so hard."

Patterned after the American Indians who were quite successful in their scouting techniques against the early American settlers, the LRP's are striking heavy blows against the VC, both physical and psychological. "The technique is old but far from being outdated," commented Sergeant First Class Loran B. Massey, Johnston City, Tenn., the man who puts the LRP's into position, and takes them out when the job is done.

The operations sergeant is something like the "hub" of LRP missions. He coordinates the requested missions from higher headquarters down to the execution of the final order.

Sergeant Massey gets his order from the BIG RED ONE's 3d Brigade S-2 based on the situation report from intelligence channels. He in turn sets the wheels in motion, readying the LRP team for their insertion. From there, everything is an automatic chain of reactions. The potential area is surveyed by a LRP leader from a helicopter; routes of travel and escape are planned and other possible VC hiding places analyzed.

Once the teams are inserted, usually by helicopter, the 15-year Army veteran, with eight years as an operations sergeant, sticks close by the radio. Whatever happens, a call for extraction, artillery fire, close air

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support, helicopter gunships, aero-rifle team or another team of LRPs, the sergeant spins his radio dial, and the request is granted within a few minutes.

"I'm something like the middle-man," explained SFC Massey. "If the situation calls for a hunter-killer team, surveillance team or a reconnaissance mission, the LRPs are ready. I can put them in a position in a matter of minutes."

In addition, the sergeant coordinates all required LRP training, something that never stops. Each platoon maintains a rigid daily training program with heavy emphasis on physical fitness. They also attend the MACV Recondo School.

Here, the men, most of them volunteers for the LRPs, undergo three weeks of extensive training in map reading, navigation, intelligence, supporting fire, medical training, patrolling techniques and physical conditioning. When they complete the school each man can perform all the tasks required on a patrol and double for other team members if necessary. He can call in fire missions, gunships, or take over the platoon leader's role in a "must" situation.

In essence, the LRPs' motto—"One For All and All For One"—is the key to success. Just as the Indian scouts reconnoitered the colonists' positions for their warring tribes, the LRPs are functioning as the eyes and ears of the 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION. How well they have done their job can be affirmed by statistics. They killed 238 NVA and VC soldiers during 1968, and "pointed the finger" at enemy unit locations on dozens of occasions for combat infantrymen of the Division.

"Charlie" should be afraid of them now.

End of a mission and a call is made for extraction.





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

Unit Director - Rodger T. Crunk

Greetings to My Brothers,

I originally wrote this for the Spring issue but it will be a combined Spring and Summer issue so I've added several items of note that have occurred in the meantime. Hope I can keep in in some kind of order.

Hope all is well with everyone. I have been holed up most of the winter. I think I may have mentioned before that I hate winter? December was the coldest ever recorded here in Western Colorado. I started looking for some warm weather so

I called a friend in Tucson but he said it was 19 degrees and snowing so I didn't go there. I called Tom in California, it was 20 degrees there. Dallas was out because it was snowing there too. Harry who lives in Florida was in Plattsburg NY repairing frozen water pipes, going there to help him was not an option!

It's one of two things, its cold everywhere or they didn't want to see me. I decided not to ask and just stayed home.

Tom Sove and I have been invited as representatives of the Association to attend the awards ceremony on March 20th for the 2nd Battalion Rangers in Ft. Lewis, Washington. This will be for CIBs, medals, citations etc. from there last deployment in Afghanistan. We are looking forward to that. Last November we attended their KIA memorial ceremony. The night before there was a reception for all at the Battalion Commanders home and was able to meet most of the Battalion leadership and many of the young Rangers on the front lines. The ceremony next day was very moving of course. It took me back to Vietnam and the memory of attending the ceremonies for too many of our fallen Brothers. Those memories are still too fresh. It was difficult and an honor to meet some of the family members of these fallen Rangers and to see the sacrifice on their faces as they were dealing with the fresh memory of their loss.

Open house and lunch followed the ceremony. Most of the headquarters areas were open to us. Lunch was a different experience. Remember the mess halls of our time? Those are just bad memories now. It is now called a 'dining facility'. The layout is like you would find in the better cafeteria style restaurants. Menu selection was out of this world compared to our day and it was very good. I bet they don't serve powdered eggs either!! Didn't have to go back to the barracks to find a LRRP ration.



Another story about this particular dining facility: Several years ago Tom Sove and KY Azlein had put together a framed collage of Vietnam pictures and presented it to the Battalion leadership in appreciation of wonderful job they did hosting the Associations first reunion in Ft. Lewis. It hung on the wall at headquarters for several years. It was not displayed on the wall of their new facilities so Tom has been obsessed with finding out where it went too. On two different trips to Ft Lewis he asked the Battalion leadership about it but no one

seemed to know but assured him that it would be found. Well, no collage was found of course. After this particular lunch Tom walked around to look at various pictures on the walls of the dining room. Shortly he came back to the table and excitedly asked, guess what I found? Sure enough, there were the missing pictures prominently displayed. So nothing to do but go back to headquarters and somewhat 'smugly' inform the Command Sergeant Major that they could stop looking. I still get a chuckle out of that.

We were able to tour the squad areas of some of the young Rangers and visit with them about their training and the type of missions they are tasked with compared with ours in Vietnam. They are in awe of the missions that we carried out in that long ago time. As we were about to leave a couple of those 'kids' presented Tom and I with their berets that were blooded in Afghanistan. Can't tell you how proud I am of that beret. The black beret will always be ours but they have taken ownership of the tan beret, blooded it in battle and are just as proud.

Sitting here in Salt Lake International with a long layover, returning home from Ft. Lewis again where Tom Sove, and Bob White, and myself attended the Combat awards Ceremony for the 2nd Battalion Rangers as representatives of the Ranger regiment Assoc. It was a proud moment for me to watch each young Hero step forward to receive medals of heroism for their actions in Afghanistan in front of their Brothers, their families and various local and military dignitaries. It was such a powerful moment when the parents of Ricardo Cerro's accepted the posthumous Silver Star for the uncommon bravery of their Son in saving the lives of his Brothers. Not a dry eye in the house that night. Everyone in

I want to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to Alan Jacobs and this fine organization for honoring the LRRPs and Rangers of the 4th Inf. Div. If you want to know more of their mission just Google (Run For The Wall). Hopefully they can provide some pictures for a later issue.

Below is a good story by Spike Mellinger and Carol Boles. Takes me right back to the jungles of the Central highlands.



This photograph was taken right after I returned from the bloodiest mission of my tour in Vietnam. We were four kids on a long range reconnaissance mission in the thick jungles of Vietnam. I was the new guy on the team so I walked point. I was supposed to keep a keen eye ahead and listen for sounds that didn't belong in the jungle.

Besides dealing with the sweltering heat, menacing mosquitoes and the constant threat of a hungry tiger, we had another problem today. We were hopelessly lost, in the triple canopy of the jungle. We knew which way was north and which way was south, but didn't know where we were. Shumate, our team leader, decided to hump up a high hill to see if he could find some kind of landmark, then shoot an azimuth. He told us to stay put, we idly watched him quietly trudge up the hill. At the top, he suddenly dropped flat on the ground. Now alert, we dropped down just as fast, as he spotted something on the other side of the hill. Soon he signaled us to join him. At the top we gazed down into a beautiful valley, complete with a little waterfall spilling over a rock bluff. Scattered around were bamboo huts and tables.

The names of these brave men are remembered on Panel 16W – Line 69 of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C.



Jim Bell of Romeo-1 has built a memorial to all of our fallen Brothers at his home in Harrison City, PA. He has done a wonderful job all at his own expense. So if you skipped the

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Deep bunkers had been dug into the hillsides. We had stumbled upon the base camp we were sent out to find. We whispered our ideas and suggestion to one another, then made a plan. Shumate, Soverien and I would sneak in and take pictures, Bell would stay behind on the hill and stand guard. We didn't waste any time, we were in and out in less than five minutes. Lurking within the walls of a Viet Cong Camp made us all edgy. None of us were as brave as we pretended. We all flinched and swung around ready to fire, at the sound of a breeze in the trees or a bird squawking.

Still lost, we decided to follow Charlie's trail out of the valley. Our next mission was to determine our location and find a clearing large enough for a chopper to land in and lift us out. Carefully, we walked the trail afraid of booby traps or an ambush. Every few minutes I stopped the team and scanned our surroundings listening for voices and searching for movement. An hour later, the trail brought us to an opening into a rice paddy. Shumate found the rice paddy on the map, we could now radio in our location.

The trail made a half-circle around the paddy. Following it we saw tall, thick, grass just off the water. A perfect place to hide and wait for the chopper. We crawled in and sat a few feet from one another. Shumate radioed in our location. He reported we had found the VC base camp and were ready for extraction. The choppers would be there in about thirty minutes. Shumate stowed the radio and said, "Mell place a claymore twenty yards up the trail just in case they come our way."

I argued back. "The choppers will be here soon and I'll have to wrap it up just when I've got it unwrapped, What can happen in thirty minutes?" He gave in and we leaned into the tall grass and waited. I studied Shumate and thought of the nine millimeter bullet he wore around his neck. Everyone knows in Viet:nam, it doesn't matter how big you are, how smart you are or how strong you are. Over here what really matters is luck. Are you lucky enough to see Charlie before he sees you. Shumate was lucky the day a young Viet Cong officer pointed a pistol at his head and pulled the trigger. The young officer wasn't so lucky, when his pistol didn't fire. He should have cleaned the packing grease from his new weapon before taking it into the jungle. We were lucky today, I thought, as we waited.

Just when the choppers were supposed to arrive, we heard the sounds of metal on metal and the sound of rifle butts slapping against canteens. Like the pots and pans in the mess hall in the morning, Charlie was making a heck of a racket coming down the trail. Looking over Shumate's head, I saw a line of

about twenty Viet Cong rambling down the trail. Where, I should have placed a claymore mine! I should have listened to Shumate. No one could see anything but me. I mouthed to Shumate, "Gooks" he brought his hands to the M-16 resting on his lap. My eyes darted to my M-16, out of reach, resting against a tree. Stupid I think to myself. Bell switches his weapon to full automatic. Soverien doesn't move.

Their point man stops the VC platoon and checks the trail. He looks to the ground, then looks up to his left and right, again and again. It suddenly hits me, he sees our boot prints! His eyes then fix on Shumate. His eyes turned and pointed to our team leader. Shumate doesn't hesitate. He brings up his M-16, over my head and fires a small burst. The point man drops on the trail. Instinctively, I lunge for my weapon. Bell stands up, and holds back the trigger of his thirty round clip. In front of him six VC fall to the ground. He drops his clip and begins to reload. With weapon in hand I stare into the surprised eyes of a young Viet Cong soldier, no more than ten yards from me. His face is hot and sweaty, he's wearing a red bandana, and I see a stream of yellow mucus run from his nose. There is panic in his face. He couldn't have been more than fifteen. I remember the rice paddy incident as clearly today, as I did that day thirty years ago. I was so frightened, I couldn't get my rifle selector off safety.

Nervously, I fiddled with the switch as I watched this boy. We both stood there, just two frightened kids. Everything happened so fast, yet it seemed like we were players in a slow motion picture. I watched him drop his right shoulder and grasp the sling of his Russian SKS into his left hand. Just as his rifle slid off his shoulder and into his hands, my switch clicked to semiautomatic.

