

PATROLLING

WINTER | SPRING 2015

75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOLUME 28 ISSUE II

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



WHO WE ARE

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

OUR MISSION

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

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

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

V Corp (LRRP)
VII Corp (LRRP)
9th Inf. Div. (LRRP)
25th Inf. Div. (LRRP)
196th Inf. Bde. (LRRP)
1st Cav. Div. (LRRP)
1st Inf. Div. (LRRP)
4th Inf. Div. (LRRP)
101st Abn. Div., 1st Bde. (LRRP)
199th Inf. Bde. (LRRP)
173rd Abn. Bde. (LRRP)
3rd Inf. Div. (LRRP)

SECTION 3: Long Range Patrol

Co D (LRP) 17th Inf.
Co E (LRP) 20th Inf.
Co E (LRP) 30th Inf.
Co E (LRP) 50th Inf.
Co F (LRP) 50th Inf.
Co E (LRP) 51st Inf.
Co F (LRP) 51st Inf.
Co E (LRP) 52nd Inf.
ICo F (LRP) 52nd Inf.

Co C (LRP) 58th Inf.
Co E (LRP) 58th Inf.
Co F (LRP) 58th Inf.
70th Inf. DET (LRP)
71st Inf. DET (LRP)
74th Inf. DET (LRP)
78th Inf. DET (LRP)
79th Inf. DET (LRP)
Co D (LRP) 151st Inf.

SECTION 4: 75th Infantry Ranger Companies

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

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

SECTION 5: Vietnamese Ranger Advisors BDQ

All units of the Biet Dong Quan (BDQ).

SECTION 6: 75th Ranger Regiment

1st Battalion (Ranger) 75th Inf.,
activated in 1974.
2nd Battalion (Ranger) 75th Inf.,
activated in 1974.
3rd Battalion (Ranger) 75th Inf.,
activated in 1984.
75th Ranger Special Troops Battalion,
activated in 2007.
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.

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 Erlher
1998-2000	Terry Roderick
2000-2002	Emmett Hiltibrand
2002-2004	Dana McGrath
2004-2005	Emmett Hiltibrand
2005-2007	Stephen Crabtree
2007-2009	William Bullen
2009-2011	John Chester
2011-2013	Joe Little
2013-	Bill Anton



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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:
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Website & Magazine News

Brief but important notes this time...

They call it (the internet) the "information highway" for a reason. Our website is going to have the most current information on this summer's Ranger Rendezvous 2015.

I highly recommend that you check it with some frequency as the updates will aid you in planning your travel, attendance and participation in various activities. We plan to do a better job that we ever have before getting the word out on a timely basis. Using our website for this purpose is how we are going to do it.

Speaking of the website . . . if you have changed address recently, there is a link to a change of address form at the bottom left of the main page of the website. Why would I want to use that, Dave? Simple. When you use that form everyone that needs to know gets the word. By everyone we mean the secretary, the editor (who is responsible for sending it to your correct location) and myself—so that it presents properly when we print the unit personnel roster for your unit directors.

Moving on...

Last century we used to change e-mail addresses with some frequency. Likely this was because we changed internet providers like we changed our underwear. This is no longer the case (for most). However, if you're one of those that hasn't updated your e-mail address since joining the Association some years ago you probably should give up a sitrep. Using the same change of address form on the website will accomplish this purpose, AND have you in queue for the information we plan on distributing

in the months and years ahead. Nothing like getting the info while it's still relevant, no? Airborne!

If you have photos that are relevant to your unit activities or history that you want in Patrolling or on the website . . . or a story to tell (of interest, comedic or in any way pertinent to your unit) all you need to do is send them to your unit director and he will pass them along to us. It is fine if you want to cc patrolling@75thrra.com so that the magazine editor will know to keep an eye out for it.

We've been working with a vendor who is going to supply some nice shirts, and eventually patches, hats, and other items of interest. This, along with our newly updated Association challenge coins, will be available to you through the Quartermaster Store on the website. You "old school" types will also be able to order by mail or telephone very soon.

Last but no less important item...

Advertising. Men you simply cannot do better than to place an ad for your product or service in Patrolling. The current rates appear on the website and elsewhere in this magazine.

What makes this work is your getting the information out there in a focused community. Our readership is you, the men who served alongside you, the Gold Star leads, and others who eat, sleep, and drink "Rangers helping Rangers." It's the best cheap advertising you can get, AND includes a free insert on the website: www.75thrra.com

See you in Columbus!

David Regenthal
Webmaster

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bill Anton

Greetings!

Our Association has been quite busy since our last issue of Patrolling.



Bill Anton

We have donated in 2014 over \$20,900.00 to the 1st, 2d, 3d, and Special Troops battalions of the 75th Ranger Regiment, our Gold Star families, and Best Ranger Competition. We thank our members for their generosity and in their unselfish support for these causes.

Our Ranger Reunion will take place at Columbus/Fort Benning, Georgia this coming summer of 2015. 22-26 June, we will again have the Ranger Rendezvous.

Our Banquet will be held on Thursday, 25 June at the National Infantry Museum. We will be allowed to tour the facility during our cocktail hour and our banquet will be held upstairs that evening.

We will have our base of operations at the Holiday Inn North, as in the past. Columbus does not have large hotel facilities, and this is the largest available to host our membership. However, they are building a new facility on Fort Benning that will be available only in September of 2015. We will have more news concerning the Association Reunion in our next Patrolling and on our web site.

We are working with vendors to provide excellent shirts, caps and other goods for our members. The process of finding someone with high quality material at reasonable prices takes a little time. We will keep you apprised of our progress in future issues of Patrolling and thru the website.

We need your help. Many members who joined have probably changed their email addresses at least one time. We need for you to send us your updated email addresses with your name at the following email address: membership@75thrra.com.

Rangers Lead the Way! Bill

1ST VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Kevin Ingraham



Kevin Ingraham

Welcome to 2015 Rangers! As you just saw in the President's column, there's been a lot of behind-the-scenes action with our association, from getting finances on a solid foundation to exploring new venues for the reunions. An excellent new convention center made us a good offer but they aren't opening until a month after the reunion so we're back 'home' at the Holiday Inn North for one more time. I'm sure this will be an order of business at our formal meeting. The first of the present Ranger units has formed its association under the banner of the 75thRRA—my own 2d Ranger Battalion.

ATTN: Important reunion news. The Army is tightening up access to its installations and now requires background checks for visitor passes. Make sure to bring appropriate identification if you want to go on base—foreign residents will need your passports. Here's the word from Mother Benning and a link to updates:

"Effective Jan. 1, 2015, those who attempt to enter Fort Benning without a federal government-issued identification card (Military ID, Military Dependent ID, Common Access Card or Automated Installation Entry Card) or a visitor's pass will be subject to a background check before being allowed to enter the installation unescorted."

www.benning.army.mil/gateinfo

Ranger Hall of Fame nominations are now overdue for this year—2016 NOMINATIONS NEED TO BE SUBMITTED as soon as you can—we are now on a two year cycle to avoid rush jobs. We have two submissions for 2015 so far.

As always, you can contact me with any questions or concerns at any time, I'm in the eastern (or 'Romeo' for you commo guys) time zone.

See you in Columbus.

TREASURER'S MESSAGE

By Roger Crunk



Roger Crunk

75th Ranger regiment Assoc. Balance Sheet Accrual Basis As of September 30, 2014

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

Operations	-50.00
Affinity/Family Fund	14,129.95
Affinity/Operations	18,716.37
Affinity/Savings	18,296.61
Benevolent Funds/MM	30,057.10
Life Funds/MM	30,857.55
Paypal	2,292.31

Total Checking/Savings	114,299.89
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Total Current Assets	114,299.89
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TOTAL ASSETS	114,299.89
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LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity

Opening Balance Equity	89,542.73
Unrestricted Net Assets	7,897.61
Net Income	16,859.55
Total Equity	114,299.89

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	114,299.89
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EDITOR'S MESSAGE

By Marc L. Thompson

Greetings from the Great Frozen North (Pennsylvania). First, let me say that I know you have been waiting for this issue, and that many of you have been asking your unit directors and the officers of the association where it is. A lot of things have transpired in trying to get this issue out to you, including printer changes, dead computer difficulties, lack of electrical power, various submission delays, and too many other things to go into here. During our attempts to get this issue to you, we changed printers, and then changed printers back again. We will not change printers again prior to the Rendezvous.

That being said, I am the editor, and this is my responsibility, and mine alone. We are already working on the next issue, which we will have in your hands prior to the Rendezvous and the Reunion in August. We will have the deadline and submission information in the hands of the unit directors via email and posted on the website before this copy is in your hands.

UPDATE (11 March 2015):

The Regiment changed the dates for the Rendezvous from August to June today. We have stopped the print run in order to update the information in Patrolling to reflect that change. Any information about elections, bylaws changes and the like will appear on the website, since it will be physically impossible to get another issue in the members' hands prior to the Rendezvous.

Second, I cannot begin to tell you how much respect and appreciation I now have for John Chester's long editorship of this publication, especially now that I have a first-hand understanding of the task he faced every quarter. You may have read Dave Regenthal's message of appreciation to John in the last issue, and I thoroughly endorse every word of his comments about John's long stewardship of this publication and his many contributions to the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. I'm certain that Mary Anne Colledge is happy "to have her husband back", as she put it. Thank you, John, and Mary Anne, for your long stint at the helm of Patrolling.

There is a centerfold tearout for the Rendezvous in this issue with the information we currently have (following the date change), and Dave Regenthal has published updated information on the website. You may also pay for the Rendezvous and Banquet on the website, in the store.

Please help your Unit Directors with material for their submissions. It is difficult for them to submit articles for each issue when they must create material solely from their contact with unit members and their own memories, imagination or research. I wish we could publish more material from the currently-serving members of the Regiment, but we all understand the need for operational security. If any of you younger Rangers have items you would like to share from your service, we would greatly welcome those submissions.

Due to the changeovers in the media staff, there MAY have been past submissions that we have not yet published. If these are feature-type articles, and not time-sensitive announcements and the like which have already expired, please resubmit them.

Anything that is now submitted to patrolling@75thrra.com will end up in our mailboxes and therefore in the magazine. There may have been items that were overlooked in our multiple changeovers for one editor to another to another.

Any advertisements submitted to the magazine are also posted on our website, at no additional cost. There is a much wider distribution of this magazine than just the membership, and ads placed here and on the website reach a unique audience of Rangers and LRRP's, both currently-serving and their predecessors. If you have a business or venture you desire to publicize to that audience and their contacts and associates, there is no better choice than this publication and the website.

Steve Cochran, the unit director for 1st Battalion, was in the ICU at the time I wrote this. Our thoughts are with him and his family. Bill Acebes has volunteered to assume his duties for the time being, so if you have information you need to submit or disseminate, please send it to the Patrolling email address and we will forward it to him, or to him directly at acebes175@hotmail.com.

One final note: Unit Directors please check your contact information both in the magazine and on the website. If there are any updates or corrections please forward them to us and we will get them posted immediately and corrected in the next issue.

GOLD STAR

By Jill Stephenson

Greetings, I hope you all have had a nice summer. I apologize for not having a submission for our June publication.



Jill Stephenson

I have spent three out of the last four Memorial weekends in Washington DC where my son is laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery. There is a lot of celebration that takes place in our nation's capital over that weekend and ANC gets its fair share of visitors. Things didn't work out for me to go this year and I came to regret it, vowing I wouldn't miss another one. I have several friends who traditionally make the trip, some are local, some are not. I received numerous photos of my sons resting place adorned with flowers and other trinkets representing his many visitors. It brought comfort to me knowing he was not forgotten.



your loved ones died? Have you tweaked some of the old ones, the ones that once included your family member? One of the features of the Memorial weekend ceremonies in Washington DC. is the concert in the park. Each year a service members family is featured and honored with the story of their sacrifice. This year's family was our own Ruth Stonesifer and her son Kristofer. Kristofer was KIA on 29 October, 2001; one of the first two KIA's after 9/11/01. The folks who put Ruth and Kristofers story together did an absolutely wonderful job. I watched

tearfully from my own living room as the story of Kristofers selfless sacrifice was shared via television across the globe. It brings comfort to know that twelve years later, Kristofer, Ruth and their family continue to be honored and remembered. I pray the same for all that read this. As a community of Gold Star Ranger families, it is our greatest mission and hope that none of our loved ones will ever be forgotten.



It has become a tradition for me to be there and I honestly felt a bit lost not being amongst my Arlington family. I wonder how many of you have traditions you've found comfort in since

I hosted the annual Ben Kopp Memorial Ride this past July 25-26th. This is an event that honors our fallen, those who have served and those who continue to serve. Ben's name is used to raise awareness and educate our community about the sacrifices the men, women and families of our service members make for our freedom. We host a dinner and silent auction one night, followed by a motorcycle ride the next morning. This year we had nearly 200 people through for the dinner, followed by 150 motorcycles the next day for the memorial ride. We had 25-30 Rangers come from as far away as Arkansas, Texas, Colorado and Virginia. Three of these men had not seen each other since they left the drop zone in Korea THIRTY-SEVEN years earlier. I was humbled and deeply honored that they chose the BKMR as their meeting place. Many said they would be back for sure next year and would bring more Rangers!! HOOAH to that!! I couldn't be more proud to be a vessel that unites our Ranger family. Two very special guests were Ben's best friend and brother in arms who was there when he was injured. He had not been to Minnesota since Ben's funeral in 2009. Dianne Hammond, Gold Star Mother of Allesandro Plutino from the 1/75, KIA 8/8/11 came from New Jersey to be a part of our festivities. It was an honor to have them both in Minnesota!!

GOLD STAR MESSAGE (Continued)

Each year the BKMR supports local (in state of MN) charities that support our veterans and their families. This year we will be donating \$12,000 to the Eagles Healing Nest in northern Minnesota (eagleshealingnest.com). "The Nest" is a wonderful organization whose mission fits perfectly with the BKMR by providing a safe place to heal the invisible wounds of war. They believe that by embracing our veterans, service members and their families, we can help them reintegrate back into the civilian world and their families.

The Ben Kopp Memorial Ride has become an official event of H.O.O.A.H., which stands for Helping Out Our American Heroes. H.O.O.A.H. was founded by three Rangers that hail from my home state of Minnesota, each one having served with a different Battalion. H.O.O.A.H. now has five chapters, including Georgia, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Kansas and Colorado, with more to come! H.O.O.A.H.'s vision is *"to give our volunteers, and the public, an opportunity to honor our dedicated servicemen and women with customized support and services when they need it most; simply because it's the right thing to do."* H.O.O.A.H. further endeavors (by its mission statement), to lend support to forward deployed special operations servicemen and women, their stateside families, and returning veterans with a high level of understanding, compassion, and empathy. I am honored to have the BKMR become a part of this great organization. For more information, please check out their web site, www.hooahinc.org, to see if

there is one near you. You will also find information about how you can get involved and how you can start a chapter where you live. The Georgia chapter of H.O.O.A.H. has been working closely with the 3rd Battalion in their efforts to more closely support the men who serve in that community.

There are numerous events around the country that honor our fallen Rangers. I encourage you to stay connected via the Facebook pages set up for our Gold Star Families and for the 75th Ranger Regiment. There may something close to home for you! If you are not on social media and would like to connect with other Ranger families, please feel free to contact me and I can assist. My email is lambenkoppsmother@gmail.com. I welcome contact from all, we are family.

As you read this, we are on our way to the end of summer and the beginning of fall. Living in Minnesota, I do not even want to think about the season that follows fall! Not yet! What I will think about is the warmth and comfort I freely receive from my Ranger family. Please know that you are never alone, somebody is only a phone call, text or email away. Reach out if needed. We are all traveling the same journey. We may be in different places, years, days or months apart in our grief, but we have walked in each other shoes and can offer an understanding not found anywhere else.

My love and many blessings to all. Rangers Lead The Way!

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 Website Respiratory Cancers and Agent Orange

Veterans who develop respiratory cancer (lung, bronchus, larynx, or trachea) and were exposed to Agent Orange or other herbicides during military service do not have to prove a connection between their disease and service to be eligible to receive VA health care and disability compensation.

ABOUT RESPIRATORY CANCERS

Respiratory cancers are cancers of the lung, larynx, trachea, and bronchus. Symptoms vary, depending on the location of the cancer:

- Lung cancer: a new cough or cough that doesn't go away, coughing up blood, shortness of breath, chest pain, hoarseness
- Cancer of the trachea: dry cough, hoarseness, breathlessness, difficulty swallowing
- Cancer of the larynx (at the top of the trachea): hoarseness, voice changes, sore throat or earache, feeling of a lump in the throat
- Cancer of the bronchus: cough, chest pain, coughing blood

Visit Medline Plus to learn more about treatment of cancer and the latest research from the National Institutes of Health.

GUARD AGAINST LUNG CANCER

Number one rule: Don't smoke and avoid second-hand smoke. VA can help you every step of the way to quit smoking.

VA BENEFITS FOR RESPIRATORY CANCERS

Veterans with respiratory cancers (lung, bronchus, larynx, or trachea) who were exposed to herbicides during service may be eligible for disability compensation and health care.

Veterans who served in Vietnam, the Korean demilitarized zone or another area where Agent Orange was sprayed may be eligible for a free Agent Orange registry health exam.

Surviving spouses, dependent children and dependent parents of Veterans who were exposed to herbicides during military service and died as the result of respiratory cancers may be eligible for survivors' benefits.

FEATURE ARTICLES

A Special Bond

By Dennis Hagan

It is not uncommon for a man to find his life's best friend in a combat zone. What is uncommon is my life long friendship with Don Carnahan. We spent over a year and a half together as LRP/Rangers in Vietnam. That in itself is rare for regular army troops. We have been on countless remote radio relay sites and a few missions together, including my first. When not in the field we were exploring Saigon, Bien Hoa, and many other towns and villages scattered across war zones C & D. It was one adventure right after another. We have enough shared experiences to write a book, although few would believe most of it. Butch and Sundance had nothing on us.

It didn't start out that way. I arrived in Vietnam on March 10, 1968. I was on my way to the 173rd Airborne Brigade. I was an E-2 right out of jump school. While at the replacement battalion I was pulled from formation and told that my orders have been changed. The LRP'S needed a school trained radio operator that was airborne qualified. I was their man. This was only one of the lucky breaks I would get during the next two years in Vietnam.

I signed in to F Company (LRP) 51ST INF (ABN) and was assigned to the Commo Platoon. I didn't know at the time whether I had been lucky or not. I knew I was proud to be in a special operations unit. The first couple of weeks I filled sandbags by day and trained on radio procedures at night in the TOC. Late one night I was alone in the TOC when a team RTO transmitted "team one-two snake bite". I immediately scrambled the gunships for an emergency night extraction. The RTO said he thought it was a cobra bite in the ankle area. After a difficult extraction the bitten man was transported to the EVAC hospital where he received anti-venom just in time to save his

life. The snake was only able to penetrate one fang through his boot or he probably wouldn't have made it. The bitten man was identified as line #4, assistant team leader Don Carnahan.

As a new guy I kept to myself those first few weeks in the company. I remembered how the drill sergeants had warned us about getting too close to the guys you are serving with. The thinking was if a close friend gets killed it could hurt your effectiveness and even get you killed. I intended to keep it that way.

A couple of weeks later I walked into my hooch and saw a strange face making his bunk. I introduced myself and he said his name was Don Carnahan. I told him I was on the radio the night he was bitten and was glad to see he was OK. We quickly became best of friends and the rest is history. We got to know each other so well that words were seldom necessary. We have stayed in contact over the years and continue to do what we did over there. Watch each other's back.



Dennis Hagan
SGT E-5 | Commo Platoon | F/51 | D/151 | D/75

Celebrating One Who Made It Home

by Bart Stamper (N/75: Team Alpha/Charlie 1969-1970)

Jimmy D Gray and I have been trying to find each other for over forty years. One day while surfing the Internet, he sees a random post on an obscure website, "Looking for Jimmy D. Gray, November Company, 75th Rangers, LZ English. Call me Brother."



1969 Bart Stamper
& Jimmy Gray
at Bien Hoa

FEATURE ARTICLES (Continued)

He immediately submits a reply, but by then I've moved on. Eventually, I circle back to the website and check my old post. I am stunned to see his response that places us within five years of each other. I finally have his email address. Then his phone number. The first late night phone call follows and ends with a promise to get together face-to-face at the first opportunity. We're a year apart.

A business trip to California gives me reason to make another call and suddenly, we're five hours apart. We settle on somewhere in the middle, the little town of Santa Clarita as our meeting place, at the local El Torito Mexican Restaurant. In the parking lot, we walk exuberantly toward each other and embrace—a long backslapping hug before walking into the restaurant.

I can't believe I'm sitting across from him—looking into the eyes of Jimmy D. Gray. He shouldn't be here. He should have died exactly forty-five years ago. Instead, he's sitting across the table from me in a booth with old naugahyde seats, faux Mexican wall tile and a bowl of crummy salsa on the table between us. He is smiling. A lot of life has passed between us. We don't know each other now, so we start with what we do know. We know we are brothers, our kinship forged in the fires of war.

In 1969, we were both teenagers—he was from California and I was from Colorado. We met at Fort Gordon, Georgia and went through advanced infantry training together. After AIT we graduated from jump school at Fort Benning, earning our Airborne wings. We arrived in Vietnam and volunteered for the November Rangers at LZ English, which became our home firebase. We ran long range reconnaissance patrols—we were called LRRPs for short. Jimmy D. goes to Bravo team and I'm assigned to Charlie team, but we have each other's backs. Every time we come in from a mission for a day to rest, resupply and reload, we check on each other's well being. Just as I was doing that day it all came down for Jimmy D.

Sitting in the Technical Operations Command bunker (TOC) at LZ English, I was listening to one of several radios on the counter—one for each team in the field. Bravo team's radio crackled urgently and Jimmy D's voice screams through the receiver, "I'm hit! I'm hit!" His voice is full of pain and shock. My blood runs cold. *Lord not Jim*, I pray.

"Can I get you something to drink?" the waiter asks, pad in hand. Jimmy D and I both order an iced tea, even though we once promised each other a beer if we were to ever make it out of Vietnam alive. We remain silent until the waiter comes back. We don't want to be interrupted again. Jimmy D orders

a plate of enchiladas and rice—he's a vegetarian. I order the same. I'm a carnivore but tonight I don't care what I eat. I just want the waiter to go away. He does, and when he returns and sets the hot plates before us, I barely notice. I'm listening to Jimmy's account of what happened that day, and how things went so wrong for Bravo team.

"Stupidrule!" Jim yells to Jag, over the whining engine and pounding noise of the chopper blades. They are in day two of their mission and have engaged the NVA in a firefight that has left several enemy soldiers dead. Rule Number One states that when a five-man Ranger team makes contact with an enemy of larger force, they are extracted. Rule Number Two states that if contact is made within two days of initial insertion, the team is extracted—then immediately re-inserted in the same Area of Operation (AO), a short distance away. It makes as much sense as knocking down a hornet's nest and sprinting like hell to escape the fury, only to turn around and check out the nest again—just to see how they're all doing.

Bravo team has only been in the air for five minutes when the chopper banks left. The terrain below changes rapidly, and moments later the Huey skirts a mountainside and descends toward the grassy plateau. The crew chief turns around and signals Jimmy D—this is his sixth mission as Bravo team leader, and every man on the team has volunteered to follow him into battle. He acknowledges the hand signal with a wave and moves toward the open door of the chopper. The RTO and the rest of the team rise to kneeling positions to wait their turn as Jim and Jag climb out onto opposite skids, holding tightly onto the door frames while the wind pounds their bodies, threatening to push them off their narrow footholds. The door gunners level their M60's and watch for movement in the tree line as the pilot steers the ship toward the approaching landing zone. He brings the chopper in low, fast and straight. They scan the area for signs of punji pits. The helicopter draws within six feet of the ground and the pilot pulls the ship into an abrupt hover for insertion. A minute later the entire team is down, and Gray leads them toward the protection of the trees. Insertion is successful—no contact—and as far as anyone knows—no detection. Bravo moves quickly away from the landing zone and enters the jungle.

The soft ground gives slightly under their feet as they move cautiously between the tall trees, scrutinizing the undergrowth for hidden trip wires. The RTO follows a few yards behind, whispering into the handset. "Tango, Oscar, Charlie this is Bravo. Commo check, over." Gray stops and watches the RTO for a response.

FEATURE ARTICLES (Continued)

“Bravo, this is TOC, you’re loud and clear. How you readin’ us? Over.”

“Tango, Oscar, Charlie. This is Bravo. Same-same. Bravo out.” The RTO clips the handset to his shoulder strap and they move on. Reaching the edge of the mountaintop, Jim warns the team with hand signals that the way ahead is steep, then moves out and disappears over the side. One by one, they slip carefully and quietly over the edge in single file down the mountainside—half-sliding on their feet, half-scooting on their butts—careful not to dislodge rocks.



**1969 Jimmy Gray –
LZ English**

Ten hours later, they reach the valley floor at the base of the steep mountainside. They take a break, leaning back on their ruck sacks. Within minutes, a team of five NVA walk past them on a trail just yards from where they are sitting. The RTO calls in the sighting. As daylight fades, Bravo sets up their night lager and soon realizes that the radio is silent—they’ve lost communication with TOC. Because of the mountainous terrain, they are cut off and will have to wait until morning when the scout plane flies back into the area to establish radio contact. They bed down—each man lying on his own little piece of ground, listening to the stirrings of the forest. Hours later, they hear voices—close by, speaking Vietnamese. The enemy is near.

As dawn begins to push back the darkness, Bravo watches a trail come into view, just across the river. Suddenly, a squad of NVA appears, following the trail into a base camp just two hundred yards from Bravo’s position. The team quietly gathers in their claymore mines and returns to the base of the mountain for a better vantage point, knowing that there is no going back up the steep slope. Jim doesn’t like the feel of it. The terrain has them at a disadvantage if they make contact—the mountain is at their back, the base camp is before them, and the river is in between. Off to their left is a washed out gully. If things go wrong, they are trapped. They conceal themselves and watch the base camp, quietly reporting the

enemy activity to headquarters through the scout plane. Sixty to seventy North Vietnamese soldiers come and go throughout the day—cooking, laughing, talking and unaware that every movement they make is being watched.

A voice on the radio hisses, “Bravo, this is TOC, over.”

“TOC, this is Bravo go, over.”

“Bravo, this is Charlie Oscar. I want to conduct a raid on that base camp, I am sending in a twelve-man team to support you. Over.”

“How’s that? Over.”

“Once they arrive, they will work their way down the mountainside. I want your team to cross the river and flush out the NVA. The support team will be set up on the trail and ambush them as they run out of the base camp. Do you copy, over?”

Gray protests the plan, “Sir, I don’t think that will work. We’ll be exposed when we cross the river—and the water will slow us down—we’ll get cut down before we make it to the base camp. Why don’t you send in the gunships and light up the camp with the mini-guns and rockets? Over.”

“Negative. I want this to be a Ranger raid. Wait for Hotel team to contact you once they’re in the area. TOC out.”

Jim hands the radio handset back to the RTO and goes over the orders with his men. They wait while the Hueys and their support Cobras lift off the helipad at LZ English and head in their direction. Meanwhile, the base camp is buzzing with activity.

Thirty minutes pass and Bravo gets word that the twelve man LRRP team has been inserted nearby. Suddenly, a team of NVA appear, walking up the gully at a fast pace, carrying AK47’s and no rucksacks.

They must have been alerted about the insertion. They’re going to check it out! Jim observes. As one man, Bravo team raise their rifles and sight in the enemy soldiers.

“Tango, Oscar, Charlie, this is Bravo, we have November Alpha Charlie’s coming our way. I think they’re headed toward Team Hotel’s LZ, over.”

“Bravo, roger that. Do NOT engage until Hotel arrives. Do you copy? Over.”

“We copy,” Gray whispers, “but I don’t know if we can wait to engage. Will hold off as long as possible. Over.”

“Be patient.”

