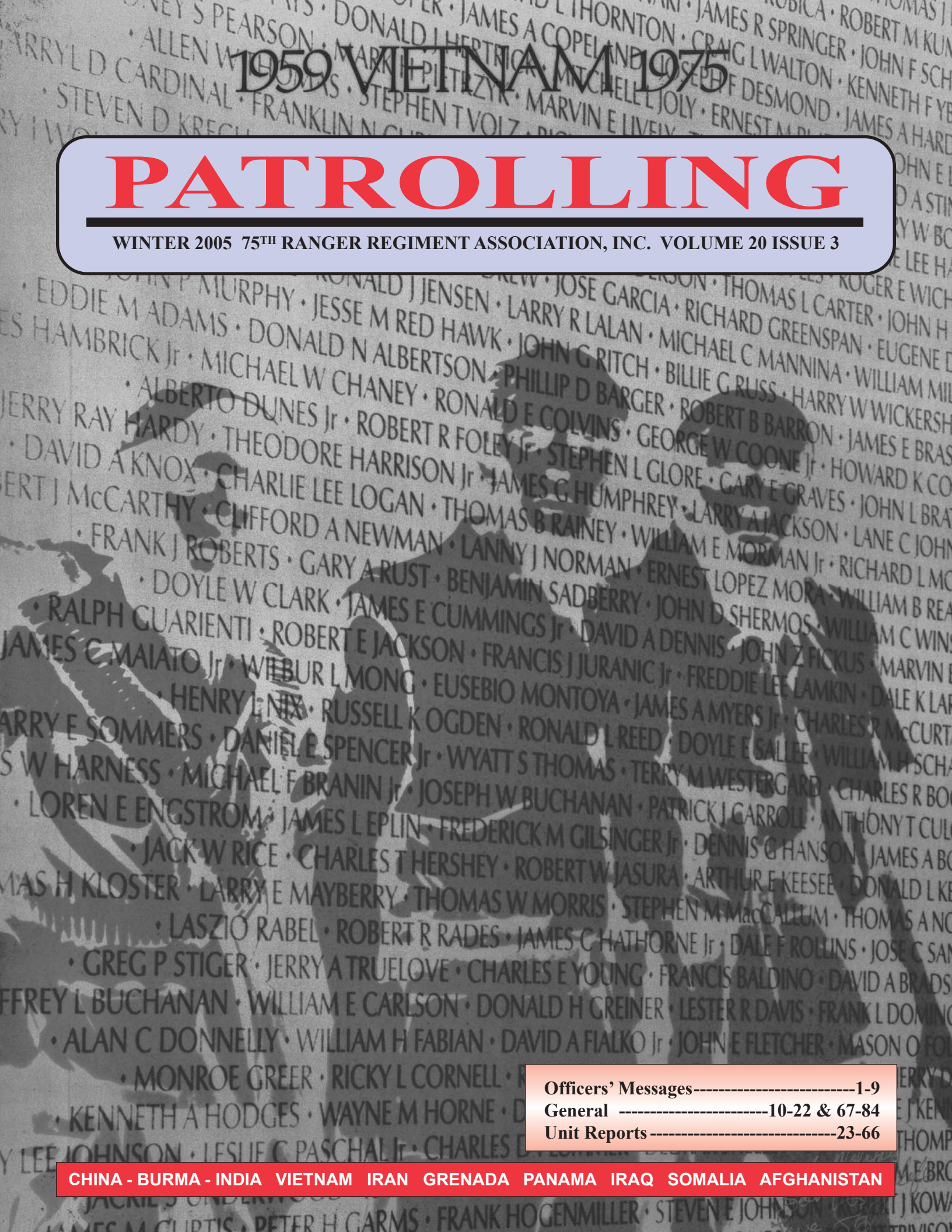


1959 VIETNAM 1975

# PATROLLING

WINTER 2005 75<sup>TH</sup> RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC. VOLUME 20 ISSUE 3



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



The front cover is a rendition of a poster created by Sid Smith, one of our members from N/75, that commemorates the re-dedication or second dedication of the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Wall. Sid has donated the right to reproduce the poster to the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. All the net proceeds from the sale of the poster will go to the following; 10% will go to the Vietnam Veteran Memorial Fund (VVMF), and the balance will go to our Associations member's fund.

The posters will be sold unframed.

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

Ronald Dahle  
4000 Hwy 42 West  
Garner, NC 27529  
Cell: 573-259-7348  
Email: [rdahle@nc.rr.com](mailto:rdahle@nc.rr.com)

**B/75 – C/58 LRP – VII CORPS LRRP**

Marc L. Thompson  
80 Rock Ridge Road  
Morgantown, PA 19543  
H-610-913-8183  
C-610-763-2756  
F-610-873-8665  
Email: [marc@roinet.com](mailto:marc@roinet.com)

**C/75 – E/20 LRP**

Gary E. Dolan  
80 Yoakum Street, Farmingdale, NY 11735-1947  
H-516-249-4496  
F- 866-518-7845  
Email: [gdolan@optonline.net](mailto:gdolan@optonline.net)

**D/75**

Richard “Bear” Papp  
PO Box 405  
Oakwood, TX 75855  
H-903-322-3768

**E/75 - E/50 LRP – 9<sup>th</sup> DIV LRRP**

Robert Copeland  
8 Fieldstone Gate  
Spruce Grove, AB Canada T7X2Z2  
H-780-962-0114  
Email: [copela3@attglobal.net](mailto:copela3@attglobal.net)

**F/75 – F/50 – 25<sup>th</sup> DIV LRRP**

Joe Little  
3616 W. Bohl St.  
Laveen, AZ 85339  
H-623- 877-3797  
Email: [jlittle1@cox.net](mailto:jlittle1@cox.net)

**G/75 – E/51 LRP – 196<sup>th</sup> LRRP**

Tom Nash  
3 Prospect Place  
Kearny, NJ 07032  
Email: [tnash@lrrpranger.org](mailto:tnash@lrrpranger.org)

**H/75 – E/52 LRP – 1st CAV LRRP**

William T. Anton  
H -702-648-9836  
Email: [polar\\_bear\\_01@runbox.com](mailto:polar_bear_01@runbox.com)

**I/75 – F/52 LRP – 1st DIV LRRP**

David Flores  
5116 Lanai St.  
Long Beach, CA 90808  
Email: [lurpteam3@hotmail.com](mailto:lurpteam3@hotmail.com)

**K/75 – E/58 LRP – 4<sup>th</sup> DIV LRRP**

Roger T. Crunk  
1159 19 Road  
Fruita, CO 81521  
H-970-858-4579  
Email: [RTCRUNK@aol.com](mailto:RTCRUNK@aol.com)

**L/75 – F/58 LRP – 1/101<sup>st</sup> LRRP**

Randall White  
N4256 Powell Lake Rd.  
Wetmore, MI 49895  
(906) 387-2318  
Email: [ranwhite@jamadots.com](mailto:ranwhite@jamadots.com)

# UNIT DIRECTORS

**M/75 – 71<sup>st</sup> LRP – 199<sup>th</sup> LRRP**

Steve Houghton  
2116 Howard City-Elmore Rd  
Six Lakes, MI 48886  
H-989-352-7308  
Email: [escort@pathwaynet.com](mailto:escort@pathwaynet.com)

**N/75 – 74<sup>th</sup> LRP – 173<sup>rd</sup> LRRP**

Reed Cundiff  
125 San Ysidro  
Las Cruces, NM  
H-505- 523-5081  
Email: [rcundiff@zianet.com](mailto:rcundiff@zianet.com)

**O/75 – 78<sup>th</sup> LRP**

Michael L. Feller  
16676 6th St.  
Wellston MI 49689  
231 848 4948  
Email: [michigami@kaltelnet.net](mailto:michigami@kaltelnet.net)

**P/75 – 79<sup>th</sup> LRP**

Bill Davis  
50 Montell Street  
Oakland, CA 94611  
H-510- 655- 8962  
Email: [beol@sbcglobal.net](mailto:beol@sbcglobal.net)

**D/151 LRP/RANGER**

Tom Blandford  
5882 Hollow Oak Trail  
Carmel, IN 46033-9567  
H-317- 846-6374  
Email: [tomblandford300@hotmail.com](mailto:tomblandford300@hotmail.com)

**F/51 LRP**

Russell Dillon  
39 Pearl St.  
Wakeman, OH 44889  
H-440- 839-2607  
Email: [redmjd2@accnorwalk.com](mailto:redmjd2@accnorwalk.com)

**HQ. 75<sup>th</sup> RANGER REGT**

Richard (Rick) Barella  
PSC 45 Box 1248  
APO AE 09468  
PH 011-44-1423-507480  
Cell 011-44-7711-129772  
Email: [dabarelas@msn.com](mailto:dabarelas@msn.com)

**1st BN. 75<sup>th</sup> RANGER RGT**

Bill Acebes  
PO Box 2784  
Richmond Hill, GA 31324  
912-884-2772  
Email: [acebes175@hotmail.com](mailto:acebes175@hotmail.com)

**2<sup>nd</sup> BN. 75<sup>th</sup> RANGER RGT**

Rich Hecht  
16706 132<sup>nd</sup> Ave E.  
Puyallup, WA 98374  
H-253-446-9928  
Email: [Rich275RGR@msn.com](mailto:Rich275RGR@msn.com)

**3<sup>rd</sup> BN. 75<sup>th</sup> RANGER RGT**

William ‘Bill’ Dodge  
7117 Willow Oak Drive  
Columbus, GA 31909  
H 706-317-5259  
Email: [wdodge777@msn.com](mailto:wdodge777@msn.com)

**LRRP DETACHMENT- 3<sup>rd</sup> ID**

Michael McClintock  
2323 Armada Way  
San Mateo, CA 94403  
H-650- 341-7331  
Email: [oldlrrp62@aol.com](mailto:oldlrrp62@aol.com)

**ARVN RANGER ADV. (BDO)**

Mike Martin  
P. O. Box 1463  
Tullahoma, TN 37388  
H-931-455-3824  
Email: [bdq@75thangers.org](mailto:bdq@75thangers.org)

The following individuals are appointed by the President of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association to their respective positions in order to facilitate the day-to-day operation of the Association.

**Association VA Advocate**

Dan Nate  
408 Elm Street  
Woodbury Heights, NJ 08097  
H-856-848-9174  
[Dannate1@comcast.net](mailto:Dannate1@comcast.net)

**Web Master**

Da ve Regenthal  
[David\\_regenthal@comcast.net](mailto:David_regenthal@comcast.net)

**Health – PTSD**

Mike Wise  
[wmwise@bellsouth.net](mailto:wmwise@bellsouth.net)

**Health – Cancer**

Tom Athanasiou  
[toma@computer.org](mailto:toma@computer.org)

**Health – HEP-C**

William (Bill) Schwartz  
[billschwartz@west-point.org](mailto:billschwartz@west-point.org)

**Gold Star Mother Advocate**

Sandee Rouse  
[GoldStars75thRRA@aol.com](mailto:GoldStars75thRRA@aol.com)

**Gold Star Wife Advocate**

Sandy Harris  
[SANDY5790@aol.com](mailto:SANDY5790@aol.com)

**Association Legal Counsel**

John Chester  
[john.chester3@verizon.net](mailto:john.chester3@verizon.net)

James Savage

**Association Photographer**

S. J. “Peter” Parker  
[Peter2004@airborne-ranger.com](mailto:Peter2004@airborne-ranger.com)

**Graphic Artist**

Dave Walker  
[lrp67aviator@prodigy.net](mailto:lrp67aviator@prodigy.net)

**State Coordinator**

Eugene Tucker  
[egt12@adelphia.net](mailto:egt12@adelphia.net)

**Reunion Coordinator**

David Cummings  
[Daviddf4f4@aol.com](mailto:Daviddf4f4@aol.com)

**Association Chaplin**

Bob Smyers  
[hotel2alfa@msn.com](mailto:hotel2alfa@msn.com)

# WEB SITE & MAGAZINE NEWS

75th Ranger Regiment Association  
P. O. Box 10970  
Baltimore, MD 21234  
[www.75thrra.org](http://www.75thrra.org)

**President**

Stephen Crabtree  
5069 Kingsbridge Pass  
Powder Springs, GA 30127  
H-678-524-5223  
[cogranger@bellsouth.net](mailto:cogranger@bellsouth.net)

**First Vice President**

Bill Bullen  
P.O. Box 34  
Palm, PA 18070  
H-215-679-8856  
Cell-215-828-5645  
[K75ranger@comcast.net](mailto:K75ranger@comcast.net)

**Second Vice President**

Thomas Robison  
204 Innsbruck Ave.  
Roscommon, MI 48653  
c-517-231-0840  
[e51lrrp@netscape.net](mailto:e51lrrp@netscape.net)

**Secretary/Patrolling Editor**

John Chester  
3208 Rueckert Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21214  
H-410-426-1391  
Cell-410-382-9344  
Fax-410-426-0243  
[john.chester3@verizon.net](mailto:john.chester3@verizon.net)

**Treasurer**

Reuben Siverling  
7924 NW Anita Drive  
Kansas City, MO 64151  
c-816-221-7777  
[rsiverling@firstbankmo.com](mailto:rsiverling@firstbankmo.com)

**Associate Editor**

Dave Hill  
[wildcat268@yahoo.com](mailto:wildcat268@yahoo.com)

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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.

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

## **PATROLLING**

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

I need to have all *Patrolling* submissions in an electronic format. If you, as a Unit Director, do not have the capability to submit your articles by e-mail, you need to find an individual in your unit that can, give him the hard copy & have him e-mail it to me. There is no rule that the Unit Director is the only one in the unit that can submit an article. There are many Directors who have other persons in the unit write articles. It takes longer to prepare a hard copy, than all the e-mail submissions combined.

I need help with both the editor's job and that of the secretary. Not only do I need help, but that would be a damn good way to train for the position. I haven't figured out how to have more than one person access to the database and keep both current, if any of you know how, please share it with me. Next issue of *Patrolling*, I am going to have some Unit Directors submit directly to Associate Editors. (Currently I have only Dave Hill). If you have volunteered before, forgive my lack of response, and do so again. I have been ass deep in Alligators, & as you know, that ain't the time to plan on draining the swamp.

## **WEB SITE**

I have talked to Dave Regenthal, and he tells me that we should be well through the re-build of the web site by around the first of the year. This is, for all intents and purposes, a total rebuild of the site. I don't know what's involved with working on a web site, (and I don't want to know), but I do know that there is a tremendous amount of detail involved.

## **Notice**

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Stephen Crabtree

BY: Steve Crabtree  
State Coordinator Advocate

My last letter was written just prior to my receiving information that Gene Tucker was taking over for Tom Gage as State Coordinator Advocate. I apologize for any confusion



**Stephen  
Crabtree**

that this may have caused. We still need coordinators for the following states: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont and Wyoming. It takes little time to support both our men and our active personnel. Attending a funeral may not be the most enjoyable occasion but the thanks one receives from the family far outweighs the negativity. Dropping in on a hospitalized brother will make a difference in the time he stays in there. What do we have to do to fill these slots? Please see the State Advocates Guidelines updated by Gene elsewhere within this issue. Contact Gene at [egt12@adelphia.net](mailto:egt12@adelphia.net) or by phone at: (719) 380-8277.

Gold Star Mother Advocate

On September 15, 2005 we received the following:

Dear Friends

After much thought and prayer I have decided that it is time for me to step down as the Gold Star Mother Advocate for the 75thRRA. It has been both a privilege and honor to serve in this position for the past 4 years. I have been so blessed during my tenure. But as the bible says to all things there is a season. I am so pleased to tell you that Ruth Stonesifer has agreed to take on this job. She has been and will be even more so, a real asset to the organization. I know without asking you will support her just as you have done for me. Let me tell you how proud and grateful I am for the opportunity God gave me in serving with each of you and I am so blessed to call each of you friend.

Ruth and I will work together for the next 3 months to make this a smooth transition. She will officially take over on Jan 1, 2006. Please know I will continue to help out as long and whenever called on. Like Emmett always said, "This is a good thing you are doing."

It's been a great run. You are my heroes Love to each of you and thank you for allowing me to serve you.

God Bless & RLW

Sandee

As soon as the word went out of Sandee's resignation many, many suggestions came in as to what we could do to say thanks. A Ranger gold coin or a gold star with a diamond in the center were just two of the suggestions. It was pointed out by one of our past presidents who shall remain nameless (thanks Terry) that Sandee isn't a "jewelry" person. We went back to the drawing board. Why not do something that will last forever? We decided to make a donation in their (both Bill & Sandee) names to the Ranger Memorial Foundation. I sent out requests to the Unit Representatives and the response has been outstanding. Not only was enough raised (\$500) to have the engraving done but a substantial check was sent to them to help cover the costs of Bill's cancer treatment. Remember they have been reimbursed for their travels for us ten cents on the dollar at best over the last four years. The "Friends of the Rangers Marker" at the Ranger Memorial at Fort Benning will be engraved with, "BILL & SANDEE ROUSE, 75RRA GOLD STAR MOTHER ADVOCATES," this June.

Ranger KIAs

I regret to inform you that since our last publication we have lost four more Rangers and the son of one of our own.

Marine Master Gunnery Sergeant Darrell Boatman, a 20 year Marine Veteran, was killed in action by a command detonated mine on November 9, 2005. He was serving in Alanbar Province on his third tour in Iraq with the 2 MEF EOD. Darrell is survived by his wife Michelle, son Darrell Jacob, and daughter Lauren of Jacksonville, NC. He is also the son of our own Roy and Joyce Boatman of Fayetteville, NC. In lieu of flowers the family has requested donations be mad to the EOD Memorial; <http://www.eodmemorial.org/index3.html>.

Captain Joel Cahill was killed in Iraq while conducting a night operation. His vehicle was hit by an IED. Captain Cahill formerly was XO of Bravo Company, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment at Fort Benning. He is survived by his wife, Mary and their two daughters of Columbus, GA.

Cpl. Timothy M. Shea, 22, was an infantryman assigned to 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Benning, Ga. He was killed in action on Aug. 25, 2005, while conducting combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

after an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. A native of Sonoma, Ca, Shea was born Sept. 13, 1982. He enlisted in the Army Jan. 28, 2003. After completing one station unit training, airborne school and Ranger indoctrination training at Fort Benning, Ga., he was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, on Aug. 21, 2003. Shea deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in July 2005. He was a five-time veteran of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom where he served as a rifleman, automatic rifleman, grenadier and machine gun team leader. Shea is survived by his parents, William and Mary Shea, also of Sonoma, Ca

Pfc. Blake W. Samodell was a rifleman assigned to 3rd Battalion 75 Ranger Regiment at Fort Benning, Georgia. He died September 15, 2005 while conducting an airborne training operation. A native of Brush Prairie, Washington, Samodell was born April 30, 1981. He enlisted in the Army in May 2004. After completing one station unit training, airborne school and Ranger indoctrination training at Fort Benning he was assigned to 2nd Ranger Battalion in December of 2004. Samodell deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2005. He is survived by his mother, Vicky A. Samodell of Davenport Washington and his father, William T. Samodell of Phoenix, Arizona.

Pfc. Dillon M. Jutrus, 20, was a rifleman assigned to 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Benning, Ga. He was killed in action on October 28, 2005, while conducting combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq's Al Anbnr Province. A native of Fayetteville, North Carolina, Jutrus was born Oct 2, 1985. He enlisted in the Army Jan. 31, 2005. After completing one station unit training, airborne school and Ranger indoctrination training at Fort Benning, Ga., he was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment in July 2005. Jutrus deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in August 2005. He is survived by his parents, Pierre and Julia Jutrus of Fairfax Station, Virginia.

### William O. Darby Middle School

I was asked to speak at William O. Darby High School on November 9<sup>th</sup> by Jerry Evans, ninth grade teacher, at their Veterans Day Program. Unfortunately I already had a conflicting appointment so I put the word out for a replacement. Danny Jacks, our newest member of the Ranger Hall of Fame, stepped up to the plate and agreed to speak. Danny had sent them a very short biography on himself omitting the award of the Silver Star or induction into the

RHOF so I sent them enough to choke a horse. They are really excited about Danny's visit and wrote back, "A real RANGER coming to Darby? That will just be awesome!"

Jacks replied on 12 November, 2005:

Steve,

I am happy to report that my trip to Fort Smith speaking at the William O. Darby Middle School was very successful. I spoke on the Ranger Creed breaking it down for use in civilian life. Mrs. Evans took good care of us and was a gracious host. We had lunch with the kids in the school cafeteria after the Veterans Day program. We then visited the Darby House and were given the grand tour by Mr. Dockery. The man is a walking Ranger encyclopedia. Just keeping you inform as to how your hero is striving at letting the rest of the world know about the Rangers.

Danny

### Family Fund

We are cutting Christmas checks for each of the Ranger Battalions and the Regiment HQ again this year. Each Battalion will receive \$3000 and HQ will receive \$1500 as they have fewer lower ranking enlisted personnel. This is from money collected and set aside especially for projects like this and does not invade our general operating account.

### Ranger Hall of Fame

Terry Roderick, Bill Dodge, Mike Martin, and Bill Acebes have volunteered to rate our submissions for the RHOF. I will be forwarding all packets received to these men on December 23<sup>rd</sup> 2005. No packets will be accepted for 2006 after that date. Bill Bullen also volunteered, but I want to keep the current officers of our organization out of the grading process. I have received to date (11/15) only one packet for submission. The nomination letter was written by BG David Grange (ret) and submitted by BDQ. RHOF inductees may submit on their own so I will ask General Grange to submit this packet rather than as a 75RRA packet. This will allow us to submit an additional packet to the RHOF Board.

### Patrolling Magazine

We have received several complaints that Patrolling was short 16 pages last issue. This was totally an error on the part of the printer. Should this happen again in the future please put away your tar and feathers and just contact John Chester for a replacement. I've only heard about two instances so this probably isn't a major issue.

## FIRST-VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bill Bullen

Message from Bill Bullen; Vice President

As sad as it is, we are losing men as a result of the war in Iraq. Many feel we need not be there. It is my educated estimate that we do need to be there. Not only are we killing many more insurgents than they are of ours, but the numbers are way lopsided in our favor. This is info you'll never hear from the media. In fact you'll hear nothing but disinformation. An author, Richard Miniter, spells out many pernicious lies and yarns spun by the media in his "Human Events" newsletter. A few examples follow;



**Bill Bullen**

There were no WMDs found in Iraq. Then what is 177 metric tons of enriched uranium used for?

And why would they warehouse chemical warheads containing cyclosarin? This stuff is five times as deadly as sarin gas!

There were also over 1000 radioactive materials found, used for dispersal over populated areas.

The US funded the Taliban in the 1980s, "B.S". The Taliban was not formed until 1995. For further information, e-mail [HumanEvents@HumanEventsOnline.com]

The only reason I have for presenting my political viewpoint is support for our troops.

Let's not give the returning soldiers the disrespect that we

received upon returning from Viet Nam. Allow us not to publicly denounce the President's mission.

We have no need for this war to come to our soil, but if we fail to support our President and ultimately our troops, this will happen. And our loved ones will have died in vein. Please remember the hostile environment we, as Viet Nam vets returned to.

There are many incentives and benefits to recruiting members for our Association. We all need to find new members and re-recruit old ones. The unit directors need to dig into the old rosters and orders, and then call the fellows who attend the reunions but do not join! Many who attend the reunions do not pay Association dues. This is, in essence allowing these guys to attend reunions and reap the benefits of membership without paying dues. It is not fair to the dues-paying members.