I pointed and fired three times. Puff, Puff, Puff, the bullets blew dust off his uniform. His face wrenched with pain as he spun around and landed face down. Shumate stopped firing, Bell was reloaded and Sovereign still watched.

Laying in front of us were about eight Viet Cong. The other dozen or so had fled to the jungle. We were still outnumbered and knew they could easily flank us. We had nowhere to run but into the open rice paddy. Just then, a Huey helicopter flew directly over us at tree top level. Shumate radioed that we were in heavy contact. In a heartbeat two Cobra gun ships, escorting the Huey, reported the Viet Cong were heading back our way. "Get out of the way," the pilot ordered, we're going to use the guns." The only place to go was into the open rice paddy. We jumped up and ran.

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

Running across the muddy paddy felt like running through thick glue. I kept waiting for a AK-47 to open up on us, leaving us face down in the murky water. We reached the other side and dove over a mound of mud and slid around, just in time to watch the Cobra's pepper the jungle with bullets. Soon the jungle was quiet. The pilot radioed Shumate to hustle to the center of the paddy. We all ran to the Huey, door gunners pulled us in hurrying us along, as the pilot quickly flew out.

Hearts pounding we stared down at the rice paddy, as the helicopter circled for the last time. I counted at least twenty bodies laying perfectly still, some on their backs, some on their stomachs, some rested on trees. Their black uniforms were stained with red blood. Today we were lucky, we saw them before they saw us.

As we flew over the deadly jungle my thoughts drifted. I put the day behind me and concentrated on the leeches on my legs. I thought of tomorrow and my mother. Tomorrow was my nineteenth birthday and I was going to be lucky enough to see it.

BY: Rueben Siverling

Good afternoon Roger and all. It is so good hearing from you Roger and thrilled to learn that medication, workload, weather and other elements are somewhat back in balance. I'm firmly convinced that there is a cause and effect at work here. As you so voluntarily also assumed the additional duties as 75th Ranger Association Treasurer, someone (like a former Association Treasurer) forgot to caution you that "Old Treasurers never die-they just lose get out of balance".

Just know that the entire unit has been upholding you in prayers and positive thoughts. We all realized that for you to miss a K/75-E/58 Reunion had to be very punishing on you. You have served us admirably for many years and we are assured that you will continue to do so always to the very best of your ability. We need, and so very much appreciate, your keeping this motley crew together. You have located and corralled many that we had previously lost contact with for more than forty years. In times of bereavement you have reached out and minister peace and comfort to the widows, parents, sons and daughters and families of our dear brothers who have gone on to greater rewards in their eternal rest. "Well done thou good and faithful servant". (Roger: If you elect to publish any part of this letter, do not even think about deleting the above stated thank you to you).

As stated a few days ago, Bonita and I sure did enjoy and appreciate the K75 (Ranger)-E/58 LRP Reunion held in Baltimore, Maryland August 8-12, 2012. Due to negligence on my part, follow-up testimonies of appreciation did not get submitted for the Winter Edition of our Patrolling Magazine. My bad! We certainly do not want the efforts, coordination, scheduling and hundreds of related tasks of Host and Hostess John Chester and Mary Anne Colledge to go unmentioned or absent of the accolades due for such a stellar commitment. The Reunion Planning Team consisting of Wayne Mitsch, Tom Sove, and Herb Reichel and their respective spouses and probably others cheerfully attended to details and, at times, our pettiness to assure us of a comfortable and relaxing stay. For this we owe each of them a loud shout-out of thanksgiving.



The dining room of the banquet facility.

The schedule of events and suggestions for short trips to various points of interest provided each of us with lots of choices. We could lay back and do nothing, walk to and around the Inner Harbor and the abundance of Shops there, go to Washington, D.C., Gettysburg, Antietam, Manassas or Harper's Ferry or just hang around Herb Reichel's Hospitality Room and tell lies. Hey Herb, Great-Great Hospitality brother! I'm not sure you ever saw the outside of the Holiday Inn because you were on full watch and serve anytime any of us came by. The "standing room only" times in the Hospitality Room are another testimony of the warmth and welcome atmosphere you created and maintained day and night. As always, the first liar didn't have a chance because the next brother had more missions, a smaller Team, larger enemy contacts or a thinner rope to be extracted from triple-canopy under intense enemy fire. No wonder the war ended so rapidly during our six years of activation.

Bonita and I drove more than 2700 miles that week so even a short auto trip to one of the historical sites was not on our personal agenda. The walks around the Inner Harbor, and seeing the square rigger "Constellation" was so very relaxing.

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

We also took the short water taxi ride over to Fort McHenry and became completely enamored with the beauty and history of the Fort, Francis Scott Key and birthplace of the writing of the Star Spangled Banner, our National Anthem. What a moving and proud experience to stand there on that hallowed ground, with a shaky hand, teary eyed salute listening to the recorded music attempted to sing along with the words on the larger-than-life screen:

**Oh! Thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand
Between their loved home and the war's desolation!
Blest with victory and peace, May the heav'n rescued land
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation.
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto "In God is our trust."
And the Star - Spangled Banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!**

Thank you dear LRRPs, LRP's and Rangers past and present and our military men and women everywhere for fighting and winning in just causes to let me live in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

This wonderful gathering of old soldiers and young families culminated on Saturday evening with a delightful and memorable Banquet at Germano's Restaurant in Baltimore's Italian district, known as "Little Italy". It appeared that John and Mary Ann had booked the entire 75th Ranger Regiment Association for that evening. The food and good cheer kept coming in waves in what had to be a five or more - course meal. We had fairly well stuffed ourselves far beyond comfortable when the very hospitable serving staff proceeded to bring in the "main course" - followed a half- hour later deserts. Absolutely TREMENDOUS!



Brian West, Rueben & Bonita Siverling.



**Mary Anne & Jake
getting down.**

Co-host Tom Sove led us in heart-felt tributes to our Our Creator, Our Nation, Our Fallen

Brothers and the sick and afflicted unable to be with us. Reuben and Bonita Siverling presented each of our brothers with a "Challenge Coin". The coin is stamped with the symbol of each of the U.S. Military Services and the inscription "If You Love Your Freedom, Thank a United States Veteran".

Having traveled from Kansas City at the near end of one of the longest draughts in U.S. history and the loss of more than 90% of agricultural products, the soft and prolonged rains that greeted us as we departed the restaurant on Saturday evening was indeed a refreshing Amen to a wonderful reunion.



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

Unit Director - Gary Linderer



In August 2012 the 101st Lrrp Rangers got together at Ft Campbell for Week of the Eagles.

Pictured are 101st LRSD Ft Campbell, Kentucky veterans.

35 L75th, 3/506, 101st LRDS and active duty Pathfinder Airborne Rangers, veterans and family members attended the banquet. 12 active duty soldiers attended including 1st Lt Frost and 1st Sgt Cato.

L Company was invited to lunch at the NCO Academy by CSM Moss. We had a great time talking to our future NCOs.

Some of us from the 506th made contact with the 4-101-PDFR. They are on jump status commanded by 1st Lt. Frost & 1st Sgt Chris Cato. We were invited to come out and fire their weapons. The powder still smells the same even though we were firing blanks.

We fired M-4, The Saw and the new version of the M-60. Pretty Awesome.

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

Sgt Yorty brought his little son to visit with us the following day.

We had a really good surprise. Bill Grimes of Clarksville, Tn. was waiting for us. Last time I saw him was in 1969. He also did a tour with K Co Rangers and is retired from the Army.

Recently Gary Linderer had some health issues. lindlrp@yahoo.com is his e-mail. Gary is at home and recuperating.

3/506 LRRP Timothy Wayne Howard passed away December 28, 2012 after a long bout with cancer. He was 66 years old.

Any news or updates contact Jerry Gomes 503-260-6917

Submitted by Jerry Gomes, e-mail: kaye@nthoodcustomhomes.com



L to Right - Jerry Wilson, Gene Carne, Jerry Gomes 3/506 LRRPS.



L to R - 3 unknown, Team Leader Sam Jacobs, Tim Howard, Gene Carne - Romeo 4 3/506 LRRPS 1968

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

Unit Director - Robert Q. Tate

NEW UNIT DIRECTOR

Everyone give Don Tillisch a "THUMBS UP" for all his hard work as Unit Director of our Unit!

Looking forward to seeing everyone at Ft Benning. As we all know, we're not getting any younger. Would like for us to plan an M CO GATHERING for next year while we're all together at Benning.

A lot of us have questions about how the LRRPS became RANGERS. A friend of mine, Col. Jim Hanke (RET) was near the helm of overseeing this change and I have asked him to share it with us for this issue of Patrolling Magazine. I'll be talking about Cat Lai in the next issue and would appreciate anyone's input.

**Republic of Vietnam 1969
LRRPs to Rangers**

James S. Hanke

In January 1969 I liked the Intelligence school so much that I volunteered for Vietnam.

I had made Major below the zone in five years, gotten a regular Army Commission on the insistence of my wife, Margo, sired a baby girl, and was riding a motorcycle through the Baltimore tunnel everyday possible to Ft. Holabird in quest of some sort of Intelligence qualification.

My background for this was Infantry, Airborne, Ranger and the Special Forces Officers course, HALO and MATA Fire Extinguisher inspector at Ft. Bragg, and 6 months TDY to RVN, command of A 124, 1st Special forces Group in several exercises around SEA, a different A-124 in Thailand for 6 months, which was part of the first three A-Teams officially

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

in Thailand, and finished up the assignment commanding the HALO Detachment and School on Okinawa. (I also went to many other places as HALO instruction was in great demand.)

I arrived at the 90th replacement Battalion on the day before TET. I had orders for the 101st Airborne Division with the idea to jump ship to Danang to get back in SF. There was a little firefight going on that the MPs were fighting. I had no weapon. The next day about two companies of VC/NVA came down the road, and by then there were plenty of weapons. It was the road to II Field Force Headquarters, and we were a minor irritant, except that someone called a heavy fire team of three Cobras, which I had never seen before. They made three passes, and that was the end of VC/NVA aspirations that day. Later, the 25th Division captured several PWs in the area.

Word was sent to me that someone from USARV Headquarters was looking for me. I thought to hide out, but they were too quick for me. That someone was Airborne Ranger Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Winn, a bespectacled gentleman, as tough as nails. He started out by telling me how privileged I was to be selected for a high level staff job at USARV-G2. I told him of my Special Forces aspirations, and he said I really had no choice in the matter, that I had been selected for the job. Art Winn, who turned out to be a lifelong friend, said if I was serious he would let me go in 6 months. The job was to be in charge of the program to convert LRRP (Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol) units to Ranger Units. That was nothing I knew anything about except for doing well in Ranger School.

I learned very quickly, as it turned out that the senior staff officers and general level officers had a high priority interest in the project. There were allegations of the LRRP units being dumping grounds for the division bad boys, drug use and inept combat operations causing high casualty rates, incompetent commanders just waiting for commands of line companies, and many other rather ingenious ways to denigrate a unit and neglect it. I also quickly got buried in Ranger Company TO&Es (Tables of Organization and Equipment), and many MTO&Es (Modified TO&Es) submitted by the various divisional companies in an effort to make their organization fit the combat situation they were in.

Colonel Winn and I were sent around to all the various USARV General Staff sections to get their take on the problem, which ranged from "there is no problem" to "we don't need LRRPs", to other more "defeat by detail" efforts. I got the impression that making them Rangers was opposed by everyone, and that it was impossible to do with the current command climate in USARV. I took that to be the influence of division commanders.