“Roger that. Bravo out.”

FEATURE ARTICLES (Continued)

Jim, Jag and the RTO look down the barrel of their rifles—each singling out an enemy soldier in their gunsights while the other two team members cover the flanks and rear. The enemy squad passes directly in front of them, just twenty feet from their position. Bravo holds its fire. The NVA soldier that Jag is following through his sights suddenly turns his head and their eyes lock. He raises his AK to fire. Jag jerks back on the trigger, drilling the NVA soldier with a single round to the forehead. The sliding carriage bolt of his M16 slams against the empty brass casing as it ejects and immediately jams the weapon. Jag fights with his rifle, trying to free the lodged shell, “C’mon you no good...”

The gully explodes in gunfire. A hand grenade bounces into the trees a few yards from Jag. He starts to roll away, and it explodes. The blast rocks the ground and disintegrates the surrounding vegetation with a scythe-like halo of shrapnel. He lies motionless, bleeding profusely from the head. A second explosion knocks Jim Gray from his feet, sending him sprawling across the jungle floor. He lands face down. His side is on fire. His senses are reeling like a drunken man. He hears distant gunfire—thirty feet away. Spotting his rifle in the nearby undergrowth, he tries to crawl. He can’t lift his head so he pushes himself forward with his head scraping along the jungle floor. He stretches out his arm, reaching for his M16 when another explosion rocks him and throws him back against a tree. He pulls himself up into a sitting position. He is defenseless without a weapon.

Jim looks down at his torn shirt and sees a trickle of blood on his chest. *Oh, that’s not too bad*, he thinks. His eyes drift over and he sees an open laceration. He sees the fat inside his muscle. He sees his rib within his chest. He looks away, trying not to go into shock. Then he spots the radio handset in the leaves, lying next to the wounded RTO. “I’m hit! I’m hit!” Jim screams into the receiver.

“Bravo! This is TOC, what’s happening?!” Top pleads. I am standing next to him listening for the reply. The seconds last forever. Finally, Jim’s voice crackles across the airwaves, only now his breathing is heavy, his words forced.

“I’m sorry...sorry...this is Gray, Bravo team leader...we’re in contact...we’ve been hit. RTO and Jag are down...need reinforcements...they’re all over us...send gunships...receiving fire from base camp!”

Top reassures Jim, and alerts Hotel team on another radio. But Tom Echhoff and his team were already in a fast descent, sliding down the steep grade towards the sound of gunfire.

“OK, Jim, hang on! Casper’s coming to get you. We’re sending reinforcements. Hang on son....I’m sending gunships and a Medivac.”

“...held fire as long as we could...sorry...” Jim moans deliriously, trying to stay conscious. “...my side...I got fragged...” Gunfire from the base camp abruptly drowns out his voice, cutting him off in mid-sentence, leaving only the hiss of white noise. Top drops the hand-held microphone onto the desk and bolts out the door in a dead run. He bursts into the first hooch. “Charlie team! Move out now! Ammo only! Bravo’s going down!” He sprints through the hooch, leaps from the steps, runs across the dirt and jumps into the second hooch. “Golf team! Move out! Ammo only! Bravo’s hit bad!! They got a hundred gooks on ‘em!”

Rangers from every direction sprint at full speed toward the chopper pad with boots unlaced and T-shirts, rifles and bandoleers in hand. They hit the pad ninety seconds later and jump into the waiting birds. One after another, the helicopters lift off, ignoring adequate warm-up time. The ships strain for airspeed and lean into the direction of flight, noses down, displaying a picture of Casper the unfriendly ghost. The dustoff ship follows behind. The Cobra gunships streak past the Medivac, racing to the firefight. Aboard the Hueys, nervous Rangers lace their boots, tuck in their shirts, load their weapons and hang frags on every available strap.

Hotel team has reached Bravo’s position and furiously engage the enemy. Jim is bleeding heavily, fighting to remain conscious. The bandage feels strange as fellow Ranger Les Fleegle wraps the soft cloth around and around his head, restricting the flow of warm blood running down his neck. “I can’t stop the bleeding!” Les hollers to his teammates.

That’s not a very nice thing to say in front of me, Jim thinks to himself, I’m trying to stay out of shock here, man. The choppers arrive in force. Hotel team successfully secures the area, preventing the NVA from finishing off Bravo. The Medivac touches down near Hotel’s yellow smoke signal while the Cobra pilots spot the pallid cloud and fly into action, raking the base camp with mini-guns and rockets. After ten minutes, the only thing that remains is the smell of gunpowder, bloody foliage, broken branches and twenty-five dead NVA. The Medivac lifts off and races full throttle towards the nearest MASH station while the Cobras return to LZ English—their ammunition spent and their rocket pods empty.

FEATURE ARTICLES (Continued)

Jim Gray and Jag Wallace end up in Japan—their wounds critical. Jim undergoes several life-saving surgeries and spends the next five months recovering from his wounds. He rebuilds his life and becomes a successful businessman, making millions in toy manufacturing—a stomp-on, water powered rocket is his most popular toy.

We're eating tasteless enchiladas in a good restaurant chain gone bad—talking about a war gone bad. We are very different now, Jim and I. We've taken different paths through life. We have different ideas, religious beliefs and politics, yet we have an unbreakable bond. We celebrate the reality that the other is alive and we find immense joy in that. We share a deep, abiding grief for our friends who didn't make it out. We are very much alike, Jim and I. We are brothers.

This recollection is dedicated to our close Ranger friends who didn't make it home—Ron Holeman, John Knaus, Cameron McAllister, John Kelly, Sgt. Thomas, Duran, Victor Del

Greco and Bruce Candrl. I salute all the November Company Rangers who served and those who died, and all the brave Veterans who died serving our country.



**Bart Stamper
and Jimmy Gray -
Present Day**

NOTE: ** I am still looking for Jag. If anyone has his contact information, please get in touch with me at Soulranger.com. Thanks! Bart Stamper

Cameron McAllister's Death (N/75)

Following extracted from email between TL Jim Fowler and PL Matt DeZee concerning Cameron McAllister's death:

Memories certainly do fade after all these years. However, the night Mac was killed is seared into my memory for reasons you will understand at the end of my message. This may be the longest email you've received, but I need to explain what happened on September 7, 1969. You're spot-on in terms of the ambush and Lawton's insistence that the team police the kill zone. Also, Mac felt that he hit the lead element of a larger force. I was in the TOC along with Sgt. Peter Campbell, Moose, SFC. LeBlanc, and Cpt. Lawton. We tried to talk Lawton out of having the team move from their ambush site into the valley, but he was hell-bent on having them go down. As you know the team moved into the valley. What you may not recall is that there were only 3 Americans (Mac, his ATL Greco – I think that was his name - and another Ranger I can't recall) and 3 "little people" - Viets on the mission. They moved down from their site and that's when the shit happened. The next call was from the ATL – "Tango Lima is line 6 (KIA), little people are out of ammo, need extraction." LeBlanc and I typically alternated the insertion and extraction responsibilities because of weight in the chopper. We decided that both of us needed to go in and get the team out.

We had two Cobra guns running on our flanks. We low-leveled starting about a half a K out. The door gunner took one in the stomach and the co-pilot took a round. We landed about 50 meters from the team. SFC LeBlanc was attending to the gunner. I un-assed the chopper and found the team. They were hunkered down around Mac. No disrespect for the ATL, but Mac was such a strong leader that the team was paralyzed without him. I grabbed the Viets and motioned them back to the chopper and had the ATL carry the radio and Mac's weapon. I picked up Mac in a fireman's carry and walked back to the chopper. We took a lot of rounds, but honestly I was so engrossed in the moment that I may have squeezed off a couple of rounds, but honestly don't remember the "fight". I was totally focused on getting the team out. Mac took one, possibly two rounds at the bridge of his nose. I dumped him in the chopper, jumped on, and held his body in my arms. I cupped his head with my hand because his brains were leaking out of the exit wound. It was a long, long ride.

I didn't know Mac as well as you did, but I respected him greatly and every Veteran's Day I go to the Vietnam Memorial and visit his name on the Wall. I've tempered my feelings about that day knowing that a commander makes a decision in the heat of the battle and should not be judged on it. I will never agree with the decision, but live in comfort knowing I went in and pulled the team out. Peter Campbell and I keep in contact. We agree on the scenario as I've described - he and Mac ran missions prior to my arrival. He gives me a lot more credit than what I deserve and suggest that many of the teams

FEATURE ARTICLES (Continued)

owe their lives to my willingness to swoop is and pull them out. My counter is that I had the best Job VN –willing to do whatever it took to bring you back. I probably only went on 5 to 10 missions with the teams (mostly Matos and once with Tad) - neither James nor Lawton saw that as my main

responsibility. I had been a platoon leader for 6 months prior to coming to the 74th / N Company and they wanted me strictly on insertions and extractions.

Have a wonderful Christmas. RLTW, Matt

A Mission with Tad and Rabel

By: Robert “Doc” Clark (N/75: 1966-1968)

Late July/Aug 1967, Dak To; Those that know of this place know it is different, everything, hills steeper, mud slicker, leaches plentiful, jungle triple canopies and dense, very, very dense, trails larger and more used, weather hotter/colder, wetter, unknown territory deeper and more plentiful and the gooks, the best they have, be it VC, NVA or combination thereof, better trained, equipped and motivated to the max. Those that know, fucking know!! Dak To - one bad ass place and not to ever be taken lightly.

We fly a recon mission over flight the day before, Tad, Rabel and I about an hour out of Dak To, to the North/Northeast, up a fairly remote valley no structures, a few unattended paddies at the base of the mountains and 2-3 000 foot densely covered hills on both sides of this valley. Beautiful, remote place probably a very good place to hide a large number of troops without drawing much attention.

The team leaving for last light infiltration the following day is Rabel, on point and ATL, Tad team leader, Gankowitz, RTO, me fourth man and Ingram rear security. All with a fair amount of experience and previous missions with Tad, this will be my second. Guess I did alright on the first. They asked me back. Last light infiltration goes without a hitch on an open space at the edge of the eastern hills of the valley a fair distance up from the mouth of the valley. The chopper, lands and everybody hauls ass to cover, move for a bit and stop and listen. Move up hill diagonal NNE till dark, set up, claymores out quiet, quiet, no noise all night.

First light move up hill further toward a trail marked on map that parallels the floor of the valley about three quarters up, and take up monitoring positions below trail. Talk is heard and movement, several dudes heading south on trail 5 maybe 8, all of a sudden bang, one lone shot, 20 meters from where

I am sitting. Wait, no further shots, a little while later 10 maybe 15 dudes on trail heading south, bang another single shot, no other noise, a little later more dudes and another single shot. OK what gives, this goes on all morning and into early afternoon. Tad gets on radio and calls for a Forward Air Controller to come on station for a fire mission. Here comes the drone of a light plane, rather high making a casual flight in the vicinity and the guy calls back and tells Tad we are really on to something, like we are “sitting on an ant hill”, dude tells us to get down cause here it comes 155mm, 3 rounds each volley, no smoke markers straight HE!! And it does come, Volley after volley for the better part of the late afternoon, so close, that we would lie prone, the concussion would lift and vibrate us on the ground, and the explosive debris would land on top, fucking CLOSE!!! Toward the end the FAC tells us to get down one last time and prepare to leave, last volley and we back off and haul ass, down and away hold up and wait till dark, claymores out, five or six at least. All quiet, pitch dark now, no noise but flashlights a plenty, all around us searching for us. PUCKER FACTOR off the charts, no noise they just keep looking and we watch and wait. First light we decide better move toward getting out of here. Traverse to the S/SE still well above the valley floor, Ingram and I are hanging back as rear security. We stop and I tell him I really think someone is trailing us, he agrees, we let Tad know and he plans a little stop and see, near a stream, very tall dense area mini valley, behind a couple of fallen logs. Sure as shit we stop for 2-3min and Tad spots them 6-8 dudes all camouflaged up catching up to us; they have sensed us there but are not exactly sure where. I watch one through the sights of my weapon, face right in the sight as he gives finger directions to his buddies to get us in a horseshoe ambush, Tad makes the decision, Rabel, Gankowitz and Ingram head out further south, Tad and I stay, he pulls two claymores with 8 second delay fuses sets them in front of the logs and pulls the T handles, he and I haul ass to catch up with the others, about 8 second later all hell blows up in their faces and puts holes in their balls, shooting every which way and not knowing where the hell we went. We hear screams of pain and agony and a lot of random firing. They do not know where we went or what

FEATURE ARTICLES (Continued)

the hell happened, but they messed with the wrong GUYS!!! Meanwhile we scamper across the stream and come to a cozy little spot used by the gooks as an observation point right on the shore of the stream. We stop and call for extraction and they tell us it will be 45 minutes or more?? Screw you, we don't have 5 minutes. We move rapidly up a hill to a small hill top LZ and it is not looking good. Everybody in the valley knows we are here now and probably has a pretty good idea of where. We get to the top and wait. Rabel, in his infinite wisdom (Bless his Hungarian Heart) says Doc you come with me. "Sure! Where we going, back down the hill?", that's a great idea, two claymores each and off we go, back down the hill, set up and wait. I will never forget Rabel's next statement, "DOC, DON'T YOU JUST LOVE THIS SHIT."

We hear approaching whop, whop, of Huey's. Gunships! They rip the floor of the jungle with 60's ten meters in front of me and Rabel. We looked at each other then scampered to pull in Claymores and hauled ass back up the hill to meet the rest of the team. They were already boarding a slick that had sat down. Rabel jumped on the skid on one side and I on the other. Sgt Brocius gave us a big ass grin as we take off with us hanging on the skid leaving the scene in true RECONDO FASHION.

That was the winningest mission I was ever on!!, Offensive all the way, successful ALL THE WAY, enemy casualties, we will never know but the FAC pilot thought multiple company or battalion size base camp, we blasted the shit out of that, some other guys were picking ball bearings out of their balls for a while. We returned to Dak To.

Rabel (not enough can be said about that guy), he also pissed in Gankowitz's Vodka bottle once, something between a Hungarian and a Polack, laughter could be heard to Hanoi. That was a mission with Tad. He kept us alive and kicked ass as he had done before and would continue. Tad made split second decisions, moved through the jungle with the grace of a Tiger on the hunt, knew where trails were beforehand, sensed where the enemy was and faced certain death for he and his team on this occasion. But he remained true to the mission. Reconnaissance yes, guerilla warfare mastery yes, undoubted by those who have served with him I am sure. Not a day goes by I don't think about LRRP, the NAM, all of it!! It was the fucking Nam and If you missed it, you fucking missed it!! DUDE



1967 - 173rd Abn Lrrp Team Delta



1967 - Laszlo Rabel (MOH & RHOF)



**1967 - Robert "Doc"
Clark at Dak To**

UNIT REPORTS



1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Steve Cochran



Steve Cochran

There has been a lot going on over the summer within the Ranger Battalion from a Change of Command, the 40th Reunion celebrated this year, training exercises, and getting Rangers off to Ranger School, and other schools that makes for an elite fighting machine.



Savannah's Forsyth Park is a perfect venue for the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment's Change of Command Ceremony held May 29, 2014 in the squares grassy field, bordered by sidewalks and shaded oaks. Nearby, white tents sheltered friends and family members from the early summer sun additional tents sheltered tables of refreshments for the catered reception that followed. The humid afternoon breeze cooled the 800 Army Rangers who stood at attention and watch their Commander, COL Robert Harmon relinquishes two-year command to LTC Brandon Tegtmeier.

Colonel Harmon had several comments to make, noting for him, the ceremony was a bittersweet moment. He will leave his unit and the Savannah community for Fort Benning, where he will serve as the 75th Ranger Regiment's Deputy Commanding Officer. "Time passes quickly," he continued. "It seems like just yesterday that I accepted the command two years ago in this park. But a hard and fast op tempo is what Rangers do. Since I've been here, we've completed two combat deployments, I was very fortunate to bring all my Rangers home."

Besides intense pre-deployment training for Afghanistan missions, the unit conducted 330 deliberate operations against Al Qaeda and the Taliban in Afghanistan under Harmon's command during those two deployments. Since the inception of the global war on terror, 1/75th Rangers have conducted more than 3000 raids during 18 combat deployments, resulting in the capture or killing of thousands of key Al Qaeda, Taliban and other insurgent leaders.

Colonel Harmon praised his Battalion leaders for the unit's most recent success and for mentoring young soldiers to become something they never thought they were.

LTC Brandon Tegtmeier, a former 75th Ranger Regiment operations officer, said taking over command of the first Ranger Battalion is a "great honor, and a dream come true." "This unit is legendary, he said." The community support here is

already beyond anything else I've experienced."

Some of Tegtmeier's previous assignments include serving as the 75th Ranger Regiment operations officer and served as second Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment executive officer. More recently, he served as the commander of the first Battalion of the 3/25th airborne infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

He has deployed multiple times as a member of Joint Operations task forces and the support of both Operating Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He is married and has two sons, aged 9 and 10. He said, "he and his family look forward to living in the Savannah community."

Throughout the years of the Rangers inception there have been people who stand out and deserve recognition for an outstanding job they've done. It comes from the civilian community and other areas that helps support the Rangers in projects we are not geared up for.

This year as the 1st Battalion celebrated its 40th Reunion the members of the selection team had convenient earlier in the year and decided they wanted to make the following people part of the 1st Ranger Battalion family for outstanding achievements and devotion of time and resources.

1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)

They are as follows:

James (Jim) P. Cook, (posthumous) Board Member,
1/75 Sua Sponte Foundation.

Owner, Dean Forest Gun.

Ronald (Ron) B. Wood Human Resources Technician 1/75.

Edward (Ed) M. Durham, President,
1/75 Sua Sponte Foundation.

Louis (Lou) O. Molella President,
Landings Military Relief Fund.

Thanks, Steve Cochran, Unit Director





2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Kevin Ingraham

40 Years – 2d Bn, 75th Ranger Regiment 1974-2014



The 40th Anniversary Commemoration and Reunion was held in the Ft Lewis and Tacoma area on October 2-4, 2014. While a large number of Rangers worked hard to make this occasion a success, special credit belongs to the 2d/75th command team **LTC Bartholomees** and **CSM Folino** and 1975 era **Rangers Jim Smith and Mark Vance** for putting together four days of events and hosting on the Quad and at various locations in the area. While the battalion hosted a fine 'meet & greet' to start the weekend and the Organization Day activities and BBQ, Rangers Smith and Vance invested their time and fortunes to establishing a patrol base at a nearby hotel, replete with an exquisitely stocked hospitality room and arranged a formal banquet to close the reunion on Saturday night. The Northwest chapter of the USARA hosts a monthly all-Ranger breakfast at a nearby eatery and they made this a part of the 40th events. All venues were well attended and especially so, given that everything was organized in just the few months preceding.



1975 Originals and 'Bo' Baker's daughter,
4 October, 2014. (courtesy Pete Parker)

The weekend kicked off at American Lake with an icebreaker sponsored by Battalion where hundreds of Rangers and batt-alumni mixed, drank and dropped a small fortune for the latest 'swag'. Good food and drink

was laid on and a welcome speech by our host, LTC Bartholomees, who kept it short and on point. Our warriors displayed a number of weapons whose previous owners no longer needed them.



RPG captured
on Objective
Rutherford by
1st Plt, D Co
in Badakashan

Province, Afghanistan on 12 September, 2011. Twelve enemy combatants were KIA in this fight.

A lot of friends were reunited that night and indeed, all weekend. Besides the comrades not seen in four decades, I was able to put faces to names I'd only known through Ranger social media and through the 75thRRA, as well as a number of present Ranger warriors I'd read about—and a fair number of legendary members of our community were present—truly humbling.



Two generations of
combat docs! Doc
Burns, C Co and his
daughter who served
as a medic in Iraq circa
2007. We can see that
the 'good looks' gene
skipped a generation.

Organization Day, 3 October, began at the theater where LTC Bartholomees and CSM Folino brought us FOGs up to date about the modern battalion and its activities. Once we were briefed on the operation's locations and timings, some smart-ass FOG asked when and where manifest call was...

2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)

These Rangers have some truly wonderful “toys”. Virtually every weapon and vehicle presently employed was on display with their owners proudly showing it all off. Unlike the usual “dog & pony shows”, these Rangers detailed to work the displays enjoying the interaction with the previous generations who in turn loved getting gun oil on their hands again. The displays quickly disappeared to allow for a battalion formation.



**Kevin Ingraham
& Mark Vance
pondering how
to get that GMV
and shootin’
iron home.**

This was a memorable event and in some ways the highlight of the day. Once the speeches had been offered and awards presented to deserving Rangers and civilian staff, the veteran Rangers were invited to join their former companies in the formation, almost doubling the size of some companies. We were brought to attention and the entire cohort of 2d Battalion Rangers, past and present, recited the Ranger Creed. The pride showed on every vet’s face. There was likely not a moment in the forty year history of 2d Ranger Battalion that was not represented by someone on the Quad on 3 October.



**All Rangers in formation. Thankfully, they didn’t
expect us FOGs to march.**



area” with bars built by Rangers and decorated with squad and platoon logos, photos from the decades, honors for the dead, captured weapons and other souvenirs.

Alas, all good things must end and so did battalion’s participation in the reunion. Some small matter of training for war required them to get an early start on the next week’s training.



I think I can speak for all by saying we really appreciate all the effort our serving comrades expended to make this such a memorable event. They went a long way to make us alumni feel back at home. While nothing of the “flora and fauna” of the ‘70s army remains—the weapons are new, the vehicles are new, our barracks were torn down in 2011 and replaced by the best troop quarters and workspaces available to anyone in the Army—but some things do not change. These young Ranger warriors train hard, are proud of their standards and especially proud of their battlefield accomplishments. The Ranger Regiment has developed and matured far beyond anything we could’ve imagined back in the days we toted Vietnam era M-16s and the only “high-speed” gear we had were camo jungle fatigues.

Saturday began with the aforementioned breakfast sponsored by “that other association,” the USARA. This is a monthly affair held on the first Saturday of every month and all area Rangers, regardless of affiliation, are invited. The highlight was the presence of the daughter of Col AJ Baker, our first CO.

2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)

**Dennis Thompson
& Creed Sowards**
(courtesy Pete
Parker)

with us—a tough detail indeed! The event was opened by a fine invocation by the battalion chaplain, the food was good, the bar well stocked and the exfiltration routes back to our rooms were mercifully short.

If you weren't there—you should have been.

The founding of **The 2d Ranger Battalion Association** was announced at our reunion on the 40th Anniversary of the modern 2d Ranger Battalion.

It is time. Thousands of us have served honorably in the 2d/75th—it is time we organized a vehicle to look out for our interests as 2d Battalion Rangers, as our 75thRRA Vietnam brothers did for each of their companies.

As there is no need to re-invent the wheel, our unit association can take advantage of the existing 75th RRA's formal structure with its family and benevolent funds and bi-annual reunions (that are co-incident with the Regiment's Ranger Rendezvous).

Forming our own organization allows members to continue to strengthen the bonds we developed while wearing the scroll. We can have direct influence over how 75thRRA monies are disbursed to the Battalion and can better support the serving Rangers when we have our own structure. During the “off years” from the full 75thRRA reunion & Rendezvous, we can organize our own reunions. As the 75thRRA will likely be meeting in Columbus, Georgia for the foreseeable future, we will be able to link up anywhere the membership decides. This is especially advantageous to our west coasters.

There are already two (that I know of) regular efforts by individual Rangers or small teams to hold link-ups but as these lack broader organization and linkages to the greater community, having a 2/75 specific group will enable us to better organize reunions.

Support of our serving brothers is better enabled by providing one interface for the Battalion and Ranger veterans. This can include visiting wounded Rangers located in VA hospitals near their (and our) hometowns, representation at funerals, veteran attendance at Battalion ceremonies and events, presentation from 2d Batt vets of the annual 75thRRA family fund checks to the Battalion—you name it.



Closing the banquet, Saturday night.
(courtesy Pete Parker)

We wound it up on Saturday night at the host hotel with a formal banquet. Hopefully we were able to convey our thanks to Jim and Mark for bringing all this together by investing considerable time and money of their own on a short lead-time. Serving Rangers were scarce, due to training but Battalion did detail an honor guard who managed to remain and almost close the place down



Ranger Jim Smith,
who made this happen.
(courtesy Pete Parker)



**(L) Mark Vance “party
planner extraordinaire” &
Taft Yates. In the background
Rock Schiffer commences
“movement to contact.”**

2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)

We will have our first meeting at the 2015 75thRRA reunion at Columbus in August. At that time we can decide how to organize and how formal we wish to be, elect staff and decide where to go from there.

Following the experience of the Vietnam company associations; I suggest that the elected president of our association be the 75thRRA 2d/75th unit director and once the organization gets large, then that president can appoint (or the members elect) a unit director to provide this column and interact with the RRA while the president interacts with the Battalion and runs things. This column and our pages reserved for us on the 75thRRA website can suffice for our normal communication organs.

By the time you see this, this info should be up on the website under the 2d/75th tab and those on "my" mailing list will have a head start with input. If you're interested and have ideas, please email or call me.

The 2015 75th RRA Reunion will be 10-15 August. See the President's column at the beginning of this magazine for details.

From the 75thRR historian: November 24, 2000 -- The 75th Ranger Regiment deploys the Regimental Reconnaissance Detachment (RRD) Team 2* to Kosovo in support of Task Force Falcon. Their mission was to conduct combat reconnaissance missions and provide personnel for a joint service ground and air armed quick reaction force for the recon elements from other special operations units. During a period of uncertainty and increased violence in Kosovo, and in the face of brutal winter conditions, RRD Team 2 conducted seven combat recon missions and reliably provided continual images, descriptions, reports and assessments from a combat zone. They returned April 8, 2001, 135 days after deploying. This marked the longest combat deployment of a Ranger unit since the activation of the modern Ranger Battalions in 1974.

*While the Ranger Reconnaissance Detachment (now Company) is a regimental asset, Team 2 is normally associated with 2d Battalion.



January 1976 clipping from the post newspaper concerning Lt. Thurman's crash & burn. (shared by Hugh Schumacher).

Taps

COL (Ret.) Sealon "Doc" Wentzel, late commander of B Co (Ranger) 75th Infantry, was the third soldier assigned to 2d/75th, after the CO and CSM. Aside from Colonel Baker himself, it would be difficult to find someone who was more fundamentally influential in the founding of the modern Ranger battalion. As the first S-1, he was responsible for manning the new unit. It has been said that while commanding B/75, his input to the US Army Chief of Staff helped shape the directives that established the 1974 Ranger battalions. 'Doc' passed in late September.

SSG (Ret.) William Sears was taken by cancer this autumn. Bill was the A Company FIST NCO during Op Urgent Fury. He was permanently disabled in the helo crashes at Calivigny.

CSM (Ret.) Joe Heckard of Texas died December 21, 2014. Joe was a 2012 RHOF inductee and had served in all three battalions and the RTB.

2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)

In closing Photos not credited to Pete are mine. There'll be more in the next issue after I've managed to ID everyone who wants to be.

A selfish request: Anyone who knows the whereabouts of Rangers Juan Robles, Dan Leonard or Al Hultgren, I'll be forever grateful if you'd compromise their hide sites to me. Or at least let them know I'm looking.

GO RECRUIT A RANGER—the future of the 75thRRA is now in our hands. They aren't making any more Vietnam vets—this is gradually becoming a battalion-era organization and we need more post-1974 and especially GWOT-era Rangers to keep this alive.



The latest in parachutes. Note the reserve handle is now ambidextrous—a long overdue common sense application. Rangers are now allowed to wear field boots based upon quality, important features like good support and water resistance and not uniformity. The old school “thinking” about footgear sure looked good but we have the back backs and ankles to show for it. (US Army photo via 75thRR)

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

Unit Director - Ron Dahle

Sergeant William Piner

Marine Paratrooper Ranger & Lrrp

I sat and watched the news about the Navy veteran and ex-police officer Christopher Joiner and the man hunt that was mounted to arrest or kill him.