You as members need to contact your Unit Director and ask him what you can do to help. They have only so much creativity and soon burn out. So please give them a call or drop them a line and ask if they need help or tell them they are appreciated.

We could also use help at the Elected Office level, what can we do to make this Association better? What can we do to build membership? If you have any ideas let me know. Contact: Bill Bullen [k75ranger@comcast.net] One last thought on memberships, if you intend to pay dues for 10 years, why not send John Chester \$250.00, and become a life member?

## SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

By John Chester

By: John Chester

It seems that from the September Issue of *Patrolling* to the December Issue, about 2 weeks elapsed. It has been quite busy time. There are a number of issues that need to be discussed. These are important for the health and welfare of the Association, not to mention for my sanity. As most of you know, invoices were mailed at the beginning of October, 2005. I have received a deluge of responses, one that I simply can't keep up with. It is not possible to post invoices, edit the magazine and have a



**John Chester**

life all at once. There will be, therefore a few items to discuss:

Normally I would list the contributors in the December issue

of the magazine. This will not be possible this year. I don't want to leave anyone out, and I don't want to do a half assed job, so we will acknowledge all contributors in the March Issue. The response to the invoices has been (literally) overwhelming. One additional factor concerning the invoices; for the first time, we have added a space that requests each respondent's e-mail address. It was felt that this would be a valuable addition to the database, should the State Coordinator, Unit Director, etc. need to contact a group by e-mail. This adds to the processing time for each invoice, not much, but 30 seconds times 1,500 invoices is a few hours.

I need to have all *Patrolling* submissions in an electronic format. If you, as a Unit Director, do not have the capability to submit your articles by e-mail, you need to find an individual in your unit that can, give him the hard copy & have him e-mail it to me. There is no rule that the Unit Director is the only one in the unit that can submit an article.

## SECRETARY'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

There are many Directors who have other persons in the unit write articles. It takes longer to prepare a hard copy, than all the e-mail submissions combined.

I need help with both the editor's job and that of the secretary. Not only do I need help, but that would be a damn good way to train for the position. I haven't figured out how to have more than one person access to the database and keep both current, if any of you know how, please share it with me. Next issue of *Patrolling*, I am going to have some Unit Directors submit directly to Associate Editors. (Currently I have only Dave Hill). If you have volunteered before, forgive my lack of response, and do so again. I have been ass deep in Alligators, & as you know, that ain't the time to plan on draining the swamp.

### RECRUITING

We are going to emphasize recruiting. We have established a goal to have 2,500 active, paid up members by the time of the Reunion/Rendezvous in the summer of 2007. We currently have about 1,950 members. I have always felt that a goal not articulated is no goal at all. The Elected Officers have developed a number of strategies to achieve this goal:

We will continue to offer free, a one year membership to all individuals that are **currently** assigned to one of the units that are part of the 75th Ranger Regiment, in the grade of E-5 or below. After the initial year, which would include at least 4 issues of the magazine, annual dues would apply. (It is interesting that this program has been in place since May, 2005, & to date I have not had one taker. It's **free!!!!**)

We will offer an Association silver coin, engraved, to any member that signs up 5 new or lapsed members. The members signed up, must have been lapsed at least two full years, ie. if signed up in 2006, they must have lapsed in 2004 or earlier.

In prior years, it was the practice to give \$2.00 per active member to any Unit Association that put out a newsletter to that Association's membership during the year. For example, if H/75 had 200 members of their Association, but only 50 of them were members of the 75th RRA, AND they put out a newsletter, AND the newsletter contained information relative to joining the 75th RRA, AND the President & Secretary of the 75th RRA were on the mailing list & received a copy, they would get \$100.00. The obvious incentive is to get is to get the individual members of the Unit Associations as members. We have recruited these guys to the point that we can. I honestly believe that the only way we will get these old guys to join, at this point in time, is through the individual Unit Associations.

I am aware that not everyone reads this column, so I will place the above information strategically throughout this and later issues of the magazine.

### INVOICES

In early October, 2005 we once again mailed dues notices/invoices to all the members in the database. Last year we mailed about 4,500. Quite a few were returned as undeliverable, and they were removed from the working database, the result being that this year we mailed about 3,700. Despite a notice in the Fall Issue of *Patrolling*, and despite a notice on the invoice that clearly states, "*If you are currently a Life Member, this is not a dues invoice. You may use this for family fund or regular member fund contributions.*", I still received a few nasty replies letting me know that the respondent was, indeed, a life member, not to mention a few suggestions that were physically impossible. We even put each member's member number & year of expiration. If you saw '1234 LM' it should have been obvious that you were a life member and that the above admonishment applied.

As I stated earlier, the response was overwhelming, I have received about 1,200 invoices back and more are coming in every day. A great many of the responses were from Life Members who were making contributions to the family or members funds. I don't have any numbers yet but both funds are very healthy indeed.

### CONTRIBUTORS

Each issue of this magazine is very much like an iceberg, the part that is visible is only a small part of its total mass. I receive quite a few compliments for my part in the magazine, indeed many think I am the only one involved. Not true. The Unit Directors, Elected Officers, appointed positions, etc. all contribute, and usually their names are on their submissions. Then, there are the guys who contribute with no recognition whatsoever.

You may have noticed that for the last year or so we have had a column in every issue that featured the WW II Ranger Battalions, Merrill's Marauders, and the Korean War Ranger Infantry Companies Airborne, (RICA). My predecessor, our former Secretary, Ron Edwards has been furnishing these columns to me in time for each issue. This is the guy who said, "I'm done!" in Tacoma & handed in his badge. (I gave it back.) Thanks Ron. There are others too, Dave Walker and his graphics, and S. J. 'Peter' Parker and his photos. Thanks Guys.

### NEW VA PTSD STUDY

Only a few weeks after canceling an examination of nearly 72,000 PTSD claims for 'fraud' and 'irregularities', the VA has once again decided to begin a new study, this time in order to re-define PTSD, independent of the DSM IV. This study also aims to re-define when a veteran has 'recovered' from his PTSD. See the article by Larry Scott in the Feature Articles



**SECRETARY'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)**

section. Thanks to Mike Wise for the heads up on this.

**RUMINATIONS**

Mary Anne and I tend to isolate sometimes. That's a surprise, huh? My non-veteran friends, both of them, and my family, other than Mary Anne, seem to notice more than my LRRP, LRP, Ranger friends do. Maybe that's because the latter are in the same boat as me. This has been a rather social year for us. There was, of course, the reunion at Ft. Benning, but even before that we had a bunch of Association people over to our house for Memorial Day weekend. Emmett Hiltibrand and his wife Rebecca flew up for the weekend, Bill & Donna Bullen came down from Palm, PA, Joe Little and his wife Heidi were in Washington, D.C. for ceremonies at the Wall, Dave Regenthal and Joe Cassily and his son were also at the Wall & dropped in as well. Walt Sanders and Rod Wijas (both BDQ and RHOF) also stopped by. My daughter Hillary, and her boyfriend and our friend Rich Gatewood rounded out the cast. We had a cookout and roasted Rod Wijas for being a Marine after being a Ranger and generally told lies and had a good old time. Emmett had brought me a bottle of Crown Royal when he came up, and in some unknown fashion it mostly disappeared.

I know all these people pretty well and I remarked to someone that the group around the table were represented 8 CIB's, a Distinguished Service Cross, about a dozen Silver Stars, two dozen Bronze Stars, eighteen Purple Hearts, and God only knows what else. Pretty distinguished company on my little deck. At the end of October we hosted another cookout. This time Walt Sanders, Rod Wijas, Bill & Donna Bullen and my mother, Mildred showed up. Not as many lies and tales of derring do, but fun all the same. Mary Anne & I are becoming social butterflies.



Mary Anne & Walt look on as the Crown Royal goes south.



Mary Anne & Donna Bullen ran the show & gave orders.



Bill earns "The Look" from Mildred.



Rod Wijas & Walt Saunders with Gold Star Certificates that were presented to two Vietnamese women who lost husbands while serving with the BDQ.

**GOLD STAR...**



**A TIME FOR CHANGE**

There is a saying; “ To everything there is a season.”

A time for change has come for me. In January I will be stepping down as your Gold Star Mother advocate. I cannot put into words what an Honor it has been for me to hold this position and to serve you and the families of our fallen Rangers. But as I said the time for change has come.

One of our Gold Stars wonders, (they are wonders for how they carry on) Ruth Stonesifer has agreed to take over. She is the mother of 3/75 Ranger Kristopher Stonesifer. Kris and Ranger Jonn Edmunds were the first Ranger KIA’s of Enduring Freedom in Oct 2001. Ruth has been a great supporter of the Regiment and the Association. I am also very pleased to call her friend. She will bring new ideas, new energy and new dreams to this program and I expect it to continue to grow under her. I ask that you continue to show her all the love and support you have given me over the past 4 years.

I hate good byes and since I will carry each of you in my thoughts and prayers daily I will not say good bye. You are my heroes and I am glad God put you all in my life.

Emmett, John, Ron, Dana, and of course Steve, Thanks so much for the ride its been a wonderful and a humbling experience. Thank you also for seeing my passion for this endeavor and for always, always, supporting and being there for me. You have certainly proved Rangers are able

to handle any situation. Emmett as you have said over and over “This is a good thing we are doing.” Never again will a family of a fallen Ranger or a Ranger be forgotten. From the Black Beret March to Washington to the Honorary Ranger Ceremony I stood with some of America’s greatest Rangers, no one could know how proud I am to have had that privilege.

I could not forget Sheila Dudley 1/75 and Linda Davis at Regiment who have been so helpful and supportive of me not only the last 4 years but the last 15 years. You are 2 angels here on earth and I appreciate you both so much.

To the Gold Star families that it has been my privilege to be associated with thank you, thank you for being such an inspiration to me. You have all done your heroes proud and have gone on to live your lives as examples for others.

Last but not least thank you all for your support during the last year. Your support, cards, letters, emails and love have been such a source of strength to both myself and Bill as he has fought his battle against cancer. In Ranger fashion he intends to defeat this enemy. He has also been such an inspiration to me as I have watched what this has done to him and has never wanted me to let his illness stand in the way of what I need to do for the Association. Although he tells all of you, “He just drives the car.” He does so much more than that.

I want you to know that although I am stepping down I believe I am moving on to the next thing God has in store

## GOLD STAR... (CONTINUED)

for me to do. There are things I feel I am to do in the areas of Gold Star work and in caring for the children of our disabled Rangers education's that I am really passionate about. Some one once said, " You need to Dream Big enough so you don't limit Gods ability to use you to your fullest. Stay tuned you'll be hearing some wonderful things in the future.

Since this is my last official article I would like to share with you part of the last letter my hero and inspiration wrote just 30 hours before he died.

### A Rangers Goodbye”

As I sit here listening to the radio I have mixed emotions. I have never been afraid of death, but I know he is waiting at the corner. For me I don't know, I may walk by, he may stop me.

I have been trained to kill and to save, so has everyone else. I am frightened by what lies beyond the fog, yet intrigue and curiosity have brought me through my training this far, I must go through the fog whether the other side is a plane ride home for Christmas or the fog never ends. Do not mourn for me, revel in the life I have died to give you. Family, remember I joined the Army to serve my country

and insure you are free to do what you want and live your lives freely. But most of all don't forget that the Army was my choice and something I wanted to do.

Pfc. James W. Markwell  
19:20 18 Dec 1989  
Copy write 1990, 2000

He was 21 years old but so wise beyond his years. He did what he wanted to do. 16 years later I would say to Him "You did good son. You were a fine man and a great example of what a Ranger should be. You are my hero and inspire me daily. We miss you terribly but we will meet again soon. Love you, Mom

I only hope when we meet again he will say to me, "Good job mom, I am proud of you."

I hope your Holiday season was Blessed and that the New Year holds only the very best for each of you.

Once again I thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving you the past 4 years

God Bless & RLTW  
Santee

## A Troubling

Taciturnity

What would you have me speak of,  
What would you have me say?  
Are you interested in my thoughts  
Or just intrigued by the way

I sometimes sit in silence,  
My veiled eyes fixed within  
As I look back on horrific scenes  
From places I have been?

Do you really care why I brood?  
Would you like to share this mood?  
Do you truly want to come with me.  
Live these things I can't help but see?

They've dwelt within me for so long  
In the private places of my soul  
They're now an integral part of me  
And cannot be so easily told.

To someone who does not know  
How such terrible things came to be  
Though I long to purge myself of them  
So that I can once again be free.

I beg you, have a little patience,  
And wait for just a bit more  
Until the day I can come to you  
To share what makes my heart sore.

Please never, never, ever think  
These are secrets I wish to keep;  
If I could, I'd give them all away  
In exchange for dreamless sleep.

But, for now, and just a while longer  
Hopefully, not for eternity,  
With your patient understanding  
I'll keep it all inside of me.

-Author Unknown

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### DISCLAIMER

**DISCLAIMER:** This series of articles entitled 'LEGISLATIVE HELP LINE' is meant to be an informative aid in assisting you in protecting your rights. It is also meant to keep you informed of the ever-changing legislative forum that may affect you. There is a caveat here. The 75th Ranger Regiment Association is not allowed to assist you in this effort. Our Constitution has a stipulation that forbids this. Article IV: Sec. 2. The Association shall not endorse any political candidate, platform or party. Sec. 3. Officers, Directors and Members shall not engage in any form of activity that implies or specifically relates the Association to any form of public activity without first obtaining approval from the Association. Therefore, no Officer, Unit Director, Advocate or Member may present himself as a representative speaking for or on the behalf of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. Now, this does not prevent you from acting for yourself on your own behalf, I quote Article IV, Section 5: The foregoing does not restrict or prohibit members from engaging in activities which are the constitutional right of any citizen. As I said, this section is provided as a service to inform you. You must act on your own. Do not attempt to act on behalf of the Association. Thank you, Steve Crabtree - President

### VA CANCELS PTSD REVIEW

WASHINGTON (Nov. 10, 2005) - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will not review the files of 72,000 veterans currently receiving disability compensation for post-traumatic stress disorder, the Department's secretary announced today.

On May 19, 2005, VA's Inspector General reported on an examination of the files of a sample of 2,100 randomly selected veterans with disability ratings for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The IG cited insufficient documentation in the files and a dramatic increase in veterans filing for disability compensation for post-traumatic stress disorder since 1999. "We have now just completed our own careful review of those

2,100 files cited in the IG's report," said the Honorable R. James Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. "The problems with these files appear to be administrative in nature, such as missing documents, and not fraud."

"In the absence of evidence of fraud, we're not going to put our veterans through the anxiety of a widespread review of their disability claims," Nicholson said. "Instead, we're going to improve our training for VA personnel who handle disability claims and toughen administrative oversight."

"Not all combat wounds are caused by bullets and shrapnel," Nicholson added. "We have a commitment to ensure veterans with PTSD receive compassionate, world-class health care and appropriate disability compensation determinations."

### VA ADAPTIVE HOUSING:

During a marathon session of voting on 3 NOV the U.S. Senate passed legislation which will help disabled veterans who live with family members. Under the bill, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs would establish a five year pilot program to provide veterans with up to \$10,000 to widen doorways, install wheelchair ramps, or make other adaptations to the homes of family members where they are temporarily living. Under current law, the Department of Veterans Affairs is allowed to make one-time grants of up to \$50,000 to adapt the homes of disabled veterans. But as the law is now, the veteran has to own the home. Under the new pilot program, a veteran would be able to receive up to three separate grants within the allotted maximum amounts - which are \$50,000 for severely disabled veterans and \$10,000 for less severely injured. Only one grant could be used for a temporary residence. The other two could be used only for a home owned by the veteran. The legislation also requires that Government Accountability Office to report on the implementation of the pilot program not later than three years and five years after the enactment of the bill. The amendment was sponsored by Sen. John Sununu (R-NH). Sen. Craig (R-ID), a co-sponsor of the amendment, said he will now work to include the provision as part of a larger omnibus veterans bill which will contain other benefits-related provisions for veterans that have passed in either the House

and Senate. For more information on adaptive housing refer to [www.homeloans.va.gov/sah.htm](http://www.homeloans.va.gov/sah.htm).

[Source: Senate Committee for Veteran Affairs website Nov 05 <http://veterans.senate.gov/index.cfm?FuseAction=Newsroom.PressReleases&id=303>]

### RETIREE MOBILIZATION UPDATE 03:

The Pentagon recently updated long-standing orders for the services to plan how they might mobilize military retirees to duty during a national emergency, freeing up active-duty personnel for overseas combat. But while Defense Department officials stress that the ability to involuntarily mobilize retirees has long been part of U.S. law, it is unclear whether those plans would ever be acted upon. Title 10, Section 688 of the U.S. Code says that retired active-duty members "may be ordered to active duty" at any time". According to a spokesman for the Pentagon Office of Reserve Affairs, Reserve and National Guard retirees can be recalled only if Congress authorizes what is called a full mobilization. The post-Sept. 11, 2001, call-up is a partial mobilization, authorized by the president instead of Congress, and allows the mobilization of those still serving in reserve status but not reservist retirees. Numerous retirees have volunteered to return to active duty since Sept. 11, 2001, but none have been involuntarily mobilized. Department of Defense Directive 1352.1 states, "It is DoD policy that military retirees be ordered to active duty as needed to



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

perform such duties as the [service] secretary concerned considers necessary in the interests of national defense.” The newly updated directive, signed 16 JUL by Acting Deputy Defense Secretary Gordon England, highlights an important aspect of the military’s generous retirement pay. It is, in a sense, retainer pay, because retirees remain subject to call-up at least until they reach age 60. This aspect of military retirement has not been discussed in Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld’s ongoing studies of how to restructure military retirement benefits.

According to David Segal and Mady Wechsler Segal, military population researchers with the University of Maryland, members of the so-called Retired Reserve are considered the third tier of the nation’s reserve forces, to be mobilized after the Ready Reserve and the Select Reserve. They have qualified for retirement through length of service or disability and are carried on the reserve roles because military retired pay is legally a compensation for availability rather than a pension. The likelihood of mobilization for these reservists is very low, although the Department of Defense has called for volunteers from the retired reserves to serve in current military operations. The new directive replaces a previous version dated 2 MAR 90. The directive was updated as part of a regular review process. All DoD publications are reviewed every five years and updated as necessary to incorporate policy, administrative and legal changes that have occurred. The new update incorporated administrative changes and removed some of the detailed procedures in the older version. Policies for using mobilized retirees remain essentially unchanged.

According to the newly updated version: The Defense Department “shall plan to use as many retirees as necessary to meet national security needs”. Retirees can be used:

- To fill shortages or to augment deployed or deploying units and activities or units in the continental United States, Alaska and Hawaii supporting deployed units.
- To release other military members for deployment overseas”.
- Subject to legal restrictions, to fill civilian workforce shortages for the federal government.

Mobilized retirees would receive full active-duty pay and benefits for their service. The policy directs each service to prepare plans and establish procedures for mobilization of military retirees. The directive also says the service must make detailed plans for duties that would be performed by retirees as well as to keep records on retirees eligibility for call-up, to include their availability for call-up, their civilian employment and their physical condition. All non-disabled retirees are subject to recall to active duty. However, retirees are divided into three readiness categories, including one that covers those retired for medical disabilities:

- Category I retirees are not disabled, are under age 60 and have been retired fewer than five years.
- Category II retirees are not disabled, are under age 60 and have been retired five years or more
- Category III includes those who are disabled and those who are age 60 or older.

An estimated 900,000 retirees are in Categories I and II.

[Source: Navy Times article by Vince Crawley [vcrawley@atpco.com](mailto:vcrawley@atpco.com) 24 OCT 05]

### **DOD GIFT LIMITS:**

Officials at Walter Reed Army Medical Center have warned 20 charity organizations that troops and their family members cannot legally accept charitable donations valued at more than \$20 unless they are approved by military legal officers. The Defense Department regulation involved, which stems from legislation aimed at preventing bribes to federal employees, does not apply to families of deceased service members. DoD has emphasized that the center is not barring such gifts to troops and their families, and, in fact, for more than two years has been expediting the legal process as gifts arrive. Nonetheless, troops who violate the regulations could be subject to disciplinary action. [Source: Armed Forces News 4 Nov 05]

### **COLA 2006 UPDATE 03:**

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that recent jump in energy prices boosted the Consumer Price Index another 1.5% in September. That resulted in a 4.1% COLA based on the increase in average costs from the third quarter of 2004 to the third quarter of 2005 — this 4.1% percentage increase is the increase that will be applied (in most cases) to military retired pay, Social Security, Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuities and veterans’ (VA) disability compensation as of 1 DEC 05. The increases will first appear in January 2006 paychecks. This is the largest COLA since the 1991 increase of 5.4%. The month-by-month inflation track and historical CPI/COLA information can be seen at [www.moaa.org/controller.asp?pagename=lac\\_issues\\_second\\_career\\_cola](http://www.moaa.org/controller.asp?pagename=lac_issues_second_career_cola). Newly retiring members receive a somewhat smaller, partial COLA for the year of their retirement, because they already received a January military pay raise (which also raised their retired pay) during their retirement year.

### **FLU SHOTS:**

This year as in the past much attention is given to the potential spread of bird flu. It’s wiser to avoid the flu, by getting a flu shot now. Unlike last year, when there was a shortage of flu vaccine, supplies seem plentiful this year, but this should not be a reason to delay getting flu shots. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) strongly recommends that people aged 65 years and older, with or without chronic health conditions and those people of long-term care at home or in resident of long-term care facilities or people aged two to 64 years with chronic health conditions including their home or resident care providers should get their flu shots now. The exception in certain specific cases, everyone should consider getting a flu shot. If you want to see whether you are in exception group, you should talk with your health care provider, or for more information you can visit website [www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/keyfacts.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/keyfacts.htm).

In addition, recent research also has determined that veterans aged 65 years and older, specially with chronic health conditions and includes those veterans of all ages going through health treatment with chronic conditions are high potential routes of transmission for flu. Particularly important if you are within this group and have infants or school-aged children in your household, or part of your environment you may want to consider the flu shot

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

a primary tasking as a way to avoid transmission of the flu to those you love. If you are a candidate to get flu shot but do not know where to get one, you should talk with your health care provider or visit website [www.flucliniclocator.org/](http://www.flucliniclocator.org/) for a location near you. [Source: American Legion Dist 28 notice 25 Oct 05]

### FISHER HOUSE HERO MILES:

The Fisher House organization uses more than a million frequent flyer miles per week in distributing free round-trip airline tickets to families of war-wounded servicemembers being treated in military and Veterans Affairs medical facilities across the country. To date, the program has distributed more than 4,000 tickets, using more than 150 million frequent flyer miles. The foundation's general fundraising, including money received from the Combined Federal Campaign, pays airport security fees, taxes and administrative fees on the tickets. Fisher House gets the millions of frequent flyer miles through "Operation Hero Miles." The program has been expanded to wounded servicemen and women being treated at major military and Veterans Affairs medical centers across the country. Those who have approved convalescent leave may be given a free round-trip airline ticket to visit loved ones if they're not eligible for government-funded airfare. Family members are also eligible for the free tickets. The program took off in 2004 after U.S. Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD) convinced U.S. airlines to provide free round-trip airline tickets for servicemembers arriving from Iraq and Afghanistan for rest-and-recovery leave. The congressman challenged the airlines to start the program because he was concerned about placing a financial burden on servicemembers. Requests for tickets have to originate from a servicemember and must be forwarded to Fisher House by a hospital social work staff member, family assistance center or service casualty office. The unused frequent flyer miles come from private and corporate donations. For more information on the program or how to donate your unused earned miles, visit <http://www.military.com/features/0,15240,78786,00.html>. and/or <http://www.heromiles.org/>. [Source: POVA msg 26 Oct 05 ++]

### PTSD REEVALUATION UPDATE 04:

VA is apparently initiating a new review of PTSD diagnosis, treatment and compensation. The VA's plans came to light on 16 NOV, six days after they had canceled a review of 72,000 PTSD claims awarded at 100% disability. Information about the new PTSD review was made public in a press release by Senator Larry Craig (R-ID), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. The release, in part, said, "The Department of Veterans Affairs announced today that it has contracted with the Institute of Medicine (IOM) on a two-pronged approach to the examination of PTSD." The VA's announcement was in the form of two documents they sent to Sen. Craig's office. One, a Fact Sheet prepared by the VA's Office of the Under Secretary for Health detailing the contract between the VA and the IOM. The other was a Question and Answer sheet prepared for members of Congress and the press.