Then I was called to the office of General Mike Davidson, the USARV commander. There I got the briefing of a lifetime. No staff Officers, and the SGS Officer taking notes. Basically the General said that he was very aware of the LRRP situation, and that he would not stand for such a situation to exist in his command, (don't forget that this is USARV, which had Command without Operation control- tactical missions and operations came from Headquarters MACV thru command lines.) General Davidson was responsible to see that the US Army in Vietnam was fit to fight. It meant support in all aspects for military existence, but without Operation Control. He took it as a direct insult to him and his command that lower units were not in the "fit" category. He could not attack the problem directly because of his chain of command and information flow. He only received unit condition briefings after they had been massaged and worded in the most palatable words, and "slicked up" beyond recognition thru several echelons of command. He told Colonel Winn and me that he would be on distribution for all my reports and work. Direct. He also said that he directed the change to Ranger units, and that I was responsible for seeing that the command, levels of combat proficiency, supply, personnel and every other aspect of these units would reflect the honor of the past Ranger units and uphold all their standards. I started to say something stupid, but he cut me off and said "Go do the job."

So I did, but with Colonel Winn's guidance and support. The methodology was to make a visit and write a report. The General would write in his comments and directives on the trip report in spidery red ink. I was soon the most loathed staff officer in the headquarters because I DID NOT LIE, and pulled no punches about the condition of various LRRP units. The G-4, a large but over-weight person, actually threatened me physically before I told him of my SF interest in martial arts and would welcome a physical confrontation. It became obvious that in this LRRP business only, I was the General's "Hand." How this all happened, at least whatever caused me to reach this point, I do not know. I was just in the 90th replacement battalion, going to the 101st.

The first point of interest for me was the Recondo School. Someone who understood the problem about standards that apply to combat operations started a program for the LRRP units that sent their small unit leaders to the Recondo School for training in leadership, operations, intelligence and coordination. This program was still in existence, but it had mixed reviews, even with the Recondo patch that was awarded. It was later made mandatory training for all incoming Officers and NCOs that were going to combat assignments.

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

I went to Nha Tranh to visit the Recondo School. It turned out the school was commanded by an old and dear friend, Bob Lunday, with whom I had jumped a lot in the Green Beret Sport Parachute Club at Ft. Bragg. We discussed the training curriculum, the standards for the incoming students, the TO&Es' of the various units - which had different weapons in different units. Bob showed me his mission statement and how he did it. I was impressed with the whole setup. We did some minor tinkering, but basically it was an outstanding program. It just needed more command emphasis from the other end.

Then Bob asked me if I would like to try the replacement for the McGuire rig that had had several people fall off the rope and get wounded. This version had a harness one wore all the time, and it snapped to the up rope. I thought that was a good idea, as it was taught in the school program. The helicopter, with Bob leaning out, dragged me through the green slime in the swamp behind Nha Tranh. If I had been strong enough to climb the rope—

Bob had disappeared by the time I got back. SF guys play rough. Recondo was a good operation. **Before discussing the actual situation:** This is the summary of the program: LRRP units had a undeserved bad reputation. Action:

1. Change to Ranger Company TO&E
2. Establish priorities for personnel and equipment.
Establish Command endorsed quotas
3. Use Ranger Department doctrine and Mission statement
4. Clarify chain of command. Establish command oversight to insure compliance.

The change-over to the Ranger TO&Es had already begun. The range of the degrees of implementation in various units were amazing. Some corps/divisions never forwarded the equipment, others dropped it off with no instruction, others got it and started internal instruction on the usage. No one paid any attention to the personnel priority. The Major Generals commanding Divisions regarded their commands as fiefdoms that were independent entities and they felt their only measure of success was combat effectiveness, translated into body count. They were rated primarily by HQ MACV, with USARV providing input, and other than combat effectiveness, anything else ran a distant second. A USARV program was not important to them; the LRRP to Ranger program was not important to them. I was a major irritant to them, and really did not care. Let General Davidson bail me out! That is what happened, and I did not compromise on the Ranger Standards. I squealed on the Divisions every chance I got in an effort to use the Ranger units the way they were supposed to work, which in turn had a positive influence on war prosecution. Ranger units are, by nature, effective high skill Infantry.

There were two Army Corps level units. The one for I Field Force, the 151st Indiana National Guard, was stationed in the I corps area. It had a totally separate TO&E that was National Guard and not near the regular Army TO&E. This unit was a left over from previous wars, was twice the size of a divisional unit, and was very highly trained. They conducted sophisticated combat ops. But would this program include the National Guard as Rangers?? They did not particularly care at the time. They had plenty to do. However, I cared.

The II Field Force unit was stationed at Long Binh, not far from the II Field Force. It was also double the size of a divisional unit. It was commanded by an LTC who was very careful of his reputation. He attended all the II FF morning meetings, and briefed his combat results.

This unit was one of the earliest of anyone to espouse the Area Recon and ambush. They would get assigned an area up to 40 by 60 km, and put out 15 to 20 recon patrols at choke points, intersection land mark structures, sensitive terrain, etc. Each patrol would stay about 5 days plus or minus, either staying put or moving carefully around a point. If there was nothing around, they would be moved. If it was HOT, they would be moved. This cycle could be repeated if necessary. After gathering as much intelligence as deemed necessary, they would go to a combat phase by ambushing or raiding by using well prepared plans, again based on the intelligence previously developed.

This was a surprisingly effective way of conducting a Ranger version of counterinsurgency warfare, and the unit excelled in the prime MOE, IE BODYCOUNT. The unit regularly had body count more than the Divisional units in II FF. This type of warfare required helicopter support to reinforce teams that were discovered, or bit off more than they could chew, or otherwise required admin support. Also, they were used for airmobile assault. Because of the body count emphasis, they had a light fire team attached, and slicks on direct support.

In the daily II FF staff briefing for the commander, the divisional briefers were constantly at lower body count levels than the Corps LRRP, then Ranger unit. They were too self centered to see what the unit was doing, and on this date, when the unit briefed 14 Enemy KIA, it finally boiled over and the divisional Reps- all full Colonels, accused the Ranger commander of inflating his body count (complete with snickering.) The Commander left the meeting, loaded the KIA in a couple slicks and dumped them on the II FF lawn. This caused a great deal of public consternation, got the Commander's ass chewed, and never again did anyone doubt his combat results in the morning meeting. I drove by while this was happening, and wondered why there were dead bodies all over the grass in front of II FF.

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

It was easy to convert this unit over to the Ranger TO&Es; it was 2/3d the size of an Infantry Battalion and had a staff equipped to handle the program. I spent as much time as necessary with them, and it was not because the Commander had a beautiful blonde, Australian girlfriend that sort of hung around the periphery. She was the unit mascot.

AS a USARV Staff officer, I was issued a .45 pistol, which I regarded as not being armed at all. The new Ranger unit gave me a captured folding stock AK 47 that I carried everywhere. It was beautiful, brand new and cared for by the unit. It caused a lot of comment but no one had the balls to take it away UNTIL:

A VC/NVA element, about a squad, somehow got down in the brush along a small creek in the middle of the USARV compound. When they were discovered, the alarm was sounded, everyone went to the bunkers and a firefight broke out. This lasted a long time, and when I got there I fired the AK at the VC in the ditch. Green Tracers. All the other bunkers started firing at us. We had to pop smoke and announce on the command net that we were not hostiles. Another ass chewing. They tried to take my AK.

Before discussing the Divisional LRRP to Ranger evolution, I have to make some caviats. In no way am I insulting the men of the units when I address the sometimes significant problems that occurred in the units. They were the pick of the crop, braver than most and sometimes put up with situations, especially in combat environments, that endangered them more than it should have. Also, situations are transitory, and your experiences in the unit may not have existed when I visited the unit. Or maybe it was worse.

I devised a test that I thought revealed whether or not the LRRP unit was far enough along and skilled in Ranger tactics and techniques to wear the Tab and be called a Ranger unit. This involved my talking to the Officers and NCOs of the unit about all aspects of their jobs, and conducting an operation under my direction. It was straightforward and was coordinated with the Ranger department and up the line with General Davidson. He wrote several comments and corrections in his spidery red ink. A large part of it was based on my perception, but that was easy, as I was very much in favor of the transition. We just did not want an embarrassing situation where an incompetent unit became an incompetent Ranger unit. I think that General Davidson sent a GO back channel about this to the division commanders, as no one ever challenged my capability or qualification to use their assets to conduct an operation. Sometimes it was not necessary

to do this as the unit was so outstanding that I could just certify them without it. Also, I am hitting what I remember- I actually visited all the units in RVN that were Ranger eligible.

4th Infantry Division: The unit was split into platoons that were collocated and supported the wide-spread Brigade locations. I did not visit all Platoon locations, but it was obvious that this unit was one of the better in the US Army. The company HQ conducted the staff functions at a centralized location, and the platoons conducted classic, mostly recon operations and were a vital part of the divisional operations. They also conducted combat ops when required, but they were of a specialized nature, like raiding a Montagnard village to stop infiltration or capture an asset. They also had some good ambushes. Obvious Rangers.

9th Infantry Division- Also an outstanding unit, and they all had many decorations to prove it. They had adapted Ranger tactics to cope with the riverine environment, and were very aggressive with a high recon/combat tempo. They were highly valued by both the Division G2 and G3. Their personnel processing and logistics were enviable. Obvious Rangers!

25th Infantry Division: I got off the chopper to meet a very fine group of soldiers carrying spotless weapons. The weapons did not have a spot of bluing on them, generally. The unit was well organized and had high morale, and conducted a wide range of operations including ambushing the rocket belt around Cu Chi. I raised a question about this, and they said "Someone has to do it" and the LRRPs were more skillful in the operational environment than other units and had actually stopped many rocket attempts. I was not sure about this use of Rangers, but the G3 said they were used for the more traditional missions also, and had probably saved many lives by stopping some of the rocket attacks. We went to a range and fired the silver weapons, and not one had an adequate barrel; most fired rounds end over end. I put that in my trip report, and the USARV G4 went nuts. I went down to CU Chi the next week by myself, and the unit had a resupply of new weapons. The G4 said I lied. General Davidson sent me a private note. It said good work. Definitely Rangers.

101st Airborne Division: Arriving at the Base Camp, I was met by the G2 and hastened to the evening briefing and the General's Mess. I was introduced as the USARV project officer for creating a Ranger Company. The G2 had virtually no awareness of what a Ranger company was; he was an infantry LTC waiting for command, and really did not care about much besides going to the General's mess. The Unit reflected this attitude. They really did not conduct operations, and the G2

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

had no knowledge of the G3 operations procedures. I started an education session, but the LRRP commander did not have the references I sent out. I was staying with the 1st Sergeant in a WABTOC. I showed the company Operations Sergeant how to coordinate with the G3 ops for assets and planning fire support, etc. They were eager learners. Finally we put a five man team in on an island, with detailed briefings as to where to go and what to do. We watched our maps carefully as the team reported locations and sightings. A Recon helicopter reported movement on the island where we inserted the team. Assuming the NVA in the area had noticed the insertion and were investigating, the G3 sent a light fire team to make a run on the Island. Two members of the team were wounded. That evening while in my rack, someone rolled a grenade under the floor. It exploded throwing shrapnel and wood slivers every where. I had gotten these type of showers on my previous tour in the woods, and do not like them. The First Sergeant, who was credible and trying to straighten the place up, thought it was meant for him. I was scheduled to leave anyway. Result: NOT QUALIFIED to be a Ranger Unit. This caused all sorts of consternation and normal messages and GO backchannels up and down the chain of Command to USARV. I had to explain my action to everyone, even the IG. The decision stood. Many years later while playing Bridge at C&GS, I rubbed my leg and cut myself. A friends' wife was a Medical person and pulled out a 5/8 in long metal sliver, probably from that grenade. I understand that after I left Vietnam, the unit was re-examined and was deemed a RANGER unit. Not by me.