He was able to elude police while he operated within the confines of the city of Los Angeles he killed and moved with impunity never once attracting the attention of the police. The big excuse for their apparent inability to kill or capture him was accredited to his military and police training which was extensive.

After days of being on the run his truck was located in the area of big bear where he was suspected of hiding in cabins. Then without thinking I exclaimed he had violated the first Pinner rule. He had left the environment where he was able to fit in and went into an area where he would stand out and be isolated.

My wife looked shocked and said what you mean by that what is a Piner rule it had been 45 years since Piner took me under his wing and tried to teach things that would help me survive combat.



I then started to explain how we had a sergeant in fifth corps long range patrol who asked me to take a map and pick out a patrol site. The map that he gave me had a small mountain that was 870 high. There was a grove of cedar trees no more than 12 feet in height. Probably covering about five acres the rest of the mountain was covered by old growth cedars that we sixty feet high. There was no cover or concealment in the area of the large trees. Once isolated to the small trees there would be no escape you would be trapped. Sargent Piner was a professional, it was his training as a marine or his infantry training or maybe his ranger training I can't say.

Glen Rucker wrote of Piner: he was a former Marine who Fought in the Korean War and later joined the army. Glen would write Piner was a nice fellow with a great sense of humor a dedicated and loyal soldier. Piner and some of the other tabbed rangers put the company thru a mini ranger school in the mountains of Sothern Germany. Glen wrote he remembered Piner killing a chicken and milking her eggs and swallowing them as he milked them from her dead body.

Bob T Murphy would write that he thought that Piner was a hell of a good NCO with high standards. He was very competent soldier, who would have high survivability in almost any situation.

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

Mac McLachlan would write that he remembered some of the classes he taught and that he was quite a loner. Although most of the patrol leaders tended to isolate themselves from the enlisted men of the patrols. Piner was always ready to offer what he could to help you cope with the job of being assigned to a long range patrol. He showed me how to pack dried fruit and caring no more than enough rations for one meal a day. The most important thing he would pass along was have enough water.

One of my fondest memories of Piner was one Sunday we were sky diving from an L20 at Giessen army air field. On one of the last jumps of the day Piner fractured his left leg. I and one of the other jumpers loaded him into my car and took him to the ninety seventh general hospitals in Frankfurt.

The emergency physician was prompt and scheduled Piner for some x rays to determine the extent of his injuries. There was a small child screaming in pain in the next room. Pinner asked the doctor what had happened to the child. The doctor told Piner the child had a broken jaw, and as soon as Piner was taken care of he would take care of the child. The doctor stated that he was the only doctor on duty and active duty personal came before dependents. With that Piner said pick me up and help me out of the hospital so the doctor would fix the child first. After much begging Piner agreed to stay in the treatment room and in return the doctor would take care of the child.

All who served with him would talk about his honesty and his skills. Piner will not be inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame. There will not be a bronze statue of him or a Garnett monument but he will live on in the hearts and minds of those that served with him.

Sergeant Piner was killed in Viet Nam poisoned by Agent Orange he died twenty years later in his home state of North Carolina.

John Simmons Vcorps Lrrp

Went to reach for something early last Saturday morning with my left arm. Same old fire shot up my left shoulder and behind my neck like it does every time I don't remember to reach "just right." It caused me to wince and quickly drop my left arm.

My young granddaughter Sarah was watching from across the room. She walked over and said, "Y'okay?" I nodded and smiled. She smiled her little girl smile, "Hurt?" I nodded again. She puzzled for a moment, "Cuz you're old, right?"

"Yes ma'am, that I am", I reported as she handed me my cane. I carried our poles and she the tackle box as we headed for the old truck that would take us to our spot where we would both limit for trout on what turned out to be a fine Spring day.

It was late Summer, 1973 and the tarmac at Ft Hood's Gray Army Airfield was hot. A Co. 75th was boarding the C-141 that would drop us over Rapido Drop Zone so we could stay on jump status and keep making the extra 45 dollars a month; we were jumping hollywood, no weapons or gear. It hadn't taken long to hear the "two minutes". I was on the port side about the sixth jumper back on the stick. A rifted captain, SFC Marlow, was the SO on my side. I passed my hook-up to him and stepped out the door.

There was an immediate, excruciating pain in my left shoulder. At the same time I heard what sounded like a shotgun going off and I went blind. I remember struggling to stay conscious. I felt liquid on my mouth and chin. Reaching up to my eyes with my right hand I felt my helmet in front of my face. My steel pot had hit the side of the 141 with enough force to shove it down over my face and it had broken my nose, covering my eyes. Shoving my helmet back, I could see again.

I was a towed jumper. Somehow, my static line had gotten routed around my left arm at the shoulder (we never did figure out how it happened). With my left arm caught up in the tangle I was unable to pat myself on top of my helmet to show Marlow that I was conscious, so he made no attempt to cut me loose. I continued to slap up against the bird and then fall out of the foiled air into direct prop blast which threw me back into the 141 again. And then the chute deployed around my left arm and I fell away from the aircraft.

I reached up with my right hand to my left elbow and pulled my left arm down. Amazingly enough, my chute fully deployed. I recall trying to do a PLF, but I hit the DZ like a ton of bricks. SGT Danny Olson ran over and collapsed my chute for me. I remember Olson talking to me, telling me to stand up. I was going into shock. Danny helped me to my feet and we looked around just in time to see the Medevac chopper taking off. We flagged a jeep. The jeep pulled up and they tossed me into the back. We asked who was in the Medevac. And that was when we learned SGT Villanueva had a malfunction, a resulting in severe injury, and had been dusted off to Darnall Army Hospital.

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

My shoulder had been torn out of its socket and my bicep was badly torn, along with a severe concussion, a broken nose and cheek, broken ribs, and some minor internal damage. After I got back from the hospital I heard about Villanueva's malfunction and the severity of his injuries. There were several Rangers that reported having seen the event start to finish.

It's been 40 years, but I'm pretty sure he had a streamer. It's thought that Villanueva directly pulled his reserve ripcord handle without placing his left hand over the reserve, trapping the pilot chute, and shaking out the reserve chute manually. The pilot popped out, without Villanueva falling fast enough because of his main malfunction, and got tangled up around his legs. The reserve then partially deployed and wrapped around him. Rangers say they saw him hit the DZ standing straight up.

Miraculously, and because of some great Docs at Darnall, Villanueva survived. We heard that both his femurs snapped close to his hips and as they cut through his upper thighs, stabbed him in his armpits as he collapsed straight down. Of

course, he also had a lot of other serious damage. It had to have been close to a year later, I met with Villanueva at Darnall as he was coming out of the hospital. He was just then being medically retired. I had known SGT Villanueva as a hard man, a tough Ranger. Watching him walk away from the hospital that day I remember thinking he had to be the toughest man on the planet.

It was a hard day all the way around. Villanueva was about the same place in his stick on the starboard side of the 141 as I was on my side. We were never sure what caused either malfunction. However, it was conjectured that my malfunction may have caused us to belly up under the aircraft, causing his malfunction. I've always hoped that wasn't the case. The orthopedist that put me back together told me before he released me back to duty, "Fenwick, you ought to know that when you get to be an old man this shoulder is going to give you fits..."

By Charles Fenwick

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

Unit Director - Marc L. Thompson

Update

Since our last Patrolling submission, I have been a little busy.

I attended the Ranger outing (Operation Kit Carson) at Mike Moser's Pheasant Creek, Missouri in September, where Mike Moser, Jim Broyles, James Parker, and other criminals, hooligans and brigands generally raised hell and behaved like Rangers. We had fun, and want to thank Mike and Bonnie for their wonderful hospitality. Mike is doing much better after the surgery.

Prior to that, I traveled to Savannah in August for the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the 1st Ranger Battalion, where I was lucky enough to spend a week with Jim Broyles, and room with him for the week. Until that week, we had not physically seen each other since 1975. The rooms there were a lot more comfortable than the eight-man tent we had shared in Alaska during the NWTC training we



enjoyed in B/75, and more comfortable than many other accommodations we shared in B Company or 1st Battalion. Jim lives in Texas and delights in giving me weather reports (since I live in Pennsylvania, which, as you may have heard, has had some fun weather this winter). That reunion is covered elsewhere in this issue, but I want to particularly thank Todd Currie and Steve Murphy and their wives for organizing that reunion and putting up with the thousands of issues they needed to in order to pull it off. Thanks Ladies and Gentlemen!

In addition to trying to fulfill my responsibilities as unit director, I also volunteered to replace John Chester as the editor of Patrolling magazine. Little did I know what I was getting myself into. Well, as they say, if it was easy, anyone could do it. I have, consequently, had less time to devote to the unit director position, or to our article. I hope to do better next issue.

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

Sealon R. "Doc" Wentzel – R.I.P.

"Doc" Wentzel:
USMA, 1967

Rangers, Doc Wentzel, of an apparent heart attack, at home.

MILLS RIVER, NC. Sealon Romane Wentzel, 70, of Mills River died Wednesday, September 24, 2014 at Park Ridge Hospital. Sealon R. "Doc" Wentzel, 70, of Mills River, NC., died September 24, 2014 at his home. Doc was born June 4, 1944 in West Reading, PA. to the late Sealon R. and Mary E. Shover Wentzel. He was preceded in death by his wife Hye-Sook Yun Wentzel in 2011.

Prior to moving to Henderson county in the year 2000, he received his education at West Point Military Academy (Cadet Company A3), graduating in 1967. He served 3 tours in Vietnam with the 82nd Airborne, and served 26 years in the military, achieving the rank of Colonel with the U.S. Army. Doc is a member of the Grace Lutheran Church in Hendersonville, NC.

He is survived by his children Sam, Josh, and Sarah; sister, Sue Lutz; and Grandson Ryland Wentzel.

A Memorial Service was held at 3:00 PM Sunday, October 5, 2014 at Grace Lutheran Church in Hendersonville with Pastor Greg Williams officiating, inurnment followed in the church columbarium.



"Doc"

The family is requesting that any donations be made in Doc's memory to the 75th RRA or the Pointe Du Hoc Foundation, or to Grace Lutheran Church, 1245 6th Ave W, Hendersonville, NC 28791 or to the 75th Ranger Association.

Doc was a soldier's soldier. I would have followed him off a cliff (and almost did one night drop on an unprepared drop zone – but that's another story). RIP, Sir... you are, and will be, missed.

If you desire, you may leave a eulogy at:

The West Point Association of Graduates website at:

www.west-point.org/users/usma1967/27001

Some of those eulogies posted follow:

Posted by Richard Lacy: R.I.P. COL Wentzel. You'd be well pleased to know how well thought of you are among those who served with you in 2/75 Rangers.

Posted by James R. Critchlow: "Doc" was my Battalion Commander at Fort Ord, fresh off his tour with 2/75. My most prevailing memories were the monthly "all-hands-including-mechanics-and-cooks" 8 mile runs in 64 minutes. He was leading at the front, cajoling from the sides, "encouraging" the stragglers, and afterward, sharing a tall glass of orange juice with the leaders. He tightened me up on a number of occasions for which I am grateful and better. He chose the harder right instead of the easier wrong.

Posted by Chris Maxfield: I had the good fortune to come under the command of Sealon R. Wentzel in September 1972 when he was the Commander of Company B (Airborne) 75th Infantry (Rangers) at Fort Carson, Colorado. At the time, I was an enlisted soldier, who had just arrived from the 82nd Airborne Division on reassignment. From the first meeting, there was no doubt that he was a "soldier's soldier" and embodied all of those qualities that makes a superb leader - one that you would gladly follow to hell and back. He always led from the front and never asked any soldier to do anything that he wasn't willing to do himself; furthermore, he demonstrated that ideal on a daily basis. One of his first acts was to send me to winter Ranger School, from which I graduated in February 1973. (No need to extol on the virtues of Ranger School, especially in the winter.) CPT Wentzel was there at the graduation to pin on my hard-won Ranger Tab and my new Sergeant stripes, along with several others from the Company - another strong indicator of his leadership. A couple of months afterwards, an opportunity presented itself for me to attend the United States Military Academy Preparatory School (USMAPS), but I needed his support as the Company Commander. Despite a misstep in my personal life, he had the faith and confidence to support me for the Prep School to which I was accepted, eventually graduating from West Point in 1978 as a Second Lieutenant. For me, Sealon was one of those rarest of rare, almost mythical, individuals who appear during your lifetime that change the course of your life forever. He was one of those for me (one of three). Without his support, I would never have attended West Point, enjoyed a full career in the US Army and reached the levels of success that I have achieved. Who knows where I might have ended up. Well, I didn't, thanks to him. I salute you Sir, now and forever more. Rangers Lead the Way!

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

Ranger Voyles

Here is the latest info on Ranger Voyles: He was diagnosed with cancer in his neck, and started radiation and chemo in October. He is in good spirits. The future prognosis depends on the results of the treatments, as you probably guessed.

If any of you guys want to call him on the telephone, that is totally fine (if he's at the hospital at Madigan and there's no answer, leave a message with your contact number).

His telephone number is: 253-588-1179

Just FYI - his wife, Jane, may answer the phone.

Other News

Richard Stutsman, upon seeing the last issue's news of Larry Coleman's passing, traveled from Kansas to Wyoming with his wife to visit Larry's grave and memorialize him, and called and sent me an email to that effect.

I hope to have a more thorough report next issue.

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

Winter 2014 submission

Patrolling Magazine

VII Corps LRRP Association of

75th Ranger Regiment Association

Much time has passed since we last received Patrolling Magazine and any updates associated therein, so I'll try to recapture all or some of the events and goings on that have occurred since then.

To begin with, as many of you already know, we had a small, but successful off-year LRRP reunion in Savannah last August (2014). Our reunion lasted four days, from Friday thru Monday.

On Friday, we arrived and got registered at the motel. Fifteen LRRPs/Rangers attended: Joe Touchon drove his old beat-up pick up truck from his miniature horse ranch in Texas; Steve Straley and Fred Kennedy flew all the way from Tucson AZ

and Washington state, respectively; Rick "Fatback" Hathaway (NJ), Tom Forde (NY), Bill (Virginia) Mathiak (MI), Joe Chetwynd (MA), Dick Foster (FL), Steve (Kaylene) Lengel (GA), Richard "Bluto" Black (FL), Larry Fee and Son (AR), Ed Yarbrough (WI) and C-S/M Dave Clark (NC).

Most of our free time was spent in our "Day Room", but significant activities included visiting the 1st Ranger Battalion at HAAF and paying our respects at their Memorial Garden and the grave sites of Major David Tucker KIA (RVN) and his Father, General Reuben Tucker, WW II Commander of the 504th PIR at the Beaufort, SC National Cemetery; a festive reunion dinner at Kevin Barry's Hall of Heroes Irish Pub; and generally celebrating over beers at Savannah's Waterfront watering holes.



Richard "Bluto" Black (chowing down), Tom Forde, Rick Hathaway, Steve Straley, Fred Kennedy at an Irish Pub in Savannah.



Lt. David Tucker's (KIA-RVN) final resting place, Savannah National Cemetery

Mementos left behind at the grave sites and the Ranger Memorial included VII Corps LRRP challenge coins, exact replicas of the V-42 dagger, and a bottle of Jagermeister with but one shot left in it for Dave.

While at the Cemetery, we voted to have our next off-year reunion at Ft. Bragg, NC in early October (10/6 or 10/13) when it's cooler. The focus of this get-together will be to recognize and honor C/SM Dave Clark's illustrious military career and accomplishments. This can be a sort of homecoming to all you who served in the 82nd Airborne Division, prior to becoming Ranger/LRRPs. We hope and encourage all of you 82nd All Americans to make this reunion. That includes our paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division's Screaming Eagles, Rangers and LRRPs.

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

L-R: Joe Touchon, C-SM Dave Clark, Rick Hathaway, Joe Chetwynd, Larry Fee, Tom Forde, Steve Lengel, Dick Foster (kneeling) at Savannah National Cemetery.

In other news, reunion tee-shirts were a big hit, but we still have quite a few left (I ordered 130). Sizes range from L to XXL, but the latter are limited. They'll be available at the 2015 75th Ranger Regiment Assoc Rendezvous in August for \$15. Mail orders will incur a \$5 mailing fee. First come, first served. I've heard from a couple of the fellows, but not much news to

share from any. Toby Ivey (GA) wrote a nice letter. He tried to make the Savannah reunion, but didn't feel comfortable leaving his wife behind. Bob Crews called but had, like many of us, age-related problems, but he seemed strong and full of piss and vinegar. Tom Zelco dropped a line to correct his address. He's in Savannah, TN. I heard from Gene Kauffman today (11/11/14). He called Jerry Higgins, but was not able to talk with him because he was resting from Chemotherapy treatments. You may not know, but Jerry was a police officer in San Bernadino, CA, and was shot by a CENSORED dirt bag and paralyzed from the waist down, shortly after leaving the LRRPs in 1961. According to Gene, he is now a quadriplegic as a result of the treatments he's receiving. I'll send you all a follow up as it becomes available to me.

Before leaving, I'm gonna try and post a few photos from our 2014 reunion. I can't promise I'll be able to do it. In the meantime, be careful, watch your health, and we'll see you in Columbus next year at the 75th Ranger Regiment Association Rendezvous – sometime in July/August. Dismissed!

Dick Foster, President, VII Corps LRRP Association



B/75 - C/58 LRP - VII CORPS LRRP (Continued)**C/75 - E/20 LRP**

Unit Director - Del Ayers

2014 was a good year for us to get together.

Rex Sherman's service and sacrifice were recognized with a bridge dedication. Our Gold Star Mom Ann Sherman Wolcott was joined by a strong contingent of Rex's brothers in arms. As a Gold Star Mom Ann has championed the cause of all who have lost a family member in service to our country.

Gary Dolan opened his home in New York to host our comrades and families to once again stand together. Mama Dolan related to me that the event was well attended. Good food, cold beverages, recollections of daring do and acts of valor and comedic relief were enjoyed by all.

Newport Oregon braced for a "Gathering of Warriors" at the Hallmark resort. West side members unable to make the trek to Ft. Benning for our reunions during the Ranger Rendezvous were joined by friends from the East Coast, Midwest and the Southwest. Most of us visited a plethora of seafood restaurants featuring fresh caught delicacies. Most took advantage of the guided tour of the Coast Guard A.S. to board the self-righting rescue craft to see first hand the valiant service these young men and women provide to both recreational and commercial coastal sea farers. Our tour hosts were most appreciative of the



presentation of our coins to recognize the Coastie's service in Vietnam. Our banquet dinner was excellent and the dessert of crème brulee cheesecake left most on a sugar high. The after dinner party was a raucous affair of Rangers, their families and friends gathering to hear irreverent stories and the sometimes ribald exploits of young men between perilous missions told by the old warriors.

The combination of good company, adult beverages from the Jacuzzi tub, and the sugar high from dessert put everyone in a good mood. At the auction, unknown to the auctioneers a couple of Ranger grandkids were hiding in the back calling out bids, which bumped up the bids and resulted in a substantial contribution

to our treasury. Lt. Bob Stein shared the final draft galley of his soon to be published book documenting the Vietnam experience and life after of men who served with the 4th platoon E Co., Long Range Patrol, 20 Inf. ABN, 1967 to 1968. Publish date will be before our 2015 reunion.

Our next reunion will be in Columbus Ga., coinciding with Ranger Rendezvous and the change of command at Ft. Benning. The Wingate, a Whyndam Hotel that hosted us in 2011 and 2013, will be our headquarters. The room rates

C/75 - E/20 (Continued)

will be the same. Dates and itinerary will be available soon. Specifics will be posted on our website. Snail mails will be sent out in a timely manner. This "Gathering of our Warriors" reunion is our business meeting. We will elect our officers for

the next two years, set the 2017 reunion agenda, select the 2016 off year location, auction trinkets to fund our treasury, and most important clasp hands, give hearty hugs and back slaps to the young men we served with now in our 4th quarter.

**D/75**

Unit Director - Richard "Herd" Nelson

Since the last time I submitted an article we had our get-together out in South Dakota where a good time was had by all. That was last June and the weather was rather cool. I was coming from central Florida so I wasn't expecting it to be that cool and only brought shorts and short sleeve shirts. All told we had 12 Rangers and one Vet that was Special Forces who was a friend of Psycho's. As this get-together grows it is attended by more Rangers from D 151 and D 75th. Most of us who served with D 75th served with D 151 as they were preparing to finish up their tour and we were sent in to fill up the company with regular Army personnel while they trained us to take over their AO when they went home.



One of the days we all went to the Crazy Horse Mountain Carving and Museum and from there we went to Mount Rushmore, always a fun day. I got to buy

many souvenirs there. Since it had been 4 years since I had been out there I was actually able to see the little differences in the Crazy Horse Mountain Carving from my last visit. On that day I also got to go to the rock and mineral shop so I could add to my collection of rocks and crystals.

On another day we went over to Ft. Robinson in Nebraska to attend a Sioux Pow-Wow. Richard Badmilk who served with us in Nam and also lives and was raised in South Dakota set it up so we would be able to participate in the Grand Entry at the Pow-Wow and that was all we were expecting, but once we

walked and danced into the ceremonial area they introduced each of us. After that they asked us to line up in a column of threes and then they had us march or dance around the inside of the area with the drummers and singers of each tribe playing and singing. As we passed each tribe, chiefs and princesses of that tribe came out and shook our hands. It was such an honor I had goose bumps on my arms through the whole ceremony. Also many souvenirs to buy there, such as coasters with Indian art painted on them, knives, and Indian jewelry. Badmilk was supposed to meet us there to participate with us but he never made it. When I got home I called him and found out he had been in the hospital during those days we were out there under an oxygen tent with pneumonia.

On still another day (our last day) we took an all day to drive



through the Badlands. We stopped at several observation points to see the incredible rock formations that were created by wind

D/75 (Continued)

erosion rather than water. We stopped at the far end of the Badlands from Moe and Cindy's house to have lunch, more souvenirs and great Native American cuisine.



Now to give everyone a sitrep on the guys that I have been able to get in touch with, I'll start with Michael and Sharon Warren, both are doing well and remain busy with the three grandchildren that live with them. They are all involved with afterschool and church activities. Mike took John-Michael (their 11 year old grandson) on a youth hunt and he was able to shoot this first deer ever; it was a four point buck. Mike says that John-Michael is an excellent shot up to about 100 yards and that he wants to be a soldier when he grows up.

When I talked with Ed "Maddog" Krause he said he and Janice were doing well and that he had also taken one of his grandsons on a youth hunt and that he was also able to get his first deer. On the day I talked with him he was going to go fishing as soon as his Green Bay Packers finished winning their football



Game. Ken and Linda Dern are also doing well, but they have a house full of people living with them now. Linda's mother and their

daughter moved in. Their daughter is presently going through a divorce and they are taking care of Linda's mother. When I last spoke with him they were packing up to head home from vacation in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Billy Faulks says he is doing well and when I was talking with him he was on the way back from the airport after picking up Roscoe. Billy said he has been spending some time lying in firewood for this winter. Ed and Onecia Mercer have been doing OK as well and Onecia is starting to consider if she wants to retire from the school she has been working at for the last 25 years.

Carl and Rosie went over to Germany this past summer and their son Mike and his family went with them. Rosie has been under the weather as of late, and the doctors have been running some tests to determine what is happening with her. The results won't be in by the time I have to submit this article though. Hopefully they can figure it out soon and get her on the road to recovery.



William "Fitz" Fitzgerald and his wife Kathy are doing very well up in New York. Their daughter Aileen recently got married to her fiancée Capt. Shawn Abbott. Shawn and Aileen will soon be transferred to Los Angeles California where Shawn will become an instructor at an OCS program out there. Aileen has a sister that lives about 30 minutes from where they will be living and her other sister lives in Arizona about 4 hours away. Now their daughters can get together more often.

When I called Tom Delaney a couple of days ago we talked for about an hour and a half. He says that he and Jan are doing well. He said he hasn't been doing much, not even fishing. I talked with Bear Papp on Veterans Day and he was doing fine as well. Neither of them had any news to add for this article other than to say hello to everyone.

Psycho and Julie are doing well and living on their property in Upstate New York. Psycho says he has been working hard to lay in a good supply of firewood for this winter. He told me that since his Father-in-law had started racing their horse she won several races. They were racing her mostly in claiming races and so someone put in a minimum bid after she had won like five out of six races and claimed her. Her name was Two Moons, and she is the granddaughter of Seattle Slew. You can check her record online.

When I talked with Wally Hawkins he said they were doing well and getting ready to hunker down for the cold weather that was coming. He said they were getting this weather early for them this year. Their grandson is still going to college and has about one more year before he graduates. He is also working as a financial advisor and has recently passed his test to get his SEC license.

D/75 (Continued)

As for me, my health is about the same as the last time I saw those of you that attended the last Ft. Benning Reunion or the South Dakota get-together. I do have to wear my compression socks more often now because my feet tend to swell if I'm on them too long. I did take a nasty fall in my yard right after we came home from the get-together at Moe and Cindy's. I was digging up all of the weeds on the south side (the shady side) of my house so I could replant it with grass and I hit a root with the shovel, which caused me to lose my balance and fall on the corner of the outdoor unit for the air conditioner. Had a good deal of trouble breathing for about a month, but got the new grass planted and it looks great now. After that I took a couple of months off just because it got too hot outside for me. Until I started having heart problems it didn't bother me much. With the health problems I do have and the meds I have to take I tend to get really dehydrated in the summer when it gets in the high 90's or low 100's, then there is a risk of me becoming disoriented and falling down.

The photos I have submitted for this article are all of events at the South Dakota get-together. One is of a group of us socializing on Moe and Cindy's back porch; another is of all of the men that attended standing under the D Company scroll at Moe and Cindy's. One photo is of part of our group in front of Mount Rushmore, and the other two are of us at the Pow-Wow. One of those is us marching during the grand entry. We were right behind the color guard, and the other is of us being honored by one of the tribes.



RLTW, Richard "Herd" Nelson

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

Unit Director - Duane L. Alire

New E50/E75 Book – *Bonding of Warriors*

I have the great pleasure of announcing that Bob Hernandez has published our book which is titled, *Bonding Of Warriors*. The book is compilation of stories and narratives which represent our collective memories of our tours of duty in Vietnam.



The bulk of the written material used in the book was originally assembled from a call for stories that was put out to everyone nearly 10 years ago. The stories were available on the Unit web site but in a confusing format. Additionally, Bob, again, put out a call for additional stories when he began the project.

Bob literally worked day and night to type the stories and narratives into a format that could be published as a



comprehensive book. I understand that due to computer errors or errors on the computer, depending on who is telling the story, Bob had to retype portions of the stories and narratives a couple of times.

However, the bottom line is that he completed the task and finished the book! It is available at lulu.com.

I enthusiastically thank Ron Tessensohn (Tess) for the design of the book cover and Bob his self-sacrifice and diligent work in compiling our stories and narratives and ask everyone to personally thank them at the earliest opportunity.

Important dates for 2015

March 22, 2015: Join us at the 26th Annual Bataan Memorial Death March. Registration opens in mid-November 2014.

2015 E50/E75 Reunion: Mark your calendars! We have selected the Hudson Valley Hotel and Conference Center as our reunion headquarters. The Conference Center is located in New Windsor, NY. The reunion dates are September 21 - 27, 2015. New Windsor is historically significant as the first Purple Heart was issued in this town by George Washington. The area

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

is full of history, including West Point; Knox's headquarters; Washington's Headquarters; Temple Hill (Purple Heart Hall of Fame). More detailed information will be forthcoming.

E50/E75 Honors CSM Roy D. Nelson at Mini-reunion

Imagine – standing on the front lawn of Mount Vernon gazing at the Potomac River (Maybe in the same spot former President George Washington might have stood.), eating lunch at the Mount Vernon Restaurant; visiting the National Cryptologic Museum (We are talking National Security Agency – spies, spooks, codes, intrigue, secrets, and supposedly “unbreakable codes”.); a ride on the commuter train from Baltimore to Union Station, a ride on the METRO and a mad dash by car to Washington, D.C. for a prearranged tour of the Pentagon. These are some of the mini-reunion's unique experiences at the mini-reunion to honor CSM Roy D. Nelson in Linthicum, Maryland.