At [www.vawatchdog.org/newsflash/newsflash11-23-2005-3.htm](http://www.vawatchdog.org/newsflash/newsflash11-23-2005-3.htm), both documents are available for review.

The Fact sheet notes that The Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs has requested that the Institute of Medicine

(IOM) conduct a review of PTSD. The IOM will provide the VA with current information that might reform VA policy as it relates to PTSD diagnosis, treatment and compensation. To accomplish this task, IOM will convene two separate committees. Specifically, the committees are to:

- Review the utility and objectiveness of the criteria in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV).
- Redefine PTSD by altering diagnostic and treatment techniques.
- Review and comment on the objective measures used in the diagnosis of PTSD and known risk factors for the development of PTSD.
- Comment on the validity of current screening instruments and their predictive capacity for accurate diagnoses.
- Review literature on compensation practices for PTSD and how changes in the frequency and intensity of symptoms affect compensation under these practices.
- Assess how compensation practices and reevaluation requirements for PTSD compare with other chronic conditions which have periods of remission and return of symptoms.
- Review strategies used to support recovery and return to function in patients with PTSD.

The IOM reviews are to be completed in a year. They could become the basis for the VA to write an alternate definition of PTSD exclusive of the DSM-IV and institute new methods of treatment outside of normally accepted guidelines. They could also be the means to lower PTSD compensation based on "frequency and intensity of symptoms" & "remission and return of symptoms."

The O&A sheet revealed that the VA is examining compensation for ALL health conditions and that they are coordinating their efforts with the Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission (VDBC). The VDBC, by law, is independent of the Department of Veterans' Affairs. The VDBC is made up of 13 members who are currently studying all areas of VA compensation. Nine members were appointed by Republicans. The VA Secretary Nicholson was appointed by President Bush. For additional information refer to previous Bulletin articles titled "VDBC". [Source: <http://vawatchdog.blogspot.com> Nov 05]

<http://capwiz.com/dav/issues/alert/?alertid=8086316>

(copy and paste into your browser)

Results of Stabenow Amendment, October 6, 2005

On October 5, 2005, Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) offered an amendment to H.R. 2863, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2006. Senate amendment 1937 would have provided funds for VA medical care through a combination of discretionary and mandatory funds. Unlike the broken discretionary process, this would have provided a sufficient funding level in a timely manner.

The amendment was defeated by a vote of 51-48. The roll call vote is posted on our web site, along with letters to your Senators, based on how they voted. Please take a moment to send the prepared e-mail to your Senators, either thanking them for their favorable vote or expressing your disappointment in their unfavorable vote. The correct letter or letters will come up when you enter your zip code.

As always, thank you for your support.

# H E A L T H

## 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's Online RX Refill Service the Right Prescription for Vets

**Secretary Nicholson: Service is "Fast, Easy and Secure"**

WASHINGTON (Nov. 23, 2005) - Tens of thousands of veterans are now receiving their prescription drug refills from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) with greater convenience, speed and security, thanks to a new service available to veterans over the Internet.

More than 70,000 prescriptions have been refilled using the latest service added to VA's "MyHealtheVet," the personal online health record system designed for veterans in the VA health care system. The prescription refill service began on Aug. 31.

"VA's MyHealtheVet prescription refill service is proving to be extremely successful in providing America's veterans with fast, easy and secure access to their important medications," said the Honorable R. James Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. "Given the overwhelmingly positive response VA has received to this initiative from our veterans, we anticipate that thousands more veterans will choose to take advantage of this convenient service."

The secure online prescription refill service has quickly emerged as one of the more popular features in the MyHealtheVet system, which connects with VA's widely respected electronic records system.

When a veteran orders a prescription refill, the request is routed to VA's computer system to be filled by one of the department's outpatient mail

pharmacies. The refill is then sent directly to the veteran, eliminating the need for a trip to the pharmacy and a wait in line.

On Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2005, MyHealtheVet marked its second anniversary by adding three new health records that veterans can keep in a secure electronic environment and make available to VA health professionals nationwide - blood oxygen levels taken from a pulse oximeter, daily food intake in the Food Journal, and physical activity and exercise in the Activity Journal.

By last month, more than 100,000 veterans had signed up to use MyHealtheVet, which is located on VA's Web site at [www.myhealth.va.gov](http://www.myhealth.va.gov) Among the services available to veterans, their families and VA care providers through the online personal record are the ability to track health conditions - entering readings such as blood pressure and cholesterol levels - and to record medications, allergies, military health history, medical events and tests. Veterans can also include personal information, such as emergency contacts, names of medical providers and health insurance information. They can access health information on the Internet from VA, MedlinePlus from the National Library of Medicine, and Healthwise, a commercial health education library.

Future expansion of MyHealtheVet will allow VA patients to view appointments and co-payment balances, access portions of their medical records, and give access to their records to doctors, family members and others.

## PTSD REEVALUATION UPDATE 02

On 20 OCT 05 the House Veterans Affairs' Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs convened a hearing to address this issue. In the hearing Representative Tom Udall, (D-NM) urged the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to halt its review of 72,000 post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) claims. The VA is currently reviewing approximately one-third of the cases of veterans who are receiving disability benefits for

PTSD. After conducting an internal study, the VA believes that they were too lenient in deciding which servicemen were eligible for PTSD benefits. Last year, the VA spent \$4.3 billion on PTSD disability payments.

Udall delivered the following statement at the hearing: "...It seems that time and again we hear the larger facts about PTSD: how it affects 11.5% of all veterans; how nearly nine out of ten veterans with PTSD demonstrate

## H E A L T H

signs of other disorders, including depression, alcohol and substance abuse, or anxiety; how the number of veterans diagnosed with PTSD has risen while the number of services being offered by the VA has dropped; how the stigma of PTSD is still prevalent throughout the military and prevents many veterans from seeking care - until it may be too late. However, even with all the facts and figures, the individual stories of struggle are sometimes lost, and PTSD becomes simply another medical term, another column in the books. And unfortunately, this became the perspective of the VA. In August, it was immediately clear that the VA's review of 72,000 PTSD cases meant something different to them than it did to the veterans suffering from PTSD. To the VA, it was a process for seeking out incomplete cases and finding voids in paperwork that needed to be filled. The IG report that catalyzed the review included charts and graphs and made suggestions for action. To veterans, though, the announcement that their case might be reviewed was not seen as simply another bureaucratic process. It was, for many, a jolting realization that the day-to-day struggle they endure was being questioned and that their request for help to deal with this struggle needed external validation. For those who live with PTSD, the review did not mean a paperwork review as much as it meant a personal attack on what is already a sensitive issue. Last week, a veteran in my district took his life after dealing with PTSD for years and years. He can certainly be perceived as one statistic within the larger, tragic figure of those veterans who contemplate or act on suicidal thoughts. But he can also be seen as he should be, as a Vietnam Vet, decorated with the

Purple Heart and other commendations. He was a soldier who fought bravely and honorably for his country. Involved in local veterans' organizations, he helped out at events and with other veterans - and all the while he struggled to deal with PTSD. Even though his case was well documented and he was in no danger of finding his compensation or medical assistance benefits revoked, he was greatly shaken by the announcement of the VA review, and frequently inquired whether he would be losing the support he did receive. He believed, as so many veterans do, that he was being forced to prove himself yet again. It is that belief that makes veterans so angry and so frustrated with this process. I believe the VA's intentions to bring clarity and accountability to PTSD cases were not in any way meant to harm our veterans. But I believe the manner in which they proceeded with the review - without any input from mental health professionals concerning the risk of harm to veterans with severe psychiatric symptoms has done far more harm than good. It is important that we compile facts and figures and that we be concerned with the larger picture. It is more important that we not forget veterans who have borne the battle and now struggle with PTSD, and how our actions affect them. I have called, and will continue to call, for a halt to the review. The VA must reevaluate the process it is using in this review and must take into account how it is affecting veterans. It is better that we stop this review before more lives are lost, rather than continue with troublesome and tragic consequences..." [Source: New Mexico E-Veterans News - Issue 35, 24 OCT 05]

## A DIFFERENT CHRISTMAS POEM

The embers glowed softly, and in their dim light,  
I gazed round the room and I cherished the sight.  
My wife was asleep, her head on my chest,  
My daughter beside me, angelic in rest.

Outside the snow fell, a blanket of white,  
Transforming the yard to a winter delight.  
The sparkling lights in the tree I believe,  
Completed the magic that was Christmas Eve.  
My eyelids were heavy, my breathing was deep,  
Secure and surrounded by love I would sleep.

In perfect contentment, or so it would seem,  
So I slumbered, perhaps I started to dream.  
The sound wasn't loud, and it wasn't too near,  
But I opened my eyes when it tickled my ear.

Perhaps just a cough, I didn't quite know,  
Then the sure sound of footsteps outside in the snow.  
My soul gave a tremble, I struggled to hear,  
And I crept to the door just to see who was near.

Standing out in the cold and the dark of the night,  
A lone figure stood, his face weary and tight.  
A soldier, I puzzled, some twenty years old,  
Perhaps a Marine, huddled here in the cold.

Alone in the dark, he looked up and smiled,  
Standing watch over me, and my wife and my child.

"What are you doing?" I asked without fear,  
"Come in this moment, it's freezing out here!"

Put down your pack, brush the snow from your sleeve,  
You should be at home on a cold Christmas Eve!"  
For barely a moment I saw his eyes shift,  
Away from the cold and the snow blown in drifts..  
To the window that danced with a warm fire's light  
Then he sighed and he said "Its really all right,  
I'm out here by choice. I'm here every night."

"It's my duty to stand at the front of the line,  
That separates you from the darkest of times.  
No one had to ask or beg or implore me,  
I'm proud to stand here like my fathers before me.  
My Gramps died at 'Pearl on a day in December,"  
Then he sighed, "That's a Christmas 'Gram always remembers.  
" My dad stood his watch in the jungles of 'Nam',  
And now it is my turn and so, here I am.

I've not seen my own son in more than a while,  
But my wife sends me pictures, he's sure got her smile.  
Then he bent and he carefully pulled from his bag,  
The red, white, and blue... an American flag.

"I can live through the cold and the being alone,

Away from my family, my house and my home.  
I can stand at my post through the rain and the sleet,  
I can sleep in a foxhole with little to eat.

I can carry the weight of killing another,  
Or lay down my life with my sister and brother..  
Who stand at the front against any and all,  
To ensure for all time that this flag will not fall."

"So go back inside," he said, "harbor no fright,  
Your family is waiting and I'll be all right."  
"But isn't there something I can do, at the least,  
"Give you money," I asked, "or prepare you a feast?"

It seems all too little for all that you've done,  
For being away from your wife and your son."  
Then his eye welled a tear that held no regret,  
"Just tell us you love us, and never forget.

To fight for our rights back at home while we're gone,  
To stand your own watch, no matter how long.  
For when we come home, either standing or dead,  
To know you remember we fought and we bled.  
Is payment enough, and with that we will trust,  
That we mattered to you as you mattered to us  
Ed Note: This poem came from Sandee Rouse, our Gold Star Mother. Author not known.



## FEATURE ARTICLES

## A VIETNAM-WALL CONNECTION

BY: Clancy Matsuda

Bob Smith is my neighbor. He stopped by a few weeks ago to share a story that was told at his 40<sup>th</sup> high school class reunion in Norfolk, Nebraska. This saga was told by the father of Claude Van Anandel, who was killed in action in Vietnam on May 27, 1969. Claude was the brother of Nancy Van Anandel. Nancy is a classmate of Bob Smith; she asked her dad to tell Claude's story at the reunion. Claude had a special friend in high school. Her name is Janet. It was a platonic relationship in which they shared things openly and honestly. After graduation Janet enrolled in the University of Nebraska. Claude attended a junior college for a year then joined the Army in May 1968. He must have demonstrated leadership skills because he was assigned to and graduated from the "shake and bake" program. While on leave prior to shipping out to Vietnam, Claude visited Janet at the university. Their time together was filled with laughter and fun. As he was leaving, Claude said: "Well, this might be my last good-bye, I may never come back." Janet quickly responded with something like: "No way, you'll have to come back to tell me 'Good-bye'."

On May 26, 1969 Janet was studying for an exam in her dormitory room; she felt Claude's presence. He said: "I came back to say 'Good-bye'." Janet knew it was neither rational nor logical. With her heart pounding, she called Claude's father to tell him of the mysterious experience. As far as Claude's family was concerned, he was alive and well. Janet talked for a long time; she could not sleep after the first phone call so she called again at 3:00 am. (As you know, the lag time between death and notification of a KIA can take a while.) Two days later Claude's family received the notification of his death.

In May 1985 the National Geographic magazine had a cover story on the Vietnam Memorial. The story referred to the book, *To Heal a Nation*, authored by Jan Scruggs. (Scruggs is an attorney in Washington, D.C. He is the Vietnam veteran who is instrumental in making the Vietnam Wall our memorial.) In his book, Scruggs writes about the mental anguish he suffered after the war. He discovered that he could not contact many of his former buddies or their families because all he knew was their first name or nickname. It was a common practice in many combat-arms units in order to avoid getting too close to guys in the outfit; it was a defense mechanism; it lessened the pain when a buddy was killed. Janet searched for Scruggs' book for over a year. She found a source and placed an order. She read the book in one sitting. Scruggs wrote the he was about to give up on the Memorial as the obstacles begun to mount. But it was the memory of "Claude," a young GI from the Midwest that kept him from giving up. Janet called Claude's father and then embarked on an intense research; she was convinced that it was Claude Van Anandel. Janet sent Scruggs a letter through the publisher. Jan Scruggs scrutinized Janet's research and confirmed her findings. It was Claude Van Anandel's death and the torment that Scruggs



could not remember Claude's last name that prompted him to build a memorial where all the names of those who gave their lives for our nation could be seen and not forgotten.

Claude Van Anandel and Jan Scruggs were assigned to the 199<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade. Claude was the squad leader of the lead squad of the lead platoon on a search and destroy mission conducted by his company. Scruggs was a RTO for the FO of the mortar platoon. The FO and Scruggs were attached to Claude's squad for this mission. Scruggs monitored Claude's radio call to the CO that he spotted a wire which he sensed to be part of a command-detonated explosive. About a minute later, there was a loud explosion followed by a furious fire fight. When shooting stopped, Scruggs called for medevac. Claude must have been very close to a huge explosive. Scruggs was in the group who gathered up what was left of Claude and placed his mangled body and parts in a body bag. Claude was the first American whom Scruggs had seen die. The sheer horror of it never left him. Scruggs himself was wounded and evacuated the next day.

About three weeks after his dialogue with Janet, Jan Scruggs was at a seminar in Scarsdale, New York to help Vietnam veterans cope with their problems. The unfolding of the Claude and Janet story had such a profound impact on Scruggs that he shared the story with the group. During the break after his talk, a priest came to the speaker's podium and asked: "Do you remember me? We've met before." Scruggs said: "No, I don't remember." The priest said: "I'm Charlie Fink, the point man in Claude's squad who could not go on. I helped placing Claude in the body bag. Fink was the newest replacement on the squad and assigned as point man. He was hacking his way through the underbrush until they came upon a small clearing where Claude spotted the wire. Claude radioed the CO who ordered them forward. Fink was now not only exhausted, but paralyzed with fear. Claude could have ordered anyone in his squad to take point, but he did not. He told Fink to cover him while he went forward as point. After a few short steps, a large explosive detonated almost in Claude's face.

## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Fink was dazed and shaken. Claude's sacrifice was a life-changing experience for Charlie Fink. Before this trauma, he was an aimless young kid from Brooklyn, New York.

At the Memorial Day Service in 1987 at the Vietnam Wall, Jan Scruggs invited Father Fink to give the invocation and the sermon. Janet and Claude's father were guests at the service. On national TV, Jan Scruggs proclaimed: "This wall is dedicated to Sergeant Claude Van Andel and all the other young men who gave their lives in that conflict."

Father Fink later wrote a letter to the family and friends of Claude Van Andel. I close with an excerpt of his letter as a tribute to the many "Claude's" we served with in Vietnam.

*I only knew Claude two months – that is how long I'd been in Vietnam when he died – but in that time, I never saw him do a brutal thing. I never met anyone who did not like him. I never heard him doing anything he'd have reason to be ashamed of. He was my squad leader. He could have left me exhausted on point on May 27, 1969 or assigned someone else. He wasn't the type. What happened is not fair; it is lousy. And I wish I could bring Claude back and take away all the pain his family and others who loved him have experienced. But of course, I can't.*

*My consolation is that I am a Catholic priest and really do believe in what I preach, even if I'm not as good at living it. And part of what I believe is that though God's ways are mysterious, they are not malignant. I believe, therefore, that Claude is with God, in a better place than we inhabit. Someday we will be with him again if we are as selfless as he was.*

*I knew many men like Claude – good young men, not perfect, by no means choirboys, but good and decent. They came to Vietnam that way. Most came home that way. Some died that way.*

*It really bothers me to think that thanks to movies like **Platoon**, it will be widely believed that we were all quickly reduced to animals. Claude was not. I wish you could have been with him on the day he died – blond and boyish, his sense of humor intact, grubby like us all, but good and charming and wholesome. The war killed him, but it never destroyed him. I hope you will be at peace about his soldiering and his passing.*

*God Bless and Keep You Always,*

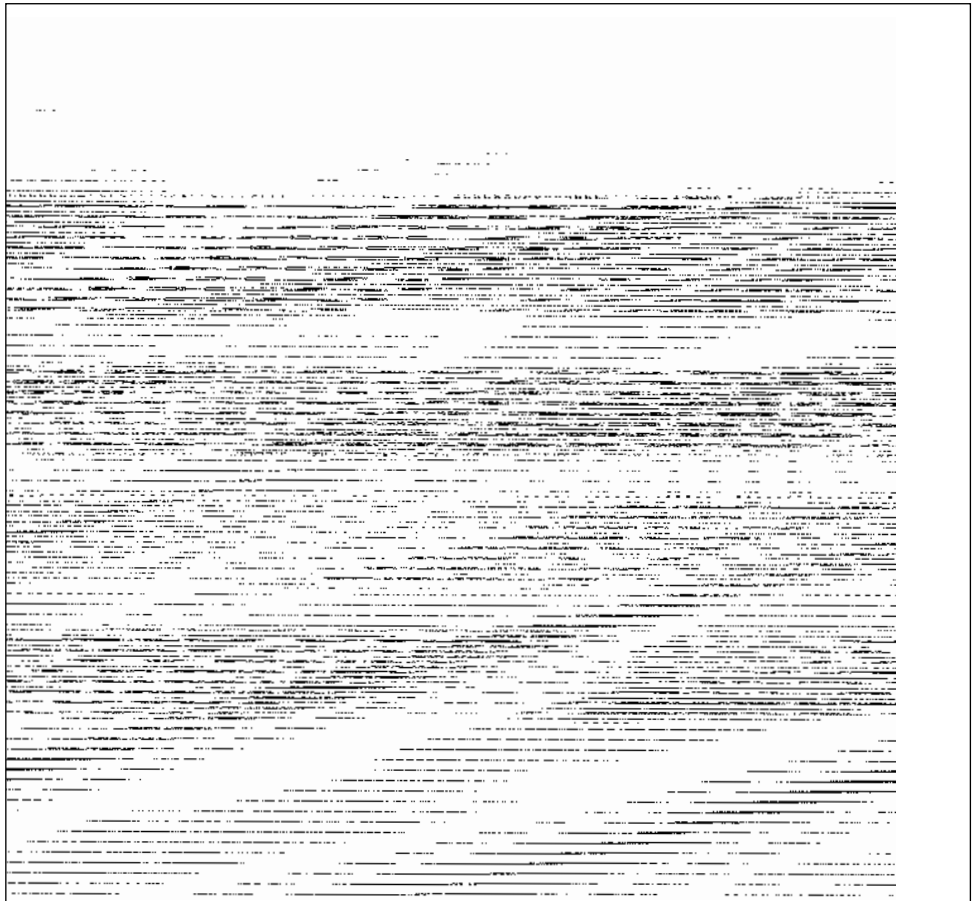
*Charlie Fink*

## DECORATIONS EARNED IN VIETNAM

I want to thank Don Keller for the time and trouble he took in researching the following article, and the expense of finding the appropriate ribbons. If you look at the top of the inside front cover, you will see the ribbons that are the focus of this article illustrated. CSM (Ret) Don Keller, former Top Sergeant of K/75 (Ranger) has always lived the credo of the good NCO or Officer. Take care of your people first.

The second half of the article concerns unit awards made to Vietnamese Biet Dong Quan, (Ranger) units by the American Government, and was contributed by Mike Martin, BDQ Unit Director.

John Chester



## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

BY: Don Keller, CSM (Ret)

Fellow Rangers, LRP's and LRRP's

The attached pages contain unit and individual awards earned by the Rangers, LRP's and LRRP's in Vietnam. This list is real and authentic and was compiled by the Center of Military History at Department of the Army. The following awards are American Unit Awards and would be worn over the right breast pocket. They have a gold frame with wheat leaves engraved upon each side and when worn the wheat "grows up". They are the Valorous and Meritorious Unit Medals (Army) The streamers mentioned with these awards would be kept with the Unit Colors at the major unit headquarters, eleven in all. If you were assigned to the unit(s) indicated and during the years indicated, then you are authorized to wear that award. If you served more than one assignment with that unit or another unit that received the same award, but during a different period, then you would be authorized a second award which would be indicated by an oak leaf cluster affixed to the center of the ribbon's field, with the stem of the leaf pointing to the left as you look at the ribbon. (There are two colors of Oak Leaf Clusters—silver and bronze.) Bronze for two (2) through four(4) and the fifth award would be a silver oak leaf followed by a bronze, should there be subsequent awards. (Note) The basic ribbon would count as one. These awards would be permanent awards which you would always be authorized to wear, regardless of your assignment.

The following awards are Foreign—(Vietnam in this case, 49 in all). These Streamers are also carried on the major unit head quarter's colors and are also for specific time periods. These awards are also individual awards for being assigned to a unit when that unit received the award, and they are the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm and the Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal, First Class. Similar restrictions and methods of wear apply to these awards as the awards discussed above.

Once again, you will read that these awards are for designated time periods and if you served in more than one unit during a different time period, you would be authorized more than one award of the same medal. The additional award would be shown by Oak Leaf Cluster, remembering that the ribbon is one award and two would be with an Oak Leaf Cluster added. That Oak Leaf Cluster would be to the left of the Palm on the Cross of Gallantry as you look at the ribbon. These awards also have gold frames. Since these are unit awards, they are worn over the right chest pocket. You should also be aware that The Vietnam Cross of Gallantry was also awarded to American Service men who were awarded American Medals for Valor, the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm along with an American Bronze Star for Valor and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star along with an American Silver Star for Valor-or Gallantry in Action. If you have that situation you would then have a Vietnam Cross of Gallantry (RIBBON) with both the Palm and a Silver Star affixed in the Center of the Ribbon with the Silver Star to the left of the palm as you look at the ribbon. This particular ribbon has no gold frame and is worn over the left chest pocket positioned along your other Ribbons/Decorations in accordance with existing Army Regulations.