1st Infantry Division: The division, in the area of rubber plantation and VC base camp areas, had a different problem than other places. They, as with the II FF rangers used the area and recon ambush with good success. The problem was they were dealing with consistently larger units, that almost insured losing a recon team if it was discovered. It also caused the division to react with larger forces than elsewhere. According to the unit, they could have been in combat all the time. They were on my mind a lot, trying to get them the best possible personnel and equipment. Definite Rangers.

Americal Division: The LRRP unit was in a base camp on one of the most beautiful beaches I have ever seen, even with concertina on it. The company had contracted with locals that supplied their every need. With a better facility, it could have been a popular vacation spot. The company commander was an acquaintance of mine from Infantry basic. As the division was composed of three Brigades from different units, or on a separate Brigade TO&E, which had its own fire support, there was less operational emphasis at the division level. The

unit pulled anti-rocket duty, and Recon patrolled in a hot area along the river to the south. They mostly walked in and back, using division assets at a minimum. The unit operated at a rudimentary level, and did no combat operations that I could detect. That is OK for a LRRP unit, but Rangers are skilled Infantry. This unit did not meet that criteria, had not trained up for the transition, and was judged as a Ranger Company in progress, but NOT ready at that point in time. This did not cause a big ruckus. No one seemed to care.

This covers the major units in RVN other than Cavalry which had their own version of Reconnaissance Units, and Armor units which had their own version, not Ranger units. There was some activity by these units, after the Ranger program became a success, to organize units along Ranger lines. Some sent Leaders to Recondo school. Rather than go through the remainder of the Units, the reader can see the wide variation of skill levels in the LRRP to Ranger units. Separate brigades also had LRRP platoons, other area coverage local advisors organized LRRP/ Ranger units, and were seeking Ranger designation.

I was going nuts trying to keep up and do the right thing for "my units." The Advisors and SF had special units trained in Ranger tactics and techniques, and had some of the most spectacular patches around. (see Vietnamese Rangers- the panther Regiment) The Ranger Department of course would not make them US Army Rangers, but gave them some sort of associate status.

Also, the awarding of the Ranger Tab to soldiers in these units was the business of the Ranger Department. I really had enough to do. I provided input to the Ranger Department profiling many of the operations conducted by the Ranger units. In my mind, they deserved the Tab.

The resolution of that came after I left for the Career course. By the time I rotated, the Program was about two thirds finished, and the units that were Ranger units were doing great. These units established an enviable heritage that is part of U.S. Army RANGER tradition. They set the standards that resulted in the US Army creating the Ranger Battalions. One other point is that the remedial training for the improving units was mainly handled by the Recondo school, where they re-learned how to do everything in a standard format and how to apply the knowledge. This program, re-energized, deserves a lot of credit for creating leaders of recon/combat effective, high skill Ranger units that were the envy of many of the soldiers in normal units.

And this is no shit!!



N/75 - 74TH LRP - 173RD LRRP

Unit Director - Dave Cummings



173rd Airborne Brigade 50th Anniversary Celebration.

Sequence of Events

23 March 2013

Daytime Events – 1300-1700

National Infantry Museum Stadium

Welcome J. Robert Wolfgang
 Invocation Chaplain (MAJ) Steve Cantrell
 Presentation of the Colors Ranger Training Brigade
 Australian Army
 SSG Harvin, NCOIC
 National Anthem CPT Patricia Cameron
 30th AG BN, 192d IN Bde
 Parachute Demonstration Silver Wings
 Command Exhibition Parachute Team
 Remarks BG James C. Yarbrough, USA (Ret)
 Reading of the Names (Republic of Vietnam)

Evening Events – 1930-2100

173d Airborne Brigade National Memorial

Remarks Colonel Kyle Lear
 Commander, Ranger Training Brigade
 Reading of the Names (OIF and OEF)
 Final Honors Ranger Training Brigade
 MSG Makwakwa, NCOIC
 SPC Julia Brell, Bugler
 Benediction Chaplain (MAJ) Steve Cantrell
 Retirement of the Colors Ranger Training Brigade
 Australian Army
 SSG Harvin, NCOIC
 Conclusion J. Robert Wolfgang

The History of the 173d Airborne Brigade

The 173d Airborne Brigade was activated on 26 March 1963 on the Island of Okinawa and was designated as the Pacific Command Rapid Reaction Force. Lead elements of the 173d deployed to South Vietnam on 5 May 1965. From 1965 to 1967, the Brigade conducted combat operations in War Zones C and D and the Iron Triangle and on 22 February 1967 conducted the only combat parachute assault of the Vietnam War.

Throughout 1967, Sky Soldiers fought in the Vietnam Highlands. In early 1969 Brigade elements conducted an amphibious assault in the Bong Song Littoral and then transitioned to small unit operations for the duration of the Vietnam deployment. During its 6 year and 4 month deployment, 1,646 Sky Soldiers were killed. The Brigade was deactivated at Fort Campbell on 14 January 1972.

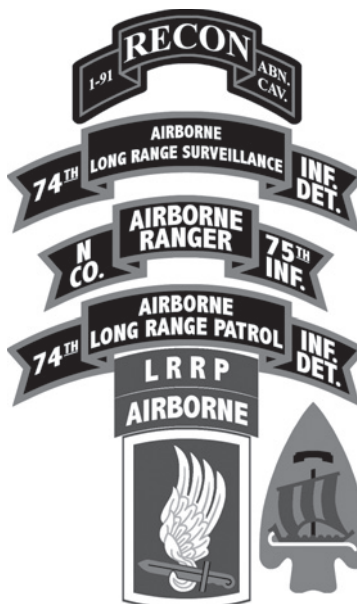
The 173d Airborne Brigade was reactivated on 12 June 2000 and conducted training operations throughout the European theater. On 26 March 2003, the Brigade conducted a parachute assault into Bashur, Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. 9 Sky Soldiers died during this year long deployment.

In February 2005, the Brigade deployed to Afghanistan supporting Operation Enduring Freedom VI. One Battalion operated along the Afghan-Pakistan border and the rest of the Brigade operated in the south. 17 Sky Soldiers died during this year long deployment.

May 2007 saw the expanded 173d Airborne Brigade Combat Team deploy to northeast Afghanistan supporting Operation Enduring Freedom VIII. The Brigade returned to Europe in July 2008. 43 Sky Soldiers died during this 15 month deployment.

During November 2009, the Brigade Combat Team began its third deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom X, with elements assuming areas of operation in Kunar, Logar and Wardak Provinces. 9 Sky Soldiers died during this one year deployment.

Sky Soldiers deployed to Afghanistan for a fourth time in June of 2012 again deploying to Logar and Wardak Provinces in support of Operation Enduring Freedom XIII. The Brigade returned home in February, 2013. 14 Sky Soldiers died during this 9 month deployment.



The Herd's 50th Anniversary was celebrated at the 173rd Memorial site at Ft. Benning 23 March 2013. Representing the 173rd Lurps were myself, Bill "Wilkie" Wilkinson, Joe and Romona Marquez, and Dave Carmon. Speaking at the ceremony was BG James Yarbrough (Ret) who was the first commander of the "New" 173rd Abn Bde. He gave a stirring account of travelling to Ft. Campbell to retrieve the 173rd's colors that had been cased since January 1972. The colors were un-cased at the herd's activation ceremony in Vicenza Italy June 2000. Vietnam Veterans of the Herd participated by placing the Battle Streamers won during that conflict back on the Bde colors. BG Yarbrough related that in the speech he gave at that ceremony was the solemn vow to those veterans that the

new 173rd would continue the reputation of excellence the Bde had earned in Vietnam. And they indeed have. As in Vietnam, the 173rd made the only large scale combat parachute assault in the Iraq war. The Desert Storm plan called for northern Iraq to be secured by the 173rd jumping in with the major push being made by the mechanized 4th Infantry Div that would roll down from Turkey. Of course, events in Turkey cancelled that plan which left the Herd's light Infantry to face down 6 Iraqi Divisions. Today the 173rd Abn Bde continues the tradition of excellence in the mountains of Afghanistan. 92 Sky Soldiers have been lost to date in the War on Terrorism.



Dave Cummings, Joe Marquez, Dave Carmon, and Bill "Wilkie" Wilkinson at dinner Friday night before the 50th Anniversary celebration.



Wilkie at the 173rd Abn Bde Monument.



Presenting the Colors. Both the US and Australian National Anthems were played in recognition of 1st Royal Australian Regiment service with the 173rd. Sergeant Mckenzie from Ft. Benning's Australian Army Liaison Office read names of 1 RAR KIAs.

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

Waiting my turn to read my page of names. I read Page 61 which had names of some of our guys KIA late 1970 during my tour. Joe Marquez also volunteered to read a page from his time in-country.

Joe Marquez and Dave Cummings in front of the 173rd Abn Bde Colors. Most of those Battle Streamers were won by you guys.

**Passing the Torch.**

LTC Schabbehar, Cdr 4th Ranger Training Battalion, has extended an invitation to us old Lurp/Rangers to address the students of the Ranger and Reconnaissance and Surveillance Leader (RSLC) Courses. He feels there is value in relating to these students just what it means to be a Ranger or Lurp (LRS) in the US Army. Sam Schiro and Dave Cummings have attended two such sessions.



Sam Schiro addresses a class of Ranger Students of 4th Ranger Training Battalion at Camp Rogers, January 2013.

They're Everywhere - Received this inquiry to the Unit Association from Brian Enslein in South Africa:

I would just like to query as there is a guy working here in South Africa. He comes from the USA. He claims to have served in the 75th Ranger battalion during the Vietnam War. He says he was attached to the 173rd Airborne Regiment. I would just like to query if this guy really served. He makes some interesting eye brow raising statements about his time there. Which just don't sound authentic. I am aware of the "Stolen Valor" act and this man claims to have been awarded some medals. My father is an ex-vet from the Wars in Rhodesia (1969 to 1980) and served with many ex-Nam vets. I know many of them and they are exemplary individuals. The guys name is James R. Nelson. I would just like to confirm if he indeed claims to be who he is. I have googled his name and searched it on your website, but I can only find one deceased Jame R. Nelson who was MIA in 1967. Your assistance in this regard will be appreciated. Thank you, Brian

Robert Henrickson dug through our unit rosters and found no record of this guy. A member wide email inquiry got no response from anyone that knew the name. So I sent this reply.

Brian

We do not have a James R Nelson on our unit rosters. We had a Eric in 67 and a Keith in 70. Rosters are not totally complete and we have messaged our membership to see if anyone remembers the name. If someone does I will let you know, but it's unlikely. The fact he is talking about a 75th Battalion is an indicator. Interestingly, we had a South African named Koenig in the company in 1969. Believe his government brought him home in May to assist in the Rhodesian intrusion into RSA territory. Dave Cummings

Unit Director: 173rd Abn Bde LRP, 74th LRRP, N Co. 75th Ranger, 74th LRS

Reed Cundiff sends this after surviving a terrible accident in Mexico recently. Reed and Elaine have been on the road touring throughout the Americas ever since his retirement as a Department of Defense Scientist a couple years ago:



Reed's truck.