A mini-reunion always means different things to different people: museums, an opportunity to taste local food, a history lesson, quiet time looking at vintage Vietnam War era photographs or seeing old friends. Whatever the attendees – 14 former Vietnam era LRRP and Rangers, 1 Vietnam era light vehicle mechanic, 6 spouses and 1 daughter and her boyfriend – desired the mini-reunion offered something to suit everyone's preference – especially the homemade brownies!

The agenda for our mini-reunion included many “Once in a Lifetime” opportunities for the attendees, some of whom travelled from Canada, Nevada and California. In addition to those mentioned above, we visited Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine. Here we will always remember the National Park Ranger asking how many of our group had Golden Age or Golden Access cards and when all but two raised their hands, he simply handed us a couple of rolls of stickers and said “here take one, put it on and pass the roll on”. Or when the introductory video ended with the playing of the National Anthem and Jeff Webb suddenly stood up before anyone else realized what was happening, stood ramrod straight and rendered a crisp military salute! Later, taking the memorable walk onto the ramparts of Fort McHenry and looking out to the bay to where the British ships would have been firing cannons at the fort. Francis Scott Key, an influential young Washington lawyer, witnessed the long bombardment from the deck of a U.S. truce ship in the same bay and later penned the words “O say can you see by the dawn's early light” words that would become the first line of our National Anthem.

After visiting Fort McHenry, we car pooled and anxiously drove to the Mekong Delta, a Vietnamese restaurant, for lunch. Unfortunately, disappointment met us at the door. The restaurant's seating capacity was 10 people and our group numbered 18! So we pressed on to the USS Constellation and lunch on the water front.

We regrouped at 6:30 for dinner at Perry's Restaurant to honor our special guest, Command Sergeant Major Roy Nelson who was accompanied by a lady friend. The meal was excellent.

As Unit Director, I opened the evening program by introducing my three prong parallel agenda. What follows is a summary of my comments.

“When we returned from Vietnam, we each have our own story - return to Dong Tam to check out followed by a helicopter ride to Bien Hoa and an airplane ride to the United States. With a single airplane ride, we made the transition from “combat veterans” to “veterans with combat experience”. I acknowledge it is a thin line that I draw between the two, but words have meaning and words are powerful. As veterans with combat experience we have three solemn responsibilities. They are:

(1) To preserve the memory of our men who fell on the battlefields of in Vietnam and whose names are immortalized on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Our battles were not the multi-unit efforts with large units maneuvering against an enemy. Our battles were sudden, brief, violent and often deadly encounters with the enemy. Tomorrow we will travel to the Vietnam Memorial in Washington and conduct our remembrance ceremony – honoring our KIAs by reading their names and placing a floral arrangement at the Wall.

(2) To celebrate the men and women who, today, volunteer for military service and swear allegiance to the United States of America and to defend her against all enemies – foreign and domestic. They like us volunteer for their jobs. While many of us did not volunteer for the U.S. Army as they do today, we did indeed volunteer for duty with the LRPs and Rangers. That puts us in the 1% of our country's people who volunteer to serve our country and,

(3) To honor ourselves as veterans who survived the war.

Tonight we gather to honor one of our own, CSM Roy D. Nelson.

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

**Front Row Lt to Rt:
CAPT Matsuda, LT
Hester, MSG Roy D.
Nelson. Back Row
Lt to Rt: LT Dickey,
LT. Stetson and LT
Lawrence.**

Top Nelson was assigned as First Sergeant to the 9th Infantry Division Long Range Patrol (LRP) at Camp Bear Cat in March 1967. He quickly began to work tirelessly to accomplish four goals. They were:

First, strengthen the training standards. We remember the training. After volunteering came the crash course and long days of maps, radios, weapons, codes, field medicine and PT. A guy either mastered it or was washed out.

Second, tighten the patrol protocols. And we remember them well. The point man had to be a master of the compass, map, weapon, tracking and a “sixth sense about the woods”. Today people call it multi-tasking. The team leader humped the 24 pound PRC radio and an extra battery as did the ATL. One man covering left; another man covering right; The ATL covering the rear and pulling the vegetation the team had disturbed back in place. If contact was made, the team immediately reacted to a practiced protocol of Escape and Evasion. Some of us are here tonight because of the work Top Nelson did in 1967. And his foundational work carried through from 1967 until the Unit departed Vietnam in 1970. But Nelson was not a paper pushing soldier. He was an experienced field LRP. He served as team member and team leader. In fact, he was cautioned him about spending too much time on missions and not taking care of his administrative duties. He simply replied, “Before I can lead these men, I need to know what they are up against and what they need. The best place to learn that is on mission.”

His goal with the training standards and patrol protocols was to teach the basic skills of survival to each LRP who joined the unit. He stressed education, fitness and discipline. Nelson’s constant reminder to his men was not to get injured by “doing something stupid.”

Third, improve the credibility of the LRPs with Division. His participant on several LRP missions which produced results. On one particular mission, Top Nelson’s team located a large bunker complex. He described the encounter: “We were in the underbrush watching a pair of armed VC sit out the heaviest part of the storm,” he said, “and because the rain was making such a racket on the canopy, the VC never heard a thing. The complex was so well concealed that we were right in the middle of the base camp almost before we realized it.” Later a B-52 strike hit the complex. This was followed by an infantry sweep which substantiated Nelson’s earlier report. LRP clearly demonstrated that they could operate in small teams in the jungle or in the swamps and find the enemy.

Fourth, instill a “warrior spirit” in the LRPs. Remember, after the initial contingent of LRPs began rotating out of Vietnam, Nelson replacements were raw recruits from army bases in the United States. Unless the man was from a major American city, he had probably never been shot at. Nelson had to change that without getting the soldier injured. He knew he had to instill a “warrior spirit” in the new LRPs. He did not invent the warrior spirit; he borrowed it from General George Patton. When General Patton addressed the Third Army at Fort Benning before it was deployed to the European Theater, he told the men, “Your job in fighting in this war is not to die for your country; It is to make the other SOB die for his country.” Nelson’s LRPs were taught to effectively deploy their weapons and to kill the enemy.

Top Nelson’s impact on the long range patrol was immediate although he was not a typical first sergeant. He did not yell at the men to get things accomplished. Instead, he led by quiet example. He was the consummate NCO, always looking after his men and always seeing they had everything necessary to be successful in the field. He was a first sergeant who wanted to be leading his men in the field instead of from behind a desk. In summary, I quote from a letter sent by former E/50 Company Commander, Clancy Matsuda, ‘We celebrate and salute you for your service to our Nation and legacy to our unit. You planted seeds in our warriors that flourished into mission accomplishments. You showed them how to face danger with courage and honor. You knew the right things to do and taught them how to achieve the important things. Our soldiers would follow you in the deepest valleys of tough times. We became a “band of brothers” in the Vietnam War.’ Top Nelson, I thank you for teaching us how to take care of each other.”

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

At this point, Top Nelson was called forward and Bob Hernandez presented him with a framed plaque which was created by Tess, Tony Hanlon read a letter from Tess that accompanied the framed plaque, Roy Barley presented a commemorative wall clock, Jeff Webb read a letter from former E/50 Company Commander Clancy Matsuda and Rick Stetson presented him a commemorative challenge coin. The challenge coin was intended for all of the Vietnam era veterans who attended the mini-reunion. The words on the coins are intended to honor all of veterans (All Gave Some); preserve the memory of our KIAs (Some Gave All), and to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War.

At the end of the evening, CSM Nelson, assisted by former Unit Director Rick Stetson and me, presented the commemorative challenge coins to the veterans and our special guests, Rebecca Myers, whose brother, Robert Bryan, was KIA in Vietnam while a member of E/75, Alan Myers, who was a light vehicle mechanic and Ray Quesenberry.

Interestingly, Rick Stetson and Roy Nelson served in the unit in 1967; Brent Gulick and Jeff Webb served in the unit in 1970. They represented the beginning and the end of the unit's service in Vietnam.

It was an honorable tribute to CSM Roy D. Nelson.

On Saturday, our mini-reunion activities concluded with a trip to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D. C. to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Viet Nam War and to honor our KIAs. Brent Gulick coordinated the event which included brief introductory comments by Brent, the reading of the names of our KIAs by Roy Barley, the presentation of a floral arrangement by the Unit which was carried forward by Rebecca Myers and Terry Leishman and a group effort to secure a complete set of tracings of the names of our KIAs. The tracings will be developed into a poster for use at future reunions.



The eventful day ended with visits to the WWII and Korean War Memorials and then a quiet train ride back to Baltimore and a pizza dinner in the lobby of the hotel.



J.M. Hanks High School JROTC Cadets Complete Bataan Death March

Despite being high school students, despite being in competition with larger high schools and despite having to train in a hot desert environment, 23 cadets from J.M. Hanks High School in the Ysleta Independent School District in El Paso, TX completed the 25th Annual Bataan Memorial Death March on March 23, 2014. The cadets are members of the J.M. Hanks High School, JROTC, 6th Battalion (Knights). They spent 6 months training for this 26.2 mile event and each of the participants successfully completed the course with courage and honor.



CPT (Ret) Eileen Williams is in the lower left with the 23 JROTC cadets from J.M. Hanks High School and Burt Carlson an 88 year old marathoner is in the center.

The death march is a challenging march through the high desert terrain of White Sands Missile Range, conducted in honor of the heroic service members who defended the Philippine Islands during World War II.

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

Under the tutelage and leadership of Eileen P. Williams, CPT (Ret), Senior Army Instructor, JROTC for leadership, education, grades 9th – 12, the Knights travelled to White Sands Missile Range and set up their camp in Volunteer Park. They proudly posted their new guidon.

On Sunday, March 23rd, the cadets were up at 04:30 a.m. to prepare for the grueling march. They had teams registered in different march categories and placed in some but relinquished first place to Bel Air High School, also from the Ysleta ISD. By completing the death march each cadet earned a 26.2 mile sticker, the Bataan Arc for their uniforms, and a commemorative 25th anniversary coin.

Later, I learned that the Knights also won the Most Community Service and Best Battalion Trophies for the 18th year out of 19 years. They also won First Place Sport Rifle Team, Second Place Precision Rifle Team, First Place Unarmed Drill Team, Second Place Armed Drill Team, Combined Drill Team Trophy, were recognized for the Bataan participation and also earned the ultimate recognition - the Superintendent's Trophy. They have been busy. Congratulations to all of the cadets!

Rick Stetson, former Unit Director summarized our pride in the JROTC cadets from J.M. Hanks High School when he wrote to CPT. Williams saying, "Poncho forwarded me a couple of photographs showing you and the cadets on stage with a number of awards won by your JROTC unit. Congratulations on receiving the Superintendent's Trophy as well as all the drill and marksmanship awards. Your participation in the Bataan Memorial Marathon was most impressive to "old vets" like Poncho and me. The hours and hours you spend molding our future leaders is most commendable. It is obvious how your students respect you and your efforts will always be remembered. We salute you for all you do."

*Most people think their life changes forever
the second you cross the finish line.*

*Bataan marchers know that their life changes forever
the second they decide to go to the starting line.*

Why, some may ask, are we dedicating coverage to the Annual Bataan Memorial Death March and the J.M. Hanks High School JROTC in this report? Simply, the JROTC cadets are developing into potential officers in the U. S. Military.

In my opening comments I said that one of my goals as Unit Director was to "celebrate the men and women who, today, volunteer for military service and swear allegiance to the United States of America. The cadets are high school students who volunteered for the JROTC program. We celebrate them and their accomplishments.

Lest We Forget

Houston Glenn Ledbetter

Date of birth: August 14, 1944

Date of death: September 20, 2014

God called one of his soldiers, Houston Glenn Ledbetter, home on September 20, 2014. Glenn was a loving husband, father, papaw, uncle and brother.

In 1968 he proudly served his country in the United States Army as a Sergeant for the E/50 LRRP, 9th Infantry Division. During his deployment in Vietnam, he received a National Defense Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Expert Rifle Badge, a letter of Commendation and a Bronze Medal.

He was a good, honorable man who served their country and community well.

Important dates for 2015

March 22, 2015: Join us at the 26th Annual Bataan Memorial Death March. Registration opens in mid-November 2014.

September 21 – 27, 2015: The E50/E75 reunion dates have been set. Mark your calendars!

REUNION HOTEL:

Hudson Valley Hotel & Conference Center
90 Rt., 17K, Newburgh, NY, 12550.

Telephone Number: 1-866-460-7456

Be sure to mention "E50LRP/E75Rangers".

Rates are: \$89.00 plus tax

REUNION AIRPORT: Stewart International Airport two miles from hotel. Taxi service is available.

New Windsor/Newburgh, New York area is historically significant as the first Purple Heart was issued in this town by George Washington. The area is full of history, including West Point; Knox's headquarters; Washington's Headquarters; Temple Hill (Purple Heart Hall of Fame).



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

Unit Director - Tim Walsh

Greetings once again,

I'm sorry to report that we have lost a few more of our brothers.

Mike Rohly passed away earlier this year. Hugh Howerton, Bud Wyatt and Lunnell Hollinshed have passed as well. I don't know the exact dates for Howerton, Wyatt and Hollinshed. Rest in Peace, my brothers.

I would like to repeat a request I've made several times, with very little success. I need y'all to send me stuff for the Patrolling magazine, but more importantly, for our own Co. F Pointman newsletter.

Dave Regenthal and Bill Mrckvicka have suggested a new look for the Pointman, and I couldn't agree more. The real change, however, will be in the content of the newsletter. I want each and every one of you to send me your thoughts, experiences, troubles, good & bad times both in the service and afterwards. We're slowly disappearing (see above) and we need to get these



stories told. I will spell this out in a little more detail in the next Pointman. But start thinking of things to send. I'll publish anything... as long as it's not political, racial or pornographic. Just use your head. My address, both snail mail and email appear in the front of this magazine.

Theresa and I are headed to San Antonio for the ¾ Cav reunion. At last count, 46 of us (Co. F guys and their guests) are signed up for the reunion. AAR to follow.

I'd like to confess to not putting as much into this article as I have in the past. The Patrolling magazine has had some issues with getting the quarterly issues out. They seem to have the problems worked out and with a little support, we'll get back on track. I'll be depending more on the Pointman in the future.

That's it for this issue of Patrolling. Maybe I saw you in San Antonio. Maybe you bought me a beer. Thanks.

Live long and prosper, Tim Walsh



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

Unit Director - Steve Johnson



Michael Chu, editor of "Sua Sponte", recently resigned his position and had informed members of the Association that he had inoperable cancer. Within a month of that announcement, Michael died peacefully in his sleep on August 7, 2014. In a phone conversation the last week prior to his death, Mike said that "home sweet home" is where he was happiest sharing his life with his loving wife, Yetta, in their Honolulu home.

Rest In Peace, Michael!

You can send condolences to:
Yetta Chu
42 Moanawai Place
Honolulu, HI 96817.



Michael & Yetta Chu



Well here it is time for another Sua Sponte. By the time each of you receive this your "rucks" should be packed, your weapons test fired and taped, all last minute briefs conducted, final equipment checks made, and ready for insertion into LZ Inn at Ellis Square in

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

Savannah, Georgia. This will be our 25th reunion and I hope to see bunch of my Ranger brothers there. Steve (Crabs) Crabtree and Rangerette Lorie have invested a lot of their time, personal monies, and effort to make this the best reunion yet. The young 75th Rangers of the 1st Battalion will treat you old guys great. See you in Georgia.

In the last issue of Sua Sponte I asked for input on what the Association did right and what we did wrong as an association and how to improve attendance at our reunions and how to increase participation in the association. I can't release the names/names of the individuals that I received the feedback from, because I do not have their permission to do so. I have had some feedback that I will share with everyone. I am still open for more feedback! One concern/question: "I have attended two reunions and there were no guys in attendance that I served with; I felt like an outcast because the other guys broke off into groups of guys that they served with." The first part of the question: What to do about increasing the different year groups and insure that someone is there from your year group? If anyone is interested in contacting brothers from a specific year group talk to me and I will try to help you get in touch with guys that you served with, that way you can make your plans to attend the next reunion together. I realize that as we get older that sometimes we plan on doing something and then the plans are interrupted due to emergency situations and there is no way we can plan on them. The second part of the question: "I felt like an outcast." I apologize that any of the brothers feel this way. It is no one's intention to ignore one of our brothers, but it did happen. So from now on I personally, and the other officers as well, will be on the point to insure that no one is left out. You as a Ranger/LRRP also must insert yourself into the program and let everyone know "Hey, I'm a Ranger/LRRP and I don't intend to be left out."

Again I am asking for feedback on ways to improve the association and attendance at our reunions. Hope to see each and every one of you in Savannah.

RLTW

Richard (Boot) Corkan

By the time this submission is in "Patrolling" we will have had our reunion in Savannah, GA. I always look forward to seeing familiar faces and meeting 1st time attendees who served with the 196th LRRPs, E-51st LRRPs, and the G 75th Rangers. We will hold our memorial service at the 1st Ranger Battalion Memorial at Ft. Stewart. In 2015 we have the Rendezvous at

Benning. Our company reunion will be in Minneapolis at or near the Mall of America. Pending memorial service is being planned at nearby Ft. Snelling at the Airborne Circle.

As editor of "Sua Sponte", I will strive to continue the featured member article and will continue with our traditional quarterly newsletter.

Stephen "Tower" Johnson

4th Quarter Presidents Column



Richard Corkan

WOW!!! That is the best way I can describe our 25th reunion this year in Savannah Georgia. Those of you who were unable to attend missed out on a fabulous reunion in fact one of the best reunions that we've had. Ranger Crabtree and Rangerette Crabtree did an outstanding job in arranging for all the activities hospitality room snacks and beverages. The Association and I want to thank you both Rangers Lead The Way.



1st Batt Memorial G-75th Group

During the auction I was privileged to auction off one, sealed bottle and one quart jar. I auctioned the containers, not what was in them the buyers could do what they pleased with the contents they could pour it out, they could taste it, whatever; Rangerette Moncada bought the quart jar. As the auction continued, I noticed that Rangerettes Moncada, Lenahan, and Crabtree opened the quart jar and were sampling the contents. They said it was peach flavored Tennessee mountain spring water. It must've been good because they tasted that quart

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

jar of liquid completely gone. Rangerette Corkan bought the other container of liquid and it is sitting on the bar now and we have not decided what to do with it I have a friend that was a submariner for 16 years a father that was with the 13th Airborne Division in World War II and I think we should crack it and see if it is any good.

As I said before we had a great turnout for the reunion! Sure wish we could've had a lot more of you brothers there to enjoy the fun. Now is the time for everyone to start making plans to attend next year's reunion in Minneapolis Minnesota will be at the largest shopping center in the US.

During our reunion we elected some new officers and reelected others. They are as follows; board members Chuck Ford, Steve Devers, Secretary Frank Svensson, concessions Steve Crabtree. I will remain as president, Chuck Williams will remain as vice president, Lynn Walker will remain as treasurer, Tim Garver, Steve Franklin, and last but not least David Moncada will be chairman of the board



**Gary Gentry &
Stephen Crabtree**

Thanks again to Steve and Lori Crabtree for hosting a great 25th annual reunion.

Rangers Lead The Way!! Richard (Boot) Corkan



Ralph Steve Deever

Back in 1969 straight out of high school I was working as an apprentice heavy equipment operator. Two friends were arrested for "joy riding", the judge said jail or the service, which was common back then, (judges sentence not "joy riding"). I

told another buddy, "Let's go with them", so Bob and I signed up with Dickie and Joe. We had a ball at Ft. Ord in reception switching bunks to avoid fire watch. After Basic, Bob went to Armor then to Korea, Dickie to Mortars and 101st Vietnam. Joe and I were 11 Bravo, after a couple of long days and nights in Long Binh we boarded a C-130 about 03 hundred hours, I fell asleep. I awoke the plane was shaking like crazy, I asked Joe if we were taking off, no we've been flying for 20 minutes! At the Americal Combat Center in Chu Lai we saw the Ranger presentation, I was ready, Joe didn't like the idea of such small units. We ended up with A Company 1st/46, 196 L.I.B. off of L.Z. Professional in the same platoon. Being a grunt in a line company was hell; inept leadership, constant booby traps, running into ambushes, always in the bush, plus a lot of casualties and KIA's. On a resupply, a ranger team got off the choppers, they stayed with us a couple of days before they split off on their mission. I talked a lot to "Saint" Santa Maria and Hardy. All of us being from California, my interest peaked at the way they operated. Cammies and LRRPs were a plus since we only got C-rations. Shortly after that Joe got shrapnel in the head; barely made it, affected the rest of his life. I put in a transfer to the 75th. By the time I went to the Americal, Recondo School Saint and Hardy were "TACS". SSG Hammond was the head of the school. I graduated head of the class as I knew I did not want to go back to the line company. Six of us made it out of 24 including Donovan, Anyla, Cincanti and I who went to team Arkansas with team leader SSG Riley where Merkel and I shared one end of the Quonset hut. Don't know where we got it, but we painted that section bright red, hung a California flag, as Merk grew up about 20 miles from me.



Team Arkansas: Standing left to right: William "Russell" Gietzen, George "Dwight" Merkel, Steve Deever, Johnny Jack Fox. Kneeling left to right: Dennis Nye, Calvin "Turtle" Johnson. Photo circa late September or October 1970

Some missions stand out more than others. The time in the middle of the night I was on guard duty and pressed others hands to awaken them as a company of NVA came by about 10 – 15 meters from us, they threw some rocks in our direction I knew it was on if they hit something metallic, but

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

my biggest fear was they could hear my heart beat, I thought it sounded like drums. Another mission we came out on ropes after contact. Being so far out, we had to have a plane up to relay our radio transmissions. It was a long ride to a fire base (were we in Laos?). Another was a joint hunter killer with SSG Beach and Team Texas. We were still positioning when we made contact, we won! Great times in the club room then to the top of the tower to see the sights. I remember someone, I think it was Cpt. Dinoto that could rappel off the tower,



break one time and with the rope stretch land on his feet.

Coming back I was at Ft. Hood with the 1st Armored Div. with Armor Recon, which was a lot of driving around in jeeps chasing armadillos.

Off duty spent time with Steve Achenison who was at Hood. About to get out when Top Williams who was 1st Sgt of the Ranger Company there came by to give me a re-up talk. I was hocking my Seiko watch about the 28th of every month for \$10 to get by. Would get it out on the 2nd for \$12. So I politely declined.

Headed back to California working construction and going to college was going to be a history teacher and coach. Quit my senior year, had enough of the liberal professors and the credential program. At the time there was more money in construction. Operated for awhile then to the family tradition of plastering then back to operating. When I got home I spent a lot of time hunting. I felt more comfortable out with a rifle. Looked into Angola as a mercenary, but the pay was the same as construction. Remember hitting the ground when cars would backfire, people said I changed, DUH!

In 1977 I took a break from construction moved to Oklahoma and was selling exercise equipment, giving demonstrations, lectures to civic organizations, schools and corporations. I think we were a little ahead of the times. I have a cool photo album of the time I went to Minnesota Vikings training camp as they were using our equipment. Bud Grant was the coach; Fran Tarkenton quarterback and the Purple People Eaters were there. Fun job but no money, so packed the wife and kid and back to California and construction. Have worked a lot of states including Alaska, which everyone should see. Loved

water skiing and baseball, played hard ball until I was 50. Also got into horses and trail riding. I live in Norco California officially "Horse Town USA". Still have "Old Duke" in the back, he's 31 years old and can't ride anymore. Have 36 years in the American Legion. I am a past Commander. Now days I enjoy the kitchen more and making tacos at the post on Saturdays.

I am retired now and enjoy my time with Cindy my wife of 3 years, 2 sons, 1 daughter and 10 grandkids. I wonder now how I ever had time to work? I have made the last 2 reunions and I encourage all of you to put out the extra effort to be at the next one.



I truly believe going to the LRRP's and being with guys that had it together saved my life and made me a better stronger person.

2015 Reunion County Inn & Suites Mall of America Bloomington, Minnesota

Everyone will enjoy the Bloomington-Mall of America area for the reunion since it is central to places our group plans to visit (Fort Snelling Cemetery, Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport, Mall of America, etc.).

The Country Inn & Suites Mall of America is located directly across the street from the Mall of America, only a 5-minute walking distance via the new skyway that crosses over Killebrew Drive!

The hotel offers complimentary hot, buffet style breakfast every morning from 6:00AM – 9:30AM (weekdays) and 6:00AM – 10:30AM (weekends). Two restaurants are connected via hallway to the hotel as well: TGI Friday's and IHOP.

G/75 - E/51 LRP - 196TH LRRP (Continued)**OPTIONAL ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE DATES****WITH PRICING:**

Thursday, September 10, 2015 thru Sunday departure,
September 13, 2015

There are 10 handicapped rooms; 4 have roll in showers.

RATE: \$111.⁰⁰ (Rate does not include 14.275% state and city taxes) for a King Suite with Sleeper Sofa or Standard Guest Room with 2 queens. Extra \$ for more than 2 people to a room.

**Guests may book 3 days prior to the arrival date, and 3 days post the departure date and will receive the same group rate

The hotel's direct line (952) 854-5555 and/or reservation line (800) 456-4000. Make reference to LRRP Ranger Reunion.

The website where guests can book online is: www.countryinns.com/LRRPRangers.

ROOM DETAILS

Room types:

• Standard Guest Room with 2 Queen Beds OR

• King Suite; King Bed and a sofa sleeper

Included in your stay are the following amenities:

- Free Parking
- Complimentary airport shuttle service is available 24-hours.
- Complimentary shuttle service to and from the Mall of America at the top of every hour from 10AM to 11PM.
- Complimentary Hot Breakfast Buffet that consists of hot and cold cereal, fruit, yogurt, bread items and pastries, coffee, cocoa, milk, tea. There are a few hot items as well that include: freshly made waffles, either scrambled eggs or omelets, and sausage patties, daily.
- Complimentary wireless internet throughout the hotel
- Microwave, refrigerator, coffeemaker, hairdryer, iron and ironing board in every room.
- The Mall of America is just across the street, a 5-minute walking distance via the brand new skyway that crosses over Killebrew Drive.
- Breakfast-To-Go is available complimentary if flights leave before 6am.
- The hotel has 2 pools and 2 hot tubs open until 11PM for person under the age 18 and Midnight for adults, 18 and over.
- 24-hour Fitness room
- 2 restaurants attached to the hotel by hallway: TGIFriday's and a 24-hour IHOP (International House of Pancakes).

ITINERARY:

Wednesday, September 9

Early check in

Hospitality Room opens at 4:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M.

On your own for the evening.

Thursday, September 10

Official Start of our Reunion

Hospitality Room opens from 12:00 Noon to 11:30 P.M.

Host and Hostess pizza party 6:00 P.M. in Hospitality Room

Friday, September 11

Board Meeting at 9:00 A.M. in Hospitality Room

General Membership Meeting at 10:00 A.M. in Hospitality Room

Hospitality Room opens from 12:00 Noon until 11:30 P.M.

On your own for supper

Country Rock Band plays from 8:00 P.M. - 11:00 P.M. in Hospitality Room

Saturday, September 12

Memorial Service Rendezvous in hotel parking lot 9:00 A.M.

Drive to Ft. Snelling 9:15 A.M.

Ft. Snelling Service at 10:00 A.M. at Airborne Circle

Return to hotel at 11:00 A.M.

Hospitality Room opens at Noon until 12:00 Midnight

Banquet in dining room at 6:00 P.M.

Auction in Hospitality Room at 8:00 P.M.

Sunday, September 13

Check out and farewells

Ranger Ride (Reunion 2015)

Bill Martin and his wife Linda propose to ride their motorcycle to the 2015 reunion in Minneapolis. While in Savannah I mentioned this to a number of people who said they would be interested in participating. So this post is to gather information on those willing to join the ride. I would like to get the information listed below so that I may plan a route with respect to the location of interested riders, their bikes and riding habits. For example; what is their typical daily mileage when on a trip.