Information concerning the wear of Specific Awards, Decorations, and badges can be found in AR 670-5 and AR 600-8-22.

### DECORATIONS EARNED IN VIETNAM BY LONG RANGE RECONNAISSANCE PATROL, LONG RANGE PATROL AND RANGER TO&E UNITS

#### **Company C (Ranger)–75th Infantry (1 Feb 69 - 28-Oct 71)**

Valorous Unit Award, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM -II CORPS AREA

Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered

VIETNAM 1969-1970

Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered

VIETNAM 1970-1971

Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal, First Class, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1969-1971

#### **Company D (Ranger), 75th Infantry (20 Nov 69 - 10 Apr 70)**

None

#### **Company E (Ranger), 75th Infantry (1 Feb 69 - 23 Aug 69; 1 Oct 69 - 12 Oct 70)**

Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered

VIETNAM 1969

Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered

VIETNAM 1969-1970

Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal, First Class, Streamer embroidered VI ETNAM 1969

Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal, First Class, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1969-1970

#### **Company F (Ranger), 75th Infantry (1 Feb 69 - 15 Mar 71)**

Valorous Unit Award, Streamer embroidered SINH DUONG PROVINCE Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered

VI ETNAM 1969

Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered

VIETNAM 1969-1970

Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal, First Class, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1969-1970

#### **Company G (Ranger), 75th Infantry (1 Feb 69 -1 Oct 71)**

Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army), Streamer embroidered VIETNAM

1969

Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered

VIETNAM 1969-1970

Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered

VIETNAM 1971

#### **Company H (Ranger), 75th Infantry (1 Feb 69 - 15 Aug 72)**

Valorous Unit Award, Streamer embroidered III CORPS AREA 1969

Valorous Unit Award, Streamer embroidered FISH HOOK

## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Valorous Unit Award, Streamer embroidered III C\_ORPS AREA 1971  
 Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1969  
 Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered  
 VIETNAM 1969-1970  
 Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered  
 VIETNAM 1970-1971  
 Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered  
 VIETNAM 1971-1972  
 Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal, First Class, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1969-1970

**Company I (Ranger), 75th Infantry (1 Feb 69 - 7 Apr 70)**

Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal, First Class, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1969-1970

**Company K (Ranger), 75th Infantry (1 Feb 69 - 10 Dec 70)**

Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered  
 VIETNAM 1969  
 Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal, First Class, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1969

**Company L (Ranger), 75th Infantry (1 Feb 69 - 26 Dec 71)**

Valorous Unit Award, Streamer embroidered THUA THIEN - QUANG TRI  
 Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered  
 VIETNAM 1969  
 Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered  
 VIETNAM 1969-1971  
 Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered  
 VIETNAM 1971  
 Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal, First Class, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1969-1970 .

**Company M (Ranger), 75th Infantry (1 Feb 69 -12 Oct 70)**

Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army), Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1969-1970  
 Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered  
 VIETNAM 1969-1970  
 Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal, First Class, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1969-1970

**Company N (Ranger), 75th Infantry (1 Feb 69 - 25 Aug 71)**

Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered  
 VIETNAM 1969-1970  
 Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal, First Class, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1969—1971

**Company O (Ranger), 75th Infantry (1 Feb 69 - 20 Nov 69)**

Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered  
 VIETNAM 1969

**Company P (Ranger), 75th Infantry (1 Feb 69 - 20 Nov 69)**

Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered  
 VIETNAM 1971

**Company D (Long Range Patrol), Indiana ARNG (30 Dec 68 - 1 Feb 69)**

**Company D (Ranger), 151st Infantry, Indiana ARNG (1 Feb 69 - 20 Nov 69)**  
 None

**70th Infantry Detachment (Long Range Patrol) (19 Dec 67 -15 Jan 68)**

None

**71st Infantry Detachment (Long Range Patrol) (20 Dec 67 ~ 1 Feb 69)**

Valorous Unit Award, Streamer embroidered SAIGON - LONG SINH  
 Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army), Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1968  
 Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered  
 VIETNAM 1968  
 Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered  
 VIETNAM 1968-1969  
 Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal, First Class, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1968-1969

**74th Infantry Detachment (Long Range Patrol) (20 Dec 67 -1 Feb 69)**

None

**78th Infantry Detachment (Long Range Patrol) (15 Dec 68 - 1 Feb 69)**

None

**79th Infantry Detachment (Long Range Patrol) (15 Dec 68 - 1 Feb 69)**

None

**Company E (Long Range Patrol), 20th Infantry (26 Sep 67 -1 Feb 69)**

Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered  
 VIETNAM 1967-1968  
 Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal, First Class, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1967-1968

**Company E (Long Range Patrol), 50th Infantry (20 Dec 67 -1 Feb 69)**

Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered  
 VIETNAM 1967-1968  
 Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered  
 VIETNAM 1969  
 Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal, First Class, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1967-1969



## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

### **Company F (Long Range Patrol), 50th Infantry (20 Dec 67 - 1 Feb 69)**

Valorous Unit Award, Streamer embroidered SINH DUONG PROVINCE  
 Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered  
 VIETNAM 1967-1968  
 Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered  
 VI ETNAM 1969

### **Company E (Long Range Patrol), 51st Infantry (20 Dec 67 - 1 Feb 69)**

Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army), Streamer embroidered  
 VIETNAM  
 1968-1969

### **Company F (Long Range Patrol), 51st Infantry (25 Sep 67- 26 Dec 68)**

Valorous Unit Award, Streamer embroidered SAIGON - LONG SINH  
 Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered  
 VI ETNAM 1968

### **Company E (Long Range Patrol), 52d Infantry (20 Dec 67 -1 Feb 69)**

Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered  
 VIETNAM 1967-1969

### **Company F (Long Range Patrol), 52d Infantry (20 Dec 67 - 1 Feb 69)**

Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal, First Class, Streamer embroidered VI ETNAM 1967-1968  
 Long Range Reconnaissance Platoon, Company F additionally entitled to Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm for the period 20 Dec 67 - 16 Oct 68 - no way to display streamer

### **Company E (Long Range Patrol), 58th Infantry (20 Dec 67 -1 Feb 69)**

Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered  
 VIETNAM 1967-1969  
 Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal, First Class, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1967-1969

### **Company F (Long Range Patrol), 58th Infantry (10 Jan 68 - 1 Feb 69)**

- ~  
 Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered  
 VI ETNAM 1968-1969  
 Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal, First Class, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1968-1969

By Mike Martin

US Unit Awards awarded to Vietnamese Ranger units, Biet Dong Quan, in South Vietnam; Reference: Department of the Army Pamphlet 672-3, Decorations, Awards, and Honors (Unit Citation and Campaign Participation Credit Register). Related references: AR 672-5-1, Military Awards and AR 670-1, Wear and Appearance of Army

Uniforms and insignia.

### **1st Ranger Task Force, ARVN**

Presidential Unit Citation—19-25 Feb 1968, DAGO 23, 1969

### **21st Ranger Battalion, ARVN**

Presidential Unit Citation—19-25 Feb 1968, DAGO 23, 1969

### **32d Ranger Battalion, ARVN**

Valorous Unit Award—3 May 1967, DAGO 48, 1968

### **37th Ranger Battalion, ARVN**

Presidential Unit Citation (three awards)—22 Nov 1965, DAGO 20, 1967; 27 Jan-25 Feb 1968, DAGO 23, 1969; 11 Feb-24 Apr 1970 DAGO 37, 1973

### **39 Ranger Battalion, ARVN**

Presidential Unit Citation. (two awards)—19-25 Feb 1968, DAGO 23, 1969; 11 Feb-24 Apr 1970, DAGO 37, 1972

### **41st Ranger Battalion, ARVN**

Valorous Unit Award—29 Oct 1967, DAGO 48, 1968

### **42d Ranger Battalion, ARVN**

Presidential Unit Citation (two awards)—13 May 1965, DAGO 22, 1966-amended DAGO 38, 1965; 17 May 1966 DAGO 14, 1968

### **43d Ranger Battalion, ARVN**

Valorous Unit Award—11 & 12 Feb 1966, DAGO 3, 1969

### **44th Ranger Battalion, ARVN**

Presidential Unit Citation—6 Apr 1965, DAGO 22, 1966-amended DAGO 3Q, 1965

### **52d Ranger Battalion, ARVN**

Presidential Unit Citation—11 Nov 1965, DAGO 20, 1967

### **77th Ranger Battalion, ARVN**

Valorous Unit Award—24 Aug-5 Sep 1971, DAGO 11, 1973

### **91st Ranger Battalion, ARVN**

#### **1st Company**

Valorous Unit Award—4 Mar-4 Apr 1968, DAGO 59, 1969-amended DAGO 5, 1969

#### **3d Company**

Valorous Unit Award—4 Mar-4 Apr 1968, DAGO 59, 1969-amended DAGO 5, 1969

#### **5th Company**

Valorous Unit Award—4 Mar-4 Apr 1968, DAGO 59, 1969-amended DAGO 5, 1969

### **DECORATIONS AND MEDALS OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM**

Biet Dong Quan (Ranger) units received many awards for valor and heroism from the Republic of Vietnam: Twenty-three Ranger units were awarded the Gallantry Cross with Palm; the 42nd Battalion received the award seven times, the 44th Battalion six times, and the 1st Group and 43rd Battalion each four times. The 42nd and 44th Battalions were awarded a National Order—r Fourragere, the 43rd Battalion the Military Order Fourragere, and the 21st, 37th, 41st and 52nd Battalions the Gallantry Order Fourragere.

## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

# ‘Fiddy-Cal’ Becomes Weapon Of Choice In Iraq

By David Wood, Newhouse News Service

WASHINGTON — U.S. troops in Iraq are firing .50-caliber machine guns at such a high rate, the Army is scrambling to resupply them with ammunition — in some cases dusting off crates of World War II machine gun rounds and shipping them off to combat units. In the dangerous and unanticipated conflict that has intensified in Iraq since the U.S. invasion in March 2003, the gun that grunts call the “fiddy-cal” or “Ma Deuce,” after its official designation, M-2, has become a ubiquitous sight mounted on armored Humvees and other heavy vehicles. Above the staccato crackle and squeak of small arms fire, the fiddy-cal’s distinctive “THUMP THUMP THUMP” indicates that its 1.6-ounce bullets, exactly the weight of eight quarters, are going downrange at 2,000 mph. The bullets are said to be able to stop an onrushing car packed with deadly explosives dead in its tracks from a mile away. A .50-cal round can travel four miles, generally not with great accuracy.

At closer ranges, it is so powerful that a round will obliterate a person, penetrate a concrete wall behind him and several houses beyond that, gunners in Iraq have said. “You can stop a car, definitely penetrate the vehicle to take out the engine — and the driver,” said Army Maj. Gen. Charles H. Swannack Jr., who recently retired after commanding the 82nd Airborne Division in Iraq. Merely “the noise of it is huge. Intimidating,” Swannack said. But it’s so powerful, he added, “I would not use it in an area where there’s lots of noncombatants.”

In the 1990s, fiddy-cals and crates of .50-cal ammunition gathered dust as the Army struggled to shed its heavy image and become lighter, quicker and more high-tech. Fiddy-cals are early Industrial Age artifacts, invented by John Moses Browning during World War I. Browning’s 1919 drawings specified machined steel plates and rivets; today’s manufacturers haven’t monkeyed with his basic design. The gun alone weighs a bone-crushing 84 pounds, not including its 40-pound tripod and heavy brass-jacketed ammunition. Outmoded or not, when Iraq erupted, the Army and Marines reached back for the .50-cal and its heavy killing power.

Swivel-mounted in the turret of a Humvee, the gun can lay down a heavy steel blizzard, 40 rounds a minute, on grouped insurgents or vehicles, and is often used in convoys or at checkpoints as a last resort to stop suicide car bombers. Small wonder, then, that the steady increase in .50-cal use began to rapidly drain ammo stockpiles. At the Blue Grass Army Depot in Richmond, Ky., ammunition left over from Desert Storm, Vietnam, Korea and even World War II had been stored in

massive concrete bunkers, including some 12 million rounds of .50-cal. They began shipping it off to Iraq. By the time the war stretched into its second year, the Blue Grass stockpile of .50 cal had shrunk to 4 million rounds.

The Army surged production of new .50-cal ammunition, taking on more than a thousand new workers at its Lake City ammunition plant in Independence, Mo. “Fifty-cal is crazy,” said Bryce Hallowell, spokesman for Alliant Techsystems Inc., the contractor that runs the plant. Four years ago, Lake City was manufacturing about 10 million rounds a year; currently it is producing at an annual rate of 50 million rounds and rising. Even that five-fold increase hasn’t been enough.

At Blue Grass, Darryl Brewer, a combat medic in Vietnam, is chief of logistics for the ammunition depot. Recently, he started pulling out .50 cal. crates marked 1945. He opened some up and peered inside. “Pristine,” Brewer reported. “It’s in lead-sealed cans, like sardines. Just like it was made yesterday.” The 1945 ammunition was opened and test rounds fired to check for reliability and accuracy, standard testing done for all aging ammunition. “They find anything wrong, they’ll do a suspension,” Brewer said, adding with some pride, “Very seldom you see that in a fiddy-cal.”

Fifty-cal rounds are linked into belts that are fed from steel ammo boxes into the side of the weapon. At Blue Grass, technicians have to replace the World War II links, using a “delinker-linker” machine so old they had to make parts for it before it would work. The relinked rounds are sealed back in ammo boxes, like sardines, and shipped. Once grunts open up the boxes in Iraq, “then you start to have deterioration,” Brewer said. “Stuff goes pretty fast.”

Like other workers at Blue Grass, Brewer, 58, has a personal stake in the war, and the ammo. His son, 1st Lt. William Bryan Brewer, deploys to Iraq in December as a Blackhawk helicopter pilot. Conceivably, suppressive ground fire from .50-cals will force insurgents to keep their heads down as his aircraft passes. “We got a couple guys with sons over there,” Brewer said. “That’s why we’re kinda particular to make sure this stuff is right when it goes out. “It could save their lives one day, you never know.”

ED Note: This article was contributed by Ben Youmans of the Cacti Association.

## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

### Ranger Support Companies Added to the Regiment

In order to face the challenges of non-stop operations in the War on Terror, the Regiment is adding a ranger support company to each battalion.

It was felt that operations could be best supported if the Regiment owned its own 'tail', rather than having units DS or opcon to it. After debate about the form this support would take, 'they' decided on an integral support company in each battalion. These are designated 'E Company' ('D' is reserved for a future fourth rifle company).

According to a USASOC news release of August 18, 2005, the "Ranger Support Company's duties include equipment distribution, maintenance and accountability"

(1) The first of these companies, E Co., 3d Bn, was stood up on October 19, 2005 at Ft Benning

(2) While the companies are slotted for Combat Support and Combat Service Support specialties, only males are eligible for assignment.

The E Co soldiers are expected to behave & perform to regimental standards of professionalism. They wear maroon berets for now & must be at least airborne qualified.

Tan berets will not be "issued".

Beginning early in 2006, all soldiers en-route to the support companies will be required to pass RIP/ROP prior to assignment. In order to get these companies operational, selected personnel, drawn largely from USASOC support elements, have been directly assigned but will be expected to achieve RIP/ROP standards in order to remain in the Regiment.

The appropriate battalion flashes and scrolls are worn with the maroon berets.

(1) <http://news.soc.mil/releases/05AUG/050816-02.htm>

(2) <http://news.soc.mil/> November 2005. photo.

This article is based on the referenced USASOC releases and the unclassified 'State of the Regt' brief, July 2005.

## NEW STUDY

**Just six days after canceling one PTSD review, the VA "sneaks in" another – Culture of secrecy makes agency designed to help veterans their biggest foe**

*by Larry Scott*

<http://www.opednews.com>

Over the past year, the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA), led by Secretary Jim Nicholson, has turned a deaf ear to veterans and quietly made numerous decisions designed to strip veterans of benefits and compensation.

Secretary Nicholson came to the VA with no understanding of veterans' advocacy and no experience in the healthcare sector. He had been Chairman of the Republican National Committee and Ambassador to the Vatican. As one pundit put it, "Jim Nicholson can write a good political bumper sticker and knows how to kiss the Pope's ring. That's about it."

But, with Secretary Nicholson at the VA helm, veterans have come to feel isolated from the agency's decision-making processes. And, recent developments have done nothing quell that uneasy feeling.

Earlier this year, veterans were surprised by the VA's "second signature required" (SSR) policy. SSR applied to approved claims for many "high-dollar" disabilities and stipulated that the claim be re-approved by another VA staffer. However, if the claim was denied by the first staffer, there was no second review.

Veterans' groups claimed that a SSR policy should apply to

all claims for any condition whether they were approved or denied. The fact that the VA chose to apply SSR to disabilities with "high-dollar" compensation was proof to many veterans that the agency was just trying to save money by denying benefits.

The SSR policy was NOT announced by the VA. Only some very good investigative work by Cheryl Reed of the Chicago Sun-Times brought the story to light. This is just one of many instances where the VA has instituted policies detrimental to veterans without making the actions public.

The latest "unannounced" move by the VA is a new review of PTSD diagnosis, treatment and compensation. The VA's plans came to light on November 16, just six days after they had canceled a review of 72,000 PTSD claims awarded at 100 per cent disability. Pressure from veterans' groups and Democrat members of Congress forced the cancellation.

The VA's new PTSD review was not announced by the VA. There was no VA press release. There was no VA press conference. The information was not posted on the VA web site.

Information about the new PTSD review was made public in a press release by Senator Larry Craig (R-ID), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. The release, in part, said, "The Department of Veterans Affairs announced today that it has contracted with the Institute of Medicine (IOM) on a two-pronged approach to the examination of PTSD."

## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Except, the VA hadn't announced anything. They were using Senator Craig as their conduit to hand out the bad news. Since Craig's press releases don't have a high readership, this information has gone virtually unnoticed.

Upon reading Senator Craig's press release I called the Public Affairs Office at the VA. They had no knowledge of the review. I then called the Institute of Medicine. They had no knowledge of the review.

Senator Craig's office was more helpful. They forwarded the two documents the VA had sent to them. One document is a Fact Sheet detailing the contract between the VA and the IOM. The other is a Question and Answer sheet. (NOTE: The VA documents are available at the following URL – <http://www.vawatchdog.org/newsflash/newsflash11-23-2005-3.htm> )

I encourage all veterans to read the VA documents. They detail a plan to redefine PTSD by altering diagnostic and treatment techniques that will then lead to a complete restructuring of VA compensation. Following are a few excerpts from the VA Fact Sheet.

The IOM "...will review the utility and objectiveness of the criteria in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM- IV), and will comment on the validity of current screening instruments and their predictive capacity for accurate diagnoses."

This will allow the VA to write an alternate definition of PTSD exclusive of the DSM-IV and institute new methods of treatment outside of normally accepted guidelines. I wonder what the American Psychiatric Association will say about this?

Also, the IOM "...will review the literature on compensation practices for PTSD...and how changes in the frequency and intensity of symptoms affect compensation practices for PTSD; assessing how compensation practices and reevaluation requirements for PTSD compare with other chronic conditions which have periods of remission and return of symptoms; and reviewing strategies used to support recovery and return to function in patients with PTSD."

And, this will allow the VA to lower PTSD compensation based on "frequency and intensity of symptoms" and "remission and return of symptoms." The VA will also be looking to deny PTSD benefits based on the concept of "recovery and return to function." VA Secretary Nicholson has often used the word "recover" (terribly close to the word "cure") when speaking of veterans with PTSD. The IOM reviews will be completed in a year.

Also, there were two big surprises found in the Question and Answer document. "QUESTION: Why is this study being conducted now? ANSWER: Over the next two years, the [VA] Secretary and the Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission (VDBC) is (sic) closely examining compensation for all health conditions, including PTSD."

Surprise number one is that the VA has not announced that Secretary Nicholson is examining compensation "for ALL health conditions." Veterans can only look forward to fewer benefits and lower compensation with Nicholson directing this endeavor.

The second surprise is Secretary Nicholson's mention of the VDBC. The VDBC, by law, is "independent of the Department of Veterans' Affairs." However, to discover that they are coordinating their efforts should not be a surprise. The VDBC is made up of 13 members who are currently studying all areas of VA compensation. Nine VDBC members were appointed by Republicans. Secretary Nicholson was appointed by President Bush.

Then there is the matter of timing. The VDBC's charter stipulates that their reports must be done by October of 2006. But, the VDBC has also contracted with the IOM for studies that will not be complete for at least a year. They will be asking for an extension. This means that the VDBC reports from IOM and the VA reports from IOM will be released at the same time, well AFTER the 2006 elections. I don't believe in coincidence.

Sometime in early 2007, after the elections, VA Secretary Jim Nicholson will be armed with reports from the VDBC and the VA's IOM studies. Expect a two-fisted attack on veterans' benefits and compensation from an administration that is the first to shout "Support Our Troops"...until they become veterans.

<http://www.vawatchdog.org>

Larry Scott ([larry@vawatchdog.org](mailto:larry@vawatchdog.org)) served four years in the U.S. Army with overseas tours as a Broadcast Journalist in Korea and the Azores and a stateside tour as a Broadcast Journalism Instructor at the Defense Information School (DINFOS). He was awarded DOD's First Place Thomas Jefferson Award for Excellence in Journalism. After the Army, Larry was a news anchor on WNBC Radio in New York City. He receives VA compensation for a service-connected disability. Larry is a regular on the Thom Hartmann show on KPOJ radio in Portland, Oregon. Today, Larry resides in Southwest Washington and operates the website [VA Watchdog dot Org](http://www.vawatchdog.org).

# UNIT REPORTS



## 1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Bill Acebes



BY: Bill Acebes

Congratulations are in order for Ranger Christopher H. Shanahan, of Charlie Company, for being selected as the Battalion, Regiment and USASOC Soldier of the Year. The last I heard, he was going for US Army Soldier of the Year. The Regimental NCO of the year is Ranger David B. Simmons, of Alpha Company. With all the deployments, plus the competition with other Rangers and soldiers within USASOC, these are great accomplishments.

In June, the 1st BN Ball was held at the International Trade Center in Savannah. This year the BN honored the Rangers who participated in Operation Eagle Claw (Desert One). The 75th Ranger Regiment Association considered it an honor to pay for the plaque that these Rangers presented to the Battalion. It was designed by Ranger Jim Kinney, who was in attendance. I was honored to be the guest speaker at this great event. I kept it short, remembering when I was young, I wanted the guest speaker to get done so I could get back to drinking and partying. The “boys” didn’t disappoint me.

Former members of Charlie Company were the guests of COL (R) Ed Chamberlain and his family at their Lake Hartwell home in August. The Rangers came from all over — Longest trip was made by Ranger Mordine and his wife – they flew in from Japan. Others came in from California; Wyoming and Oklahoma. We all had a great time riding on the party barges; Ranger Chamberlain’s brother in law smoked a whole hog and it sure was good. The Chamberlains still know how to host a great get together. COL (R) Jim Bush and his wife were there. Marianna Chamberlain took a group of us on a tour of Toccoa, GA, home of the “Band of Brothers”. That is exactly how the group felt about one another that weekend. I would be remiss if I did not bring out one important thing – We will never get too old to show our stuff. See attached photo. Those Rangers who went off in a speed boat did just that. Because the boat motor broke; they mooned from the bridge railing, the boat and anything and anybody else in the area.