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

Got into a 70 car pileup in the fog at 8500' between Vera Cruz and Puebla. As you may have noted, our truck is in extremis. The insurance adjuster agrees it is totaled. The 5th wheel is not in great shape either. Elaine unfortunately suffered double fractures of the ulna and radius of right arm. It was a nasty compound fracture with bone sticking from her wrist. She also has three broken ribs on left side.

We were taken to an excellent private hospital in Orizaba. Elaine had surgery that night and I was checked over for injuries. The staff has been far superior to anything we have seen in US hospitals and the physicians and orthopedic surgeons have been excellent. They put a sofa that opens to a double for me. Son Charlie flew down and has been a great help emotionally and can get along in Spanish. Daughter Elisa is handling our travel etc requirements. Son Cary is preparing his 3/4 diesel to haul the trailer back if it can be fixed enough for travel. We have friends in this town happily and they have been invaluable in support and in talking with the insurance adjuster (who is probably jerking us around).

Elaine already is planning on getting a new rig and pickup. All that happened to me is a large scrape on my right shin and a bruised right shin. We were damned lucky and truck/trailer can be replaced.

The town of Orizaba is right below Pico de Orizaba, which at 18,500' is the third tallest peak in North America (behind Logan and Denali), is the second tallest active volcano (behind Mt. Kilamongero (sic) and the 7th tallest peak from base to top in the world. There are 10 glaciers on it.

From Dave Cummings - We are all thankful Reed and Elaine are going to be OK and wish Elaine a speedy recovery. But, you have to smile at the above. In recounting the tragedy, pain, and hardship suffered from the accident, "Mad Scientist" Cundiff must also inform us of the Geographical significance of the accident site. You gotta love that.

CARL VENCILL

Congratulations to Carl Vencill for his well deserved nomination to the Ranger Hall of fame. We all owe a round of applause to Zeke Zaruba, Lary Cole, and especially Mike Flynn who assembled the packet for their untiring efforts in presenting a first class RHOF nomination packet for one of our most deserving members. And also a thanks out to 75th RRA President Joe Little for ram-rodging it through. Here is the introduction section of the submission (yes, there was lots more stuff Mike had to include in the packet).

Nomination Letter to the Ranger Hall of Fame Selection Board

75th RRA Nomination of:

Major (Retired) Carleton P. Vencill

The 75th Ranger Regiment Association proudly nominates Ranger Carleton P. Vencill, Major (Retired) for induction into the U.S. Army Ranger Hall of Fame. Ranger Vencill's valor in relentless efforts to defeat the enemy in combat operations extending over more than three years in Vietnam, his selfless fidelity to his fellow soldiers under fire and his extraordinary contributions to the Ranger and Special Operations communities, the U.S. Army and the United States of America in war and peacetime epitomize the values expressed in the Ranger Creed and merit his recognition and elevation to the pantheon of the Ranger Hall of Fame.

In early 1966, Ranger Vencill, then a young infantry lieutenant right out of Ranger School and eager to get into the fight, volunteered for Vietnam. In March of 1966, he arrived "in country", assigned to the 173rd Airborne Brigade, beginning the first of three tours in Vietnam. Ranger Vencill's initial experience of combat leading a rifle platoon with A Company, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry was savage and brutal when his company sustained very heavy losses, awakening a sober awareness of the task at hand. Undaunted, he pressed on, encouraging, cajoling and leading his troopers with forceful, caring leadership. In June 1966, Ranger Vencill was assigned to the newly formed 173rd's Long Range Reconnaissance Platoon, later re-designated N Company, 75th Infantry (Ranger) Regiment as its Executive/Operations Officer. While participating in many long range patrols himself, Ranger Vencill's primary mission was to over watch teams patrolling in enemy territory, often several teams at once. He developed a mastery of inserting LRRP teams stealthily into enemy territory and exfiltrating teams, often from hot landing zones. He re-discovered tactics as old as the French and Indian Wars and innovated tactics and procedures for airmobile operations, contributing to the development of a new fighting doctrine for present and future Ranger and Special Operation units. While with the LRRP, Ranger Vencill received the first of many citations for his courage and bravery in unhesitatingly exposing himself to enemy fire to rescue a comrade, when he executed a daring aerial rope extraction of a six man patrol surrounded by a large Viet Cong force. At the end of tour, Ranger Vencill returned to the Ranger School to instruct on patrolling, passing on his LRRP experience to Vietnam bound Rangers. Anxious to return to the fight, he again volunteered for Vietnam. In September 1968, he assumed command of B Company, 4th Battalion, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade, leading his soldiers in counterinsurgency and

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

pacification combat operations. He was again cited for heroism when one of his listening posts was assaulted in the hours of darkness, wounding four soldiers. Ranger Vencill led a small group outside the wire through a field of claymore mines, to render aid and bring the wounded to safety.

At the completion of his command of B Company, Ranger Vencill volunteered to remain in Vietnam for a third tour and joined MACV's Special Operations Group, under the command of 5th Special Forces, seizing the opportunity to command the 2nd Exploitation Company, a ranger-like "Hatchet Force" company, comprised of American officers and 80 Montagnard and Chinese Nung soldiers. For a year, Ranger Vencill and his indigenous force penetrated and conducted intense combat operations in the North Vietnamese Army's most dangerous redoubts in the sanctuaries of eastern Cambodia, often officially denied operations. In April 1970 his company fought a six and a half hour battle with a NVA battalion-size force and with the support air assets inflicted great damage on the enemy, with only six of his soldiers wounded in action. During another patrol, one of his platoon leaders was killed in action. Again, Ranger Vencill led a small team through heavy fire to successfully recover the lieutenant's body, honoring his sacrifice.

Off the battle field, Ranger Vencill devoted himself with quiet professionalism to imparting the lessons learned in Vietnam to the nascent Special Operations community and to the Army at large, contributing to building a new and even more vibrant fighting force. He served in a host of assignments ranging from tours of duty with Special Forces in Okinawa and Panama, to training National Guard and Army Reserve Special Forces units in the southern United States, helping prepare the Army for the next war. Following his retirement from active service in 1985, Ranger Vencill devoted the next 18 years to teaching and mentoring young people in Alabama's High School ROTC program. He made the centerpiece of his program the annual Ranger Competition, where his cadets competed with Ranger teams from across the southern United States, regularly winning. During his teaching career, his cadets earned more than 15 appointments to United States military academies and 135 ROTC scholarships.

When Ranger Vencill completed his command of the 2nd Exploitation Company, his commander paid high tribute to the battle tested Ranger ethos ignited in Ranger Vencill as a young officer, describing Vencill as a "tough, inspiring commander who never spared himself, who daily exposed himself to considerable danger." In the eyes of all Rangers who know and served with Ranger Vencill, to include four members of the Ranger Hall of Fame (Tadina 1998, Jakovenko 2003, Brown 2004

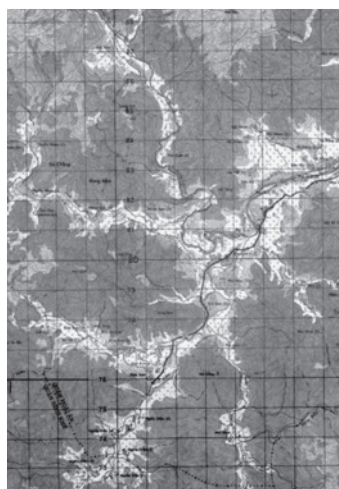
and Palmer 2005) his modest array of decorations -- Bronze Star Medal with V Device with Seven Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Medal with V Device and One Oak Leaf Cluster and the Army Commendation Medal with One Oak Leaf Cluster -- understate his heroic stature and record of achievements significantly.

Members of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association believe Ranger Vencill's steadfast leadership, relentless bravery in battle, and his selfless dedication to his soldiers have long earmarked him for elevation to the Ranger Hall of Fame. An unsung hero, Ranger Vencill's name, person and deeds cry out for recognition with elevation to the Ranger Hall of Fame, in so doing, honoring all Rangers whose heroic deeds have gone unnoticed in the passage of time!

Respectfully Submitted,
Joseph Little
President, 75th Ranger Regiment Association



Don "Rocky" Rockholt. Teams Kilo and Bravo, 1969-1970. A/2/503rd 1967-1969 (includes Dak To). Silver Star recipient, Career in Law Enforcement, and a Commercial Pilot. Rocky passed away March of this year after a hard fought battle with illness. Rest in Peace Brother, you will be missed. Our sincere condolences to wife Debbie.



Quiz for those who operated in the Central Highlands – what is the name of this AO?



There has been a lot of email discussion recently about our mascot, Tango. Here is an article from the 173rd newspaper.



O/75 - 78TH LRP

Unit Director - Michael L. Feller

Well, Memorial Day is rapidly approaching and I missed last issue so I'd better get this one out.

Pye was asking me about an O Co reunion. Any and all interested in such a event, please let me know. My opinion is that we owe it to ourselves to have at least one for the entire unit before we all make the Taps List. Keep in mind O Ranger 75th Inf was unique in its diversity. Considering that diversity maybe we should shoot for a Ranger Rondy. Ideas? Write or call.

Don't know how many of you caught Top Huckaby's "Home Front Article" last Issue but I for one thought it was excellent. It's about time some one devised a program for "home fronters".

About a year ago Terry found a wives group that deals with what I like to call "secondary PTSD". Actually the term is vicarious trauma syndrome and it first was applied to caregivers that had to deal with trauma patients on a daily basis. Recently the research has been applied to spouses, parents and kids of those suffering from PTSD.

Locally a group was started at a Vet Center. The group was not only concerned with venting, it included classes on PTSD, it's causes, its symptoms, repercussions and general behavior



patterns. I think spouses just like knowing that there is a program that is for them, In talking with the counselor I am informed that value has been placed on this type of program in the treatment of PTSD and may be implementing at VA and active duty levels. Not even counslers can understand wives' issues like other wives can.

If you have interest or need for further information get in touch and I'll see what I can round up.

Now I guess I'd better get to it on the memorial page.

"Nothing is dearer than life Nothing more precious than to live in Freedom."

The following gave their lives so others might live free. God grant them the piece they have earned.

KIA O/75 Ranger Vietnam 1969

Beck, Jerry D.

Kelly, Michael J.

Koenig, Daren L.

LaPolla, John A.

Wright, Charles



P/75 - 79TH LRP

Unit Director - Terry B. Roderick

I'd like to start out my article this quarter by offering our thanks and congratulations to recently retired **Brigadier General Mitchell Brown** after 40 years or so of service to this great country. Mitch came to P/75th in 1970 as a SP/4 and left as a Sgt. and Team Leader. I don't know all the details on how he got commissioned and his duty stations over the years, but he is one of the guys from P/75th that I've noticed over the years that had the respect of everyone he came into contact



with during conversations with those he served with. He obviously showed his potential while in P/75th from the stories and recollections from guys who served with him and many felt Mitch would do some big things in the future. He did not disappoint. Mitch retired as the Assistant Adjutant General of the Mississippi Army National Guard, effective 1 January 2013. His retirement party was held on 31 January 2013. We were fortunate enough to have one of his closest friends over the years, **Jerry**

P/75 - 79TH LRP (Continued)

**Mitch Brown, P75
Ranger.**

in the Mississippi Army Guard. BG Mitchell Brown is one of my former Commanders and is a highly respected friend of 20 years. The only biography available begins in 1977

when he was commissioned. BG Brown will receive the recognition he rightfully deserves for his long time commissioned service. As a First Sergeant

and friend of BG Brown for more than 20 years I plan to recognize him for his enlisted service which only you guys have information on. Over the years I have shared many conversations with him; both professional and personal but he has never talked about his service in Vietnam. I am very cognizant of boundaries but would like to get some general information that I may be able to make part of the presentation. We were able to share a few stories and remembrances with him prior to the event and some photos

Yonko, attend and offer some words on Mitch's behalf. Retired **CSM James Hussey**, and his wife, **Cheryl**, also attended so we did have some presence there and would like to thank them both for representing us.