We will be starting in Lafayette, La., so we are likely the farthest point south with the exception of Fl. and south TX.

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

This is an initial message, but we will need to firm up the itinerary and participants by mid-summer most likely so that I can look into lodgings, etc.

- Name and contact information - location you would start from (email address for preferred commo)
- Type of bike, including range / tank
- Mileage – before break and per day
- Motel preference if any (Ms. Linda doesn't camp)
- Preferred road type (we typically avoid interstate if possible)

My information: Bill Martin
bill.martin@halliburton.com
337.857.6615 – Home
281.658.9002 – Cell
We're hoping to hear from you.



The Martins

securing a Memorial Stone for each of them was in the area of \$22-23,000. However, since the project was undertaken, we have raised \$6,600 – enough to buy 26 Memorial Stones. This leaves about 64 of our Brothers without Memorial Stones, which means we still have to raise another \$16,000. We are relying on you to support this project.

As I previously told you, we have concluded that the Association's Treasury cannot, and should not, for a variety of reasons, cover the cost of purchasing a Memorial Stone for each one of our Fallen who has not yet had one purchased for him. Chief among these is that such an action could well ultimately jeopardize our continued efforts to lay on the annual reunions that we schedule, or even to publish *Sua Sponte*. The answer seems to be a public fund raiser, and I am now engaged in that effort amongst commercial entities. But, the results thus far have been less than desired. I wanted to be sure to bring this project to your attention once again since it is far better that we – their teammates – do our personal bests to raise the funds internally while we are also making the public appeal from strangers. It is now your turn – I am now again asking that you consider making a contribution to our effort.

It goes without saying that no amount is too small or too insignificant. However, you should know that a contribution of \$280 will allow you to specifically designate which of our outstanding Fallen's memories your contribution will preserve; while a contribution of \$500 will allow you to choose which two of our outstanding Fallen's memories you will be preserving. Moreover, a contribution of \$500 will also entitle the contributor to recognition on the "Friends of the Rangers" marker. If you are not yet retired, you can check to see if your employer has a matching gift program, where a contribution of \$500 will entitle the employer to such recognition. If you, or if several of you join together to contribute \$280 or more, please contact me directly so that I can keep track of who has and who has not yet had a Memorial Stone provided for them. We will maintain a list of those for whom a Memorial Stone has not yet been purchased.

All monies collected will be added to the Association's treasury, but with a separate record for this project, maintained until allocated to purchase Memorial Stones. If ultimately, there are excess monies collected, those monies will be used to purchase Memorial Stones for those who die in the interim without otherwise having a Memorial Stone provided for them.

Letter to the Men of the Association

Gentlemen:

I am writing to update you on the project I previously described to you, and because I continue to need your help. I previously told you that I had, on behalf of the Association, committed to undertake the project of securing Memorial Stones for each and every one of our Brothers who have fallen since Vietnam without having had a Memorial Stone purchased for them for a variety of reasons. [Some members of our Association have already had Memorial Stones purchased for them by their families, and some who have already passed have had a Memorial Stone purchased for them by former teammates.] When I began this project, there were roughly 90 of our members who had fallen since Vietnam who had not yet had a Memorial Stone placed for them. The cost of

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

Make your check out to "G75 Ranger Association" and send it to me so I can keep track of our receipts. The Association is a 501(c)(19) organization and thus your contribution may be tax deductible.

We acknowledge with gratitude, the generosity shown by the following in financially supporting the Association's Memorial Stone project at Fort Benning: Tom & Sharon Robison; Rod & Marilyn Congdon; Al Stewart; Chuck Thornton; Joe Meinike; Bob Clarke; Mickey Boothe; Tom & Dianne Nash; Dave McLaughlin; Tim & Tracey Shur; Ken & Patricia Fenton; Tom Sagan; Steve & Lori Crabtree; Justin Stay; Titan Industries; and Aflac.

Tom Nash
3 Prospect Place
Kearny, NJ 07032
201.991.8562
196lrrp66@gmail.com

Important Information Needed

We continue to require your assistance. There are still too many deceased men from our unit for whom we do not know specifically when they served with us, and for whom thus, we do not know whether the guy served with E51, G75 or the 196th LRRP. Please review the following list once more and, if you recognize a name and potentially when he served, tell us with which of the three units he served.

Edmund Adams, Kenneth B. Akers, William Barton, John M. Bees, David Cipker, Delbert DeLowe, Donald L. Denney, John Eckert, John Evans, Bruce Fisher, Gary Fortson, Cecil M. Fountain, Ted D. Grimbale, Marilyn D. Guthmiller, Jimmie Haselden, Alan G. Hendley, Hubert H. Hudgens, Melvin D. Johnson, Ronald E. Kinnison, Raymond E. Klein, Harry E. Lewis, Richard A. Likely, Terence Longway, Raymond R. Powers, Ronald Robertson, David L. Roehrer, Bill Ross, Robert Salwin, Bridgeforth Simmons, Dial L. Skinner, Morris E. Smith, Julius W. Smith, Eddie Sutton, Steve Ward, William Watson, Leroy A. Mouton.

Those Southern Belles



Southern Belles of Savannah

Those Southern Belles of Savannah are posed as a group at the 1st Ranger Battalion Memorial held at Hunter Field as part of our 25th annual reunion that everyone seemed to enjoy.

Major General Leuer spoke to the entire group at the ceremony followed by the reading of our fallen brothers' names and volley of shots and taps by the 1st Battalion Honor Guard.

There were close to 80 in attendance at our banquet Friday evening with Chris Noel as our guest speaker. Chris has starred in movies with, among others, Steve McQueen and Elvis Presley.

While visiting a VA hospital in the 60's she was appalled at the conditions the veterans had after being wounded in Vietnam.

While doing morale visits to outlying posts in Vietnam her helicopter was shot down twice. She has now committed to helping veterans in Florida by establishing a homeless assistance to veterans at Vetsville called the Cease Fire House.

Saturday we ate at Barry's Pub on the Savannah River in the upstairs, a place called the Hero's Room adorned with memorabilia mostly of which was Ranger lineage.

Kudos to Steve and Lori Crabtree for hosting this year's reunion.

This next year the association is having its reunion in Minneapolis.

Stephen Johnson, G/75th

ITEM 1, MEMBERSHIP TERMINATION

Current by-law wording:

ARTICLE VII: MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 2: Loss of membership

Active membership in the Association may be terminated for any of the following reasons:

- b.** Receipt of information by the Board of Directors that any member has acted in a manner to bring discredit upon the Association. The Board of Directors is obliged to follow the procedures outlined in ARTICLE XIX of these Bylaws.

Proposed change:

- b.** Receipt of information by the Board of Directors that any member has acted in a manner to bring discredit upon the Association, or has abused membership privileges for personal gain, or engaged in Stolen Valor behavior. The Board of Directors is obliged to follow the procedures outlined in ARTICLE XIX of these Bylaws.

Discussion:

Over the past few years the organization has been involved with inappropriate behavior by a few members and has been challenged to find adequate reason to terminate membership. This wording solves all past problems. Note that non-payment of dues and lying on an application are covered by the balance of Section 2.

ITEM 2, ADDING SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT

Current by-law wording:

ARTICLE XI: OFFICES

SECTION 2: The following Executive Offices are established: (Elected)

- a.** President: Chairman / Chief Executive Officer
- b.** Vice President: Programs / Protocol / Membership Recruitment / Vice Chairman
- c.** Secretary: Administration and Membership
- d.** Treasurer: Chief Financial Officer

Proposed change:

SECTION 2: The following Executive Offices are established: (Elected)

- a.** President: Chairman / Chief Executive Officer
- b.** First Vice President: Programs / Protocol / Membership Recruitment / Vice Chairman
- c.** Second Vice President: Membership recruitment
- d.** Secretary: Administration and Membership
- e.** Treasurer: Chief Financial Officer

Discussion:

This is a housekeeping change as the Second Vice President position was voted upon and approved by the membership some years ago. The by-laws were never updated to reflect this.

ITEM 3, PRESIDENT STIPEND

Current by-law wording:

ARTICLE XI: OFFICES

SECTION 1: 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.

- c. Organizational funds will not be used, ever, to pay for any Board of Directors transportation, meals or motel/hotel expenses for normal Association business.

Proposed change:

- c. Organizational funds will not be used, ever, to pay for any Board of Directors transportation, meals or motel/hotel expenses for normal Association business. However, the President is allowed an annual travel stipend of \$2,500.00 for Association business.

Discussion:

This is a housekeeping change as the travel stipend was voted upon and approved by the membership some years ago. The by-laws were never updated to reflect this.

ITEM 4, LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND

Current by-law wording:

ARTICLE XVII: FINANCIAL

SECTION 2: Funds received from Life Membership dues shall be invested in high interest bearing secured money market funds, United States Treasury notes, or other investment options offering a minimum risk versus higher return. The actual capital received from Life Membership dues shall not be spent for any reason and shall be held separately accounted for from all other funds.

Proposed change:

SECTION 2: Funds received from Life Membership dues shall be invested in high interest bearing secured money market funds, United States Treasury notes, or other investment options offering a minimum risk versus higher return. The Life Membership Fund shall be separately accounted for from all other funds. The Life Membership Fund principal may not be reduced by more than 6% in any single fiscal year, and must be approved by the Budget Committee and the Board of Directors.

Discussion:

The intent of this by-law was to put the life dues into a large fund that would draw enough interest income that, combined with regular annual dues income, would sustain the organization. However, this by-law has not been consistently followed and the Fund has been used to cover regular operating expenses. The result is that the current Life Membership Fund amounts to approximately \$30,000. This low sum, combined with the extremely low interest rates available, only generates a few hundred dollars annually.

It is therefore unrealistic to expect Life Membership Fund interest income alone to help sustain the organization. It is also wrong to deplete the Fund's principal in violation of the by-law. The by-law change attempts to rectify this by putting a nominal limit on principal erosion, and provides for transparency accountability by requiring approval by the Budget Committee and the Board of Directors. This fund must be maintained and protected, and its principal used only for dire expenses, and even then such use would be limited.

ITEM 5, INTEREST INCOME USEAGE

Current by-law wording:

ARTICLE XVII: FINANCIAL

SECTION 3: A General Operating Fund will be established and maintained for the Association. This fund will consist of all annual dues received, interest earned from monies realized from sale of Association controlled items, contributions and any profit realized from the preceding reunion. Daily operating expenses of the Association will be met through the General Operating Fund. This fund will be monitored by the Association Vice President, Treasurer, and the Budget Committee.

Proposed change:

SECTION 3: A General Operating Fund will be established and maintained for the Association. This fund will consist of all annual dues received, interest earned from monies realized from sale of Association controlled items, income from all interest bearing funds and accounts, contributions and any profit realized from the preceding reunion. Daily operating expenses of the Association will be met through the General Operating Fund. This fund will be monitored by the Association Vice President, Treasurer, and the Budget Committee.

Discussion:

The additional wording added clarifies interest income from any fund or account does not have to be reinvested in the generating fund or account, but rather the organization may use interest income for operating expenses.

ITEM 6, TREASURER LIMITATIONS

Current by-law wording:

ARTICLE XII: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

SECTION 4: The Treasurer

- d. Acquires counter signatures on all checks as required, or in excess of \$750.00.

Proposed change:

SECTION 4: The Treasurer

- d. Acquires counter signatures on all checks as required, or in excess of \$750.00, except for budgeted items as approved by the Budget Committee.

Discussion:

There are recurrent bills that amount to over \$750.00 that are normal and incidental to operations. This change allows efficiency for the treasurer in paying these bills. Non-budgeted items over \$750.00 still must be approved and counter signed.

75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc.
Change of By-Laws Ballot
Spring, 2015

Vote for each item separately. Return to:
Secretary, 75th Ranger Regiment Assoc.
PO Box 348360
Sacramento, CA 95354

ITEM 1, MEMBERSHIP TERMINATION

- ☐ YES, CHANGE THE BY-LAWS
☐ NO, DO NOT CHANGE THE BY-LAWS
☐ ABSTAIN

ITEM 2, ADDING SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT

- ☐ YES, CHANGE THE BY-LAWS ACCORDINGLY
☐ NO, DO NOT CHANGE THE BY-LAWS
☐ ABSTAIN

ITEM 3, PRESIDENT STIPEND

- ☐ YES, CHANGE THE BY-LAWS ACCORDINGLY
☐ NO, DO NOT CHANGE THE BY-LAWS
☐ ABSTAIN

ITEM 4, LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND

- ☐ YES, CHANGE THE BY-LAWS ACCORDINGLY
☐ NO, DO NOT CHANGE THE BY-LAWS
☐ ABSTAIN

ITEM 5, INTEREST INCOME USAGE

- ☐ YES, CHANGE THE BY-LAWS ACCORDINGLY
☐ NO, DO NOT CHANGE THE BY-LAWS
☐ ABSTAIN

ITEM 6, TREASURER LIMITATIONS

- ☐ YES, CHANGE THE BY-LAWS ACCORDINGLY
☐ NO, DO NOT CHANGE THE BY-LAWS
☐ ABSTAIN
-



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

Unit Director - Robert Ankony

Fellow Rangers,

I hope this edition of *Patrolling* finds everyone in good spirit and health. I've been reading about the early winter hitting so many of the states and because of dealing with the bitter cold in Michigan for so many years my wife, Cathy, and I recently moved to Huntington Beach, California. If any of you are ever in the area please contact us as we'd love to have visitors. My contact information is inside the front cover under Unit Directors.

I'm in the process of writing another book about the First Cav Rangers and many other experiences and have attached one of my stories "They Saw Us First." I'm sure it will bring back memories as we all experienced the horrific danger of enemy contact.

Hope to see you at next year's Best Ranger Competition at Fort Benning, Georgia, in April; or the First Cav's reunion at Killeen Texas in June.

Till then, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Robert C. Ankony, PhD

They Saw Us First

The U.S. military tradition teaches that the infantry is "the queen of battle." Like the queen in the game of chess, the infantry is the most powerful and versatile piece on the battlefield, and it is the only force that ultimately takes and holds the ground.

One of the most elite infantry forces in the world is the U.S. Army Rangers. Its history dates back to Colonial America, when rifle companies from Rogers' Rangers made long-range attacks against French forces and their Indian allies and were instrumental in capturing Fort Detroit. During the Revolutionary War, many colonial commanders were former Rangers. One, General John Stark, commanded the First New Hampshire Militia, which gained fame at the Battles of Bunker Hill and Bennington. Stark later coined the phrase "Live free or die," New Hampshire's state motto.



Ranger history lived on, and during the Vietnam War, Rangers were tasked with making long-range reconnaissance patrols. Our military occupational specialty was listed as 11F4P (infantry operations and intelligence specialist). Our motto was "*Sua Sponte*" (Of Their Own Accord). Every man had volunteered for our unit, including the intensive additional training, and knew what he would be facing. We all had chosen to be exactly where we were. We operated under G2 and G3, division intelligence and operations, and it was the job of Company E, 52nd Infantry (LRP), to be the eyes and ears for the First Air Cavalry Division—a 20,000-man force with 450 helicopters. We reconnoitered areas where the division was planning operations. We also patrolled along its flanks during operations, informing

larger units where the enemy was or was not, protecting the troops from surprise attacks, and optimizing their use of force.



Two First Cav Ranger teams, Vietnam

Our teams were only five or six men strong, but our advantage wasn't in numbers; it was in stealth and training. All team leaders and most assistant team leaders were graduates of the U.S. Army's Fifth Special Forces Group Recondo (from "Reconnaissance Commando") School. Since our patrols ranged from four to eight days, we carried ninety pounds of gear, including several dehydrated meals. But we could never carry enough water, so we topped off our canteens in streams whenever we were lucky enough to come across them.

Life depends on water and sunlight. Long-range reconnaissance patrols depend on silence and darkness. Staying alive meant not being seen: staying in shadows, living deep in vegetation,

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

never being silhouetted, and being alert always so we could find the enemy first.

We carried a wide array of weapons: 5.56mm CAR-15 carbines and M16 rifles, 40mm M79 grenade launchers, .45-caliber 1911A1 pistols, hundreds of rounds of ammo, M26 fragmentation grenades, M34 white-phosphorus fragmentation grenades, claymore antipersonnel mines, one-pound blocks of C-4 and TNT high explosives, trip flares, parachute flares, strobe lights, binoculars, and survival knives. But those were merely defensive weapons. Our real killing weapon was the twenty-three-pound battery-operated PRC-25 radiotelephone, commonly referred to as the "Prick Twenty-five." Depending on weather, terrain, and type of antenna, it had a range of fifteen miles and was like having a telephone to God (or Satan, depending on which side you were on). It could bring the horrific firepower of the U.S. Air Force, Army helicopter gunships, or large air-assaulting infantry units. Or it could call in the cold, impersonal artillery to pound a position until the terrain was reduced to bare churned earth, and the enemy to flecks of pink mud.



**Commo
check.
Sgt. Doug
Parkinson
center,
Cpl. Puk
right,
and me**

At least, that's how it was supposed to work. But things didn't always go as planned. Sometimes, the enemy saw us first. When that happened, a recon team did what it could to stay alive. My team faced that situation four times.

The first incident happened on Tuesday, April 2, 1968. We had spotted several North Vietnamese Army (NVA) soldiers and a woman the day before. And using our radiotelephone, we directed three scout helicopters and three helicopter gunships, which killed an officer and an enlisted man. Then an infantry company air-assaulted and swept the area, and we worked our way west through the vegetation to locate fleeing enemy soldiers. The next morning, we came to a long grassy clearing a hundred meters wide, which seemed to run forever both north and south. Pausing at the edge, not wanting to cross such an

opening in daylight, my team leader, Sgt. Doug Parkinson, and his assistant team leader, Staff Sgt. Bob Carr, debated alternative routes. But finally, they determined that there was no way around the clearing without moving a tremendous distance to our flank. Deciding it was best to cross as a team rather than expose ourselves one man at a time, we started our move. As we entered the clearing and crept forward step by step, I felt naked even with a rifle in my hands, grenades at my waist, and a heavy load of gear in my rucksack. Sweating from both heat and anxiety, I looked at Parkinson and our Montagnard front scout, Dish, who was leading the way. I stared into the vegetation across from us, knowing that our fate rested not on skill but on dumb luck.

Once we reached the middle of the field and were completely exposed, I thought, *well, if anybody's there, this is when they're gonna open up.* But a minute later, nothing had happened and we were across. Pausing a moment to catch our breath, we worked our way inside the tree line, where suddenly, we smelled cooking food. There, before a large bunker half-buried in the ground, pots of rice were still cooking over a low fire, and some clothes were drying off to one side.

Realizing we had stumbled across an enemy force of unknown size, we retreated across the same clearing to where we knew it was safe. Then we radioed the tactical operations center to tell them of our find. They sent a white team of two scout helicopters, followed by a red team of two helicopter gunships that rocketed and machine-gunned every suspected site. Then they airlifted in the nearby infantry company. We led them in sweeping the area and searching the bunker, where we found several blocks of TNT, two rifles, a submachine gun, and a pistol complete with holster and belt. That's when we realized the only reason we had survived: the enemy had seen our team heading directly at them and ran, thinking we were point for the 160-man infantry company operating in the area.

The next incident happened on Sunday morning, April 21. Operation Delaware had already begun two days before, when two brigades—about 11,000 men and 300 helicopters—from our division air-assaulted A Shau Valley, near Laos. My platoon rappelled down to the 5,000-foot peak of Dong Re Lao Mountain, known as "Signal Hill." We were there to provide a vital radio relay site for the troops slugging it out in the valley, for approaching aircraft, and for communication with headquarters in the rear. This was day three, and a lot of the fighting had already happened. Approaching Signal Hill from the air, we could see a crashed helicopter on the peak, several dead Americans, and dozens of men who had survived the fight so far.

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

There were still enemy snipers, so our company commander, Cpt. Michael Gooding, ordered Sergeant Parkinson to make a patrol around the peak. We slogged through the mud to the western side of the mountain, where we came to the crashed helicopter, lying on its side on a steep embankment, and the perimeter of debris just beyond it. Then, stepping over an enemy fighting position where they had abandoned pouches of cartridges and two grenades, we pushed through a dense wall of mud-covered branches and trees, twisted and broken from the bomb blasts and bangalore torpedoes (interconnecting tubular explosives) used to clear the LZ.

After pushing our way through the thick mat of debris, we entered dense virgin forest swathed in a thick blanket of fog—the cloud cover that surrounded the peak. The cool, moist air felt good in my throat and lungs as I looked around, studying the vegetation. We were glad to be finally out of sight of our helicopter detachment above, again dependent just on one another.

**Signal Hill,
Sgt. Parkinson**

After we had quietly moved another hundred meters down through the eerie fog-shrouded forest, Parkinson touched Dish in front of him and whispered, “Let’s turn south for a heading alongside the peak.”

Bracing our feet on slick tree roots and the stems of huge ferns, we groped along from stalk to frond to keep our balance, slowly maneuvering through the fog and undergrowth that limited our visual contact to the men immediately in front of and behind us.

Suddenly, after an hour of this slow, painstaking progress, I had just grabbed a sapling trunk so I could step onto the roots below, when shots went off right in front of me. Raising my rifle and cautiously moving in that direction, I saw an NVA soldier lying on his back. Sergeant Parkinson and Dish were still shooting him, making his body quiver with every shot.

Since Parkinson and Dish were on both sides of the soldier, in line with me, I held my fire and looked for other threats. But after we determined that no other NVA were in the area, we went over to the blood-soaked body.

Dish explained: “I walk past, not see him. But he think me NVA man, so he stand with no gun and speak.” It made sense: In this fog, Dish, a small, dark-skinned Montagnard who stuck leaves and grass on his fatigues just like the enemy, could easily pass for one.

Dish had turned around just as Parkinson caught sight of the NVA from his rear. The NVA, realizing his mistake, stood there, arms at his sides, mouth and eyes wide open, as Dish and Parkinson raised their rifles and opened up on him.

* * *

**Monday,
April 8, 1968.
Helicopters
rocketing
and machine
gunning the
enemy**

The third incident happened at last light while my front scout, Gair Anderson, my assistant team leader, Bruce Cain, and I were each placing a claymore mine facing an enemy trail. It

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

was a well-used trail, four miles west-southwest of Quang Tri City, and we had heard enemy troops only the night before, casually talking as they walked along. We were confident that more enemy troops would return. Then, just as we slipped in the detonators, a dark figure suddenly appeared on another trail, a hundred feet away.

It was Friday, July 19, 1968—my second patrol as team leader of a long-range reconnaissance patrol, and already my second enemy contact. In the first incident, eleven nights earlier, our five-man team had run head-on into an enemy patrol. Gair had quickly fired a long burst into the patrol's lead, and we retreated into the jungle. But this time, we had only a small spit of ground and the Quang Tri River behind us, so we had to fight.

As the three of us stood there, struggling to see in the fading light, the unknown figure, apparently unsure who we were, stopped, stepped back, and slightly raised his rifle. Gair was closest, and Bruce the farthest back. Gair glanced at Bruce and me, and seeing that everyone was still in position, he raised his rifle, aimed, and cracked off a shot, which sent the guy sprawling backward. But he was in an upright slouch, still facing us and looking alive enough that I raised my CAR-15, flicked the selector to auto, and emptied the twenty-round magazine in two long bursts of tracers that swept across his legs and chest.

I was worried that the soldier could be the lead of a much larger force, so we threw grenades past him and I got on the PRC-25 with our tactical operations center to notify them of the contact.

They sent a slick and two helicopter gunships that rocketed and minigunned the area, and we were extracted to our base at LZ Betty. The next morning, I led two platoons of infantry to the area of contact and conducted a sweep, but we found only the body along with his AK47, two loaded magazines, a sandbag and a sock full of rice, a small rubberized poncho, and two clean pairs of U.S. military socks. I had gone into the field that day without any socks because all mine were dirty, so I sat down next to the body and slipped on a pair. His decision to verify before shooting us had saved our lives and cost his.

The last incident happened early Saturday morning, July 27, 1968. It was our second day of an eight-day patrol in terrain of 50- to 150-foot hills covered with short elephant grass, scrub, and cactus. It was sunny, with temps in the nineties. Because the heat had dried nearly everything, once our canteens were empty we drank from muddy streams.



LZ Betty en route to patrol. Bruce Cain left without hat, me, and Tony Griffith

At first light, I ate an orange, skin and all, for breakfast. (By then I had reached the point where I could not stomach another meal of the same rations.) Then I shook some foot powder onto my heat rash: thousands of tiny red, itchy bumps on my crotch, butt, and feet. I tied my boots, and we mounted our gear and zigzagged northwest, where we came to a wide ravine covered in hip-high elephant grass.

“What do you think?” my assistant team leader, Bruce Cain, asked, kneeling down with my front scout, Tony Griffith, and me to scan a stretch of thick vegetation on the far side.

“I don’t know, it’s pretty big,” I said, scanning the area with my twenty-power spotting scope. “You just never know what’s in there.”

Setting my scope down, I said, “All right, I think only one of us should cross first, to scout it.”

“You don’t think we should all cross together?” Cain asked.

“Nah, it’s six of one and half a dozen of the other.”

“What do you mean by that?”

“Well, if we all go and Charlie’s in there, they might run, thinking we’re a platoon.”

“So what’s wrong with that?”

“Nothing, but if they hunker down and open fire, we’re all gonna be in a world of shit.”

“So what’re you gonna do?”

“Send one man.”

“Then you gotta send Griffith.”

“Nah, Tony’s too new.”

“You can send me, Sarge,” Griffith piped up. “I can carry my weight.”

“Not this time, Tony—I’ll go,” I said, looking across the field again.

“Well, one of you better get going,” said Cain, “before the sun gets higher.”

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

"All right," I said, picking up my CAR-15. My palms felt sweaty. "But give me a minute after I cross, so I can scout the area and give you a wave."

"We'll do that," Cain said as I stepped out into the wide-open field while my team watched from cover.

Moving ahead slowly and deliberately, I kept my rifle at my hip and studied the vegetation on the far side. I reached the middle and most vulnerable part of the ravine, imagining how it would feel to be hit with a sudden burst of bullets, when suddenly a Vietcong (VC), wearing just shorts and an undershirt, jumped up in the grass seventy feet ahead, holding a rifle. For a moment, we stood facing each other, both frozen in fear. I was 19, and he didn't look any older. I raised my CAR-15 as he made a mad dash for a clump of vegetation. Taking aim, I let loose a long stream of tracers that swept across his left hip and right shoulder.



Sgt. Ankony

But instead of falling, he only stumbled and kept on running. Not knowing whether I had hit him or whether he had friends in the area, I emptied the rest of my magazine at him as he disappeared into the vegetation. Then I ran back as fast as I could. When I got back to my team, I looked to where the VC had run, and said to Bill Ward, my radiotelephone operator, "Get Redleg Three Five on the horn!"

It was time to call in our big guns at LZ Pedro, three kilometers south, manned with a battery of 105mm artillery. Ward dialed two knobs on the PRC-25 to their frequency as I shot an azimuth at the enemy's position with my compass. After writing down its direction and range, I pulled out my map, figured our location relative to our reference point, and took the handset from Ward. Being our lifeline, it was always wrapped in plastic and taped to protect it from moisture. I put it to my ear and squeezed the rubber-booted switch underneath. "Redleg Three Five, this is Slashing Talon Five Niner, over."

"Go ahead, Five Niner, this is Redleg Three Five."

"Roger, Three Five. Request fire mission, over."

I then gave them the direction and range relative to the reference point on our map, known only to us and command so that enemy troops monitoring our frequency couldn't figure our location.

The fire direction center for the battery found our reference point on its maps and determined our position and elevation, along with the enemy's. With those factors and wind conditions known, the artillery crews could calculate the charges for their shells, and settings for the guns. Then they swung three of their six 105mm howitzers in our direction.