Another big event was sponsored by the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. Some very deserving Rangers were invited out to dinner at Carabbas in Savannah. These were the 1st BN cooks and their wives/significant others. Attending also was LTC and Mrs. Clarke, the Company Commander and Support Platoon Leader and their wives. These guys are always working to feed hungry Rangers and keeping the units supplied all the time without letup. They even have combat roles to train for. Other attendees were SGM (R) and Mrs. Ken Turner; CSM (R) Mike Etheridge. Mike’s daughter was our server and kept the food and drinks flowing. The Support Platoon Leader was there not to just enjoy himself; but to pay for any of the drinks consumed by the



cooks. SFC Pinkney asked me to say “THANK YOU” to the whole association for providing this night out - It really pulled his team together. LTC Clarke also asked that his appreciation be expressed for this Association honoring his “unsung heroes”. Of course, we invited the sister of all 1/75 Rangers, Shelia and her husband. Shelia is another unsung hero to this Ranger. (See attached picture).

On a sad note I was informed of the passing of a former 1st BN Ranger, Shane Orrin McAloon. Shane passed away in July, at his home in Hartsville, SC. He served with the BN in Iraq and was involved in the rescue of PVT Jessica Lynch.

Until the next issue, keep your powder dry and hatchet sharp; and see you on the high ground.





1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)




**2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT**  
 Unit Director - Rich Hecht
 

BY: Rich Hecht

On November 4th 2005, former 2/75 Ranger and my former Platoon Sergeant, CSM Doug Greenway became the new Command Sergeant Major of the Infantry School. He leaves the position of CSM of the Ranger Training Brigade in the capable hands of CSM Matt Walker, who previously served with 3/75.

During CSM Greenway's tenure, the RTB graduated 3000 new Ranger qualified soldiers, turned out first and second place Best Ranger teams as well as the top NCO and Instructor of the Year.

Quoting Col. William O. Darby, CSM Greenway compared training Ranger to wild horses, it's easy to get them running, but it's hard to rein them in. "They take the hardest tasks, because they love to live life to the fullest and

they love challenges. They don't have the words can't or won't in their vocabulary. That's the definition of a Ranger, it's a spirit, an attitude." Lead the Way CSM Greenway!



**A MSG's Long Shadow.**

BY: Kevin Ingraham  
2nd BATT, '75-'77

This column has seen several accounts of the founding 'old scroll' era, and the experiences of cherries reporting in to this sometimes bizarre new life.

I'd like to indulge in a different take, and reflect on how serving a successful tour in a ranger battalion influenced my life.

My perspective is of one who's arrived at middle age, who served in the old scroll era, before Regiment existed and to whom

'Battalion' was the worldview.

2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)

General Abram's charter to the newly established battalions insisted that the new units would set a standard of professionalism to be emulated by the rest of the army. The men I served under had an "Abram's Charter" effect on my life.

While the culture of 'battalion' & peer pressure served to encourage the best efforts from each of us who stayed in the unit, it was the NCOs we served who set the standards we lived by, and who shaped us up or moved us out.

I imagine that most of us privates who volunteered for the Rangers, did so for the challenge, to see if we could 'take it'. Few intended to seek military careers, most intended to meet a challenge for one term, then having found what we sought about ourselves, or not, most moved on to other things. Those who completed their tours in a Ranger Battalion were marked by the experience. I certainly was.

Most of us privates from the 'old scroll' era had had little opportunity to become aware of ourselves, having grown up in an era of unprecedented economic achievement and infrastructure.

We were mostly teens, kids from an indulgent society that had rejected soldierly values and was shedding standards of conduct and even basic manners.

It's a given that our officers and NCOs were hard charging Type-A achievers, as evidenced by the extremely high numbers of field grades from my era who became generals. These 'lifers', in the vernacular of the day, were faced with the task of making Rangers out of soldiers who'd enlisted into an army that tolerated drug use, suffered racial violence and petty crime. The Army was trying to recover from a downward spiral of ever lower standards of appearance, conduct and professional skill. We enlisted under a slogan of "Join the people who joined the Army", not the challenge of "Be all you can be".

Battalion set the highest standards in that Army and you were expected to measure up, and measure up fast. Every facet of our lives was regulated and scrutinized. Our personal finances were of interest to our platoon leaders, even traffic violations could be cause for removal.

Those who stayed had the internal drive, the 'guts' to see out 0530 PT formations and long runs, followed by long ruck marches out to the ranges, days and nights in northwestern cold drizzle, endlessly repetitive tactical drills, backbreaking loads and garrison workdays that still lasted 16 hours, all the while maintaining sometimes unbelievable levels of chickenshit and adherence to petty rules and 'battalion standards' and SOPs. Outstanding appearance in garrison and uniformity at all times was the standard.

Rangers of all ranks sought to improve their knowledge and skills after hours, our NCOs saw to it that you had the opportunity to excel, and saw you out if you did not make the attempt.

I was fortunate that my 'formative years' in life and the army, was entered into under the tutelage of a certain MSG, the battalion operations NCO and future 2d Battalion CSM.

Others reading this will picture a squad leader or platoon sergeant, or several peers, but the NCO who stayed after hours, kicked ass and generally guided this young ranger's professional and personal skills was MSG Walter Stock.

Rather than move me down the road to 9th Division in my stumbling start, he and other NCOs and peers like SSG Juan Robles and Chuck Zeigler made me perform. They forced me to not just learn my MOS and how it applied to Ranger ops, or the thousands of other things a soldier masters, but to find within myself those things that might be there, but most men will never have to reach for and discover the limits of.

It was there, while still in HHC, that I learned how to assume responsibility, and to do so at levels unimaginable to my civilian peers.

I'd love to say that I was remembered for being Ranger Hall of Fame material, but I was, in my estimation, remarkably average for Battalion. Goofy, in fact. Hopefully, fondly remembered by my friends, but not exactly the subject of legend.

But what happened after?

First I reenlisted for Special Forces. I learned quickly the truth of the saying that earning the title of Ranger wasn't the real challenge, living up to it is. That forced me to work even harder than I had in Battalion.

My SFQC classmates looked to the battalion Rangers for the example, and it was battalion Rangers who lead the way, particularly 2d Batt's SSG Stevens and a 1st Bn Ranger whose name I've regretfully forgotten.

For the remainder of my enlistment, I was thought of as a good SF soldier, a 'come to' guy and respected. Much more so than in my battalion days! But it was the personal discipline and motivation I internalized under the likes of PSG Allen, SP5 Mellinger (yes, THAT Mellinger) and MSG Stock that earned me the later respect and has guided me to this day.

After a tour in SF, I ETSed to become a career firefighter and I remained in SF reserves, leaving in 2000 as a MSG.

Last year, I retired from the fire department as deputy chief. But for the grounding in Ranger standards and values, I don't believe I would've found the things within me that led to my ultimate successes.

All along up the NCO ladder and as I gained responsibility in the fire department, I guided myself by what I saw as doing the right thing, as if I'd have to explain myself after hours to a glowering MSG Stock. When I got physically beat, it was Mellinger's voice I 'heard', making me pull deeper and drive on, and in turn provide that same sort of guidance and professional example to 'my' soldiers and firefighters.

One night, after an already too-long workday, the S3 NCOIC sets me down to his desk and proceeds to show me how he managed his work load; organizing tasks, allotting resources, making and finding the contacts a bureaucracy requires to function and other minutiae.

PFC Ingraham didn't see the value in this to a PFC who just wanted to get to a line company ASAP. Twenty five years later Ass't Chief Ingraham organized his duties and the training office how?

2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)

MSG Stock made me take a typing class. Sheesh, I went Ranger in order to make big objects into small objects and generally ‘do manly things with manly men in a manly manner’. The commanders’ jeep survived me learning to drive a stick, and mastering cross country 4-wheeling. Someday, I might get the nerve to tell the MSG about the day I learned to message the system & get bodywork done on army vehicles without the unit account being charged. There’s a chance he didn’t know.

Recently we had a get-together at our home with some old high school friends. While a couple or three ducked out to the alley for a toke or two, and to bitch about how Republican policies kept them out of a job and other civilianese, my wife says to me “I suppose now I’m thankful for the Ranger stuff, that’s why you’re going to work tomorrow and aren’t out in the alley with them”.

Conversations with other Ranger veterans confirm that my experience is far from unique. Rangers active in this association, those who attend the reunions and who participate in web forums tend to the successful. Most of you with a decade or more since your battdays can recognize yourselves in this column, some of you are going to call and bust my chops for the ‘touchy-feely’ nature of this, but this story is yours too.

I’ve had a pretty good run, I’ve heard from former cadets or junior soldiers who made it in SF or elsewhere who called to thank me for the example I set for them, and for inspiring them to meet the challenge themselves.

I topped out in both of my chosen career fields, army and fire. Whenever things truly suck, I know there’s four men who have it worse right then: one each in Darby, Dahlenega, Eglin and the Rainier Training Area, unless he’s in Yakima instead this week.

I had to have the native ability to do it, but what made it possible for me to exploit that raw material and achieve what I have began in 2d Ranger Battalion.

Thank you Rangers.

Photo Below, the first 2nd BATT Yearbook.

**When Opportunity Knocks**

Like many of you I’m sure, Hurricane Katrina caught my attention as the news showed hours of footage of incredible destruction and the lawlessness that followed. So when I discovered that I could go be a part of the event I jumped at the chance. I served in 2/75 during the mid to late 90’s, and after getting out found a great job as a firefighter in a suburban

department located in Washington State. After 9/11, I found myself wanting to get involved in “meeting the enemies of my country”, but family commitments have prevented me from re-enlisting.

It just so happened that I had a large amount of vacation time scheduled in September and October, so getting away was no problem. After seeing some job postings online, I emailed my resume and DD214 to a recruiter from a large well know security company, and about a week later I was enroute to Baton Rouge for 30 days of fun and excitement. I’ll attempt to hit some of the high points in the next few paragraphs.

Arriving in Baton Rouge, I was taken to a staging camp located in one of the poorer sections of town. Here all new hires were issued uniforms, some duty gear, and a Glock handgun with several magazines.

There were many shapes and sizes of people there, a sad reality I guess when you hire based on a resume, but almost immediately I linked up with 2 former batt. boys, also from 2/75. These guys (a bit younger than myself) have been living the dream, contracting for various companies overseas, so I won’t use their real names. We’ll call them the “Angry German” and “Wookie”

The next 3 days found us breaking down tents, moving boxes, and police calling the area. Nothing hard, and we were making \$300 a day to be privates again. Nevertheless some of the hires with only law enforcement backgrounds found this beneath them and did nothing but whine and complain. We impressed one of the leaders, who was a Vietnam era Ranger, and he told us he would try to keep us assigned together. We were all put into a QRF team, and the night Rita hit we drove into downtown New Orleans to occupy and secure a critical site.

Our infil was somewhat eerie, with the storm hitting and much of the city still blacked out and debris everywhere. Our caravan of vehicles got lost briefly, but that’s no doubt because we let a Navy Seal navigate us on land. We occupied a FEMA command and control site, and for the next 27 days provided force protection and site security at several positions in the area, working with several Federal LE agencies. We had a day and night shift, each working 12 hour rotations. My shift got along great, and we had a lot of fun working together. Our TL was a retired Seal (Sugarcookie), and we had a retired SF guy (Father Time), a navy corpsman (Marine Nurse), a 20 year Swat cop (Airtime, talk about long winded radio transmissions), a corrections guy local to the area (Mikey), and us 3 Rangers.

Duty was somewhat boring, but the arrival of the Carnival Cruise ships brought many local emergency workers and their families to our area for housing. I had heard many negative things said of the New Orleans Police Department, but I had no idea how unprofessional some of their ranks are. We were threatened, verbally abused, and even had one physical altercation and a couple of incidents of harassing fire in our area (although unclear who the shooters were). What can I say, they don’t like being told what to do, but they did keep the experience interesting. After shift we usually had a debriefing in the TL’s hotel room before we wandered out on Bourbon Street to blend in with the locals and consume some beverages.



## 2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)

Overall I had a great time and met some cool, professional people. I learned a lot about PSD ops from the Angry German, who ran us through countless hours of training using MRE's as vehicles and fruit juice cans as shooters. The Wookie taught me many different ways to insult and ridicule people, both in English and in Arabic. And Sugarcookie, with his vast collection of "tactical" photos on his laptop and easy going sense of humor, demonstrated how good leaders take care of their men. If any of

you want to go yourself, the opportunity should be there for quite some time. Get your paperwork together, do a little looking for job postings (armyranger.com) and you will make some money and do some good networking.

RLTW,  
Kevin W.



## 3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Bill Dodge



## Ranger Regiment receives Valorous Unit Award

By Kim Laudano  
75th Ranger Regiment Public Affairs Office

FORT BENNING, NC (USASOC News Service, Nov. 22, 2005) — The 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment received the Valorous Unit Award during a ceremony here Nov. 22 for actions while engaged in an intense battle during the opening days of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

According to the award citation, Rangers from 3rd Bn., 75th Ranger Regt., as part of a joint task force, displayed extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy from March 30 through April 9, 2003, during a mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Rangers displayed exceptional gallantry while performing their mission to seize the enemy-occupied Hadithah Dam in Iraq to obtain a communication line across the Euphrates River and to prevent the enemy from destroying the dam.

The element fought admirably in a series of direct and indirect enemy engagements against squad and platoon sized elements, 155 millimeter artillery and heavy mortar fires to clear the dam and destroy enemy forces in the vicinity. Their brave performance and determination resulted in mission success.

This operation had all of the makings of a typical Ranger operation explained Lt. Col. John G. Castles, commander, 3rd Bn., 75th Ranger Regt. "It was very dangerous, against a numerically superior enemy, deep into the heart of the country behind enemy lines, with expectations of heavy enemy resistance and the dam itself thought to be rigged to blow.

The Hadithah Dam was, and still is, a vital line of communication from Western Iraq leading into Baghdad," he said. "The importance of this site was that, if destroyed, the waters would flood the Euphrates River basin all the way into Baghdad and either destroy or limit the maneuverability of coalition forces moving up into this critical area."

Originally tasked to be there for 24 hours, the force was required to remain at this critical position for several days. "Despite continued contact with the enemy, the force held firm, continuing to take the fight to and destroy the enemy, resulting



in coalition forces continued movement north into Iraq," said Castles.

Maj. David S. Doyle, who commanded the Rangers during the mission, recalled the operation from beginning to end. "We infiltrated into the western desert with one plan, and then the circumstances changed during our movement. We received the Hadithah Dam mission and had less than 12 hours to plan and get moving.

We planned on the hood of a vehicle in the desert and went through our troop leading procedures just like we were at Ranger School," said Doyle. "Of course this time, we received the order from a digital transmission, there were no Ranger instructors looking over our shoulders and the enemy was waiting for us."

They prepared for the mission, issued the orders and as the sun set they knew that there was an amazing operation ahead. "As the battle progressed, Rangers showed why they are specially selected and that they are well trained," said Doyle.

"The pace of the combat was surprising. The days seemed to pass very quickly. We really gauged the passing of time by the consumption of our ammunition. "

The battle damage assessment for the entire battle included 230 enemy killed, and destroyed 29 tanks, nine S-60 anti-aircraft artillery, 14 anti-aircraft artillery pieces, 28 155mm artillery, 22 82mm mortars, six 60mm mortars, eight ammunition caches, 18 buildings, three heavy cargo trucks, two motorcycles, 10 boats and one kayak.

"Rangers overcame the heat, enemy fire and unfamiliar terrain and held their ground without complaint," Doyle said. "Rangers learned that they could survive under constant enemy direct and indirect fire if they used their training and listened to

## 3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)

their leaders.”

Doyle echoed that the entire Ranger battalion earned this award. “Rangers fighting at the dam displayed valor, Rangers from our staging base pushed critical ammunition and supplies to our location and received our casualties, and our leaders passed on the additional assets that we needed to stay on the target.”

Previously, four Rangers received the Silver Star, 11 received the Bronze Star Medal for Valor, five received the Purple Heart, 20 received Army Commendation Medals for Valor, 15 received the Bronze Star Medal and 71 received the Army Commendation Medal for this mission.

The Valorous Unit Award is awarded to units of the Armed Forces for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy of the United States while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing armed force. The unit must have performed with marked distinction under difficult and hazardous conditions to accomplish the mission, separating it from other units involved in the conflict.

The degree of heroism required for this award is the same as is required for an individual to be awarded the Silver Star. It is second in unit awards only to the Presidential Unit Citation.

“With the hanging of this streamer on our colors, the events of this operation and the actions by the heroic Rangers involved are immortalized forever and take their place next to streamers representing historic Ranger actions from Mogadishu to Panama to Point Du Hoc,” said Castles. “We honor the unit and those Rangers past and present for their actions at the Hadithah Dam, as their heroic actions will always serve as an example to us all as we continue the fight in the Global War on Terrorism.”

The 3rd Ranger Bn. last received the Valorous Unit Award for actions while deployed to Somalia in 1993. 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment was awarded the Valorous Unit Award for the battle at Hadithah Dam in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003 during a ceremony at Fort Benning, Ga., on Nov. 22. Brig. Gen. Mark V. Phelan, deputy command general, U.S. Army Special Operations Command, and Lt. Col. John G. Castles, commander, 3rd Bn., 75th Ranger Regt., place the award, displayed on a streamer, to the battalion colors. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Brad Bartucca, 75th Ranger Regiment) 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment was awarded the Valorous Unit Award for the battle at Hadithah Dam in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003 during a ceremony at Fort Benning, Ga., on Nov. 22. Brig. Gen. Mark V. Phelan, deputy command general, U.S. Army Special Operations Command, and Lt. Col. John G. Castles, commander, 3rd Bn., 75th Ranger Regt., place the award, displayed on a streamer, to the battalion colors. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Brad Bartucca, 75th Ranger Regiment)

#### Valorous Awards presented to 25 Army Rangers

FORT BENNING, Ga. (USASOC News Service, Nov. 18, 2005) – Army Rangers here were presented valorous awards in recognition of actions while deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism during a ceremony Nov. 18.

Twenty five Soldiers received awards. All the Soldiers are

currently assigned to 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment.

“These men represent extraordinary heroism. They fought for each other, their families and to get the mission done,” said Lt. Col. John G. Castles, commander, 3rd Bn., 75th Ranger Regt. “Their actions are representative of others on this field today.

“Rangers often downplay individual actions, because nothing can be done without the entire force.” He explained that the awardees’ actions were significant and that “fellow Rangers are standing here today because of the valorous actions of these Rangers.”

The Silver Star, awarded for gallantry in action, was presented to two Rangers for actions while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Capt. Christopher A. Molino was awarded the Silver Star while serving as the ground commander when his Soldiers were attacked. According to the award citation, Molino was conducting combat operations when his element came under direct small arms and hand grenade fire from a determined enemy. His personal courage, tactical expertise and professional competence contributed to saving the lives of wounded Rangers and the success of the task force.

Staff Sgt. David M. Edwards was awarded the Silver Star while serving as a squad leader for the task force. According to the citation, Edwards’ unit was conducting combat operations when his element came under an intense enemy attack. While under direct fire, his outstanding leadership, dedication to duty and commitment to excellence were fundamental in saving the life of a wounded Ranger and success of the task force.

The Soldier’s Medal was presented to Sgt. Mark T. Alperin while serving as a mortar platoon squad leader in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. This medal is awarded for personnel who distinguish themselves by heroism involving personal danger and the voluntary risk of life, though no contact with the enemy was made. This award requires the same level of heroism as the Distinguished Flying Cross.

According to the award citation, Alperin displayed the highest degree of professionalism, sound judgment, technical and tactical knowledge and an overwhelming concern for the welfare of his Rangers. His exceptional performance and dedication to duty were contributing factors in saving a Ranger and success of the task force.

Bronze Star Medals for Valor were awarded to 11 Rangers for actions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. This medal is awarded for heroic actions. Awardees were: Sgt. 1st Class Andrew T. Bristow, Sgt. Jeremiah A. Dagle, Cpt. John F. Detro, Sgt. Ian B. Hunter, 1st Lt. Ryan M. Kelly, Spc. Casey M. Loose, Staff Sgt. Joseph G. Lynch, 1st Sgt. Edward L. Noland, Staff Sgt. Michael N. Rach, Spc. Webster J. Slavens, and Staff Sgt. Jared N. Van Aalst.

Loose, a Ranger medic, said that he received this award with great esteem and honor.

“It is my privilege to have served with the caliber of men such as those in my unit,” he said. “I believe, however, that any one of my fellow Rangers would do, and have done, the very things that I received this award for.

“It is the Rangers’ constant endeavor to live the Ranger



3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)

Creed and exceed the standards,” he explained. “That makes us who and what we are, especially on the battlefield.”

Detro, the battalion physician’s assistant and acting battalion surgeon, echoed the sentiments of teamwork and skill during the mission for which he and five of his medics, including Loose, received valorous awards. He said that his men used their battlefield knowledge to prepare for the mission and then competently applied their training in accordance with the plan, allowing them to effectively assist wounded Soldiers.

Ranger medics support missions on the front lines with their fellow Rangers, working together to accomplish the mission and bring everyone back.

“We would not have made it off of this objective and saved the injured men without the entire force fighting together,” Loose said.

Sixteen Rangers received the Army Commendation Medal for Valor, awarded for a valorous act distinguished by heroism, meritorious achievement or meritorious service.

During a scheduled visit to Fort Benning, Ga., Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, attended the awards ceremony and presented the Rangers with their medals.

“I am glad I could be here to recognize great heroes,” said Schoomaker. “I’m proud of your service. I am proud of what you do and what you represent. You are living the Ranger Creed and Warrior Ethos.”

The Rangers from 3rd Battalion were most recently deployed in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom from July – October 2005.

The 75th Ranger Regiment, a major subordinate unit of U.S. Army Special Operations Command, is the Army’s premier light infantry unit. They have been actively engaged in the Global War on Terrorism since October 2001. Rangers were among the first troops on the ground during the initial stages of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. Today, they continue conducting missions in Afghanistan and Iraq.

- usasoc - (EDITOR’S NOTE: The quote, “We would not have made it off of this objective and saved the injured men without the entire force fighting together,” is attributed to Detro, not

Loose.)

Sgt. Mark T. Alperin, an Army Ranger assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, receives the Soldiers Medal from Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, during a combat awards ceremony Nov. 18 at Fort Benning, Ga. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Brad Bartucca, 75th Ranger Regt.)

Sgt. Webster J. Slavens receives congratulations from Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, who presented Slavens with the Bronze Star Medal for Valor during a combat awards ceremony at Fort Benning, Ga., Nov. 18. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Brad Bartucca, 75th Ranger Regt.)

**PRESS RELEASE: Army Ranger dies in Iraq**

U.S. Army Special Operations Command Public Affairs Office

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (USASOC News Service, Oct. 31, 2005) — A Georgia-based Ranger died Oct. 28 in Iraq’s Al Anbar province from injuries sustained while conducting combat operations there.

Pfc. Dillon M. Jutras, 20, was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Benning, Ga.

Jutras, of Fairfax Station, Va., deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in August 2005.

His military awards and decorations include: the Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon and the Parachutist badge.

Jutras was posthumously recommended for the Bronze Star Medal with “V” device, Purple Heart and the Army Commendation Medal.

He is survived by his parents, Pierre and Julia Jutras, of Fairfax Station, Va.