Here are a few comments from **1SGT Lawrence Holliday**, who has served with Mitch and offered these words.....**My name is Lawrence Holliday; I'm a 1SG**



**Mitch's retirement dinner, Jackson,
Mississippi.**

from his days in Papa Company. Thanks to those of you who participated. Well Done, Mitch!!

In the same vein, I'd also like to recognize another of our members who also retired as a **Brigadier General, Stephen Korenek**, who retired as the Assistant Adjutant General of the Army in Alaska. Steve was our Executive Officer in 1969-70 and spent time with **Gary Hall** and **Luke Ferguson** when

they were our Commanding Officers. He and his family now live in his home state of Texas (Go Aggies!!), but maintain a home in Nome, Alaska that they

visit every year. As a company, Papa Company can be very proud of many of our former members who have gone on to do some outstanding things in the military. We have several retired 1SGT's, and CSM's also and we're very proud of them and honored to have served with them.



BG Steve Koreneck, US Army, Alaska.

In the past 3 months or so, we have had 3 of our brothers come back to us. All served in the 1971 timeframe through our deactivation in July 1971. First up was **George Dennis from Kent, Ohio**. I'd love to have a photo of him to add to this article, but not yet. Maybe next time. Next, I was contacted by **Michael Marx of Spanaway, WA**. Mike was there until the company stood down also. No photos of him yet. Next up, **Sgt. Terry "Sgt. Hammer" Hammerschmitt of Pittsburg, PA**. Terry sent Bill Davis some photos around 2006 or so and we had not heard from him since. I'll add his photo from 1971 since I have one. We're all looking forward to re-establishing commo and welcoming these Rangers back into the family as the year moves forward. All of them have been able to make contact with guys they served with and that's one of the best things we do as an organization or Association. We'll be trying to get them all up to speed in the coming months.

On Saturday, March 16th, 2013, our own retired **CSM Dave Gates** will tie the knot with **Miss Angela Sheryl Beck** in Marietta, Georgia at 1300 hrs. We all got to meet Sheryl at our Nashville Reunion and we're sending our best wishes for a happy and healthy life together. CSM Gates retired as a Division CSM in Europe a few years ago and ended up working for/with **CSM Riley Miller**, when Riley was the CSM of USAEUR. I'm telling you all, we have some "heavy hitters" in our midst. These guys all make us proud.

Got this note from **Gregg "Spud" Gain** the other day..... Terry, you might want to do a small piece about **Ranger Brad Leatherman** who passed away on January 6, 2013 at the age of 39. He was a Ranger and served in the first Gulf War. He became friends with **Jim "Stepchild" Gates** and attended his funeral. We didn't realize we were both there. He also served with **CSM Rick Merritt** in the 3rd Battalion,



**1LT Steve Koreneck,
XO 69-70.**

P/75 - 79TH LRP (Continued)

75th Ranger Regiment. CSM Merritt can probably give you more information about him. He was active in the Ranger community and held the Vietnam Rangers in high regard. He died from complications following surgery at his local VA. He was from Columbus, Ohio. Spud.... **Rest in Peace, Ranger Leatherman, and thank you for your service.**

Speaking of DCSM Merritt, the current CSM of the 10th Mountain Division and the Post CSM for Fort Drum, New York, he is currently recuperating from some serious knee infection he contacted, but he's out there leading his Division, "Climbing to Glory!!" and teaching the lessons he's learned over the years and making our Army stronger and better. Got a photo of his son and him on a snowmobile after the recent snow in the northeast. A bit different environment from the southeast, but one that will not affect his effectiveness in any way. Our Army is lucky to have him and his form of leadership.

Congratulations are also in order for **Mary Rossi Murphy's grandson, Bill Parsons**. He recently graduated from Basic Training at Fort Jackson, S.C. and received many calls and texts congratulating him as he moves on into his next phase of training. We met him a few years ago when he was an eager young teenager and **Roy Boatman** hit it off with him that week and made sure he was "trained up" that week, **Boatman Style**. Ha! Ha! Looking forward to seeing how his military service goes. We're pushing him to go Airborne!!

I'm hoping more of you will consider joining some of us in Dahlonga, Georgia at the Mountain Ranger Camp during the **May 2-4, 2013 time period for their annual Critter Cookout/Open House** held there. I've told you before what a fun event it is and they put on a great show for the locals

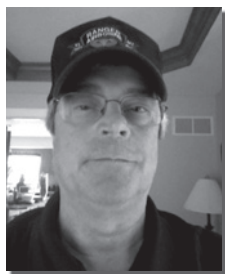
during the Open House. Sleeping in a tent is fun for a few days, but there are motels/hotels in town for those who don't necessarily want to "rough it" like **Teddy Bear Tilson** and I do. **Don "Johnny Quest" Hughes, Tom Perry, Duke DuShane**, and who knows who else might show up?? The air is cool and clean, the scenery green and refreshing, and the company is questionable and there is always plenty of liquid refreshments of all kinds!! Perfect vacation spot for old Rangers !! **BEST RANGER** will be held in April at Fort Benning and if any of you plan to attend, let me know, please.

In closing, **Roger Bruce Cassidy** would like to give a "shout out" to **Rick Polski**.... I want to thank him for what he did for me on the mission June 6, 1970. I was wounded in both legs from the main explosion. My stock was blown off my M16, but the recoil spring and cylinder were still there. The magazine was bent around the rifle. I took my knife and got the magazine out. I loaded up and started firing when I heard Rick calling for me. Rick had come up to the higher point alone. He found me and bandaged me up. He looked in my eyes and said, man, we got to get out of here!! He then picked me up in his arms and carried me down the mountain. Never once did he stop and rest all the way down. Rick put me on the Medevac chopper with Jay Lutz, Sgt. Melvin Davis, Paul "Froggy" Brown, and Bill Davis. Rick gave me a big smile and we were off to Quang Tri and the 237th Medical Hospital. I don't know what might have befallen me that day if Rick had not come back up to get me. For that, I'll always be grateful, along with my family. Thanks, Ski!!

With that said, I'd like to note the anniversary of the passing of our Matriarch, Marion DuShane, on February 15th. Duke told me he still misses her every day. I had to agree with him. Thinking of you, Mom!! RLTW!! Terry Roderick

**D/151 LRP/RANGER**

Unit Director - Tom Hughel

**Tom Hughel**

This year the Unit participated in the November 10th Veterans Day activities in Evansville, Indiana (our unit was composed of Indiana Guardsmen from Greenfield, Muncie and Evansville). We were honored to be Co-Grand Marshalls for the parade along with Major General Umbarger, the Adjutant General for the Indiana National Guard.



The activities that day started on Saturday morning with a Freedom Isn't Free program at the Crossroads Christian Church. The program consisted of fantastic performances of patriotic music, speeches and a keynote address by MG Umbarger. We abjured to Max and Emma's at the Aztar Riverboat for lunch. There wasn't enough time for gambling, but we were treated to lunch by the restaurant manager. As part of the actual parade our Unit and family members rode on Larry Rhodes' Duce and a Half and Dave Cates' Ranger golf cart. Gary Bussell brought

D/151 LRP/RANGER (Continued)

his 1967 D 151 Jeep down from Muncie for MG Umbarger to ride in at the front of the parade. It was an outstanding day and I would encourage all to mark it on your calendar for November 9, 2013.

2012 was our 44th Association Reunion; therefore this will be our year to skip. However, that doesn't mean you shouldn't be making plans to attend the 75th Ranger Rendezvous at Ft. Benning, GA from July 22nd through July 28th. Any ideas for the 2014 D 151 reunion should be forwarded to you Association officers.

On February 10th we gathered at the grave of Charles Larkins in the Greenwood Cemetery to honor our first unit casualty. This is something we do annually in remembrance of Charlie and all those who were killed in action and those that have passed since our return. After the brief graveside ceremony we adorned to the Greenwood American Legion for camaraderie and a brief meeting.

Ranger brothers who have left us to "Lead the Way" in 2012:

Richard Rayburn – August 28, 2012

John Mason – September 13, 2012

Charles Eads – November 4, 2012

KC Thompson – December 20, 2012



Charles Larkins KIA
February 11, 1969



His Ranger Brothers



Gary Bussell and MG Umbarger

**F/51 LRP**

Unit Director - Russell Dillon

No Submission

**LRRP DETACHMENT-3RD ID**

Unit Director - Michael McClintock

No Submission



ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ)

Unit Director - Bill Miller



Fellow Rangers and Co Vans: SIT REP: Membership

This is just a reminder to review your membership data and if you haven't paid up please do so. Also if your personal information has changed such as your mailing address, phone number or email address has changed please send me and email with the current information or drop me a note. I need to keep up with this as we have a number of lost souls that I cannot find.

Feature:

Unsung Hero: Sergeant First Class John L. McCoy

By CSM (ret) Mike Martin

Destiny and fate play important roles in any soldier's military service, and such was the case in the career of Sergeant First Class John L. McCoy. From serving as the key witness in the trial of Japanese prison guard Tomoya Kawakita accused of treason and torturing Americans—after WWII, until his death sixteen years later in a rice paddy in South Vietnam while serving as a Ranger Advisor. McCoy's career was one filled with danger and unparalleled events, many highlighted by paramount moments of historical significance.



Death does not silence deeds performed in battle, but in fact, has a way or immortalizing the courageous deeds of many unsung warrior; the deeds of Ranger John McCoy, a veteran of three wars, ring loud and clear.

**Sergeant First Class
John L. McCoy.**
Courtesy of Mike Martin



WORLD WAR II

Military service has always attracted young men with dreams of adventure and the opportunity to visit remote and exciting places. For many, it is their "rite of passage."

So, during the patriotic furor that existed in this country in 1941 as a result of the impending war with Germany and Japan, sixteen year old John L. McCoy made the decision to become a soldier in the U.S. Army.

When he was rejected because of his age and his diminutive size, the enlistment sergeant told him to come back when he "grew up." Swallowing his disappointment, McCoy decided not to give up. Saying "good bye" to family and friends, he went north to Winnipeg, Canada and joined the Canadian Army, becoming a machine gunner with the Winnipeg Grenadiers.

In October, 1941, the Grenadiers were shipped to Hong Kong to reinforce the British garrison there. Heavy fighting broke out and December 8th when Japanese troops advanced on the city. McCoy received serious wounds to both arms, but continued to fight alongside his outnumbered unit. On Christmas Day, the British garrison at Hong Kong capitulated on orders from the British government, and those defenders who had survived the battle were marched away as Japanese prisoners of war.