Seconds later, high-explosive shells screamed overhead and slammed into the thicket of vegetation, exploding in plumes of bright orange, shaking the earth, and sending up debris and clouds of black smoke. "Redleg Three Five," I said amid the thunderous noise, "this is Slashing Talon Five Niner. You're on target. Fire for effect, over."

"Roger, Five Niner," LZ Pedro replied as each howitzer fired several more shells in rapid succession.

Moments later, we radioed cease-fire since it was obvious that if I hadn't killed the VC already, he was certainly dead from the artillery.

We then mounted our gear and vanished into the hills.

* * *

The First Cavalry Division would end the Vietnam War suffering more casualties than any other division: 5,444 men killed in action and 26,592 wounded in action.¹ Company E, Fifty-second Infantry (LRP), redesignated Company H, Seventy-fifth Infantry (Ranger), participated in the two largest battles of the Vietnam War—the Tet Offensive and the siege of Khe Sanh—and air-assaulted into A Shau Valley, the most formidable enemy-held territory in South Vietnam. It became the most decorated and longest-serving unit in LRP/Ranger history.² Company H also fought in Cambodia, and it lost the last two Rangers of the Vietnam War. Its lineage passed to Second Battalion, Seventy-fifth Ranger Regiment. Since 9/11, the regiment is the only continuously engaged unit in the Army. Today's Rangers do not patrol. They don't train allied forces or engage in routine counterinsurgency duties. They have a single-mission focus: they seek out the enemy and capture or kill him. Their mission sets Rangers apart as pure, direct-action warriors.

H/75 - E/52 LRP - 1ST CAV LRRP (Continued)**Today's Rangers**

1. Marine Corps deaths available only in aggregate, not by unit.
2. See [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Company_E,_52nd_Infantry_\(LRP\)_\(United_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Company_E,_52nd_Infantry_(LRP)_(United_States)).

**I/75 - F/52 LRP - 1ST DIV LRRP****Unit Director - David Flores**

Here we are at the start of a new year. The holiday rush is over and we can get back to a slower and calmer routine. Now I must tell you all that two of our brothers have passed away. Randy King and Rody Lindhe.

Rody passed away sometime during the holidays. At this writing we don't have an exact date. Rody served with our company during the last 5 months that the 1st Div was in country; at which time Rody requested assignment to G Company Ranger/LRRP. This is where he finished out his tour. I met Rody one day at the Long Beach VA hospital. I was introduced to him by another LRRP/Ranger. That man was Mark Miller from E Co. LRP/ 20th Inf./ C Co. 75th Rangers. Rody and I spoke a few times while at the VA and he would tell me about the company in those ending months. Then I did not see him there anymore. Miller told me no one else had seen him either. RIP Rody

Randy King passed away on January 15th, 2014. Randy served with the company during the 68-69 years. I never worked with Randy in the field that I recall, but we met again at our reunions. His memory was better than mine and he told me about times back in the company area. It was good talking with Randy at the reunions and having a good laugh about old times.



Our condolences to the families; we are saddened by both of their passing. RIP Brothers

I know that over the past year, some of us have had our share of medical issues and I hope everyone is doing better. That being said, it appears that having the mini-reunions is a good thing.

On a different note, I want relay something that Dave Hill recently sent out. It has to do with the construction of the new Educational Center for The Wall. Construction will start this year I believe, so here is the deal. One item within the Center is a picture for every name on the Wall. We have not accomplished this yet, so I am asking everyone to check those photos and find that photo of our remaining brothers. Below is the list of our brothers that do not have a photo yet.

James P. Boyle	17 Apr. 68
Gary L. Johnson	28 Feb. 69
Ernest P. Davis	28 June 68
Reese M. Patrick	14 May 69
Glen R. Miller	5 July 68
Charles E. Smith Jr.	30 Aug 69
Michael A. Randall Sr.	21 Oct 68

Please, try and find that picture of these brothers and submit it to the Center's web site. These are the last seven brothers we

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

need to get photos for. Here is the web-site that you would send the photos to. www.buildthecenter.org

Thanks guys and family members!

I have included some DC Reunion pictures.

Stay well everyone,

Dave Flores, Unit Director

I/75th-F/52ndLRP | 1st Inf. Div. LRRP

Hello again! For this article I will just be talking about our reunion in Arlington Texas. It was our Mini/unofficial Reunion, call it what you like. For me, it's a reunion! Our last reunion was June, 2013, in DC. Like all of our reunions, everyone had a great time.



I must say though, this time we had an exceptional turnout. By that, I mean a good cross section of the time frame our company was active in country. To clarify, the 67 to 68 group, 68 to 69 group, and the 69 to 70 group. I think this was the first time we had as big a group of the 69 to 70 guys show up. Glad you guys and your loved ones made it. Of course, we always like to have as many folks as possible show up.



Unit Posters

Our hosts for this reunion were Debbie & John Douglas and Gaitha & Ron Crews. The company sends you guys a great big Thank You for all your hard work in putting this reunion together. The accommodations were great and the hospitality room was outstanding!



Our Host Family Members



**John & Debbie
Reunion Host**

We had a few outings during the reunion. One was a visit to Robert Laws grave site, to pay our respects. Robert is our company's Medal of Honor Recipient.



Robert Law Grave Site



The ladies at R.Law grave

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

We also visited the Ft. Worth Stock Yards area. A great place to checkout, lots of things to see.



Texas Longhorns

We had a trip to an indoor gun range for a little Shoot-Arama. I must say though, someone should have brought a spotting scope 'cause I could not see where the hell my rounds were hitting on the target! Had to wait till the target was retrieved. At any rate, it was fun!



Shoot - Arama, Giant & Catherwood

The banquet dinner was great.



Banquet Dinner

The restaurant was really nice and they treated us very well. We had the Table Ceremony prior to our having dinner, which I think was the right thing to do. After dinner we all returned to the hospitality room for our customary Toast Drink to our

Fallen Brothers. The night went on with talking and laughing, and some more drinking.



Early heavy team poster

It was another great time had by all!!

Those who attended. You will notice a couple of new names:

John Douglas (68-69)	Ron Imel (69-70)
James Moss (68-69)	Chip Issacs (68-69) (chief)
James Savage (69-70)	Greg Catherwood (69-70)
Harry Suire (68-69)	Tommy Ellis (69-70)
Dan Wiggins (68-69)	Bob McGath (68-69)
Ron Crews (67-69)	Jerry Davis (68-69)
Dave Hill (67-68)	Mike Wise (68-68)
Dave Flores (68-69)	Richard Gamez (67-68)
Don Hildebrandt (68-69)	Jimmy Shew (68-69)
Bill Goshen (68-69)	Jerry Schiess (69-70)
John Day (69-70)	



Chief & Imel



Giant saying hi

In all, 21 attendees accompanied with their wives. Thanks for coming to everyone!! Don't forget to start making your plans for the 2015 Reunion in Reno, Nevada. Date will be announced in the future. It will also be on the RRA web-site. Hope to see you all in Reno, with hopefully some new face there also.

I/75 - F/52 LRP - 1ST DIV LRRP (Continued)**Wiggins, John Day, Giant****February 2015 Submission**

Hello everyone. Another year down and this one to get through. We do have one thing to look forward to though, our company reunion! I will put the reunion info at the end of my article. This info is also on our company web-site and the 75th Ranger Regiment site. We have already heard from a number of folks that have already made their reservations, outstanding! We have also heard from some that will be attending for the first time. It just keeps getting better! For you first timers, please bring any photos or stuff you have. We want to see them, plus we can load them onto our web-site.

We are hoping for another great turnout and look forward to seeing everyone again. Lots of fun and laughs. Of course we will have our business meeting, elections, where to have our next reunion and anything else that needs to be talked about.

One of the great things that I have seen over the years is how strong our commitment is to staying in touch with everyone. I don't know how much contacting was done prior to 1993, our first reunion, but from that time forward it's been pretty good. It has gotten stronger over the years since 93. We have a good core group that keeps things together. Like all those that helped build our company roster, or found addresses of our guys. It took a lot of work, but I think we have a very good company roster.

Here's something I would like to see us get. Our company records; morning reports, after action reports, etc. these would give us more information about the team members, the missions we were on and company strength at different times. I wonder how much info we could find at the 1st Inf. Div. Museum. What could we find at the Army records place. One of the unit directors wrote an article about finding a lot of his company's records there. He gave some info on how he did it. I am going to have to look at some back issues of Patrolling and try to find that article. Anyway, "Nuff Said", a sergeant Morton quote!

So, I will be seeing you all at the reunion this June! Till then, stay safe and healthy and make your reservation for the reunion, GET ER DONE!! Have included some photos from Arlington, 2014.

REUNION DATE: JUNE 17 – 20, 2015
 LOCATION: NUGGET CASINO RESORT
 CITY OF SPARKS, NEV. 89431 (Next to Reno)
 (775) 356-3300 / (800) 843-2427
 Room Rates: \$87.82 per night, per room
 (Rate good for 3 days prior & 3 days after)
 Banquet Dinner: \$35.95, includes tip
 Group Booking Code: G52INF

Bookings must be done no later than May 17, 2015. Please advise Dave Hill via e-mail, phone, or mail. We need a head count for accommodations and Saturday Dinner. If you need Dave Hill contact info, contact me.

There are RV parks 10 miles or less from the Nugget. Check company web for exact locations.

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

**K/75 - E/58 LRP - 4TH DIV LRRP****Unit Director - Roger T. Crunk****Summer 2014**

Greetings to my Brothers,

It has been a while since my last article. By the time you read this one our reunion in Clearwater will be in the past. I will have

that report in the following issue. In that regard John Chester has resigned as editor of Patrolling. He has done a yeoman's job for several years now, not only has editor but as Secretary and President of the Association. I know I speak for all when I say thanks John for the years of hard work for the Association.

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

It's my sad duty to report the loss of two of our Brothers.



Howard "Shakey" Burns passed away March 22, 2014 at Lonesome Pine Hospital in Big Stone Gap, VA after a long illness. My first mission in K-Co was

with Shakey. He had a smile for everyone and always had something humorous to say. He is missed by all who knew him. Our condolences to his family.

Howard was born in Newport News, VA and served his country in the U.S. Army. He was awarded the Vietnam Service Medal with two Bronze Stars and several other campaign medals.

He is survived by his loving wife and best friend, Lora Burns, his sons, Jeff and Chris Burns; and his daughter, Katie Burns. Several grandchildren and nieces also survive him.

Gilliam Funeral Home, Big Stone Gap is honored to serve the Burns Family. You may go online to view obituaries, offer condolences, and sign the guest book at www.gilliamfuneralhome.com.

Jim Umberger passed away on May 7, 2014 due to a traffic accident.

He was born on September 12, 1942 in Pulaski and was the son of the late Mary Susan Roseberry and Allen Chaffin Umberger. Jimmy was a United States Army Veteran, having retired after 22 years with two tours of Vietnam. He was a member of the American Legion, V.F.W., Amvets and was a Shriner, being active in the Hillbillies and a Road Runner for hospital transportation. He was also a proud member of the Henry Clay Masonic Lodge #280 A.F.&A.M.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Alvin Umberger. He is survived by his wife, Gladys Jane Umberger of Pulaski; a son, Stephen Edward Umberger and his wife Sarah of Willow Grove, PA.; a daughter, Sarah Elizabeth King and her husband Shane of Wytheville; a brother, Douglas C. Umberger and his wife Patty of Pulaski; sisters, Mary Sayers and her husband Kennit of Draper,



Barbara Fitzgerald of Pulaski; sister-in-law, Ann Umberger of Pulaski; brothers and sisters-in-law, H.L. and Frances Sutphin of Pulaski, and Dennis and Senita Haga of Pearisburg.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday, May 13, 2014 at 11 a.m. at Seagle Funeral Home with the Rev. Johnny Howlett officiating. Intention will follow at Memorial Christian Church Cemetery in Draper, where the active military will serve as pallbearers and provide full military honors. The family will receive

friends at the funeral home on Monday from 6 to 8 p.m. Henry Clay Lodge will provide a Masonic Service at 8 p.m. in Seagle's Chapel, and everyone is invited to attend. In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be made in the form of donations to the Shriners Hospital Transportation Fund, or to any local charity of your choice. Online condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.seaglefuneralhome.com. Arrangements by Seagle Funeral Home, Pulaski, VA 540-980-1700.

Jim was one of the 12 originals when the 2nd Brigade LRRPs were formed by Mike Lapolla. It's a testament to his uncommon bravery to step forward into the unknown. To make the sacrifice, develop the tactics for those of us who followed. Thanks Jim, you are missed. Six of our Brothers were able to attend his service: Jim Burke, Ron Coon, Butch Nesbitt, Doug Flowers, Roy Dixon, and Jim Testerman. Thanks guys for being there to represent K-Co.



Presenting the flag to Jim's wife

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

**Ron, Flowers,
Roy, Jim Burke**



**Ron, Butch,
Jim**



**Harry &
Cindy Phair**

We have a new website thanks to the hard work by Wayne Mitsch, John Dubois, and Stephen Lockard. And thanks to Dave Regenthal, the Association Webmaster for his assistance. Steve spent several days at the Archives copying the K-Co after action reports. They will be added to the website. Now we have to attempt to find the reports for the Brigade LRRPs also. The old website info will also be transferred to the new one. Not sure how much might be on the site by the time you read this but check it out. If you have pictures, articles, etc. that you think might be a good addition to the website, please get that to me.

A big thank you also to Russ Temple and Ron Clark for donating the items for the raffle. Our 2nd Brigade brothers sure made a haul. Thanks guys for buying lots of tickets. And not to forget Rob Lydic for obtaining monetary donations from the guys he works with.

Winter 2014

Greetings To all,

First, on a personal note; my Sister and Brother-in-law died in a tragic accident in Alabama on October 27. We were unable to get a flight out at the last minute so we had to make a thirty hour nonstop drive to make it for their funeral. To say the least it was a difficult time for my family. I want to thank all my Brothers for your expressions of love and sympathy. A special thank you to Wayne and Fran for once again sharing their home with us before our leisurely drive back to Colorado.

The reunion in Clearwater was a great success. A great time was had by all. Lots of laughs, great company, just a couple of stories.... All the thanks go to my wingman Harry Phair, with lots of help from his wife Cindy and daughters Catherine & Jennifer. They put together a wonderful time for us. It sure made it easy for me. Shephards Beach Resort was a wonderful venue as was the Hilton where we had our banquet and the ladies pool party.



K-Co group 2

A highlight for the guys was the trip to MacDill Air Force Base to visit the Special Operations Memorial. General Joseph Votel the Commanding General of Special Operations took an hour out of his busy day to visit with us at the Memorial. Even though his staff tried to hurry him along he took his time to speak with us, shook every hand, and stood for numerous pictures. He reiterated the appreciation that he and the Special Operations community have for the service and sacrifice of the LRRPs/Rangers of Vietnam. Thanks Harry for arranging that special visit. We will be checking out the cost and logistics of having the names of our Fallen Brothers placed on the Memorial.

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

As most of you probably know by now we have a new unit website, K75ranger.com thanks to the herculean effort by Steven Lockard, Wayne Mitsch, John DuBois and Willie Williams. Also a big thanks to Dave Regenthal (Assoc. Webmaster) for his many hours of putting it all together and his expertise. Way to go guys. Take a look at the site, if you have articles, pictures, etc. that you think would be of interest on the site please contact Wayne Mitsch.

On Oct. 13 David Bristol and I had the opportunity to meet former 1st Platoon Leader Tom Martin for the first time since well, you know, a lot of years ago. He and some friends were here in Fruita for mountain bike riding as we are a bike riding destination in the West. It was a great visit, talked about a lot of old friends and resurrected memories long dormant. He lives just across the mountain in Colorado Springs so we have promised to stay in touch and visit more often. Doug Childers and one of our favorite pilots Steve Howard (The Animal) also live in the area so maybe we can have a mini reunion. Thanks Lt. for a good evening and dinner.

There will be several opportunities to get together in the coming year. Look over the Info below and make your plans.

The upcoming Assoc. Reunion will be Aug. 10-15, 2015 in Ft Benning. As we get that put together I will get that info out to you. The 1st Brigade guys will also host a reunion in Nashville, Tennessee sometime in 2015. Remember that all 4th ID LRRPs /Rangers are invited. As soon as that info is available that will be posted also.

And for Veterans Day of 2015: Ken Nelson has put together a mini reunion for us in Branson, Mo. The town goes all out for Veterans every year. Big parade, lots of entertainment venues. We have a block of rooms at the Savannah House Hotel. The rate is: Double Queen-\$84.95 or King-89.95. To make your reservation call (Renee Contreras) @800-335-2555. Be sure to mention it's for the K-Co group. Reservations after Nov. 9 will be (as available). If you think you might want to attend please make your reservations early as they fill up early for Veterans Day. You can contact Ken @ 715-325-3076 or cell 715-213-3585 if you need more info. Several of the guys have been in the past and have really enjoyed it.

San Diego, Colorado Springs, and Sacramento have been mentioned for our next off year (2016 reunion). Any thoughts suggestions or volunteer hosts would be appreciated.

Take a stroll down memory lane:

Roger T. Crunk, Unit Director

**Insert pic of: L-R Sgt. Gates, Top Keller, & Sgt. Sweeney****L-R Sgt. Gates & Lt. Martin****Captain Kim Olmsted****L-R Rick Noble, Wadley, Roger Crunk, James T. Quick****L-R Brad Stuttz, Unknown, Bob White, Walter Duke, Glen Klui, and James T. Quick**



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

Unit Director - Gary Linderer



Greetings, brothers:

On Saturday, June 7, 2014, six former members of L Company (Ranger) attended a remembrance at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Arranged by the West Point Class of 1969. The event was held to honor the 18 fallen members of that class, two of whom were officers in L Company (Ranger). They were Lt. Paul C. Sawtelle and Lt. James Leroy Smith. L Company Rangers in attendance were retired Lt. General David Ohle, Ellis McCree, Charles Rupe, Nicholas Gibbone, Gib Halverson and Charles Reilly. The memorial service included an invocation, hymn sung by the West Point Alumni Glee Club, roll call, and a benediction followed by the procession to the memorial and the "laying of the wreath." There were a number of speeches, most notable by retired General Frederic M. Franks and Judge John C. Thomas.

Approximately 200 people attended the ceremony. The memorial service was followed by a brunch and reception at the home of the former U.S. Ambassador to Germany, Rober Kimmitt, in Alexandria, Virginia. Kimmitt, a member of the West Point class of 1969, attained the rank of Major General during his military career and then later served as the Deputy Secretary to the Treasurer under President George W. Bush.

General Ohle graciously introduced his former Ranger comrades-in-arms to the West Point alumni and to members of the families of the fallen Ranger lieutenants. It was a very moving experience for all who attended. The ceremony at the Wall was an impressive display, and many onlookers stopped to observe the solemn proceedings. May our Ranger officers, Lt. Sawtelle and Lt. Smith, rest in peace. They will be remembered. (authored by Chuck Reilly).

The 2015 annual unit reunion will be held in Branson, Missouri, May 6-10.

The location is:

The Spinning Wheel Inn | 235 Schaeffer Dr.

Tel. #s for the hotel are: 1-800-215-7746 or 1-417-7746.

The rooms are in my name.

Room rates are as follows:

Single queen: \$40.95 + tax | King: \$45.95 + tax

Double queen: \$47.95 + tax.



This is the same hotel where we held our last Branson reunion, the one where we had the Huey sitting in the field next to the hotel.

As usual, we will have a hospitality room at the site. There will be a banquet, casual dress, either Friday or Saturday evening. Weather here in early May is usually mild and beautiful. If you're driving, bring lawn chairs. Book your rooms as soon as possible. The hotel will hold them until April 15. Let's make this a great turn-out. I don't know how many more reunions we will have. Age, health and death are conspiring to decrease our numbers. So, let's try to make these last few get-togethers count.

Thanks to Darol Walker, we have a new presentation knife to replace the Randall knives we have awarded to deserving members over

the years. The new knife is custom made with an inscription on the blade. Give some consideration to whom we will award this beautiful blade to at the banquet.

We will have a business meeting to elect new officers. It would be nice to see some new interest in this area. We need new blood to run the association. Step up.

Most of you know by now that we lost Col. William "Wild Bill" Meacham last year. Bill was a Kingsman pilot who became a legend flying LRP/Ranger inserts and extractions in '68-'69. He loved the LRP/Rangers he flew for, and was a frequent attendee along with his wife Carole at our reunions. Many of us wouldn't be here today but for the courage and flying skills of this great man. He will be missed.

Congratulations are in order to Ron "Mother" Rucker. Mom was recently elected president of the Sons of Moseby, the national Ranger bikers club. This is indeed a great honor for Ron. I attended a Sons of Moseby rally last September at Ft. Smith, Arkansas to honor the birthplace and burial site of Col. William O. Darby. It was a great event. Got to meet a large number of younger Rangers who hold all of us old codgers in high esteem. It's a great organization. If any of you are bikers, I highly recommend that you look into joining this great group of brothers.

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

Larry Chambers has been traveling extensively through Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, purportedly offering his assistance to the indigenous population. I don't know exactly what he's doing, but it must be effective...they haven't killed him or booted him out of the area yet. Drive on, bro!

Walt Bacak has completed his new hotel in the Mekong delta area of Vietnam. He sent photos, which I must admit are pretty darn impressive. The hotel, complete with an indoor swimming pool, offers all the amenities. Walt extends his greetings to all along with an open invitation to come over for a short or extended visit.

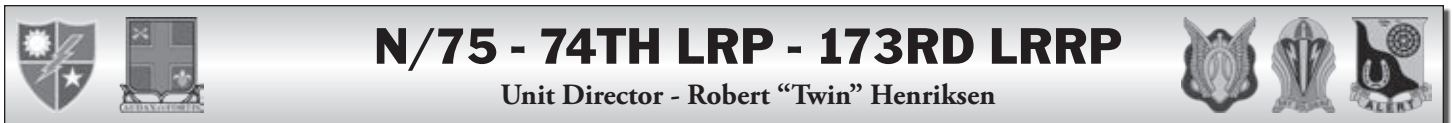
We have a number of brothers with health issues, including Jeff Paige, Ken Wells, and Darol Walker. Let's include them

in our prayers and wish them a speedy recovery. Let me know of any others who are suffering so that I can get the word out.

We have \$3,755.57 in our treasury. Since we are not collecting dues anymore, our only source of revenue is the auction at our reunion banquet. So, I'm asking you to send our bring items to the reunion in May so that we can once again hold a successful fund-raiser. The money pays for our hospitality room and the presentation knife.

So, try to make the reunion this year. Would love to see some new faces. Contact the brothers closest to you and invite them to attend. Let's make this a great rendezvous. See you there

Gary Linderer, Unit Director



some members that I haven't heard from for some time, so it would be good to hear from you so that I know the messages I send out on email is received. I recommend you sent me your photos and any other material so it can be recorded for our unit history. Several members have sent me their photo albums and I have scanned their photos and safely sent album back with a CD of their photos so they would have it saved in case album is lost or damaged. Also, as I receive email from members and they tell a story about a member or a mission, I save them.

I do not know how many members are active with the 75thRRA, so not all members will be reading this section on our unit. If you know of a member who isn't a member, let me know and I'll send him information on how to join. Many of those that served in our

We are now in another year 2015 and we are getting older and some have retired, but some continue to work as to keep busy. As time has past since we served 42 to 48 years ago depending when you served, things we remember are fading and we have photos and conversations with team members to recall certain times and actions. We need to communicate with each other and your team members. Things talked about will refresh your memory about the time you were in the company. I've had commo with all current active members who served in different times which has helped me recall things such as sayings, terms, item descriptions and learned about our unit history. There are

unit are not in contact or active with our group. Try to find a member as we need to locate more who served with us.

Currently we have 172 active members listed on document called "Members Contact List" of which 15 are not on email service. So, be sure to pass on unit messages if you know a member who doesn't have email service. In addition, we also have active family members which total 11. Be sure to notify me if your contact information changes. Information listed on list is name, team you ran on and year/years in unit, email address, mailing address and phone number.

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

Each member has the choice of what information they want to submit to me.

"Names of Who Served in Unit" document list has currently 700 members listed who served from 1965 to 1971. Listed is the full name of a member, nickname if he had one, year/years in unit. Also, listed to a members name is - if the following applies: KIA - date / DIC - date / DECEASED - year. If a member received a medal higher than Bronze Star, it is listed. Ranger Hall Of Fame recipients noted. List is constantly being corrected and updated. If you want the list, contact me.

2014 Las Vegas Mini-Reunion Gathering

The gathering of members at the Golden Nugget Hotel in September was a great success as 44 members attended. Total count was 72, with spouses, family members, chopper members and friends of the company. A special thanks to Ron Thomas for arranging the whole event with going all out to make this mini-reunion a pleasure to attend. For some members, this was their first reunion and for some it had a special moment, as they reunited for the first time since serving together. The following members attended: Ron Thomas, Robert Henriksen, Carl Vencill, Frank Bonvillian, Tony Schoonover, Ben Moye, Mike Potter, Tom Zaruba, Don Bizadi, Herbert Baugh, Hugh Imhof, Kevin Leahy, Mike Swisley, Bruce Baugh, Joe Marquez, Ray Hill, Cathy Saint John (Blake's sister), Mike Flynn, Larry Cole, Fletcher Ruckman, Steve Joley, Pat Tadina, David Carmon, Frank Aragon, Santiago Serna, Carl Millinder, Roger Bumgardner, Wilkie Wilkinson, Sid Smith, Dick James, Reed Cundiff, Errol Hansen, John Jersey, Brian Danker, Robert Clark, Richard Baker, Bill Jang, Dave Lange, Tony Novella, Shane O'Neal, John Howard, Harold Strassener, Richard Davis.

From Reed Cundiff:



Team 4, 1966-67



Team 4, 2014

Attending the Las Vegas reunion were three members from Team 2 and all five surviving members of Team 4 of late 1966-67 time frame. Photograph is of what we looked like back then (as we still think of ourselves) about to be inserted about 2 km from Cambodia. Larry Cole was pulled from patrol that morning due to infections. We wound up in a battalion sized base camp and it proved interesting. The second photo is how we look now (the Co Reentmeister photo from RVN was reversed); older and no wiser. O' the horrid ravages of time.

From Ron Thomas:

Article from local newspaper.

September saw members of the famous United States Army's 173rd Airborne Brigade Long Range Recon Patrol and N Company Rangers reunite at the Golden Nugget. Most of these men had not seen each other in more than 47 years. They came from as far away as the UK, Newfoundland and Alaska. A lot of hugging and back slapping took place over the 5 day reunion. One of our local guys Ron Thomas was the sponsor, and this was the third one he has done here in Vegas. Ron was one of the first to stand up the Long Range Patrol in 1965 when he and others were transferred out of SF training with the 1st Special Forces Group on Okinawa when the 173d went to Vietnam. A few attendees like Robert Henriksen closed down the unit in Vietnam in 1971. The reunion had a complete team from 1966/67 that attended. In 1966 a group of 29 Rangers were sent to the Special Forces LRRP School and 8 were present at the Reunion. Ron was one of them. Two members of the Ranger Hall of Fame were present. 71 attended the banquet and that has to be a record for a small unit. Hoo-Ahh! The Rangers/LRRPs were known as the men in painted faces, operating in 5 and 6 man patrols. Often inserted behind the enemy lines. They conducted long-range reconnaissance and exploitation operations into enemy held and denied areas, providing valuable combat intelligence. Ranger companies, consisting of highly motivated volunteers served with distinction in Vietnam from the Mekong Delta to the DMZ. Assigned to independent brigades, divisions, and field force units. The backgrounds of these units are varied from long range patrols, separate infantry companies, and scout units.