Pfc. Dillon M. Jutras, 20, died Oct. 28 in the Al Anbar Province, Iraq, from injuries sustained while conducting combat operations there.



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

Unit Director - Ronald Dahle



By: Ronald Dahle

It’s been a busy three months since the last article. Dennis Rick, the Unit Director for A/75 resigned, as he always intended, at the end of his year. After a minor conflagration with the monkeys and butterflies throughout the unit, Ron Dahle agreed to fill the vacancy.

**TAPS**

(Caption) *Richard Ryan’s ashes being poured into the river at The Special Forces Association Team House*



Rich Ryan passed away on 31 October 2005 in Fayetteville NC. Rich was one of the first

members of the company, and served with it in Wildflecken and Frankfurt. Rich moved on to Special Forces after leaving the company and served with the 1st Group, the 7th Group, the 5th Group, the 10th Group and Special Forces Training Group. Memorial services were held at The Special Forces Association Team House in Fayetteville, NC on 4 Nov 2005.

**Reunion 2005**

Due to an article wandering in cyberspace, we did not cover the reunion in the last issue, and by consensus decided to cover it in part in this issue. The V Corps contingent had over 20 members make the reunion. Unfortunately they were not all present at the same time.

The above photo is actually a composite of five different photographs. This was created in an attempt to get as many of us as possible in the

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



image. Among the attendees was Ed Porter, “The Hawk”, one of the first commanders of the unit.

As mentioned we had different bandits coming at different times throughout the reunion as is seen in this photo, which has the only photo of Henry Lightfoot and Carmelo Benvenuto known to have been taken at the reunion.



The same goes for this photo of Jessica Byrd, George Allen and Bob Byrd.



The organizers of the reunion did an excellent job, we tip our hats to them.



**SOMETHING NEW**

Since I started writing the Patrolling article for A-75 I have had a desire to start a series of mini BIO’s on our members, sort of a “Then, In-Between, and Now” thumbnail sketch of 1 member per issue alternating between A/75 and the V Corps LRRP segments of the company. We are going to kick this project off with an article provided by Chet Smith, of the V Corps LRRP.

Chet “Skinny Injun” Smith:

Then, There, In-Between and Now

**Then:** Chet is a native Californian, currently residing in Citrus Heights, California, with his wife of 37 years, JoAnne. Way back “then,” in September, 1962, like a lot of us at the time, Chet found himself, in his words, “broke, unemployed, with a draft status of ‘I-A.’ “ Since the draft was in full swing and no employer was willing to hire him, Chet decided to enlist. It was love at first sight. Chet says the Army treated him “like gold!”

**There:** After Basic Training at Fort Ord, Monterey, California, and Radio School at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and completing jump training at Fort Benning, Georgia, Chet arrived at the company in April, 1963. The unit had just moved from Wildflecken, Germany, and was in it’s “new” barracks in an old “mansion” at Drake-Edwards Kaserne, on the outskirts of Frankfurt, Germany. A couple weeks later, the unit moved to it’s final barracks at Gibbs Kaserne, Frankfurt...just walking distance from the 97th General Hospital and Freddie’s Bier Stube and “Five Mark Circle.”

Evidently Chet’s 201 file mentioned his “Artistic” abilities because shortly after Chet’s arrival, he was summoned to the Orderly Room by the First Sergeant, known infamously, if not affectionately, as “Mr.

Clean.” Also in the room was Sp/4 Alfredo Rubio, the C.O.’s jeep driver. After verifying that Chet was indeed an artist, and in addition knew how to drive a vehicle, Mr. Clean turned to Alfredo and said, “Rubio...you’re fired! Smith, you’re now the C.O.’s new driver.” From that day on, throughout Chet’s tour, he moved between assignments in the company’s



Headquarters Platoon to the “Killers” First Platoon.

Chet was responsible for painting two of the company signs in front of the barracks. The first design, gold wings with a blue “V” incorporated in the composition was later used by a graphic design firm to produce the decals worn on our unit’s “parade” helmets. This same design is used today on our embroidered logo for our “reunion” baseball caps.



Somehow, at least according to Chet, between all the Bier, Broads, and Brawls and again in Chet’s words, “in spite of the bad influence and examples set from such sources as Dennis Mulloy, Bill Maxwell,” and a host of others, was promoted to Sergeant, E-5, in slightly less than 22 months in service.

During his tour of duty, Chet succeeded in being awarded the German Army Parachutist wings after training with the German Army’s LRRP unit in Fritzlar, and was also awarded French Army Parachutist wings after completing French Army Free-Fall School in Pau, France.

Toward the end of August, 1965, Chet was shipped back to the states and was discharged from service at Fort Dix, New Jersey, September, 1965.

**In-between:** After a period of “bouncing” from job-to-job and old school chum talked him into applying for a job with the Sacramento County Sheriff’s Department. After Chet’s probation period with the department was passed he married a “military brat” named JoAnne Sayon. Three years later, their daughter, Kristi, was born. Their daughter seems to be somewhat following in her father’s footsteps and is currently working as a uniformed Records Officer with the Sacramento County Sheriff’s Department. Chet’s daughter also just announced her engagement to a Sheriff’s Captain with the same department.

Once again Chet says another organization treated him “like gold.” In an astonishing unheard of short time period of nine years with the department, Chet moved through the ranks to the position of Sheriff’s Lieutenant. From



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

that point on, Chet stopped taking any further promotional exams, choosing to remain at the rank of lieutenant.

Chet's most cherished accomplishment was his selection to attend the F.B.I. National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

Finally, January, 1997, after 29 years of service, Chet retired from the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department. The State Assembly of the State of California issued a resolution which read, "...Lieutenant Smith has developed a reputation as a loyal, ethical, and dedicated law enforcement professional, and he has become an outstanding role model for law enforcement officers throughout the State of California..." and also acknowledged that Chet received his department's second highest decoration for valor in the line of duty.



**Now:** After his retirement from law enforcement, Chet decided to try and capitalize on his artistic talent and develop a second career as a "serious" artist. So, Chet went back to college to get a formal education in Fine Art.

So far, Chet has received three Associate of Art Degrees. He has been granted Associate of Art Degrees in Art, in Humanities and in Liberal Arts. Chet is currently continuing undergraduate studies toward a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Fine Art.

In the meantime, Chet works fulltime working on paintings, drawings and sculptures. Chet has found a Contemporary Art Gallery in downtown Sacramento to show his work.

However, Chet offers a somewhat tongue-in-cheek qualification of the gallery location by describing it as "one of those 'trendy' galleries in one of those tough, inner-city redevelopment neighborhoods that you don't go into after dark." Chet characterizes his art career so far as being glad he has a pension to live on because he wouldn't want to have to rely on the sale of his artwork to survive.

I Knew I Found a Home When by Mark Ross, A/75

We've had our cammies for a couple of weeks and this is our first formation with everyone's patches sewn on. Since all the uniforms are of the same shade there is really no barometer of experience other than the number of scare me badges one wears. Or as in my case, the lack thereof. As I look around I can't help but be overwhelmed with all the experience about me. With very few exceptions, those CIB's have been earned with a Ranger company, Special Forces Group or as a BDQ advisor. Feeling rather insignificant at the moment I wonder how those of us without any combat are looked upon. Personally, I feel as if we are a drop of green shoots surrounded by a sea of weathered stalk. An air of determined but quiet professionalism abounds about these combat tested warriors and I, as well as all those in my particular circumstance, truly feel honored to be among them.

Off to my right everyone can hear Sgt. Greig tormenting the guys in

second platoon. He loves to give their Platoon Sergeant, Duke Snider, a raft of crap every chance he can and it sounds like today's raft is the size of an aircraft carrier. Since it wasn't yet the official be in your proper place time, he's busy picking on Duke and his misfits. Guess it can be called military chagrin, but still, he's lobbing some very funny shots across the platoon's bow.

A couple of minutes later the VOLAR barracks door clicks loudly as it closes hard. At first I catch his movement out of the corner of my eye. As if hypnotized, I keep following him as he comes into view. It's the old man, Captain Raymond D. Nolen. With a gait much like Jimmy Stewart, rugged looks straight out of a Gary Cooper western and because he is from Midland, a manner that is pure Texan. In a military sense one can't help but be impressed by his bearing while he ambles towards the formation, as if he is king of all he surveys. I'm lost in my thoughts and pondering my responsibility in the moment. How I respect all the old timers, how I am more than envious of their 201 files, how each of them are not only warriors but true mentors, on and off duty, to each of us. Can I carry on the torch? Can I be just as serious a soldier as they have been? Do I have it in me to not screw up and prove to them that I am as serious about my time here as they are? My chest swells with! pride as I stand among these professional soldiers. Professional? Indeed, in fact that I've never seen or heard of any of them do anything wrong. Ok, so I really need my eyes and ears recalibrated, but let's not digress.

First Sergeant Romo orders us to attention. We stand there, arrow straight and redwood tall. We love the old man so much that there was nothing he could ask us to do that we wouldn't die trying to accomplish. As he saunters up to his spot to receive Top's official report I know I am more than fortunate to be under his command. Out of the whole U.S. Army, I was in an active duty Ranger Company. Not too many at that time could make that claim.

A split second before First Sergeant Romo places his right index finger just under the soft leather of his beret and slightly above his right eye, when it was traditionally going to be deathly quiet, Sgt Greig issues an age old company proclamation. About a half dozen steps from Top he is too far out of earshot to hear what is said but as he gazes out upon his kingdom, every one of his serfs, without exception, are doing some sort of Irish jig. Of course we can't help but laugh louder when he asks Top in that West Texas twang what the hell is going on. Just as the words pass his lips it dawns on him what has happened. I still remember that evil grin as he immediately put the company in the forward leaning rest position.

With that twinkle in his eyes, the Old Man starts reaming our collective asses for moving in formation. Every so often he would ask in Ranger style politeness, WHO SAID "QUEER IF YOU CAN'T TAP DANCE"! Each of his demands for the guilty party to speak up only leads to more gnawing for laughing in our front leaning rest ranks. Each time he informs us we can be here all day he is met with more laughter as well as a few "CAN'T BRING NO 'P' ON ME DIWEE"! Don't want to say who made the comments; Bain Smith to not name at least one, but the lively banter only means we are going to be more than a little late to whatever we are scheduled to do today. As he wanders in and out among his prostrated Rangers its evident that the Old Man's idle threats of more torture are being taken equally as serious so he searches about for some individual attention.

As we do our pushups late into that morning the old man knows that we know that he knows that all this isn't really punishment, its just a reaffirmation of love. How does that old song go; the love you get is equal to the love you give, well, keeping with the times, it is an A Company love in as the Old Man is getting as good as he gives. Or are we getting as good as we give. Either way....

To a man, we absolutely love the Old Man. And now, some thirty odd years later, he wants us to call him Doug. Sorry sir, with all due respect, you will forever be Captain Nolen to us.



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

Unit Director - Mark L. Thompson



**Unit Director: Marc L. Thompson**

### FALLEN COMRADES

#### BOATMAN

First of all, let me express our condolences to the Boatman family for their loss, and pass along to Roy and the family condolences from several other Rangers who were not able to attend the funeral, and did not want to disturb Roy and the family at a time when it would have been inconvenient.

I am certain that you will see other information regarding the Darrell Boatman and the family elsewhere in the issue, and you can also find other information on the website, as well as a list of the Association members present.

#### FERNANDEZ FUNERAL

**September 19, 2005 Army Spc. William V. Fernandez**, 37, of Reading, Pa., assigned to the Army National Guard's 1st Squadron, 104th Cavalry Regiment, 28th Infantry Division, Philadelphia, Pa., killed September 19, 2005, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle during patrol operations in Ar Ramadi, Iraq.

Since our last issue, our association also attended the funeral of a local Pennsylvania National Guard member, William Fernandez, KIA in Iraq. John King alerted us to the upcoming funeral, partially because the unit that Sgt. Fernandez was assigned to is an Airborne and LRS unit (the only one in the PA Guard). Although I was not able to attend the viewing the night before (as I had hoped to), both Bill Bullen and I were able to be there to represent the Association at the funeral. Although his unit itself was not deployed to Iraq, per se, Sgt. Fernandez had volunteered to go and assist other units in the theater.

Local reporters described that: 37 year old specialist William Fernandez is one of 3 military brothers honored in their mother's home. He always went above and beyond the call of duty... he always wanted to make sure everyone around him was well taken care of. His military family couldn't agree more. At a news conference today, former brothers-in-arms described his final mission. Jacob Kretzing, U.S. Army: "he wasn't slated to go on this mission. There was a mix up in the scheduling, and he volunteered to go on this mission for someone else." The humvee he left in was then struck by a roadside explosive in Ar Ramadi, Iraq Monday morning. Fernandez was killed with 3 others working with the Pennsylvania National Guard. "I want everybody to know my brother as an outstanding soldier, outstanding husband, outstanding friend. There need to be more people out in this world like him". Sgt. Fernandez was working in the medical field in Reading before he decided to re-enlist at the age of 35. He is survived by his wife, 3 siblings and his mother. (some portions of the above quoted from WFMZ-TV, Reading, PA).

After the funeral mass and the internment, Bill Bullen presented an Association coin to Sgt. Fernandez's widow, Jennifer

Fernandez, on behalf of the association. She had informed us that his next military goal, upon returning from Iraq, would have been to attend Ranger school and become Ranger qualified. We felt it was more than appropriate for her to have received the coin on his behalf since he was unable to complete the Ranger course due to issues beyond his control. The funeral itself was attended by many members of Sgt. Fernandez's unit, other Pennsylvania National Guard units and many retired service members such as ourselves. As of this article, there have been at least 103 service members from the state of Pennsylvania who have lost their lives in the Iraqi conflict.

#### Ranger Ray Hernandez

Duke DuShane just posted the notice of Ranger Ray Hernandez's passing on the website: Ranger Ray Hernandez was stationed at 3/75 during the mid to late 80's. He died of a heart attack on Nov 20th; he was only 44. The funeral was to be Wednesday, November 30th. I was reminded of finding out this past year of the sudden death of Russ VanArsdale, who we had most recently seen in Washington at the 2004 reunion. We salute all those who have served selflessly, and most especially those

who have paid the ultimate price.

#### UNIT ROSTERS

We have submitted updated unit rosters to the new website management, along with a new, expanded and revised unit history. Our hats are off to Wild Bill Ramsdell, who provided us all with several years worth of jump manifests, a complete unit history of B Company Rangers, photographs, and other valuable documentation.

#### WEBSITE

Regarding the website, there have been some technical issues in updating the pages due to factors beyond the control of most of us. We hope that by the time you read this issue of Patrolling, we will have rectified those issues, and the updated roster, contact lists, misdirected links, unit history, vacant photo areas and message sections will have been updated. Stay tuned to this channel for further news, and check the website for updates.

#### VII Corps LRRP CD, again....

We are providing unit histories, photos, and other documents to the VII Corps LRRP Association for inclusion in the very extensive CD-ROM they produce. If you have any other photographs, documents, or other items of interest suitable to include on the CD, please forward them to me, or ask me for the contact information for the VII Corps LRRP's so that you can send them to Kirk Gibson or Sam Rodriguez directly. We already have photos and documents from Mike Hines, Richard Stutsman, Steve Bump, Bill Bradigan and others, and hope to have more to include in the future from the B/75 members.

#### 75<sup>th</sup> RRA 2005-2006 REUNIONS

The reunion at Ft. Benning was well attended, and gave many of us the opportunity to meet others we haven't seen in many years.



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

Since returning from the reunion I have been contacted by several other members of B Company Rangers and C/58, some for the first time. I am in the process of adding all this new information to the published unit roster (which will be posted on the revised website), and in the confidential roster (available to unit members only, upon request). I hope to have all the new information added by the end of December. Thank you for your patience.

**REUNION NEXT YEAR ???**

As we noted in the last issue of Patrolling, Randy White of Lima Company Rangers has informed us that it is possible for us to have an “off-year” reunion in Branson, Missouri next year. Please contact me or Randy White for further information, unless there is a reunion contact point identified elsewhere in this issue of the magazine. We hope that this will help address some of the travel issues for those of you located in the middle of the country, for whom travel to either coast has been problematic in the recent past. Again, ...this would not be the “official” Regiment reunion staged at an active military post in conjunction with the change-of-command ceremony. More later.

**JOHNNY H. LAWRENCE INFO (REPOST FROM LAST ISSUE)**

Jaci Glidden (nee: Lawrence) is seeking information about her father, who was KIA after leaving B/75 to return to Vietnam to join Papa Company in RVN. He was killed on 4 April, 1971, and she would appreciate any information that unit members could give her about her father prior to his death, since she was very young at the time. Dan Bagley of Papa Rangers attended his first reunion to accompany her to Ft. Benning to assist her in her quest, and chaperoned her during the process. Dan was also Johnny’s Ranger Buddy during Ranger school in the spring of 1970. If you have any information you would like to pass on to her, please contact the unit director, and I can provide you with

email addresses or phone numbers to do so. We prefer not to put her private contact information in the magazine or the website for public consumption, for obvious reasons.

Larry Coleman was at the 2005 reunion, and he was on the funeral detail which traveled to California to represent the unit and provide support to the family during the return on Johnny’s body to the States and his internment. Other B Company members who were on the detail included Bob Henderson, John Toney, Al Adams, Bugs Moran (deceased), and Ranger Smith (first name unknown at this time).

**RICHARD STUTSMAN**

For those of you who have been in touch with or contacted Richard Stutsman in the past, and want his new contact information, please either call or email the Unit Director (Marc Thompson – below), and I can have Richard get in touch with you. Since he is in law enforcement he has had to change his telephone number, and does not wish to have it posted in publicly available places. Thanks for your understanding, and please know that I will be happy to arrange for anyone to be contacted directly by Richard.

**CONTACT INFO:**

You can contact the VII Corps, C/58 and B/75 representatives at the following:

Marc L. Thompson  
 marc@roinet.com  
 (home) 610-913-8183  
 (cell) 610-763-2758  
 Kirk Gibson  
 President  
 VII Corps LRRP Association  
 (Jayhawks)  
 (home) 717-599-5894  
[khgibson@yahoo.com](mailto:khgibson@yahoo.com)



**C/75 - E/20 LRP**  
 Unit Director - Gary E. Dolan



# ECHO CHARLIE PROUD

**By Gary E. Dolan “28”**

Last summer seems a distant memory while, oddly, many events of thirty to thirty-five years ago seem forever close. Thanks to superb planning and careful attention to even the slightest detail by **CHUCK VAUGHN**, our Association Reunion of 2005 was a magnificent success. The only complaint voiced was that too few of us assembled to enjoy the wonderful accommodations at Valley Forge, the scrumptious food, the interesting itinerary and the most important camaraderie. For all those who were there, the thirty to thirty-five years vanished in a heartbeat; and we were Brothers (and Sisters)-in-Arms entwined in mighty hugs. I would like to share one of the many emails I received, this one from our extended family member, **Kathleen Blamire**, “Gary, I felt so special and loved at the reunion. What a wonderful feeling !!! It seems to me you left last year early too, so at Branson, I’m

*getting my hugs in before you take off for parts unknown ;-)* I’m already saving my pennies for that trip. Keep in touch, who knows, maybe during one of my trips to NY, we can have a cup of coffee. ...know that you all will be in my thoughts. Thanks for being you, Kat.” Here’s another from our Brother, **DARRYL BENTON**, from the Cayman Islands “Gary, Its the next Saturday since our reunion. I made it back to work on time Monday morning here in the Isalnds. Its been a long hot construction week. Thank god I have a nice little hootch right here on the beach and can enjoy the sea breezes this long 4th of July weekend. I was up early today 0530. It was raining before it got light and has continued all day. Thats OK cause I knew what I was going to do today, what I have been looking forward to doing since I got back from last weekend. I read your book. I just finished it, its noon. I once again have this strong urge to go back to Nam and retaliate for the loss



## C/75 - E/20 LRP (CONTINUED)

*of Edwards, Spearman, and Robinson. I would also like to go back and find my 19 year old youth that surely died in 1970. Tears are flowing as they did last weekend at the Wall. Sir, you did an outstanding job of writting this book. I thank you for it. I'm sure others feel the same about the respect and honor you have written about us RANGERS. Look forward to seeing you at future reunions. loveyameanit, bones."*

For all of you who missed the Reunion at Valley Forge, just make sure you attend all future Reunions. Our trip into Wash D.C. to visit THE WALL was my first ever and being there with the guys with whom I served in Nam made this visit not only memorable but a moving and a life-fulfilling experience. I was not the only person to shed tears. Many significant items were accomplished at our Reunion: Association dues for all who served in ECHO or in CHARLIE were forever cancelled; we served our time and thereby earned our Life Membership, so anybody who served with us and applies is now automatically a Life Member of our Association; DANIEL POPE, who has devoted a lifetime of work in starting, growing and guiding our Association as well as serving as our WebMaster, has undertaken to converting our Association into an IRS 501(c)(3) entity so all donations will now be tax deductible and we can actively seek out donations; the members of Company E (LRRP), 20th Inf (ABN) / Company C (RGR), 75th Inf (ABN) Association, Inc. voted unanimously to honor our fallen heroes from the Viet Nam conflict at the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Memorial at Hunter Army Airfield, Georgia. Anyone interested in purchasing an individual paver to accompany our fallen heroes: Make Donations/Brick purchases payable to: 1ST Ranger Bn Memorial Fund Mail To: Shelia Dudley, Project Manager, 108 Salisbury Road, Savannah, Georgia 31410; Email: [Dudleys@soc.mil](mailto:Dudleys@soc.mil), Telephone: (912) 352-5608/06 or Cellular:(912) 308-1390. We all need to thank our re-elected Treasurer, DEAN BARKER, who has undertaken on our behalf to oversee this Project to ensure the pavers of our fallen heroes are properly enshrined. Our Association is also in the strong, capable and caring hands of its other elected officials: President JOHN EDER, Vice-President CHUCK VAUGHN, Secretary SAM PULLARA, and Sergeant-At-Arms GARY O'NEAL. Two other items accomplished at the Reunion was to agree to return in two years to Ft Benning with the BABY RANGERS for a Reunion and to have our next Reunion in BRANSON, MO., from June 11th to June 19th 2006, in conjunction with Operation Homecoming II. Put in now for vacation, start saving your pennies and make certain you and your whole family attend this next Reunion! The Welcome Home celebration for all Viet Nam Veterans put on by Branson was simply astounding. The costs of hotel rooms, eating establishments, special and regular entertainment shows and even air travel were dramatically reduced. There were incredible gifts



as well as discounts for Veterans and the Vendor Village was great. There were even Huey rides that skimmed the tree tops! The grand finale concert included Ann-Margaret, the Beach Boys, Creedence Clearwater Revisited, the Doobie Brothers, the Supremes, the Oak Ridge Boys, the 5th Dimension, the Four Tops, Tony Orlando and Les Brown's Band of Renown, Jim Bohannon, Yakov Smirnoff and Adrian Cronauer (the original "Good Morning, Vietnam!" DJ.) I met some 334th AHC Devils &