As a POW in China, McCoy experienced the sadistic nature of his Japanese captors. He was twice placed before a firing squad, then not fired upon at the last minute. The inhuman cruelty of the Japanese led to another episode where he and the other prisoners were forced into a large warehouse, then were bombarded by grenades and mortars, and fired at by machine guns until only forty were left alive. John McCoy was among them.

For the next four years, McCoy suffered the abuse and humiliation characteristic of incarceration at the hand of the Japanese. He would also undergo a series of painful operations, without the benefit of anesthesia, performed by Canadian and

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (Continued)

British medical officers to correct problems caused by the wounds he had received during the defense of Hong Kong. One operation lasted over four hours. Another took place on his seventeenth birthday.

In December, 1943, McCoy was sent to Oeyama Prison on mainland Japan where he endured the loneliness, frustration and the physical torment of a POW for the duration of the war. He stated after the war that had experienced and witnessed numerous cruelties that were unimaginable to the human mind. "We survived on sweet potatoes, carrot tops, pumpkin vines and rice. We made tea from the bark of trees and cherry leaves. The tea always had chunks of wood floating in it," he recalled

The burden of his imprisonment was even more severe by the sadistic treatment he received from an American-born Japanese named Tomoya Kawakita, nicknamed "Meatball" by the prisoners.

"Meatball" enjoyed his work. Armed at all times with a wooden sword, he would beat the POWs at the slightest provocation. He would often tie their hands behind their backs and throw them into a cesspool, then beat them unmercifully. In the winter, he had some of them strip and taken out into the snow, then beat them and left them to die of shock and exposure.

McCoy bore the brunt of many of these unprovoked attacks simple because he was the only American in the camp at that time.

In August 1945, he was liberated and flown back to the U. S. the following month. During the more than 45 months he was held captive, McCoy's family received no word of him. He was just one of the many young men who had gone of to war, proudly serving in the forces of the free world, but now had to reestablish themselves in the civilian community and set new goals for themselves.

In the fall of 1948, the U.S. government summoned John McCoy to testify in the war criminal trial of his former enemy, Tomoya Kawakita, who had been accused of treason and torturing prisoners of war. Because McCoy had been at prison camp longer than any other witness present at the trial, his testimony played a major role in the Japanese/American's conviction. Kawakita was sentenced to die, but President Eisenhower later commuted his sentence to life imprisonment.



L to R Kneeling Capt. Rau, Capt. Luan, SFC McCoy.
Courtesy of Mike Martin

Korea

North Korean troops crossed the 38th parallel early in the morning of 25 June 1950, and three major columns-the main one striking toward Seoul-invaded the Republic of Korea. U. S. forces were deployed from Japan to stop the invaders, Task Force Smith making the initial contact with the enemy on 5 July, near Osan, 30 miles south of Seoul. By 13 July, the North Koreans had overrun half of South Korea.

At the time, John McCoy was working in construction in California and had been giving serious thought about reentering the military service. With the United States involved in another "shooting war", and with his prior combat experience, this time McCoy was accepted. Thus began the next phase of his rather unorthodox military career.

McCoy arrived in Korea in July 1952, and was assigned to Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment of the 2nd Infantry Division (Indianhead Division), where he soon distinguished himself as a volunteer with the company's "Raider" platoon. The "Raider" platoon, and an Intelligence & Reconnaissance platoon, had the mission of capturing prisoners, reconnoitering enemy emplacements and troop movement, through guerrilla-type sorties.

In the latter part of 1952, as the third winter of the Korean War was about to begin, the peace talks at Panmunjon were recessed indefinitely. On the battle front, the UN forces launched a series of limited drives aimed at forcing the Reds back to the peace talks. Despite the UN's determined effort to avoid costly hill fighting, there were still savage battles at T-Bone, Old Baldy, and Pork Chop Hills.

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (Continued)

The “Battle of the Hills” was a characteristic of the final months of the Korean War as each side struggled for control to domination outposts along the slowly emerging truce line.

These small but tactically critical outposts on T-Bon, Old Baldy, and Porkchop dominated the main avenues of approach to Chorwon to the east, Yonchon on the southeast, and the Imjin River defense sector to the southwest. Porkchop Hill, situated in the no-man’s land between the opposing forces, where the Chinese tried desperately to dislodge 17th Infantry Regiment soldiers from the crest, later became famous in story and film.

Bitter hand-to-hand fighting continued for days, buying time at the “peace table” where both sides postured as to where the final boundary between North and South Korea would be established. This time was paid for in the blood of both US and allied riflemen as the repeatedly attacked and defended the ridge-crests and hill tops along the front lines. Patrolling actions characterized the warfare during this stage of static positioning, with all front line elements dispatching combat and recon patrols both day and night, along with nightly ambushes.

The 23rd Raiders, as McCoy’s platoon was called, took part in these operations, but more often was assigned Ranger-style missions their headquarters command. One of the more famous raids was known as “Operation Chocolate Drop”, a sneak assault on T-Bone Hill.

On this particular raid, Sergeant McCoy and other members of the platoon crawled over 4,000 yards to their assault positions deep behind the enemy positions atop T-Bone Hill. At the appointed time, they charged the enemy emplacements using the Chinese tactic of shouting, yelling and screaming.

In the attack, the Raider platoon leader, Lt. Emery M. Folmar, was wounded in the back and legs, and the ranking NCO was killed outright. Sergeant McCoy immediately took charge and conducted a successful withdrawal from the hill under an advancing Chinese counterattack. During the withdrawal, McCoy took five Raiders with him and went back up on the hill to recover the wounded—some who were unable to walk—and move them to a rear guard position he had set up.

Due to the loss of their radio from shrapnel hit during the assault, the Raiders were unable to call for supporting fires to break up the Chinese counterattack. McCoy grabbed PFC William Mushynski and another soldier, and the three Raiders

slipped through an irrigation ditch running back through the valley from the base of T-Bone, to the friendly lines of G Company, 23rd Regiment, who had failed to see the Raiders assault. Enemy artillery fire had forced them to withdraw.

Sergeant McCoy secured a radio from Captain Pikas, G Company’s commander, and directed artillery fire onto the advancing Chinese. Under cover of supporting artillery, and a subsequent smoke screen provided by that same artillery, McCoy took the two Raiders and a pair of G Company volunteers as stretcher-bearers and made the trip back up the valley to the base of T-Bone hill to bring out the wounded and the remainder of his Platoon.

McCoy was later wounded on one of the many raids he participated in behind enemy lines, but returned to duty four days later. He later received the Bronze Star for Valor for his actions at T-Bone Hill.

Vietnam

SFC McCoy on the left with members of the 23rd Raiders in a rear area in Korea in 1952 (note the CIBs worn on the field jackets).

Courtesy of Mike Martin

In 1961, the first US soldier died in Vietnam, the first of over 58,000 who would die in this war, a war that would be unlike any that Americans had ever fought in before. Still, there was an attraction to it for both the old soldier missing the thrill of combat, and the young officer or NCO desiring a CIB and other medals and awards to validate his courage.

Terms like: insurgency, pacification, strategic hamlets, eagle flights, SOG unconventional, Montagnard, punji stakes, ARVN, Cholon, Dragon Lady, Cao Dai, Hoa Hao, and Co Vans would add their color and mystique to the lure of fighting guerrilla forces—forces that slipped away to disappear into the night. Vietnam became a war of shadows.

It was the war that Sergeant John McCoy had been waiting for. His rank had fluctuated much like his duty assignments since the end of his last combat tour in Korea. He had little

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (Continued)

patience for incompetence or lack of professional standards from senior NCOs and ranking officers alike, and on several occasions found himself up to his neck in hot water. While serving both in Germany and in South Korea, McCoy was continually being brought before the “brass”.

His experience as a former POW in Japanese prison camps during WWII and his behind the line operations in Korea, were both put to good use. He served as an instructor on the E&E (escape & evasion) course during his last stateside assignment. But true to his calling, no one was surprised when McCoy, veteran of two wars, volunteered for Vietnam in the summer of 1964. It would be his last one.

Still, the epic saga of Sergeant John McCoy had a historical event and many more battles to add before it ended.

The September 25, 1964 issue of TIME magazine ran an article titled, “*Remaking a Revolution*”, which provided an overview of an attempted effort to topple the shaky Saigon government headed by Premier Nguyen Khanh, stating that General Duong Van Duc (commander of IV Corps) had sent elements of his command north to take part in the coup, but failed due to poor organization and lack of support from Air Commodore Nguyen Cao Ky—a flamboyant general officer who would find himself in the limelight of future Saigon government.

What the article neglected to say was that the “saviors of the day” were two Vietnamese Ranger advisors, Captain Raymond R. Rau and SFC John L. McCoy, who had risked their lives to warn Gen. William C. Westmoreland, MACV Commander, the American community, and the current South Vietnamese government.

What had started as a quiet weekend for Sergeant McCoy and Captain Rau had turned into another Paul Revere-like ride through the VC controlled Mekong Delta on the dark, rainy night of September 12, 1964.

Their battalion (43rd Biet Dong Quan) had moved out from the provincial capital of Vinh Long late that Saturday night, acting as the vanguard for other elements involved in the coup. The two American advisors were unaware of their unit’s final destination or the fact that this was no ordinary combat operation.

After crossing the Mekong River and reaching the city of My Tho, the two Americans first realized that this was a power move to seize control of Saigon and the government. It was then that Captain Rau made the decision to slip away from

the unit and dash ahead—two Americans and two Vietnamese privates in a single jeep on an unfamiliar road. They sped past darkened hamlets, along foreboding rice paddies and shadowy canals, to the very outskirts of Saigon to alert the MACV Commander. It was a decision that could have cost them their lives from either the ARVN soldiers or the VC. And if they were wrong in their suspicions, it could cost them their careers.



L to R Captain Raymond Rau and SFC John McCoy holding a VC Flag taken by the 43rd Vietnamese Ranger Bn after the battle at Long Hoi.
Courtesy of Mike Martin

Sergeant McCoy’s loquacious response to Captain Rau’s bodacious sojourn into military stardom was, “Sir, you can get us into more dangerous predicaments, without even trying, than any man I’ve served with in over twenty years in the Army.”

News of the impending coup had come as a complete surprise to General Khanh, the South Vietnamese premier, and the US military, but the warning by the two advisors had provided ample time to move loyal troops into the city and prevented actual bloodshed.

Because of their actions, Captain Rau was reassigned. The Advisory Command felt that it would not be safe for him to return to the unit he had “spilled the beans” on. The Vietnamese Ranger commander—a true combat officer—who was merely following orders was also replaced. Because of Sergeant McCoy’s rank and the strong bond he shared with the Rangers, he was permitted to remain with the battalion—a move that would soon cost him his life.

Captain Rau and SFC McCoy had helped to train and motivate the newly formed battalion and both soldiers led

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (Continued)

by example. The previous June, they had been decorated for gallantry in the field on an operation 70 miles south of Saigon, near Long Hoi, Vietnam. In heavy fighting the 43rd Rangers had crushed a Communist battalion that had tried to make a stand in dug-in positions. Two American advisors and several Rangers were killed during the battle.

The 43rd had earned a fearless reputation, and were recognized by both the Vietnamese Army command and their US advisors.

Only two weeks after the coup episode, the 43rd Ranger Battalion was ordered to relieve the district town of Cau Ke, Vinh Binh Province, which had been harassed frequently by the Viet Cong over the previous 10 days. After the operation, the Rangers had remained in the vicinity of the town to search and destroy any VC units that were still in the area of operations.