Rangers Lead the Way. In addition, there are veterans interested in starting a local Chapter of the Ranger Association – Ranger Base Las Vegas. For information, contact: nonlethal2@aol.com. What one sees at these reunions are renewed contacts and that feeling of pride in one's Vietnam Service renewed. Seek out your old Vietnam unit and get a good Welcome Home

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

Book Review LRRP



LRRP Book by Jay Borman

Jay Borman, the author of the *LRRP Book*, isn't as old as us, but his many years of gathering material / items used by members / photos / history, is way beyond anything that I have come across in any book on a subject from Vietnam. It's so well done and the 173rd LRRP/LRP/RANGER members and myself really got him the needed information on the Herd Special Ops. The Herd is well represented in this book with 44 pages on us. Just to let you know, that I have talked to him and his father before my unit was going to contribute and I realized that Jay's devotion to us was more important than the money from the book. He spent a lot to get it published and he will just break even. I liked the book so much that I brought it to the 173rd Airborne Brigade reunion in Las Vegas, in late August, showed it to all and they thought it was awesome and some even wanted to order the book.

The book weighs in at about 9 pounds and comes in a case and at the 75th Ranger Regiment Reunion in July, he bought 40 author proof copies which were sold out in one day.

Only going to be 500 limited copies (not counting the 40 he brought) of this first edition. Several members and I are going to assist Jay with the second edition. Jay already has a lot of our unit material, mission stories, photos, history, photos of items members used in Nam, poems members wrote and articles members wrote.

Jay is what is known as a true patriot and a younger generation individual who sees our generation contributed to this country by serving. Book website: LRRPPHOTOS.com

Robert Henriksen – Unit Director

Six Men Alone

Author: Bob Carroll - 1966 LRRP Platoon Commander



1966 Six Men Alone by Bob Carroll

Author' note: This article describes the method of operations of Long Range Reconnaissance Patrols. Interwoven into this description is a factual war story, the setting for which was near Bien Hoa, Republic of Vietnam, in September 1966. Names, dates, places have not been changed, because of the author's profound admiration for the dedication, competence, and courage of these Infantrymen of the highest order.

The Sergeant led his six-man team into the makeshift briefing room. He looked about twenty-two, and his men looked younger. Their serious expression reflected a trace of pregame jitters. They were dressed in camouflaged fatigues and shower thongs, and the midday heat made the sweat drip from their faces. After a nod from the captain, Sergeant Roger A. Brown began his order to Patrol 7, Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol, 173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate).

The men jotted down reminders as Sergeant Brown continued his briefing. Each man was straining to grasp every facet of the operation and to visualize some contingency for which the sergeant had failed to plan. The men knew that four similar patrols were also going through the preparation steps for a mission into D zone. Each patrol wondered how the others would fare, and each man wondered for the first time if the pride and recognition gained from being a member of this elite unit were worth the risk of this particular operation. The soldiers were more than casually aware that the normal mission of "reconnaissance and surveillance" had been drastically modified by the commanding general's words "Bring back a prisoner".

They called them LRRP's. This much needed abbreviation for the tongue-teaser, Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol, symbolizes an Infantry unit of a unique fiber. The role of a LRRP is to operate far from friendly forces and to report

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

information about the enemy. Requisites for success in this business are meticulous planning, stealth execution, and precision teamwork.

Of utmost importance to successful LRRP operations are the operation planning and coordination that bind together the many agencies involved in combat support. The major categories of support, as in most Infantry operations, are artillery, tactical air, and Army aviation.

LRRP artillery support has a few unusual features worthy of mention. The technique of salvo fire (rounds fired at ten-second intervals) can be used very effectively as noise concealment when the LRRP is trying to flee the enemy. But because the LRRP often operate outside the fan of organic artillery and within the range of artillery belonging to higher headquarters or adjacent units, coordination becomes time-consuming and response time is prolonged.

Tactical air support for LRRP missions is limited by the fact that a six-man unit in contact requires extremely close and accurate fire support. The most common use of air is impending a pursuing enemy unit by placing ordinance on or behind smoke dropped by the running LRRP. The Forward Air Controller (FAC), having been briefed on patrol plans, call signs, and code words, is on ready alert when he is not in the air. Common sense must be used when flying over any LRRP to preclude the ominous, buzzard-like circling which will pinpoint the patrol for the enemy. Additionally, the FAC bird or any Army aircraft can serve when necessary as a radio relay station between the whispering patrol and the standby rescue team.

As the name implies, the rescue team is involved with getting the LRRP out of trouble; it does so using the modern day fire and maneuver of Army helicopters. Helicopters are also used on the initial aerial reconnaissance, when the LRRP leader and the assigned pilot select primary and alternate landing and pickup zones. The teamwork between pilot and patrol leader is essential, and the bond of mutual respect grows incredibly strong when this teamwork is put to the test of fire. The men on the ground realize that their lives are in the hands of the pilots. Likewise, the pilots are well aware of the unwavering trust that spurs on these Infantrymen, to whom the airmen affectionately refer as "supergrunts".

The six men were spread out along the dirt-road which served as a rehearsal site. The claymores, the tug cords for communication, and the rear security with the AN/PRC-25 radio had been placed as if by a play director. Sergeant Brown slowly talked his men through the prisoner snatch until the desired degree of teamwork had been

achieved. After much drilling, the men of LRRP 7 returned to the barracks to get themselves and their equipment ready.

A few hours later the six men were climbing into the open door Huey that was to penetrate the D Zone canopy and disgorge the hunters. Each man was completely green and black, but the camouflage did not hide the apprehension. The last few minutes of relaxation somehow became less and less relaxing, although the men knew that hitting and ground, just like the first tackle of a football game, would steady their nerves.

The helicopter is by far the most common method used to infiltrate the LRRP into enemy controlled land. Alternate methods are: the stay-behind, whereby a patrol remains in a previously occupied base camp or pick-up zone to observe the adversary; the drop-off, whereby a patrol rides into its assigned area as passengers of a reconnaissance force or convoy; and walk-in, whereby a patrol uses the old Infantry trick of walking cross-country.

One additional method of infiltration is used by the LRRP, but only as a last resort. When a hole through the jungle or forest cannot be found, a patrol can rappel into its area of operation. Estimating the height of the trees and contingency planning for encountering the enemy at the bottom of the fireman's pole, though, pose extremely taxing problem. When the normal helicopter method of infiltration is used, a small clearing is selected to minimize the chances of meeting a dug-in opponent. A time near sunset is picked to offer the pilot the advantage of visibility and the patrol the advantage of impending darkness.

Sergeant Brown left the helicopter when it was three feet off the ground, and his five men scrambled after him. The patrol stopped running after 200 meters and crouched for a listening halt. After ten minutes of silence, the radio operator whispered to the command and control ship, "Seven A-OK". The patrol then started moving, this time very slowly, on a different, preplanned azimuth.

The gray jungle was turning into black shadows, and the last trace of overhead light was slipping to the west. A thicket of very dense underbrush was selected for the night's lodging in order to provide concealment for the patrol and difficulty for any searches. The six men quietly assembled into a wheel formation with each man forming a spoke and with the radio in the center. A half an hour guard system was used by passing a wrist watch; but sleep, as always, was light, and at any one time there were several sets of ears attempting to distinguish the sound of a moving human being from the thousands of other sounds that nature has given the tropic jungle night.

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

Dawn found the six men moving. They continued to walk carefully and quietly toward the ambush location. During this 1,500 meter move they monitor the emergency extraction of one patrol that had been spotted, and of another that had made an unsuccessful attempt at a prisoner snatch. It took five hours of tedious cross-country travel to reach the designated ambush site. Patrol 7 moved cautiously into the ambush site position. After a few hours of waiting, the patrol opened fire on three Viet Cong. The action netted two enemy dead and one wounded. The emergency extraction code word was called over the radio. The patrol carried its wounded prey a short distance to the pick-up zone. The men wondered how long it would take for the friends of the deceased to react.

The LRRP that has made contact has lost the element of surprise, and when this happens, stealth becomes practically meaningless.

Well-organized enemy can either trail the patrol or sweep the area like a rabbit hunt. Except for extremely rare circumstances, the patrol that has been seen or heard should be pulled out.

The methods of extraction are basically the same as those of infiltration, with one exception: since gravity prohibits the use of the rappelling technique as a means of getting men from the jungle into the aircraft, a rope extraction kit has been devised. It consists of two 120-foot ropes, secured to the floor of the helicopter and coiled so that each will pay out opposite doors of the helicopter. The ropes are weighted in order to fall through the foliage, and each has a loop, so that two soldiers on the ground, each using a snap link and swiss seat, can secure themselves to the ropes. The helicopter then climbs straight up and hauls the two dangling soldiers to safety. This method of ex-filtration calls for three helicopters, with each lifting two men. Because of the difficulty in the high altitude hovering and vertical climbing, it is imperative for pilots to practice under other than "tracer" conditions. Control of the ex-filtration is often complicated by the difficulty of locating the LRRP from the air. The best method, from the standpoint of security, speed, and accuracy is the signal mirror, although overcast skies often forces the use of panels, smoke grenades, and, in an emergency, tracers or flares.

LRRP 7 arrived panting at the pickup zone. There had been no further enemy contact. Their prize catch, a wounded but very alive Viet Cong soldier, offered little resistance. The small open area which was to serve as the pickup zone was slightly inclined but generally free of obstacles to any helicopter. Since six men

constitute a small fighting force, the clearing virtually eliminated any ground escape route in the event of enemy action. The ten minutes that it took for the rescue team to arrive overhead were hours in the minds of the men on the ground. Sergeant Brown focused the sun on the lead ship and then put away his mirror. The two aircraft floated to the ground, and a few seconds later the patrol was airborne and headed for home.

LRRP's have been used for missions varying from making a damage assessment of a B52 strike to finding a river crossing site for a brigade operation. In many cases the LRRP's found nothing of tactical significance, but the knowledge of this lack of enemy activity can and did save Infantry Battalions a lot of walking. Eyes, ears, and even the nose are used by Infantrymen and this applies equally to the LRRP. The enemy can be observed by patrols overlooking trails. Weapons and vehicles can be heard by patrols that are not close enough to see. And in some cases, odors of the enemy such as cigarette smoke or fish sauce can be smelled before a patrol sees or hears its foe. Whatever the source, intelligence is the goal, and better than seeing, hearing, or smelling the enemy is to bring one back for questioning.

After the debriefing, Sergeant Brown and his men, with proud smiles stretched from ear to ear, traipsed off to scrape the camouflage and mud from their faces, quaff a few beers, and digest the saga in which they had starred. The seven member of their patrol was unable to join that night because of an appointment with Military Intelligence Team.

A message was found in the prisoner's pocket which was to warn a Viet Cong unit that six men had been observed at dusk running from a helicopter into the bushes.

Certainly those six men had not been alone!!



Bob Carroll
- 1966 LRRP
Platoon
Commander

N/75 - 74TH LRP - 173RD LRRP (Continued)**From George Showalter:****Team Alpha Mission – November 22, 1970**

My team was on the way up to the Hawksnest. We had already found a small base camp (several bunkers) and had fired on one to two enemy but we didn't get them. We had to be resupplied with water and some food. Ranger Operations Sergeant John "Titi" Gentry made the drop from a Huey. In moving away quickly from the drop off, the team hit a booby-trap. Team Leader Roberto "Pat" Patino was on point, John "Sky" Wisinski was his slack, company clerk was next (not sure of name), young Latino, myself (George Showalter) and then Robert Blake (tall and skinny). Patino, Wisinski and the Latino went down. I received just a graze across my upper left arm, my M16 stopped shrapnel that would have hit me midsection. I don't believe the clerk nor Blake were hit. Blake was the ATL so he took over. One of Patino's smoke grenades attached to his rucksack ignited which burned him. Wisinski was carrying either an over and under grenade launcher or he had a separate M79 along with his M16. Some of the M79 rounds in his vest took shrapnel without going off. This may have actually saved Wisinski from a possible sucking chest wound or worse.

The young Latino member had a wound to the back of his head, I think. After the explosion, I went to him and he seemed to be having a seizure. I am not sure of other injuries to him. We had to use the jungle penetrator on the medivac to get all three out. I believe Ranger Dave was in the Huey but I am not sure, don't think it was Titi. Patino received the blunt of the booby-trap explosion. Wisinski had both a broken leg (s) and arm (s). I can't remember after seeing him in the hospital (Phu Cat?). At the hospital, Roberto Patino had a sucking chest wound, also other wounds and eventually died.

A few days later, another team (Lima) hit a booby trap. Not sure how close they were to us but we were all in the Tiger Mountains. Martin "Marty" Massito was wounded, not sure the wounds he received.



**1970 Ranger
Roberto Patino
KIA (10-22-70)**

From Mikey Potter:**Small World,**

Went to Sam's Club on Thursday morning and wandered over towards the book rack. There was a gentleman standing there with a Black Hat on. The hat had a set of Master Blaster wings and a Ranger tab over them. Right side had Viet Nam 65-70 and the left side had Spec Ops on it. I walked up and said Airborne! He replied. I asked him who he had served with in Viet Nam. Said, 82nd, 101st, Special Forces and finally got around to the 173rd. I asked him who he was with in the "Herd" and he said the LRRP's. I asked when. He said 66 and I asked him his name, he said Jones and before he could get Larry out I said "Sweat Pea". He got a big smile on his face and then I introduced myself. He remembered who I was and we talked for almost an hour about who was still around and who wasn't. Funny thing he lives no more than 15-20 minutes from depending on the traffic. It had been 47 years since I'd seen him.



**Mikey Potter (65-66)
at ARVN Ranger
Camp in TU DUC**

Ranger Hall Of Fame

Congratulation to Jim Fowler, Team Juliet 1969, for his induction into the Ranger Hall Of Fame.



**2014 Ranger
Jim Fowler
(Team Juliet 1968)
induction into
RHOF**

Here is Jim's RHOF submission narrative: "CSM(R) Fowler is a battle hardened Ranger combat veteran. As one of approximately 200 enlisted Rangers in 1969, CSM(R) Fowler was recruited by the 74th Infantry Detachment Long Range Patrol to serve with the detachment conducting Long Range

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

**1SG James
Fowler, B Co, 3rd
Battalion, 75th
Ranger**

Reconnaissance for the 173d Airborne Brigade in Vietnam, re-designated as N Company (RANGER) 75th Infantry 1 February 1969. CSM(R) Fowler was twice decorated for VALOR for "complete disregard for his own personal safety" when he exposed himself to intense enemy small arms fire and effectively engaged the enemy, thereby eliminating the enemy threat and allowing successful completion of the Ranger Mission. As a Ranger Instructor his tough realistic demanding standards ensured his Ranger Students were prepared to assume their role as Rangers and Leaders throughout the Army. CSM(R) Fowler was personally selected to serve as the original First Sergeant for B Company, 3d Ranger Battalion when it activated on 3 October 1984. He was instrumental in the development of Squad through Battalion Standard Operating Procedures and Battle Drills that enabled the battalion to be certified as trained and prepared to assume its role in the total force. As the Commandant of the Henry Caro Noncommissioned Officer Academy, he was instrumental in the development of the Squad Leader (Basic Noncommissioned Officer) and Platoon Sergeant (Advanced Noncommissioned Officer) Program of Instruction. As the Command Sergeant Major of the Infantry School he provided input on doctrine, training, new weapons, new equipment and safety for the Infantry Force. CSM(R) Fowler is a proven Ranger Leader who "Readily displayed the intestinal fortitude required to fight on to the Ranger Objective and complete the mission" as reflected by his personal selection for demanding assignments. CSM(R) Fowler's influence on the Army and the Ranger community remain evident to this day. **RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!**



**Left SSG Jim Fowler
TL Juliet
and Chip Loring**

The 173rd Airborne Brigade Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol / Rangers now have a total of 14 of our members in the Ranger Hall Of Fame. Impressive number representing our unit: He will join 13 other 173rd Abn. Bde. lurps inducted into the RHOF:

Roy Boatman (68-70)
Roger Brown (66-70)
Henry Caro (70)
David Dolby (69)
Larry Fletcher (69-70)
Vladimir Jakovenko (66-67)
John Lawton (69-70)

Santos Matos (69-70)
Frank Moore (68-71)
William Palmer (66)
Laszlo Rabel (68)
Patrick Tadina (66-70)
Carl Vencill (66-67)



**1970 Rangers
David Cummings
and TL Edward
"Professor" Welch**

**LRRP / RANGER
"T" Tango –
5 tours 1966-71**



These hardcore N Company Rangers of the Sons of Mosby Motorcycle Association braved the cold and rain of March to ride down to Florida and visit Top Moore before he passed. He had been ailing so they decided to ride down and cheer him up. I am sure they accomplished that. Knowing Big Frank, the sight of three sniveling, shivering, wet and miserable Rangers was bound to make him feel better.



**Bill Wilkinson (68-71)
Carl Millinder (70-71)
Rudy Teodosio (70-71)
with Frank "Top"
Moore (68-71)**

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

Quiz

Anyone know any of these ladies?

Updated Unit Director Message:

Members, we are now half through 2015 and still looking for team members who served in our unit 1965-71. I continue to update a list of who served which contains around 700 names



173rd LRRP-LRP-RANGERS VIETNAM



173rd Airborne Brigade
Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol / Rangers

Reunion September 7th – 11th (leaving on the 12th)
Golden Nugget Hotel, Las Vegas

Hello

Our unit is having a gathering in Vegas and I have included a Reunion Registration form with this letter to you. We are inviting the chopper members who supported us in our mission inserts and extractions. If you need information or have questions do call me or contact Ron Thomas (702) 303-0011. Be sure to bring your spouse, family members and friends to the event. Banquet will be held on Thursday evening Sept. 11th.

Robert Henriksen (360) 393-7790
Unit Director: 173rd Airborne Brigade Lrrp/Lrp/Ranger

If you want to know who is attending this reunion, call me.

and also active contact list of members currently in commo with me. Members listed with me, as active, is currently 179 and 8 deceased member's spouses / 2 family members. The active list only contains members who are in contact with me directly and have given me their contact information. Active members receive emails and mailed letters from me, so if your only contact is through this Patrolling magazine, you need to contact me. Both documents "Names of Who Served in Unit" and "Members Contact List" is available on request. I have been collecting all information / documents / articles / photos and stories from members since 2001. Have received a lot of photos and photo albums from members which I have scanned at high resolution to preserve them. Many of the photos have members not identified, so each email I send out will have attached photo to be ID with names, year, location and any comment.

Be sure to contact me if your contact information has changed. Contact me for any information / questions / comments.

Robert "twin" Henriksen – Unit Director (360) 393-7790

Fletcher "Fletch" Ruckman

A member of our unit, "Fletch" passed away Dec. 31st. He served in our unit in 1967-68 with Team 3, six-man team



**Fletcher
Ruckman – 173rd
ABN LRRP**

with 173rd Airborne Brigade Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol which later became 74th Long Range Patrol / Infantry. He also served with A/3/ 503rd 173rd Airborne Brigade. Fletcher was very active with our unit and always attended every Ranger Reunion, so many of us got to know him. His hobby was weapons which he built. He was an expert on the subject. If you had a question about a certain weapon, Fletch was the one to call.

The following members attended his memorial service: Pat Tadina (66-70), Joe Marquez (70), Dave Gowen (68-69), Sid Smith (66-67), Donald Austin (67-68), John Jersey (67-68), Albert Ortiz (67), Robert Henriksen (71) and Gary Norton (P/CO), John Chester (75thRRA).

He will be missed by all who knew him.



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

Characters

by Tom Eckhoff (Team Kilo 69-70)

Fletcher Ruckman, Roy Boatman, Phil Kossa, all interesting characters I am very thankful to have known, and shared time with, in my life.

Roy Boatman, most of you in the Association know of first hand, was my first Team Leader, Kilo Team, when we arrived in N Co. mid June of 1969. Roy took me, Jim Andrews, Hal Hermann, and Steve Schooler under his wing for training, and we ran several interesting missions in the next few weeks. We were in the jungle together somewhere far away when Apollo 11 landed on the moon in July 1969.

Phil Kossa, was Roy Boatman's ATL of Kilo Team, and was seriously wounded on a mission sometime shortly before our arrival, so we never met in country. We did eventually meet at Ft Benning in 1996.

Phil had attended college, while working very hard at rehab so he could return to the Army. He successfully returned to the Army, earning a Commission. When we met in 1996, Phil was a Major, stationed at Ft. Bragg, 18th Airborne Corps. Roy, being the character he was, always continued to look after his men. He and Phil both lived in Fayetteville, where they spent quality time together. 1998 saw Phil assigned to a hated leg unit IT department at Ft. Snelling Minnesota for 18 months. Roy insisted my wife Robi and I should continue to look after him while he was away, and we did.

Phil was definitely a character, spending every Holiday at our home while he was in Minnesota...memorable times, indeed.

March 9, 2001, Major, Phillip Kossa, November Company Veteran, having suffered greatly with Hepatitis C and many complications for some time, died at his home in Fayetteville, NC. Phil's interment was to be at Arlington National Cemetery, March 19, 2001.

Roy also introduced me to Fletcher Ruckman, 74th INF. LRP, at those earlier reunions. Fletcher was another great character who lived in Philadelphia. I had the pleasure to see Fletch and his wife Margaret at several reunions. Phil Kossa's death brought us together once again. I was able to fly from Minneapolis to Philadelphia, and stay at Fletch and Margaret's home. I will always remember the Irish meal we had at a friendly local establishment on Saturday, St Patty's Day, 2001.

Next morning, Fletch and I headed to Washington DC in his Dodge pickup. I had never visited that part of the world before, and Fletch was a great tour guide. He said "We are

going to DC and might be in a bad neighborhood, you better have a good knife". He gave me a great Benchmade folder, which I still have today.

He gave me an exceptional tour of the city and the monuments, culminating with the Viet Nam Memorial. There I was able to locate my friend and team mate Steven Thomas Schooler's name on the Wall, KIA 13NOV69. Fletch found Lazlo Rabel, KIA 13NOV68. Medal of Honor.

Late afternoon found us at Colonel John Lawton's beautiful home in Virginia, where we joined Roy Boatman and Pat Tadina. There around a big oak table, with some glasses of brown liquid libation, I had the Honor and great pleasure to hear many interesting stories from these men, warriors all. Stories and conversation went on late into the night. The next day we met COL. James and COL. Lawton at Arlington and drove to the Columbarium where Phil was to be interred. Phil received a Full Honors Funeral, with Army Band, Caisson, Firing Party, and Flag Fold provided by the Third Infantry Division, Old Guard. On the day of his funeral, Phillip Kossa was promoted to Lt. Colonel. Roy Boatman removed his Ranger Black Beret from his head and placed it on top of the urn in the wall. Forever with Phil. Fletch gave his to Phil's widow.

Fletch and I headed back to Philadelphia after spending time with Phil's family and friends. We stopped at a couple historical spots on the way, where I took many photos with my 35 millimeter SLR, only to find out the film never wound and was not exposed. Unfortunately, no photos of the trip exist. I spent the night at the Ruckman's home, Fletch dropped me at the airport early and I got back to Minnesota.

I do miss these characters. I am so very thankful to have known them, and had them in my life.

Roy Boatman and his son Darrell are also interred nearby in the columbarium.

I was fortunate to visit all their graves in 2012.



Lynch, James, Eckhoff, Ruckman, Boatman, Layton

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

Lost My Dog Tag on a Mission

By Jim Brookmiller (Team Charlie F/O 69-70)

Kilo Team was inserted into area where there was suspected VC activities and a base camp. Team members were Jim Samples, Gary Cupit, Tom Eckhoff, James Andrew and myself. Contact was made against the VC and during the fire fight James Andrew and I were wounded. Gunship support / Huey got us out of there in one piece.

Lost my dog tag on that day and said the following when getting to the rear "Shoot I lost my dog tag". Over the years I asked God to please return it to me.

38 years later, I got a call on a Sunday morning and this person said "Is your RA # this" First thing I said was – "damn the VA won't leave you alone even on Sunday". The person on the phone said "NO, during my recent trip to Vietnam, I found your dog tag in a token shop, just outside Saigon, and bought it for a \$1. Thought, you might want it back".

I told him that it was impossible, as I was in the jungle and got wounded that day and it was lost forever. He said well it does have blood on it and would you like it back? I said hell yes!! He never would tell me how he found me but he sent it to me. The odd thing about this, I had just before this call, went to bed and asked God "Your taking such a long time getting my Dog Tag back – what's the problem." I have it with me everyday.



1969 - James Andrew & Tom Eckhoff



1967 - Lrrp John Morrison



**Author "Harry" Bell
with choice of weapon,
KIA 5/12/1969**



**1971 – Captured 51mm
anti-aircraft weapon**



1971 - One of 5 Ranger Teams for blocking NVA retreat

I have been fortunate in having a job that has allowed me to hang around the Army after retiring from active duty. There is a proposal to modernize our hand grenades which today are essentially the same ones we carried in the later stages of Vietnam (M-67 baseball type). This is one proposal. No pins or spoons. The knob is a 3-position selector: Safe, Fragmentation, and Blast. It is dual purpose, frag or concussion grenade (I won't try to explain how that works, my head still hurts having the engineer guy explain it to me). You take it off safe by selecting frag or blast then depress the knob with your thumb and hold it in. This equates to pull pin and hold spoon. When you throw or let the knob go it starts the regular 3-5 second fuse. I don't know, I kind of like the idea of no pins or spoons to snag on stuff or taped down so much it takes longer to put in action. Not sure about the dual purpose though. In the heat of battle I might mean to set it on concussion grenade to throw it into a thatched hooch. But if I accidentally set it on position 2 those walls I'm standing next to ain't going stop any frag.

You guys are experts, I would like to hear your opinions on it. Email me: david.c.cummings.CTR@mail.mil

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

From the Editor, Dave Cummings: For some time now we have been begging for stories from you guys. Some issues I had to just pull stuff out of my butt. This issue you guys came through, albeit with some sadness in the case of Fletch's passing. Just finished editing these mission stories and now my hands are shaking and I need a beer. You guys were FRIGGIN CRAZY!

(PATROLLING EDITOR'S NOTE: Some of the November Company stories were moved to the Feature Articles section to balance out the magazine content, so if you want to read all the stories Dave was referring to, please check the Features Articles in addition to the Unit Report. Thank you.)

**P/75 - 79TH LRP**

Unit Director - Terry B. Roderick

The Papa Company Rangers, also known as the Red Devil Rangers, Ghosts, Eyes and Ears of the 5th Infantry Division, and the Devils With Painted Faces, gathered in the Colorado Springs/Cripple Creek, Colorado, area August 14-17, 2014 for our Reunion. We were hosted by Ranger Carney Walters and his wife, Mary and they did a heck of a job making our visit memorable and fun.



Colonel Earl Rudder, who was the 2nd Ranger Battalion Commanding Officer during WWII and commanded the 2nd and 5th Ranger Battalions during the D-Day invasion), Mrs. Marcia Moen Brakke (a co-author of several WWII Ranger biographies, and niece of Ranger Ace Parker of the 5th Bn.), and Mrs. Lynn Towne (daughter of Ranger Maurice "Jet" Jackson of the 2nd Bn.), along with the Joseph Rippetoe family.