Demons pilots who supported us and some drivers of The Pandemonium truck that supported us, as well as numerous others who knew and spoke reverently of our ECHO CHARLIE unit. As you can well appreciate, our unit enjoys a tremendous reputation. Please help get the word out to all who served in our unit to attend this next Reunion in Branson. It will be a wonderful family-style vacation with plenty of exciting events and happenings. Branson is rolling out the red carpet treatment for all Vietnam Veterans and is expecting over 100,000 to attend. Our Association will have its own separate accommodations with a meeting room just for us. We will also have our own private banquet with guest speaker. So, we will have the best of all worlds — the opportunity to meet with other Vietnam Veterans and other Ranger units and the time to be with our

own Association Brothers, plus the time and place to enjoy a great vacation with personal family and friends. **BE THERE!** I was at the first Operation Homecoming in Branson and it was a BLAST! The primary reason I had such a wonderful time was that I was most fortunate in being selected to escort our own ANN SHERMAN WOLCOTT, one of the most beautiful/caring (inside and out) women with whom I have had the pleasure of spending time. She is our biggest fan and the greatest supporter of all Vietnam Veterans. But, she has a special place in her heart for us Rangers and for our unit, which is the unit with whom her son served. Please note and respond to this following email I received: *"I have recently been in touch with Ann Sherman and she told me you knew Rex Sherman. I was the waiting girl friend, Linda. I wondered if you (ANYONE) could share any thing you could remember about him. I know it has been along time. But it would be great to hear from you. Thanks Linda Sager Linda.sager@wellsfargo.com."*

Linda & I had the pleasure of hosting DR A T LEON (THE MAD GUAMANIAN)GUERRERO and his wife, Gaby, in our home after they had spent time with LAZ (THE MAD RUSSIAN) LAZAROV, and his wife, Elaine, in Massachusetts. TONY was a SP/4 in 3rd PLT in Nam and now has a Doctorate and is working for Rolls Royce in Germany. JERRY BUSSELL was a Birdog front seat pilot for both me and for JOHN EDER. The following emails between TONY and JERRY deserve to be shared, so here they are: *"Guten Tag Gary, For old Warriors like yourself conducting the daily job- you note as routine- it may rate*

## C/75 - E/20 LRP (CONTINUED)

as an exaggeration-but its not by a long shot. Credit must be given to the Pilot and his Back-Seater that placed their lives on the line with the teams on the ground. The exposure up in the air gave no relative cover and concealment-you only had some speed in the Birdog, moreover both of you disregarded the dangers and exposed yourselves in support of the teams during hot extractions. You both received ground fires from a hidden enemy and the holes on the Aircraft attest your presence to the dangers involved. The Rangers in our company certainly appreciate- including yourself because you were on the ground many times with the teams- how much that Birdog up in the sky contibuted to the security as being the extra Eyes & Ears in the Sky. Gary, we are your Living Medals-live decorations you certainly deserved-we all stand up for you and are being accounted for-as we attest your Conduct and Valorous performance. What is pinned on the chest is written on menial papers-we the living will always speak out for the "Man with Valor", till the last leave this earth-Your living Medals like me will always shine for you-one of "Our Guardian Angles". Victory goes to the one that foresees the safety of others-HONOR goes to the man with the WISDOM and COURAGE of a true Warrior. With Warmest Regards my Brother,"The Mad Guamanian" Tony" **JERRY** responded: "Doc. Tony, To say thank you for your comments seems a little weak but I don't know any other way of expressing my gratitude for your most insightful thoughts. In dealing with my Vietnam experience, a dark part on my life, many years have gone by, for reasons I know not, I have found it uncomfortable to deal with Vietnam personally or publicly. It is not that I am ashamed of the war or anything I or we did. It is just more comfortable to not deal with that part of my life. Gary and "Of Their Own Accord" have improved that situation. Enough said, thank you again. On another subject, in my current life I am an international security consultant (terrorism) and previous Director of the Department Homeland Security for Nevada. I work for a number of companies both governmental (three letters) and private. One of the private companies (Triple Canopy) has over 1700 operatives in Iraq (Middle East) performing the most sensitive and dangerous protective and security operations. Two of the company's operatives (Delta Force trained) are here in Nevada working with me on a "black program." At dinner last evening, during light conversation, I shared with them your email to Gary about "living medals." We as a group agreed that none of us had ever thought about medals, as living examples, in that vein. We just had not thought of medals in that way. Collectively we agreed, your explanation presented us a way to better understanding what the words personal commitment and service should really mean to those who selflessly serve. Again, thank you for the kind comments about our Vietnam and for "Living Medals"...Jerry"

In my searching and Internet travels, I have been fortunate to communicate with Sandi Voyles, the daughter of **CSM JAMES E VOYLES** ([rgrvoyles@hotmail.com](mailto:rgrvoyles@hotmail.com)), whom I hold in the highest esteem. I also received emails from Tisha DeVault and her mom. Tisha is the daughter of **LEE DeVAULT**, a much loved fellow PLT LDR. I was also thrilled to speak to **BOYE LADD**, who was in my 2nd PLT and is a teacher of Indian Dance and a revered leader of his native Indian people. I also received the following email from our interpreter, **THAI PHAN**: "Dear Gary Dolan & **Tony L. Foster Jr**, I'm very glad to contact with you, I live at

Seattle Washington since November 1975, I escaped from Saigon on April 30th 1975 by ship at 2:30 PM (Saigon fell at 10:00 AM), we made to Hongkong, I have a sponsor Mr Steve Konek US Army is my friend from 173rd Abn. Brig. Sep. (I served as interpreter for 173rd 1965) sponsored us (Myself my wife and my brother) to Seattle, I Marie for 30 years have son 29, son 22 and daughter 20, I have a business to make Digital photo, Printing and Sgin. I'm a member of 75th Abn Rang, I attended the 75th Reunion at Fort Lewis 2004. but I didn't fine any body that was with me in Vietnam, I hope will have chance to meet all of you. My office address is: Thai Phan, 10025 183rd Street, Bothell, WA. 98011-3421 Thank you **Phan Thai**" I was also delighted to hear from **CALVIN D "PREACHER" ROLLINS**, SSG USA RET (MED), who was an original LRP1 with E/20 in 67 and was in Calvin Greens Plt, then went to 2nd Plt. I have also spoken with **TIM "SLASH" PENMAN**, who I must credit with having made what I deem to be a wonderful suggestion of starting a fund for any of our Brothers in need of legal help. **TIM** is motivated by an earnest desire to secure help for our incarcerated Brother, **MICHAEL WARNER**, who has been a Life Member of our Association for some time now and deserves our prayers and our assistance. While I am handing out "ATTABOYS," I must also state how proud I am of **WILLIAM "WILD BILL" PAYNE**, who took time out from honeymooning with his beautiful bride, Susan, to create a forum for all Rangers and especially for those of us suffering with PTSD. For information on **BILL'S** forum, check out the Guestbook at our Association web site. It was also wonderful to hear from **JAMES WILLIAM GODWIN, JR.** Team 32, '71-'72, [Bill.Godwin@mail.house.gov](mailto:Bill.Godwin@mail.house.gov) and from Jessica Gazard, the daughter of "VC" **GAZARD**, and from **THOMAS "MAC" McNAMARA**, both from my 2nd PLT.

Please remember **GARY FENTON**, **GARY NORSWORTHY**, **SMOKEY WELLS**, **DANIEL POPE** and me in your prayers. I pray for all of you, my Brothers. Know that you are loved.

I wish all a joyous New Year, a Blessed Christmas, a Happy Chanuka or whatever wonderful event you seek.





**D/75**

**Unit Director - Richard "Bear" Papp**



**Hello fellow Rangers and Brothers.**

I hope this issue of *Patrolling* finds each and every one of you doing well, in good health and looking forward to the coming Holiday Season. Myself, I'm just happy that fall is here, which means that hunting season is near.

The summers in Texas sometimes make you think you were in Hell or back in the Nam. This year we didn't get much rain here in East Texas, but it's coming down now, and winter is not too far away.

As you read this, Veteran's Day 2005 will have come and gone. I hope all of you took time to attend a Veteran's Day parade or some other type of observance, and thanked a young or old Veteran and proudly demonstrated your pride in being a veteran.

Now - current news since the reunion:

Brother Steve Meade made a pilgrimage out to Northern California to see Dave Capik, took him three days to get there, but he finally showed up. He said the airlines screwed up, but they all had a good time while he was there. Vic Vocario also went out and spent three weeks, stayed at Capik's and helped Lou Hawk in fixing up her place; putting in shelves, cutting down some trees and some other odd jobs. Did a little partying too! Lou and Shane Hawk are doing well. She told me she got Rusty's DIC benefits from the VA without too much of a fight. That will help a great deal and she's moving on with her life. Good for you Lou.

Talked to Errol B. Hansen a few times, seems he took a vacation down to Mexico with his girl friend for a week or so after the reunion, said he had a good time.

'Warlord 16' (Carl Norris) is now an Associate Member of the 75th RRA, congratulations Carl. We have stayed in contact with each other quite a bit since the reunion. Carl said that a great number of our pilots have contacted him and he said that at our next reunion we might have a bunch of them attend, crew chiefs and door gunners too!

Brother Frank Park will be at my place November 4th for ten days of hunting, and a week later I will be at his place bear and deer hunting for the 2nd year in a row. Last year was great up there. Frank's daughter, angel, gave him a surprise party on his birthday,

October 12th. That was super Angel.

Sugar Bear (Dickie Myers); Robert Myers, son of Sugar Bear, has been in Iraq with the 3rd Infantry Division, and he is doing well. Our prayers are with you Robert.

On health issues:

Brother Tonto Martineze went into the PTSD clinic after returning from the reunion, and is doing well. His release date is in April, I know he can't wait to get out.

Herd Nelson is having heart and blood pressure problems and some other things, but says he's doing OK and that they are taking good care of him. Get well soon Herd.

I hope Mike Warren is feeling better. He was doing some roof repair on his house in Florida. Seems the scaffolding collapsed, and he sustained some pretty serious injuries. Hope you're doing well now Mike.

Oh, I almost forgot, Roger Barb, (Big Fellow) will be tying the knot with his High School sweet heart. Congrats Roger!

If you're name is not mentioned in the article, I'm truly sorry, but I can't write

things if you don't make contact with me or send me photos.

"Till next time - Bear Out"

PS> I would like to thank everyone who called and was concerned about my family during the last two Hurricanes. That was very much appreciated and means a great deal to me.

New Members:

- Jim Kaiserski FL
- Wally Hawkins TN
- Edward (Maddog) Krause WI
- Carl Norris (Warlord 16) AZ



*Tonto Martineze, D CO Sniper, 1969 - 1970*



*Tonto Martineze now, Reunion 2005*



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

**Unit Director - Robert Copeland**



By Bob Copeland

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR 2006 to all our RANGER/LRP/LRRP FAMILY AND FRIENDS!!!! Hard to believe another year has passed. This is of course a belated greeting as I a writing this article for the Winter Issue of Patrolling. Hopefully everyone had a great Christmas and a speedy recovery on New Years Day. I recently returned from Miami, Florida after having spent a week there. Needless to say they were still cleaning up from the hurricane with a curfew imposed starting at 7 in the evening. On viewing the area around the hotel there where a number of plam trees without tops, boats tiedup with noticable damage and a considerable amount of sand covering the boardwalk down to South Beach. The hotel we stayed in was rapidly cleaning up the outside area and getting things back to normal. Many of the hotels along the boardwalk where missing windows and had debrie in the swimming pools. Within a couple of days after we arrived the area was starting to get back to normal. We had no trouble getting into and out of Miami Airport. The weather during our stay was great with some increasing wind for the last two days of our stay. I have to take my hat off to the Floridians for their ability in getting the area back to a near normal state within a very short period of time. Hooah Floridians!!!! My family and I were slated to go to the Myan Riviera at Christmas but due to the number of hurricanes this year we had cancelled our trip. The area that we were to go too got totally wiped out unfortunately for the Mexican people. A good thing we cancelled our trip. We are spending this Christmas at home and are hopefully going to Las Vegas for a holiday in March or April (no hurricanes there!!) I am looking forward to returning to Orlando for our Compan y Reunion in April 2007.

On a more somber note I was saddened to here of the death of N Company Ranger/Lrp Roy and Joyce Boatman's son. The News Release reads as follows: DOD Identifies Marine Casualty- Gunnery Sgt. Darrell W. Boatman, 38, N.C., died on Nov. 4 at Landstuhl Reginal Medical Center, Germany, from wounds sustained on Nov. 2 from an improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations in the vicinity of Habbaniyah, Iraq. He was assigned to 8th Engineer Support Battalion 2nd Marine Logistics Group, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C. Roy advised Roy Barley of the death of his son and Roy passed on the information to Steve Crabtree who fanned it out to the membership. Thanks Roy for keeping us informed during this difficult time for the Boatman Family as well as you and your family. The last message fanned out by Steve from Roy Barley read as follows: If you would please forward this to all. The Service was heart

wrenching and full military honors were performed. At the viewing Roy had all the Rangers and service personnel come forward and Duke read the orders from the Airborne Department issuing his wings. Tim, Darrell's older brother, pinned on the wings. Darrell broke his leg in seven places while making his fourth jump and was then unable to finish the course. The Airborne Department granted the request made by Duke. In attendance: Duke Dushane(RHOF); Tad Tadina (RHOF); Frenchy Chasion(sp); Hal Herman; Jay Lutz; Terry Roderick; John Lawton (RHOF); Dick James; Mary Rossi (wife of deceased Ranger Mike Rossi) and myself—Roy Barley. ON BEHALF OF E75/E50 LRP/9TH DIV LRRP I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR HEARTFELT SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCES TO ROY AND JOYCE BOATMAN, THEIR FAMILY AND TO MRS MICHELE BOATMAN(WIFE) AND HER CHILDREN DARELL JACOB (17) AND LAUREN (14) SON AND DAUGHTER OF GUNNERY SGT DARRELL BOATMAN, USMC, FOR THEIR LOSS OF THIS BRAVE MARINE,

SON, HUSBAND AND FATHER. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE AND PAY TRIBUTE TO GUNNERY SGT DARRELL BOATMAN, USMC, FOR HIS BRAVE AND SELFLESS ACTS, FOR WHICH HE PAID THE ULTIMATE PRICE IN DEFENDING OUR FREEDOM. REST IN PEACE BROTHER, SEMPER FI !!!!

I had occassion to talk to Shirley Parrish on the phone recently and she advised Emory is doing as well as can be expected and continues to be very independent, definitely a RANGER/LRP/LRRP trait!!!! HOOAH Emory!!!! Marilyn Wentte is now home and undergoing cardio rehabilitation. Allen advised that he and his son had brought Marilyn home on November the 14. Our prayers go out to the Parrish, Wentte, and Boatman Families and all those who have suffered a loss or have been ill or in hospital. Thanks Jonesy for always being there to send out the cards, flowers emails etc., you do outstanding work, HOOAH!!!!RANGER/LRP/LRRP LEAD THE WAY!!!!

The following are two emails received by and sent by 75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSN PRESIDENT STEVE CRABTREE Re: Gold Star Mother Sandee Advocate Sandee Rouse-15 Sept 2005-Dear Friends, After much thought and prayer I have decided that it is time for me to step down as Gold Star Mother Advocate for the 75thRRA. It has been both a privilege and honor to serve in this position for the past 4 years. I have been so blessed during my tenure. But as the bible says to all things there is a season. I am so pleased to tell you that Ruth Stonesifer has agreed to take on this job. She has been and will be even more so, a real asset to the organization. I



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know without asking you will support her just as you have done for me. Let me tell you how proud and grateful I am for the opportunity God gave me in serving with each of you and I am so blessed to call each of you friend. Ruth and I will work together for the next 3 months to make this a smooth transition. She will officially take over on Jan 1, 2006. Please know I will continue to help out as long and whenever called on. Like Emmett always said, "This is a good thing you are doing." It's been a great run. You are my heroes Love to each of you and thank you for allowing me to serve you. God Bless & RTLW Sandee

Email from Steve Crabtree, Pres 75THRA to Sandee Rouse Gold Star Mother Advocate—  
Sandee

As soon as the word went out of Sandee's resignation, many, many suggestions came in as to what we could do to say thanks. A Ranger gold coin or a gold star with a diamond in the center were just two of the suggestions. It was pointed out by one of our past presidents who shall remain nameless (thanks Terry) that Sandee isn't a "jewelry" person. We went back to the drawing board. Why not do something that will last forever? We decided to make a donation in their (both Bill & Sandee) names to the Ranger Memorial Foundation. I sent out requests to the Unit Representatives and the response has been outstanding. Not only was enough raised (\$500) to have the engraving done but a substantial check was sent to them to help cover the costs of Bill's cancer treatment. Remember they have been reimbursed for their travels for us ten cents on the dollar at best over the last four years. The "Friends of the Rangers Marker" at the Ranger Memorial at Fort Benning will be engraved with, "Bill & Sandee Rouse, 75RRA GOLD STAR MOTHER ADVOCATES" this June. Don't thank us, THANK YOU! Steve

ON behalf of E75 RANGER/E50 LRP/9TH DIV LRRP thank you Sandee and Bill for all you have done and continue to do!!HOOAH!!!!RANGER/LRP/LRRP LEAD THE WAY!!!! Thanks to Steve for LEADING THE WAY in showing our appreciation to Sandee and Bill, HOOAH!!!!

If you haven't already donated to the RANGER FAMILY FUND please consider doing so, it is never too late to donate whatever you can afford to give. The money will go to the active duty Ranger Batts for the Children's Christmas and any needs throughout the year that may come to the attention of the 75th Ranger Regt Assn. Please give generously, we can't be there with them in theatre but we can take care of their families while they are away in harms way!! Donations should be sent directly to John Chester, 3208 Rueckert Ave, Baltimore, Md 21214, mark your donation as RANGER FAMILY FUND.

In closing I would like to again wish all our unit members and their families, our extended RANGER/LRP/LRRP FAMILY and Gold Star Mothers and Wives and their families, A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND ALL THE BEST IN THE NEW YEAR 2006!!!!

To all our Ranger Warriors and the rest of the Special

Operations Community and all those who serve in the Armed Forces and have gone in harms way, we wish you God Speed, Good Hunting and a Safe Return Home to your families and friends. WE WISH YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR 2006!!!!HOOAH!!!!RANGER/LRP/LRRP LEAD THE WAY!!!!

Bob Copeland  
Unit Director







**F/75 - F/50 LRP - 25TH DIV LRRP**  
 Unit Director - Joe Little



Greetings Brothers By: Joe Little

I sometimes find that I am amid the clouds when it comes time to make another submission to Patrolling Magazine. I am writing this on the fly and my Dear Heidi is fast asleep. This time I put out a call for help and Ewald came to my rescue without the elusive snowman that so many have seen in his ventures. Heidi also gave me a written piece she wrote after the reunion I found very interesting. She has accused me during some of our travels of not stopping for food or the eventual potty break; when she asked me if she was in Ranger training that is when I knew I was expecting more from others. That stuck with me and became part of some of the things I use in my practice with other Vets when they have high expectations of their wives and others. We are not from the same mold and they do put up with a lot from some of us. I know I am truly blessed when she understands some of the nights I do not sleep. She smiles (sometimes) at my subtle outburst of what some perceive as anger; I just think I am expressing myself, and I'm the shrink, well, enough of the psych talk.

I am very proud of the men of this unit and am humbled when I ask for some help it does happen. Now I am asking again for others to help reach out and let's find some of our brothers in hiding and extend a hand to welcome them in out of the cold. Recently Frank Dewitt was looking for Joseph Hayes & Dan Nate sent him the address and phone number. I was surprised to find out he lives about 10 miles from me; and I still need to make the call since I just got back from my annual journey to DC. I will not procrastinate any longer all it takes is one call from each of us to just say hi, how are you doing? I am in contact with Alex Briones he live in California we both have some very close friends with VVMC.

While I was in DC I met up briefly with Bill Mrkvicka and David Regenthal they both were enjoying themselves, I wished I had more time to spend with them.

I also had met one of our F/Co LRS now changing the name to one we can all appreciate LRRP, he was just outside of the Smithsonian "Price of Freedom;" he just returned from Iraq and was on his way back in about a month. He looked so young and was wearing his hat with 25<sup>th</sup> ID E/Co 125<sup>st</sup> LRS and proud of his heritage. He also told me to say hi and thanks for the head bands to all that sent them. I knew then he was for real, thanks Marshall for the idea and others that helped fund the cost, they actually got the head bands you sent.

Now another call is for some contributions from those that are the silent ones to help our company fund. During the reunion we raffled a quilt and a walking stick and it did raise some funds for

our unit about \$1000.00. The quilt was donated by Heidi and there was an equal amount of interest in both quilt and walking stick. I will be cutting a check to the Ranger Memorial Fund in the next few weeks for bricks for a few of our Brothers that have gone on to the Great LZ.

Submitted by: Richard Ewald

This is Finney and Jarvis and I on the way up to Upper Lena Lake, in the Olympic Mountains this summer.



After the reunion they said they wanted to come back and do some hiking. Well it all started out easy enough to Lower Lena.



Then when we started the second half it got real interesting.

Now remember I am 60 and Jarvis and Finney are not too far behind.

I think it was 4,000 feet elevation gain in about 2 miles. It was



quite steep and I don't think we were prepared for it. After about 5 hours of steady humping with full backpacks we made it. Finney was walking point and I was in the rear. At times it was so steep all I could see were Jarvis's boots.

I was praying for the Lord to come, because I knew we were not going to make it on our own. HA HA. We decided that if we came to a place to put up the tents we would stop.

Well there was just no room and the trail was so skinny you would just roll off anyway, so we kept going. All in all it was a butt kicker, but when we did make it was worth it. If not so much for the view, but that our age we did what we did. We learned a lot and I will put it to use soon.

I love it and I try to hike a lot in my spare time.



I really enjoyed the guys coming out and doing these hikes. It was good company and I just enjoyed sharing time with

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them. It has been 35 years since the Nam, but we still keep in touch and have a good relationship. We went through some times together, and now we are doing it again.

Here we are again. This time we are doing Mt Elinor, also in the Olympics.

We started out in a cloud and were in them most of the way. We start out at 3000 feet and climb to 6000 feet. It is a pretty good climb, but not like Upper Lena. We just had day packs here and it was great.



The picture of me with the lady is neat. Her name is Wanda and she was sitting there at about 5000 feet looking at some flowers. She said she would climb till she saw a flower, and here she was,



she also recently had hip surgery. We talked a bit, and she said that her group of about 10 people hikes at least once a month. At that age I am so impressed with them.

Well we finally made it and there were some

mountain goats, and partial clearing.

The guys liked this climb more than Upper Lena and we headed down again. We hope to do something next year also. Don't



know where or what but it will be a good time no matter what.

Also this summer Sgt Rholy came out and was looking up some of us

Old Compadres. He hooked up with a friend of his in Steilacoom; and we got together a couple of times. I had not seen him since the Nam. I called Ron Harrison and he met us for dinner in Tacoma. Then a couple of nights later I spent some more time with him and his buddy Klaus. Again it was great just

talking to him. I will close this now and thank you for wanting this info. Ewald

**Ranger Reunion 2005**  
**Fort Benning, Georgia**  
**From One Wife's Point of View**

My name is Heidi Little. I am the wife of Ranger Joe Little. He asked me to write an article regarding the reunion from a wife's perspective. This was only my third reunion. What an outstanding group of Rangers. I expected to hear stories that were grandiose or embellished. But I didn't. Rangers seem to be a very humble group. Most



Rangers seem to have huge hearts and would still die for each other today. One Ranger got very sick while at the reunion and was taken to the hospital. Another Ranger, who he didn't know, went with him to the hospital and stayed with him until his family



arrived. Another Ranger and his wife took care of the sick Ranger's young son. Even today no Ranger is left behind and no Ranger is ever alone. That's awesome!