On 26 September, 1964, the Rangers engaged a hostile force at 1320 hours. Held up in a small tree line, the newly appointed battalion commander would not give the order to attack. Captain Dave Fried, the new senior advisor, made a "judgment call" in the heat of the battle that he would contemplate for years to come. Without calling for any fire support, he boldly stepped forward into the open and began moving in the direction of the incoming fire. Grinning broadly, the brave Vietnamese Rangers along with Sergeant McCoy, immediately went into an assault line.

Rushing across nearly 400 meters of open rice paddies while under enemy fire, the unit reached the protective cover of a dike before being pinned down by machine gun and sniper fire.

McCoy and Fried used their carbines, firing tracer rounds to direct suppressing fires from the Rangers. Suddenly, Captain Fried peered over the top of the dike to evaluate the effect of their fire. A single enemy round slammed into the berm in front of him, and another round whined overhead. Sergeant McCoy, who had exposed his own position several times to direct the Rangers' fire, shouted, "Keep your head down Captain, that guy knows where we are." He saved Fried's life but lost his own seconds later when the sniper found his mark. Sergeant McCoy lay dead in two feet of water next to a nameless paddy dike with a bullet hole in his head.

Several of the Rangers would be killed in the battle and more would be wounded before Captain Fried would see the following morning, and the area would be secured.

Colonel Francis Conaty put it very eloquently when he wrote of Sergeant McCoy's death: "He died as he lived, in the forefront of the fight. In his long and varied military career, he has been the personification of the American Fighting Man. Tough, courageous, yet humble, never shirking his duties."

But the Vietnamese paid McCoy the ultimate tribute months after his death, when Rangers who could not even speak his language, approached Captain Fried saying, McCoy, McCoy, McCoy". They still remembered their fallen American advisor.



Col. Pphan Duc Nhuan, Ranger High Command, awards Silver Star Medal posthumously to SFC John McCoy. General William C. Westmoreland is in the background. Courtesy of Mike Martin.

Sit Rep: Articles

Once again I have to ask you to please submit an article or two. A copy of any photo you might like to have published. I know you guys have photos.

Quote:

"Political correctness is tyranny with manners."

Charlton Heston
(1924-2008)

Mu Nau

Bill Miller
Unit Director



MERRILL'S MARAUDERS

Jonnie Melillo Clasen

The 66th Annual Merrill's Marauders reunion, hosted and planned by the Merrill's Marauders Proud Descendants, was attended by 18 China-Burma-India veterans in Louisville, KY, over Labor day weekend 2012. The keynote speaker was U.S. Air Force COL Jeffrey Decker, whose current unit in Georgia, the Flying Tigers, flew missions in the same areas the Marauders later fought in during WW II. Several Rangers from Camp Merrill represented the 75th Regiment at the reunion.



Several Marauders attending the reunion were in their 90s. Roy Matsumoto, who underwent open heart surgery in the Spring of 2012, was the oldest at 99. Roy turns 100 in May 2013. In conjunction with his birthday, the Bainbridge Japanese American Community in Washington state and Stourwater Pictures will release "Honor and Sacrifice: Heart of a Patriot, Face of the Enemy," a broadcast-length documentary memorializing the extraordinary contribution of the Military Intelligence through the personal story of Matsumoto.



Timothy Barnard, Awards and Decorations Branch, Ft. Knox, KY, was a special guest at the reunion. Barnard and Christina Green were researchers who rebuilt service records for 31 Marauders killed in action during 1944 ... and whose families weren't ever presented with their medals and awards. 1st Ranger BN in

Savannah held a special ceremony in December 2011, when the awards were presented.



Stanley Sasine, one of the replacement Marauders flying into Burma after the battle for the Myitkyina airfield, was presented with his Bronze Star and other awards by U.S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss during a special ceremony in the Atlanta area last fall. COL Richard O'Brien and CSM Frank James, Camp Merrill, represented the 75th Ranger Regiment during the ceremony, which received extensive national publicity.



Ranger Hall of Fame member Edward A. "Ted" McLogan, believed to have been the last remaining officer from Merrill's Marauders, died suddenly January 25, 2013, at his home in

Ann Arbor, MI. McLogan, 92, was with F CO, 2nd BN, Green Combat Team.

A striking new Merrill's Marauders challenge coin was designed by historian and chairman Bob Passanisi during 2012.

The first color issue of the "Burman News," the Marauder's official newsletter, was produced during 2012.

Merrill's Marauders items can be purchased by going to the official Merrill's Marauders website, www.marauder.org/ which also has a link to the MMPD website and face book page.

The 2013 Merrill's Marauders reunion will be over Labor Day weekend at the Crowne Plaza Hotel & Suites, Minneapolis/St. Paul International Hotel August 29 to Sept. 1.

Planning is in the beginning stages of a grass-roots effort to obtain the Congressional Gold Medal for Merrill's Marauders.



SPECIAL OPERATIONS MEMORIAL UPDATE, 15 February 2013

During this past reporting period the names of thirty-two losses have been added to the Special Operations Memorial, and seven names added to the Legacy Section.

Sergeant First Class Ryan J. Savard was lost in October from the 2nd Ranger Battalion.

U.S. Army Special Forces losses included **Master Sergeant Bradley S. Keys** of the U.S. Army Special Forces Command (Airborne); **Staff Sergeant Jeremy S. Border** and **Sergeant First Class Stephen G. Riley** of the 1st Special Forces Group; SSG Brandon Pepper, **Master Sergeant Gregory R. Trent**, **Staff Sergeant Justin C. Marquez**, WO1 **Joseph L. Schiro**, and CW2 **Michael S. Duskin** of the 3rd Special Forces Group; **Sergeant First Class Aaron A. Henderon**, and **Captain Shawn G. Hogan** of the 5th Special Forces Group; and **Sergeant Thomas R. MacPherson** of the U.S. Army Special Operations Command (Airborne).

U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations losses included **Staff Sergeant Kashif M. Memom** of the 95th Civil Affairs Battalion (Airborne), and **Sergeant Clinton K. Ruiz** of the 3rd Psychological Operations Battalion (Airborne).

U.S. Navy SEAL losses included **SO1 Patrick D. Feeks** and **SO1 David J. Warsen** of SEAL Team 3; **SO1 Kevin R. Ebbert** and **SO2 Matthew G. Kantor** of SEAL Team 4; **SO1 Nicholas D. Checque** of SEAL Team 6; and **PO2 Dion P. Roberts** of the Naval Special Warfare Group. Although no longer on active duty the names of former SEALs **Glen Doherty** and **Tyrone Woods** were added after they gave their lives responding to the attack on the U.S. Embassy in Benghazi.

USMC Special Operations losses included **Gunnery Sergeant Daniel J. Price**, **Master Sergeant Gregory R. Trent**, **Gunnery Sergeant Ryan Jeschke**, **Captain Matthew P. Manoukian**, **Staff Sergeant Sky R. Mote**, **Sergeant Michael J. Guillory**, and **Private First Class Charles R. Wills** of the 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion; **Sergeant Justin M. Hansen** and **Gunnery Sergeant Jonathan W. Gifford** of the 2nd Marine Special Operations Battalion; **Staff Sergeant Gregory T. Coper** and PO1 (Corpsman) **Darrel L. Enos**, of the 3rd Marine Special Operations Battalion.

Names added to the Special Operations Legacy section included **Sergeant Major Douglas K. Kealoha** assigned to Special Operations Command Korea; **Major General Mark A. Clark**, Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Special Operations Forces Command; and former Ranger **Lieutenant Mark J. Frantoni**. It should be remembered that living personnel may be added to the Legacy Section providing they meet the special operations qualification requirement.

The following Legacy names were added in the memory of Special Forces **Sergeant Major Willie Stark** (MIA Laos); Ranger **Captain James A. Knarr**; and Special Forces **Master Sergeant Al Doyle** and **Colonel Tim Gannon**.

The Special Operations Foundation Inc. wishes every member of the special operations community a healthy, happy, and prosperous New Year; and we pray will continue to decrease as we fight the global war against terrorism

Geoff Barker

President, Special Operations Memorial Foundation, Inc.



Special Operations Memorial

MacDill AFB, Florida

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75th Ranger Regiment Association

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AIR COMMANDO



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

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

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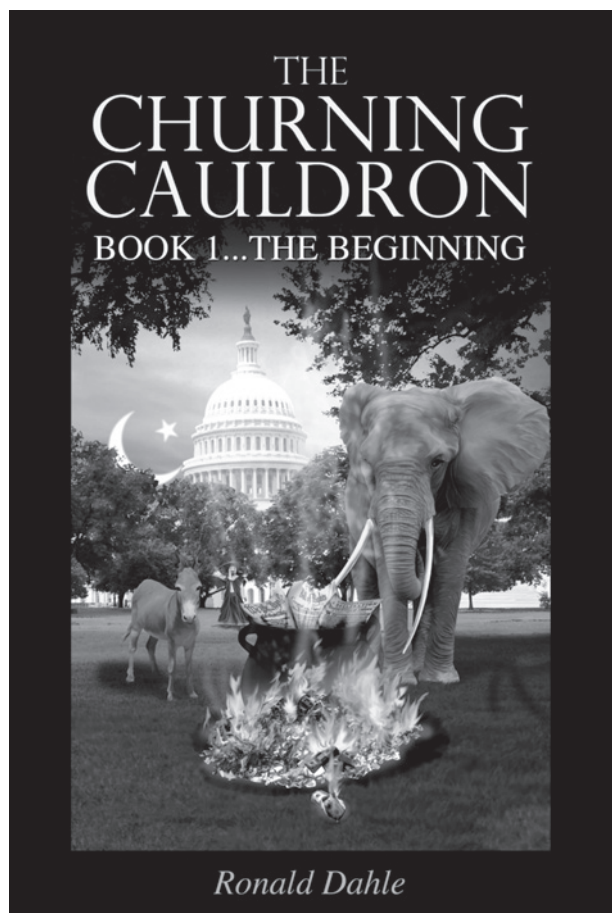


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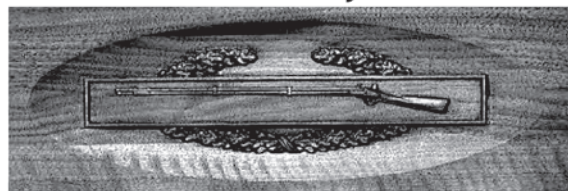
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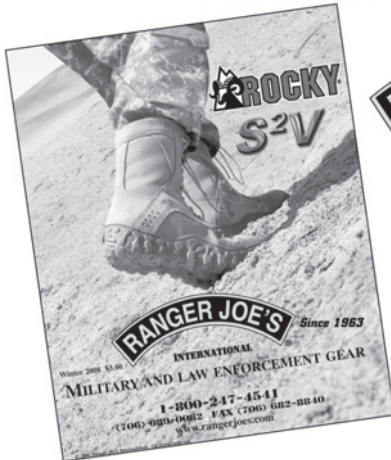
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Am I eligible for resource and referral services?

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

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

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

We Are Here For You

READJUSTMENT COUNSELING SERVICES

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

Combat Call Center



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

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

Vet Center

Combat Call Center

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

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

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



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Sgt. 1st Class Timothy S. Briggs (left) and Sgt. 1st Class Raymond M. Santiago, representing the Ranger Training Brigade, at Fort Benning, Ga., won the 2013 David E. Grange Best Ranger Competition.