Harry E. Carney Walters 2014

Despite the altitude and breathing issues some of us had, it was a great time. The weather was perfect, we had at least 20 company members attend from all over the country. Many brought loved ones and we had a wonderful "guest list" that brought some quality into our dwindling gene pool. Ha! Ha! We were joined by WWII Ranger descendants, Mrs. Anne Rudder Erdman (daughter of Ranger



Lynn Towne, Anne Rudder Erdman, Marcia Moen Brakke, Col. Joe Rippetoe and Rita, and Tessa and Talia

P/75 - 79TH LRP (Continued)

We felt so honored that the Rippetoes would come down and spend the weekend with us and we all had a great time. Their son, Airborne Ranger Captain Russell Rippetoe, from Arvada, Colorado, was a member of the 75th Ranger Regiment, assigned to Co. A, 3rd Ranger Battalion, at Fort Benning, Ga. He was a high school graduate of Broomfield High School and was commissioned from the University of Colorado Army ROTC as an Artillery Officer. His first assignment was with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C. and he was later selected to become a Fire Support Officer in A/3/75th. His first deployment with the 3rd Ranger Battalion was to Afghanistan in 2002. During a 2nd deployment to Iraq, on April 3rd, 2003, Captain Rippetoe and two other Rangers were killed by a car bomb as they approached an Iraqi woman who seemed to need assistance. Those who knew Captain Rippetoe will say he was doing what he always did, trying to help others in need. His Father, retired Lt. Colonel Joe Rippetoe, who was also an Airborne Ranger and served two tours in Vietnam, and is a 100% disabled veteran like many of you reading this. He came with his lovely wife, Rita, daughter Rebecca, and her husband, Tom, and their two daughters, Tessa (8) and Talia (6). Before Russell came home from one of his deployments overseas, he had ordered a new Anniversary Edition 2003 Harley Davidson Fat Boy and the family told us he sure enjoyed riding it. His brother-in-law, Tom, rode that same motorcycle in the Veterans Parade in Cripple Creek and this was his 2nd time participating in this event riding Russell's bike. For all of us Rangers, it felt like Russell was here with us and smiling down on his family. Ranger blood surely runs deep in this family from Colorado and you all should be proud of them. We are!!



**Dave Gates,
Joe Rippetoe, and
Duke DuShane
outside
Cripple Creek**

In addition, we were so pleased to be joined by the daughters and wife of our own, Ranger Johnny Lawrence, who died on April 4, 1971, from wounds suffered during a contact on 1 April, 1971. His former wife, Deanna Moser, attended for her first time and there were several Rangers there who served with her husband. We had met the daughters, Kelly

and Jaci, previously and they have become an integral part of our Papa Company Family. Their brother, Johnny, joined us in Cherokee, N.C. a few years ago and then had a tragic motorcycle wreck where he was injured seriously not too long afterwards. He is currently living in Maryland and working to get himself better and stronger every day. The guys who served with his Dad say he is the spitting image of his Father. We wish him well in his recovery and plan to find a way to get him to our next reunion, come hell or high water.

On Saturday, August 16th, we all got into our vehicles and headed to the small town of Cripple Creek, for the 22nd Annual Veterans Rally they hold every year. When we arrived, we were informed by Carney and Mary that the Papa Company Rangers would be the Honored Guests of the Rally this year, or what I'd call the "Belles of the Ball".



Group shot before Death March 2014

It was the first time for many of our members to be honored in such a way that it became very emotional during the day during several instances. I've been fortunate enough over the years to be honored in different ways at different veteran events. But it was nothing like this weekend in Colorado. We were directed to march right behind the International Color Guard and the streets of this small Colorado mining town were packed with people who were there to honor veterans of all conflicts.



Here they come 2014 Cripple Creek

P/75 - 79TH LRP (Continued)

The parade went downhill for a few blocks and then began a slight uphill portion that nearly wiped out our company. Except for the Ranger training and perseverance and bulldog determination, they might have accomplished this nearly impossible feat. Kudos to Jerry Yonko and a couple others who assisted our Dave Gates who marched with us in his wheelchair. Dave suffered a major stroke about 4-5 years ago and is slowly recovering and Jerry and others made sure he could join us as we were being honored by the crowd. At times it made the hair stand up on your arms and was so emotional.



Rangers on a Roll

Once we recovered from the parade, we were directed to a covered seating area that they had set up for us. Once the program started, we were shortly thereafter brought up before the crowd and a short description of our unit and some of the things we accomplished were pointed out to the crowd by the host speaker.

I'd like to add that we were joined by Colonel Joe Rippetoe as several of our guys cajoled him to come up and join us as we were being honored. Joe had told some of us that during his service in the Army, he had never been assigned to a Ranger Company that he could actually call his own unit. He was involved in some special operations of his own in Vietnam and worked with small groups of soldiers doing some clandestine missions that many had never heard about. We were proud and downright tickled to have him join us and we're adopting him and his family whether they like it or not!! His wife, Rita, told me that he totally enjoyed the visit with us and he felt good about being around Rangers again. He continues to work for veteran rights and is a big supporter of the Ranger Regiment and has an award named for his son that is awarded during the Best Ranger Competition that is held every year.

During this ceremony, a wonderful lady they called Little Sis, Monica Harvey, from Stapleton, Nebraska, came down off the stage while we were standing in formation in front of the entire crowd and she sang a lovely song called "Welcome Home" to us personally. By that I mean she came up face to face with each and every one of us and sang to us like we were the only person there and offered hugs and a smile and any form of affection or salutation we offered. It became a tear jerker of the 1st class variety and there were few dry eyes when she got done. Not only from us but from the crowd itself. A truly wonderful place for any veteran to visit if they ever get the chance. People came from states all over the country for this event which I had never heard of before. Little Sis was definitely a high water point for many of us. She was classy and sang like a bird. What a moving event her singing to us developed into!!



Welcome Home, Brother G from Lil Sis, Monica Harvey

In addition, Jaci, Kelly, and Deanna marched with us and this drew the attention of many who observed them with us. Probably because they are all so cute, but I'm sure most understood the significance of them being with us and how much it means to us for them to join us. I did not notice them having much problem going uphill like the rest of us. Ha! Ha! Jaci's husband, Lance Glidden, was an Air Force F-16 pilot who retired from the Air National Guard in 2012.

I could go on and on and tell you what a great experience Carney and Mary set up for us all. I've never had our guys come up to me before and say they wanted this reunion to go on and on and never have it end. They hosted us at their ranch in Guffey, and we all enjoyed the scenery and atmosphere we enjoyed there that week. Many thanks to Rick Chitwood for providing us all with a really nice reunion shirt and his other contributions over the past years. Papa Company Rangers in attendance, and some with loved ones that would take an entire page to document, were:

P/75 - 79TH LRP (Continued)

Carney Walters	Rick Chitwood
Jim Hussey	Steve Loggins
Duke DuShane	Steve Nash
Jay Lutz	Dave Gates
Ted Tilson	Tom Sherman
Tom Perry	Scott Whaley
Richard King	Pat Stegall
Clyde Tanner	Ed Hoppe
Eddie Johnston	Jerry Cornelius
Sam Burnette	Roger Honeyager

If I missed any of you, please forgive me.

In closing, I'd say it was a very memorable event and one we'll look back on and have much to talk about. I'd be remiss if I didn't "throw a shout out" to our adopted brother, Bob Murphy, and let him know we are thinking of him as he battles some serious health issues in Oz. Knowing he has "The Lovely Mary Rossi Murphy" by his side makes me know he has some wonderful support with him. We missed them this year along with John and Bonnie Beckwith from Seattle. They usually make all of our events but Bonnie had some things going on that were more important health-wise and we'll be sure to have another reunion for them in the future!! Blue skies and fair winds to you all.

Rangers Lead the Way!!! Ranger Terry Roderick

**D/151 LRP/RANGER**

Unit Director - Tom Hughel

2014 Reunion

We had a good turnout again this year. We missed those that did not attend, but hope to see them in 2016. As we age, these reunions become more important because we never know if it will be the last time we connect. Several of us arrived on Thursday, August 20th. We reminisced and split off into different groups and headed to area restaurants for supper. Some played golf earlier in the day. The golfers met again Friday morning for another trip to the links. The motorcycle ride on Friday turned into a motorcade across southeastern Indiana countryside. Non-bikers were invited to follow the route in their cars or trucks, but due to the weather even the bikers had to travel by car or truck. The ride was to Stones Tavern in Millhousen, Indiana for lunch.

On the ride back, we made a stop at Bill Schoettmer's. Bill was too ill to attend the reunion (Bill passed away on 1/25/14). Friday night was a pitch in. The meal on Friday was started by Jane Justus, who continues to provide great food for the meal. Other wives decided to participate a few years ago, so that Jane wouldn't have to do it all.

Saturday, we tried something new. We had a picnic provided by the Association, although, several people brought food and supplies, too. Todd Eads (Chuck Eads' son) and Greg Stewart (Chuck Wallace's son-in-law) volunteered for grill duty. We couldn't have asked for a better day, weather wise.



We had the use of the Co. D cabin at Camp Atterbury for the weekend, too. Terry and Yvonne McDonald stayed there. We had a couple from Illinois there on Saturday to interview several of our rangers for a living history to be taped for possible use on the History Channel. They said they would be glad to come back and do some more interviews. We'll try to set something up for a time when several members, who haven't been interviewed, can participate.

The banquet, raffle, and auction Saturday night were a success again this year. Doug Hagan sang and conducted the auction. At the Association meeting, it was voted that the current officers would retain their current positions for two more years. President, Vice President and Treasurer have stated they will step down at that time and not seek reelection. So, if you or anyone you know in the Association would be interested in those positions, let it be known. We're looking forward to seeing even more rangers at the next reunion in 2016!

2014 Veterans Day

The Association was represented in both the Veterans Day parades in Evansville, IN on November 8th and in Indianapolis, Indiana on November 11th.

F/51 LRP (Continued)

Lineage

Our group is unique in being the only National Guard unit to serve in combat in Vietnam. Being from Indiana we are part of the history of that state's Army National Guard. Below is that history.

Who We Were And What We've Become

Function	Date	Description
Organized and Federally Recognized in the Indiana National Guard at Indianapolis	9 December 1940	Antitank Company, 151st Infantry, an element of the 38th Division (later Redesignated as the 38th Infantry Division)
Inducted into Active Federal Service	17 January 1941	at Indianapolis
Inactivated	9 November 1945	at Camp Anza, California
Organized and Federally Recognized at Greenfield	11 April 1949	Tank Company, 151st Infantry
Reorganized and Redesignated at Greenfield	1 February 1959	Combat Support Company, 1st Battle Group, 151st Infantry
Reorganized and Redesignated at Greenfield	1 March 1963	Company B, 2nd Battalion, 151st Infantry
Reorganized and Redesignated and Relieved from Assignment to the 38th Division at Greenfield	1 December 1967	Company D, 151st Infantry
Ordered into Active Federal Service at Greenfield	13 May 1968	Company D, 151st Infantry
Released from Active Federal Service and Reverted to State Control at Greenfield	26 November 1969	Company D, 151st Infantry
Consolidated with Company E, 151st Infantry (Organized and Federally Recognized 1 December 1967 at Muncie) and designated at Muncie	1 April 1971	Company D, 151st Infantry
Converted and Redesignated at Muncie	1 March 1977	Troop A, 1st Squadron, 238th Cavalry, an Element of the 38th Division
Reorganized and Redesignated at Muncie	3 October 1986	Long Range Surveillance Detachment, 1st Squadron, 238th Cavalry
Converted and Redesignated at Muncie	1 October 1989	151st Infantry Detachment
Location Changed to Indianapolis	1 September 1990	151st Infantry Detachment
Location Changed to Darlington	1 September 1996	151st Infantry Detachment
Location Changed to Seymour	1 October 2007	151st Infantry Detachment
Reorganized and Redesignated at Seymour	1 September 2008	Troop C, 2nd Squadron, 152nd Cavalry Regiment



ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ)

Unit Director - Bill Miller



Fellow Rangers and Co Vans:

Congratulations

Colonel Robert Tonsetic (Ret) was inducted into the Ranger Hall Of Fame on July 16, 2014. Colonel Tonsetic served as the Sr. Advisor to the 44th Vietnamese Ranger Battalion of the 4th Ranger Group in 1970.

Ranger Tonsetic is also the author three books on the Vietnam War: (Warriors, Days of Valor, and Forsaken Warriors). Congratulations from your Ranger Advisor brothers on a job well done.



MSG Brayman completed Ranger Training in June 1951 and remained at the Ranger Training Command as a member of the Physical Training and the Combat Conditioning Committee. MSG Brayman remained assigned to the Ranger Training Command until March 1954. MSG Brayman was featured in the television presentation, The Big Picture: "Ready Ranger" a weekly television report to the Nation on the status of the Army. The film followed MSG Brayman, his Ranger Buddy, RGR Ricketts and their Squad throughout their Ranger Training.

MSG Brayman returned to the Ranger Training Command in April 1961 and served as a Senior Instructor while assigned to 44th company, 4th Student Battalion, which was re-designated as the 3rd Ranger Company, 1st Student Battalion, the School Brigade in May 1965.

MSG Brayman utilized his Ranger Training during his assignment as an Advisor to the 52nd Vietnamese Ranger Battalion, 10th Division Advisor Detachment, III Corp Advisor Group (Team 95) from April 1966-April 1967. He was awarded the Vietnamese Ranger Badge and the Vietnamese Staff Service Medal, Second Class for his service.

Upon completion of his tour in Vietnam, MSG Brayman returned to the 3rd Ranger Company and served from May 1967 through March 1969 as a Senior Instructor and Chief, Patrolling Committee. The Patrolling Committee was responsible for teaching Patrolling to the Ranger Students, and every leadership course conducted by the Infantry School.

MSG Brayman returned to Vietnam in May 1969 and medically evacuated with encephalitis after two months in country. MSG Brayman was placed on the Temporary Disabled Retired List in March 1970 and permanently retired in February 1972 with more than 23 years of service.

MSG Brayman was the epitome of a Ranger Noncommissioned Officer. He lived the Ranger Creed and shared his knowledge of Ranger tactics and operations with Soldiers throughout his distinguished Ranger career. MSG Brayman's tactical and technical expertise and professionalism influenced numerous Ranger Students and enhanced their survivability in combat.



Photos courtesy of Bill Miller

MSG (Ret) William Brayman

Provided By: Mike Martin

MSG (Ret) Brayman enlisted in the Army on 14 October 1948. During his career he served at Fort Bliss, Texas; Fort Sheridan, Illinois; and Fort Benning, Georgia. MSG Brayman also served overseas in Germany and the Republic of Vietnam.

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (Continued)**Sitrep: #1**

For everyone's information Jerry Devlin's book "Paratrooper" is now available for purchase through Amazon and can be downloaded on your Kindle. Jerry is also the author of "Silent Wings", and "Back to Corregidor."

Sitrep: #2

Fellow Rangers, as you can see this is a short submission. I need your stories and photos. The stories do not have to be too long, but if they are I can break them down into a two part series. Please help me out here.



**Vietnamese Ranger
on Patrol with
American Advisor
in the background.
Photo Provided
courtesy of the Los
Angeles Chapter of
the Biet Dong Quan.**

Quote:

Remember officers and soldiers that you are free men, fighting for the blessings of liberty.

- General George Washington, 1776

Mu Nau

Bill Miller, Unit Director

Winter Issue Report

Fellow Rangers and Co Vans:

First of all I want to thank all who attended our reunion in Atlanta, GA on Sept 26, 27 and 28. The Embassy Suites was the host for our rooms and luncheon. From all the comments and cards I have received since it seems that everyone had a good time.

After our short business meeting on Saturday morning there was a presentation by the Atlanta Vietnam Veteran's Association and it was truly amazing at the dept of what they are about and the projects they undertake. Many thanks to John Douglas, Tom Hilliard and Kurt Mueller for their great presentation.

Secondly Kim Scholes, Regent for the "Cherokee Chapter" National Society of the Daughter's of the American Revolution, gave a presentation on their organization and what they are about and the projects they undertake. Kim also presented us with a framed award Certificate that states:

75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc.
US Army Ranger Advisors Biet Dong Quan
In recognition of Valor, Service, Sacrifice,
during the Vietnam War.

I want to personally thank Kim and the organization for the Three Hundred Dollar check to help fund the reunion. We do appreciate your participation.

Saturday evening we had the banquet dinner at the Royal China Restaurant and a good time was had by all. I want to thank Ha Thu Nguyen for all her help with the Vietnamese and the decorations. We had 30 Rangers and wives and significant others along with approximately the same number of Vietnamese Ranger, Naval, and Air Force personnel.

The Color Guard duties were handled by local Cub Scouts who did an outstanding job.

Photos to follow:



Linda & Tom Henry



Ichiko Wandke



**Roy Allen, Roy Lombardo, Tom Henry,
John Wilson, Sam Conn**

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (Continued)



**Mary Strobe, Phyllis Gunn,
Nancy Power**



**Mike & Hilda Martin,
Elva Scholes**



**Vietnamese Women singing their
National Anthem**



**Bob Reitz, Freddy
McFerren, Ed Scholes**



Bill Miller, Kim Scholes



Bill & Cherie Lee



**Susan Miller, Mary Ann
& Lon Constantini**



Bill Lee, Karl Fee, Mike Martin, Rod Wijas, Tex Wandke



US Army Ranger Advisors Group Photo

Sitrep: #1

For everyone's information former BDQ advisor Dennis Kim is a military collector/historian seeking BDQ items for collection.

He is looking for anything that former members will part with, and is willing to pay for the items.

He is also conducting research for a book on the 8240Au UNPFK/UNPIK and looking for information and items that can be included in the book.

Contact Dennis at: titanlocker@gmail.com

Mu Nau
Bill Miller, Unit Director



LRRP DETACHMENT-3RD ID

Unit Director - Michael McClintock



It was November 1963, I had just turned 20 years old and after almost two-years' time-in-grade as PFC (E-3) I, and several of my 3rd ID LRRP Detachment brothers, had rapidly advanced through SP/4 (E-4) to SGT (E-5). My enlistment was almost up and I was looking forward to returning home in January 1964. It was a great time to be a Lurp, especially in Germany when beer was only 1 DM (Deutsche Mark) and there were four D-Marks to the dollar. The Berlin Wall had gone up in August of 1961 and the West Germans were thankful to have the U.S. Army between them and the massive forces of East Germany and the Soviet Bloc. On June 26, 1963 President John F. Kennedy gave his now famous "Ich bin ein Berliner" speech in which he commends Berliners on their spirit and dedication to democracy. For the young men of the 3rd ID Detachment his words gave heart to why we had volunteered as LRRPs, and why we were willing to go without promotion to serve in a very special unit. The following is the text of President Kennedy's speech, which serves as a reminder as to what leadership is all about and why the United States is a very special nation:

"I am proud to come to this city as the guest of your distinguished Mayor, who has symbolized throughout the world the fighting spirit of West Berlin. And I am proud to visit the Federal Republic [of Germany] with your distinguished Chancellor who for so many years has committed Germany to democracy and freedom and progress, and to come here in the company of my fellow American, General Clay, who has been in this city during its great moments of crisis and will come again if ever needed."

Two thousand years ago the proudest boast was "civis Romanus sum." Today, in the world of freedom, the proudest boast is "Ich bin ein Berliner." I appreciate my interpreter translating my German! There are many people in the world who really don't understand, or say they don't, what is the great issue between the free world and the Communist world. Let them come to Berlin. There are some who say that communism is the wave of the future. Let them come to Berlin. And there are some who say in Europe and elsewhere we can work with the Communists. Let them come to Berlin. And there are even a few who say that it is true that communism is an evil system, but it permits us to make economic progress. Lass' sic nach Berlin kommen. Let them come to Berlin."

Freedom has many difficulties and democracy is not perfect, but we have never had to put a wall up to keep our people in, to prevent them from leaving us. I want to say, on behalf of my countrymen, who live many miles away on the other side of the Atlantic, who are far distant from you, that they take the greatest pride that they have been able to share with you, even from a distance, the story

of the last 18 years. I know of no town, no city, that has been besieged for 18 years that still lives with the vitality and the force, and the hope and the determination of the city of West Berlin. While the wall is the most obvious and vivid demonstration of the failures of the Communist system, for all the world to see, we take no satisfaction in it, for it is, as your Mayor has said, an offense not only against history but an offense against humanity, separating families, dividing husbands and wives and brothers and sisters, and dividing a people who wish to be joined together. What is true of this city is true of Germany—real, lasting peace in Europe can never be assured as long as one German out of four is denied the elementary right of free men, and that is to make a free choice. In 18 years of peace and good faith, this generation of Germans has earned the right to be free, including the right to unite their families and their nation in lasting peace, with good will to all people. You live in a defended island of freedom, but your life is part of the main. So let me ask you, as I close, to lift your eyes beyond the dangers of today, to the hopes of tomorrow, beyond the freedom merely of this city of Berlin, or your country of Germany, to the advance of freedom everywhere, beyond the wall to the day of peace with justice, beyond yourselves and ourselves to all mankind."

Freedom is indivisible, and when one man is enslaved, all are not free. When all are free, then we can look forward to that day when this city will be joined as one and this country and this great Continent of Europe in a peaceful and hopeful globe. When that day finally comes, as it will, the people of West Berlin can take sober satisfaction in the fact that they were in the front lines for almost two decades. All free men, wherever they may live, are citizens of Berlin, and, therefore, as a free man, I take pride in the words "Ich bin ein Berliner!"

On November 22, 1963 President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas. Since then, the world has become a progressively more complex and inhospitable place. We, the boys of the 3rd ID LRRP Detachment remain proud of our

LRRP DETACHMENT-3RD ID (Continued)

small part in maintaining our County's resolve to preserve democracy in a faraway place during the Cold War, as did our brothers from the Vietnam War, and as Americans are continuing to do today in hot spots around the world.

Lastly, and on a different note, I had heard that our unit had lost one of its more renowned members, Louis (Bill) Kampe. Bill was one of the newly-minted buck sergeants I mentioned at the beginning of this piece (see picture). After leaving Germany in 1964, SGT Kampe stayed in the Army and served in Vietnam. If anyone has any information on his passing, I would appreciate hearing it.

Upon a Midnight Clear...W. Germany 1963

Now that the 2014 holiday season has passed, I think back over fifty years to Christmas 1963 when I was a young GI serving with the 3rd Infantry Division Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) Detachment in Bad Kissingen, W. Germany. The winter nights in Germany were long and cold-- very cold. As an infantryman I was used to being out in the elements with no shelter. That does not mean I liked the cold. It was enough just to have to endure it. At times it would get so cold that it was excruciatingly painful, and it could make grown men cry. I reflect back on this because today I sit comfortably in a warm house while the wind howls and the rain swirls around outside.

I can remember being wet, and I can remember being cold, but the worst was being wet and cold. Under these conditions it was very easy for one to start to feel sorry for oneself, but there were good times too. Occasionally we actually had the luxury of a sleeping bag and a ground cover or air mattress to help



insulate from the cold. My wet camouflage pants and jacket were placed on the groundsheet under the sleeping bag. Inside the sleeping bag at my feet were my damp field clothes. These would be warm and almost dry by morning, instead of being stiff and frozen if left out overnight. My

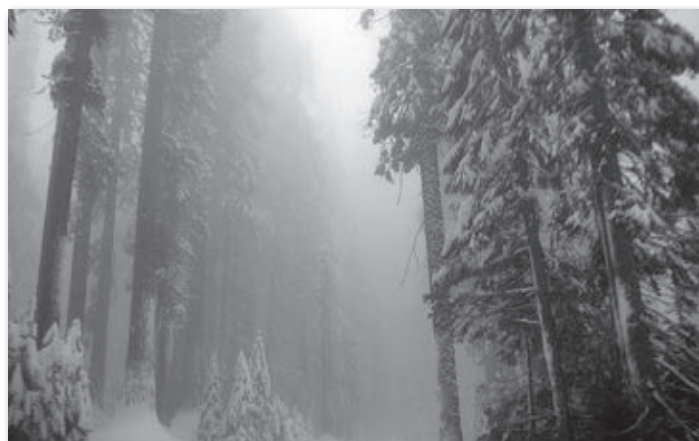
M-14 and canteen were also in the sleeping bag with me. This was somewhat problematic until my body heat warmed them up, but it was better to have them in the sack with me instead of outside where they would freeze. I placed my boots and ruck under the head of my sleeping bag as a pillow, which also helped to keep them from freezing.

Under these circumstances it was almost enjoyable to be outside in the snow. The snow-covered Bavarian forests were absolutely beautiful, especially on a moonlit night. I recall awakening once in the middle of the night and peering out of my sleeping bag at the forest where the trees were backlit by the moonlight and the snow was glistening. The wonderment of that moment and of that image has stayed with me all these years. It also gave me cause for reflection. The cataclysmic war in Europe had ended just eighteen years before—two years after I was born—but there was still a war of sorts going on between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. World War II was over, but in its aftermath came the Cold War. My time in Germany was at the height of the Cold War and I will always be proud of the small part that I, and my 3rd ID LRRP comrades, played in this drama that has yet to see the curtain fall.

Looking out at this wondrous winter landscape, while warm and snug in my sleeping bag, I thought about the G.I.s who had served in WWII and, more recently, in Korea, not so long removed from my time in service. They, as had their forebears, endured unbearable hardships in far-off places where our Country needed them. Regardless of how cold and miserable I may have been after that, or how sorry I may have felt for myself, I took strength from the fact that my situation was not unique and that I was but one of many in a long line of soldiers who had a job to do. We did our jobs and moved on. Since then, new generations of young American men and women have stepped forward to serve our Country's needs in Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan, as well as other lesser-known locales—all with their own kinds of hardships, not the least of which were extreme cold or heat.

As I reflect back on that clear midnight view I think about my time in service, and about those who served with me, before me, and those serving today. Looking out my window into the dark night, as the rain is blowing sideways and coming down in torrents, I am conscious of them standing out there, vigilant and ready, as ever. May God bless them all.

McGeek sends.



SPECIAL OPERATIONS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

15 Aug 2014

During this reporting period our losses have been the lowest in ten years, however that is no comfort to the families of the special operations warriors that have been lost.

Captain Jason B. Jones of the 1st Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) was lost on 2 June, and **Staff Sergeants Jason A. McDonald** and **Scott Studenmund**, both of the 1st Battalion, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) were lost on 9 June.

Three names were added to our legacy section were **Colonel Charles W. Norton** who was the honor graduate of the second class of the special Forces qualification course in 1952. He served with the 8240 Army Unit in the Republic of Korea; MACVSOG in the Republic of Vietnam; commanded the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne). **Lieutenant General John F. Mulholland** commanded the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne); Task Force *DAGGER* in Afghanistan;

Special Operations Command Central at MacDill AFB, Florida; U.S. Army Special Operations Command (Airborne) at Fort Bragg; and as the deputy commander, U.S. Special Operations Command at MacDill AFB; and Sergeant **Michael R. Sims** who served with Company K (Ranger), 75th Infantry (Airborne), supporting the 4th Infantry Division in the Republic of Vietnam.

Admiral William H. McRaven departs from command of USSOCOM at MacDill AFB and will conduct a change of command 28 August when we welcome former Ranger Regiment commander, **General Joseph L. Votel** from his latest command of the Joint Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg, NC.

Geoff Barker
President and CEO,
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MERRILL'S MARAUDERS

5307th Composite Unit (Provisional)

For those interested in the lineage of the 75th Ranger Regiment, it is well worth a visit to the Merrill's Marauders website at: www.marauder.org



This Web-Site Is Hosted By:
ROBERT E. PASSANISI
Merrill's Marauders Association Historian.
Who served with the Marauders as a member
of the White Combat Team, 1st Battalion.

**Bob
Passanisi**

This website was instituted and is maintained by members of the unit themselves, and not only contains the unit history and photos, but also has an extensive collection of links to various books about the Marauders and commentary about everything from the campaign, conditions, and rations.

Gentlemen, we salute you!

During World War II an All Volunteer group of young men came together in the jungles of Burma. From different life styles and every part of the country they came to fight the enemy, each for their own reasons. During their campaigns they were apparently forgotten, frequently lost, occasionally mutinous, and almost always "Magnificent". This site is dedicated to these brave men who served their Country as...

Merrill's Marauders



Close up of Sgt.
George E. Feltwell



Pvt. Harold R. Wentz, with
injured foot, is riding saddle
horse, often a problem with
the jungles overhead growth.



Naubum, Burma, Late April, 1944. Veterinarian, Dawrin Lee, visits with some of his charges. Mules proved to be more-durable than horses under the severe conditions which the Marauders endured. Photo by Lt. David Lubin.



Nhpum Ga, about
April 9, 1944.
Marauder, at Nhpum
Ga cemetery, checks
dog tags of buddy
killed in action during
the 14 day seige at
Nhpum Ga Hill.
Photo by Lt.
David Lubin.



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Two First Cav Ranger teams, Vietnam
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