In spite of the horrific things this group experienced in Vietnam,



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they can still laugh about life In-Country. They exchange stories of their unauthorized commandeering of equipment, such as jeeps, generators and food. The Army didn't realize when they trained these men; they would use the training to be resourceful in order to "requisition" the supplies they needed from other units. They share memories of friends living and friends lost. They talk about the latest surgery they had as a result of a war injury sustained some 30 years ago, or a new condition or disease they got as a result of Agent Orange. They talk about the members of the group who died between reunions, who I might add are only in their 50's. They discuss their latest struggle with the VA and share any "secrets" they may have learned. They are like brothers in the way they share.

These groups of Rangers are such outstanding men. Their wives are no exception. I didn't realize how much the wives have in common. It was actually a comfort for me to talk with them all. For some reason our husbands seem to think we are Rangers in training. For example:

No potty breaks while traveling. Rangers learn to hold their bladders for unreasonably extended periods of time. One poor wife actually relieved herself in a cup while driving, because her husband wouldn't stop, unless they needed gas.

Food rations. A Ranger must be able to live with little to eat. Wives have learned to bring plenty of food while traveling, because as stated in the first bullet, no stopping unless the gas tank is empty.

Sleep deprivation. A Ranger must go for days with no sleep. Night travel is the best, because "darkness is your friend." A Ranger wife must stay awake with her husband, because the wife

is the support. What is it called, Pointman?

A Ranger will never double back, which doesn't work well in civilian navigation. It's almost worse than not asking for directions, causing a potentially volatile situation between husband and wife. Ask me how I know.

At the Ranger Hall of Fame induction, one Ranger spoke of camaraderie. He said it was another word for love. You can see the love Rangers have for each other. Not romantic love, of course, just a genuine, unconditional family caring.

One of the main topics of discussion among F-Company members was how to make life a little easier for a new Ranger widow in their group. I thought to myself, "Now why would they care what happened to the widow?" I then realized the wives deal with many challenges. If you are a combat veteran's wife, then you know what I am talking about. I can say one thing; it is a comfort to know I can call any one of the Rangers or their wives in F-Company, anytime for help or support. I can't tell you what that means to someone who comes from a very small family.

I feel privileged to belong to such an incredible group of people. Not only have I learned for certain that Rangers Lead the Way, but I have found out that Rangers and their wives always find a way. I will close by saying this Rangerette/LRRPette in training is honored to be a part of this F-Company Ranger and Ranger Association family.

HOOAH!!  
Heidi Little

 **G/75 - E/51 LRP - 196TH LRRP**  
Unit Director - Tom Nash 

**OUR COMRADES**

**DANNY L. JACKS AND THOMAS C. ROBISON INDUCTED INTO RANGER HALL OF FAME**

Thursday, July 7, 2005 was an important and proud date in our unit's history. On that date, with former teammates and other members of our unit, friends and many family members present, Danny Jacks and Tom Robison were inducted into the US Army Ranger Hall of Fame (the "RHOF"). In a ceremony held in Fort Benning's Marshall Auditorium, in the shadow of the Ranger Memorial, Danny and Tom joined Robert Pruden (1992) and Vic Valeriano (2002), the only other members of our unit to be so honored.

Tom's and Danny's elections were preceded by the usual period of intense review and scrutiny lasting over two years. Our Association voted to nominate Tom and Danny as candidates for



the Hall of Fame in 2001 and 2002, respectively. Our nominations were researched and drafted by members of our unit, approved by our Board, and then forwarded to the 75th Ranger Regiment Association (the "75thRRA"), under whose auspices our Association operates as it relates to the RHOF. Our nominations were placed under consideration along with the nominations of the other 20 member units of the 75thRRA. Nominations from the 75thRRA – no more than three – along with nominations from all of the other Ranger associations, such as the Merrill's Marauders Association, the Ranger Battalions Associations of WWII, the Ranger Infantry Companies (Airborne) of the Korean War and the United States Army Ranger

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Association, as well as the active Ranger commands, and former RHOF inductees, were then submitted to the RHOF Executive Board for its consideration. After deliberating and reviewing all of the submissions, the RHOF Executive Board selected Tom and Danny as two of its 19 RHOF honorees for 2005.

The induction ceremony was inspiring, as it always is, and came amidst several days of celebration and reflection in the Ranger community. In addition to the actual induction ceremonies, there were other festivities, including the 75th Ranger Regiment's change of command ceremony, and the RHOF dinner with its unique snake appetizers, as well as a variety of demonstrations by today's Rangers. At the induction ceremony, representatives of each of the Ranger Associations, the Ranger Training Brigade and the 75th Ranger Regiment marched into the auditorium, joining the inductees and their guests to witness the induction of this year's honorees. Many current members of the RHOF were present. Each new inductee's individual citation was read to the assemblage, and then the inductee was presented with a medallion emblematic of his membership in the Hall of Fame by the COs and 1st Sergeants of the 75th Ranger Regiment and the Ranger Training Brigade. Then each inductee spoke briefly to those gathered in the auditorium. It is clear from the reception given each inductee that they are all held in the highest esteem and are viewed with awe by today's Rangers. Finally, after today's Rangers recited the Ranger Creed, the crowd left the auditorium to gather at the wall surrounding the Ranger memorial to visit the newly inscribed names of the new inductees.

Both Danny's and Tom's remarks, though brief, spoke volumes of the true nature of these men, and reflected their humility and dignity. And though brief, their remarks contained a fair amount of emotion. Each remarked that his membership in the RHOF was due in no small part to others who had touched their lives, including family and comrades. Tom mentioned his "life team" – his family – his children, grandchildren and his "ATL" – his wife Sharon. Danny also mentioned his wife Marcel and their family, and described his special relationship with Robert Pruden, his one-time Team Leader. Watching Tom's and Danny's moments in the spotlight filled all who know them with pride.

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Tom Robison was born on February 27, 1946 in Jackson, Michigan to Robert and Gladys Robison. He attended the St. John School system in Jackson Michigan until his graduation in 1964. His extra-curricular activities were limited, as he was required to work nights and weekends at his family's grocery store. Tom attended Cleary Business College and Jackson Business University 1965-1967, until receiving his induction notice.

Tom was inducted into the United States Army on August 1, 1967 and attended Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky where he was promoted upon graduation to Private E-2. He was then sent

to take Advanced Infantry Training at Fort Polk, and, upon graduation in December of 1967, was again promoted, this time

to Private First Class. Tom's next assignment was a reconnaissance platoon of Company E, 11th Brigade, Americal (23rd Infantry) Division in Schofield Barracks in Hawaii. Tom's evident leadership qualities earned him a promotion to Spec Four just two



*Sharon & Tom Robison*

months after being assigned to his new unit. And, the following month his new unit was deployed to South Vietnam.

Upon arriving in Vietnam, Tom learned about the Division's LRRP Unit and shortly thereafter volunteered. Although his request was initially denied by both his Company and Battalion commanders on the grounds that his platoon was already short several men, his request for transfer was eventually granted, and he was reassigned to E Company, 51st Infantry (LRP), and was selected to attend the MACV Recondo School in Nha Trang. Upon graduation, he returned to our unit, where he was selected to lead a team and was promoted to Sergeant E-5.

During his stay with the unit, Tom successfully completed in excess of thirty missions sustaining no casualties on his team once he became a Team Leader. This was a remarkable achievement in itself, given the enemy infested areas in which our unit operated. But then, on February 9, 1969, Tom's life

changed forever. While acting as the Assistant Team Leader of his team in order that his replacement as Team Leader could gain valuable experience, and with only days left in his tour of duty, a land mine was detonated near the team. Tom was hit. His wounds were devastating. In and out of consciousness for days, he awoke in a field hospital to find out that his left leg had been traumatically amputated; that he had been blinded; that his right leg had been



*Marcel & Danny Jacks*

badly fractured in four places (carrying with it a recommendation that it too be amputated); and that he had several puncture wounds in his lower

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

body. He was not told that he had been given less than 24 hours to live by the attending doctors, or that his mother was on her way to Japan where he would be moved as soon as he stabilized.

Tom continued to lapse in and out of consciousness and his memory of those first few days is limited as a result. Tom remembers that the evacuation facility in which he was



temporarily held came under an enemy mortar attack during his stay, and he was covered with a mattress to protect him from further injury. And, though no one felt that he would survive those first hours and days, he did so, and he was airlifted to an Air Force Hospital in Tachakowa, Japan. He then learned, when he again awoke from unconsciousness that his kidneys had failed because he had been infused with an

excessive amount of whole blood; that he had, in fact, bled out twice; and that the chances of saving his right leg were at best, minimal. At that point in his life, Tom could easily have given in – most men would have. But Tom refused to accept his prognosis and refused amputation of his right leg. He did regain some sight after about four weeks. His right eye had a piece of wood embedded in it, a piece of wood that remains in his eye to this day. During the ensuing nine weeks in Japan, Tom underwent and endured no fewer than 20 major surgeries, and underwent hemodialysis weekly. After nine weeks in Japan, Tom was transported from Japan to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC, where he had additional surgeries. Tom's leg remained troublesome and severely infected, and on repeated occasions, amputation was again suggested, and each time Tom refused. Then, at the end of July, 1969, Tom was transported to the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan for further treatment, where he then spent a year on his back bedridden. He initially found it difficult to eat because he had not eaten for so long, having been fed intravenously since the initial injuries, and had dropped from 175 pounds to 109 pounds before his health started to improve. The physicians attending him advised that Tom would never walk again and suggested that he begin to acquaint himself with a wheelchair. As he had done before, however, he would prove the physicians wrong. He had developed a resolute and tough "can do" attitude that was highly influenced by his LRRP/Ranger training, with survival as his primary mission. His focus, motivation and determination to repair his broken body to the extent possible and to resume a normal and productive life are indicative of the special and deep character of this man. Eighteen months after being wounded, Tom, though with some difficulty,

was able to walk from the VA hospital under his own power with his right leg intact.

Having a sense, no doubt fostered by his remarkably recovery, that he could accomplish anything he attempted, he enrolled in Michigan State University. Not only did he graduate, he also achieved a post-graduate degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School and became an attorney. Rather than enter a commercially lucrative field of law, Tom became a court administrator and juvenile court referee. In the ensuing twenty years, he used his influence to have the records of juvenile offenders expunged so they could join the military. He urged these troubled teens to use the GI Bill for education after the service and has on many occasions been stopped in the street and thanked by former delinquents now living productive lives. Tom has presided over cases involving neglect and both physical and sexual abuse cases on behalf of children, always ensuring that the child's interests were protected. Tom has practiced law for ten years as a Court Administrator/Attorney Referee in Eaton County, Michigan, and three years as a Court Administrator for the Michigan Court of Appeals. He spent two years as a Trial Court Administrator in Tuscola County, Michigan and six years as Adjunct Professor of Law, Thomas M. Cooley Law School. He was active within the South Lansing Lions Club, having held the posts of President, Vice President, and Sight Conservation Chairman, along with being named Lion of the Year in 1986

Tom drafted the Articles of Incorporation for G Company Ranger Association and filed them with the State of Michigan, along with the requisite IRS filings. He has acted as Corporate Counsel for this Association since its inception in 1990. And, in addition, he was recently elected 2nd Vice President of the 75thRRA.

Upon his return to civilian life, Tom began dating an old friend, Sharon Furtwangler, and they were married a year later. The Robisons have been married for thirty-two years and have been blessed with three sons and five grandchildren.

Tom's Ranger Hall of Fame citation reads as follows:

***"Sergeant Thomas C. Robison***

*Sergeant Thomas Clement Robison is inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame for providing an extraordinary example of what a Ranger should be, not only in the field of battle as a Ranger Team Leader, but also in the manner in which he faced the challenge of severe life-threatening wounds that would have broken most men, and, in the way he conducted his life thereafter. After serving with E Company (Long Range Patrol), 51st Infantry Regiment and G Company (Ranger), 75th Infantry Regiment in the Republic of Vietnam as a Ranger Team Leader in excess of thirty missions, Sergeant Robison volunteered for one last mission before leaving Vietnam to ensure the transition of his team to a new Team Leader. On that mission a land mine*

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

*was detonated, and Sergeant Robison was seriously wounded. He had been blinded, his left leg had been traumatically amputated, his right leg had been badly fractured in four places, and he had several dangerous puncture wounds in his lower body. In the first ten weeks following his injury alone, he would endure no fewer than twenty surgeries, while undergoing weekly hemodialysis. He would endure many additional and painful surgeries and procedures during the balance of his eighteen months in hospitals from Japan to Washington to Michigan. He forged a resolute and Ranger-tough “can do” attitude. Survival became his primary mission, and he succeeded. Despite the expectation that he would not survive twenty four hours, he survived. Despite the expectation that his right leg would require amputation, he would not permit it. Despite the expectation that he would spend his life in a wheelchair, he walked from the hospital under his own power eighteen months after being wounded. Sergeant Robison refused to allow his wounds to limit him in any way. After leaving the hospital, Sergeant Robison returned to college, graduated and went on to earn a law degree. Rather than enter a commercially lucrative field of law, Sergeant Robison became a court administrator and “led the way” in his community by devoting much of his professional life to helping the young. He has helped youthful offenders have their records expunged so they could join the military. He became a proponent of the GI bill. He was instrumental in building, staffing, designing programs for, and maintaining a juvenile treatment center. He raised money to develop a day treatment program. He has presided over cases involving neglect, and physical and sexual abuse of children, always ensuring that the interests of the young were protected. He has touched, in a positive way the lives of hundreds of young people who have come before him. Sergeant Robison continues today to pass on the knowledge and experience he has gained over the years as an adjunct professor of law at Thomas M. Cooley Law School.*

*His determination to recover from overwhelming and near fatal wounds reflects the admonition “Surrender is not a Ranger word.” His life after recovery as an attorney, citizen, father, husband, youth advocate and educator clearly demonstrate that he “upholds the prestige, honor, and “esprit de corps” of the Ranger Regiment.” Sergeant Robison has lived a life that clearly demonstrates that “Rangers Lead the Way!”*

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Danny Lee Jacks was born to R.L. and Betty Jacks on September 13, 1948 at the Hot Springs Army and Navy Hospital in Arkansas. Because he spent his formative years as an “Army Brat” at a variety of bases, including Japan, where he attended kindergarten, military tradition and patriotic values were

ingrained in Danny at an early age. After his father left the service, the Jacks’ family settled on a farm in south central Arkansas – home to Danny ever since. Danny spent the next 12 years in the Woodlawn, Arkansas school system, graduating in 1966, just in time to be confronted with the emerging specter of Vietnam.

While many of Danny’s peers avoided the draft during the Vietnam era, Danny responded to his Country’s call by joining the Army. Danny attended Basic Training and Advanced Infantry Training at Ft. Polk, Louisiana, during which time he was nominated to subsequently attend the NCO Academy at Fort Benning, Georgia. After graduating from both the NCO Academy and Airborne training at Ft. Benning, Danny was shipped to Vietnam in April, 1969.

Danny began his tour of duty in Vietnam by again stepping forward to answer a call for volunteers. While at the Reception Center for the Americal (23rd Infantry) Division at Chu Lai, Danny responded to a challenge from two LRRP representatives searching among the newly arrived troops for volunteers for their unit. Danny immediately volunteered and became a member of E Company (Long Range Patrol), 51st Infantry – subsequently G Company (Ranger), 75th Infantry Regiment. Danny graduated from the Americal Recondo School course, with honors, and also successfully completed the MACV Recondo School in Nha Trang.

The story of Danny Jacks in Vietnam is inextricably and forever linked with the story of Staff Sergeant Robert J. (“Bob”) Pruden, a posthumous recipient of the Medal of Honor, and a member of the US Army Ranger Hall of Fame. Danny was greatly influenced by his close friendship and association with SSG Robert Pruden, his LRRP team leader and friend. On November 29, 1969, Danny, acting as assistant team leader on Team Oregon, led by SSG Pruden, witnessed SSG Pruden’s death while engaged in a selfless act of courage and heroism that led to SSG Pruden’s posthumous award of the Medal of Honor. During this encounter, Bob Pruden knowingly exposed himself to enemy fire to draw attention to himself and to protect his men. After SSG Pruden was mortally wounded, Danny assumed command of the patrol, and cared for SSG Pruden until the team was able to be evacuated.

The time that Danny and Robert Pruden shared together, and the life-altering circumstances of watching his friend die in his arms, shaped Danny’s awareness of the true meaning of courage and leadership. From the life lessons learned from this experience, and a deep personal sense of loyalty, Danny became a prototypical model for all LRRP and Ranger leadership. His leadership and courage subsequently earned him the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, and the enduring respect and admiration of his teammates and comrades.

On December 20, 1969, Danny was leading a long range reconnaissance patrol, in connection with ground operations against a hostile force in Quang Ngai Province. As his team was



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

being inserted into the selected LZ, Danny became aware of an enemy force to the team's front. With 5 members of the team having already evacuated the insertion helicopter, and with complete disregard for his personal safety, Danny exposed himself to the enemy attack by laying down a base of covering fire in concert with the chopper's door gunner, allowing his teammates the time needed to return to, and board, the chopper. After evacuating the LZ, Danny selected another LZ and continued the mission. Danny's timely action was responsible for the success of the mission as well as the safe return of the men in his charge. For his actions on that date, Danny was awarded the Bronze Star for heroism.

In August 1970, Danny, by then Staff Sergeant Jacks, was assigned the mission of leading a LRRP team conducting an area reconnaissance southeast of Tra Bong, with a secondary mission of executing a prisoner snatch. While on the patrol, the team became aware of a hostile force in the vicinity. Danny's team watched as the enemy force, consisting of more than the 130 men the team was able to actually see and count, passed in front of the team's concealed position. The team's plan was to allow the enemy element to pass, picking off a straggler or two at the end of the long enemy column. But, just as this plan was being executed, the team came under heavy fire as the result of a counter ambush by the enemy. Reacting to the urgency of the situation, and recognizing that his team was also in danger of an assault by the larger enemy element that had passed them, Danny immediately and unhesitatingly led a counter assault against the enemy's ambush position. Without regard to the personal danger involved, Danny maintained a highly accurate barrage of small arms fire that eliminated two of the enemy attackers and routed the remainder of the hostile soldiers. Then, recognizing the need to regroup and reassess the larger enemy unit's strength and position, Danny led his men across a small stream when the team again suddenly came under intense hostile fire. Although he was wounded in the ensuing fierce exchange of fire, Danny directed his men to defensive positions while continuing to engage the enemy. Again, with complete disregard for his personal safety, Danny repeatedly exposed himself to the enemy's fire while marking their positions for friendly fire support. Despite the continued pressure, he remained in his vulnerable position until the enemy force was completely defeated. Danny was awarded the Silver Star for his courageous leadership of the team during the engagement, his commitment to his men, and his resolve to complete the mission.

Danny's commitment to his teammates did not end when he left the service, as Le Thanh Giai, a former South Vietnamese soldier who served with Team Oregon during the war, can testify. Through contacts, Danny found out about the plight of his former teammate in his native country and the privations he suffered as the result of his support of American efforts to help the Vietnamese people during the Vietnam conflict. Danny made arrangements for the granting of a visa for Mr. Giai, gave him a job in Arkansas, and eventually helped him to move to California to seek broader employment opportunities.

Several years ago, Danny was invited by E Company, 51st Infantry (Long Range Surveillance) (Airborne) – the successor to our own E51 LRP unit - to Camp Bondsteel in Germany to participate in festivities honoring and celebrating the life and sacrifice of Robert Pruden. The ceremonies included a Ranger Competition and a Ball. As he toured the camp, Danny was able to see installations and a street named for his friend. But perhaps even more gratifying to Danny was that he was able to speak with one of the young men from E51 LRS who related that he and his teammates had studied operational plans developed by Bob Pruden and Mr. Jacks for the taking of VC and NVA prisoners in preparation for their own mission.

Danny has been the frequent subject of stories and articles published in books, newspapers, periodicals, and on the History Channel. Vietnamese newspapers in the United States have also documented his contributions in helping his former South Vietnamese teammate become an American Citizen.

Danny Jacks has been married to his wife, Marcell, for 33 years. They have a son, Greg, a daughter, Cindy, and several grandchildren. The Jacks attend the Center Missionary Baptist Church and continue to farm in the Rison area.

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Danny's Ranger Hall of Fame citation reads as follows:

***“Staff Sergeant Danny Lee Jacks***

*Danny Lee Jacks is inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame for exemplary leadership and courage during long range reconnaissance patrols in 1969 and 1970 while assigned to Company G (Ranger), 75th Infantry Regiment, Americal (23rd Infantry) Division. Specifically, in August 1970, Staff Sergeant Jacks was assigned the mission of conducting an area reconnaissance southeast of Tra Bong, Vietnam, with a secondary mission to capture enemy personnel. While on the patrol, the team became aware of a hostile force in the vicinity. Staff Sergeant Jacks' team watched as the enemy force, consisting of more than one hundred thirty men, passed in front of the team's concealed position. The team's plan was to allow the enemy element to pass, picking off a straggler or two at the end of the enemy column. But, as the team began to execute this plan, the team came under heavy fire as the result of a counter ambush by the enemy. Reacting to the urgency of the situation, and recognizing that his team was also in danger of an assault by the larger enemy element that had passed them, Staff Sergeant Jacks immediately and unhesitatingly, led a counter assault against the enemy's ambush position. Without regard to the personal danger involved, Staff Sergeant Jacks maintained a highly accurate barrage of small arms fire that eliminated two of the enemy attackers and routed the remainder of the hostile soldiers. Then, recognizing*

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*the need to regroup and reassess the larger enemy unit's strength and position relative to his team, Staff Sergeant Jacks led his men across a small stream when the team again suddenly came under intense hostile fire. Although he was wounded in the ensuing fierce exchange of fire, Staff Sergeant Jacks directed his men to defensive positions while continuing to engage the enemy. Again, with complete disregard for his personal safety, Staff Sergeant Jacks' repeatedly exposed himself to the enemy's fire while marking their positions for friendly fire support. Despite the continued pressure, he remained in his vulnerable position until the enemy force was completely defeated. Through his timely and courageous actions, he contributed greatly to the overall success of the mission and served as an inspiration to his entire unit. Staff Sergeant Jacks' commitment to his men, and his resolve to complete the mission, set him apart for all time as an exceptional role model for all military leaders. His personal courage, high skill level and competence, and his devotion to duty, his team, and his Country are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, the Ranger community, and the US Army."*

We have all benefited from knowing Tom and Danny whether we served with them or know them only from our Association's reunions. Tom has overcome disabilities that would have stopped most men in their tracks, and has had an exemplary life. By his refusal to quit, by his determination to complete his "mission" of recovery, and by his day to day actions, Tom Robison brings great credit and pride to our unit. And Danny has shown the true nature of friendship and leadership in the face of the elusiveness of life during wartime. And both will stand tall for all time as examples for new Rangers on the wall surrounding the Ranger Memorial on which their names have been inscribed.

We offer Tom and Danny our heartfelt and warmest congratulations!

Tom Nash

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>H/75 - E/52 LRP - 1ST CAV LRRP</b> Unit Director - William Anton</p>	
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## FEDERAL PROBE: Las Vegas man cited in 'stolen valor' case

**Police say he illegally displayed Army rank, medals.**

BY: Keith Rogers [Review-Journal](#)

A Las Vegas man under Federal investigation, suspected of posing as a highly decorated retired Army Colonel, has been cited under state law for violations including illegally driving with license plates reserved for wounded Nevada war veterans.

Sources close to the case and documents supplied to the [Review-Journal](#) confirmed that Jacob R. Cruze, 53, was cited September 23, 2005 by a Las Vegas police detective on the FBI's Special Task Force for illegally possessing Purple Heart license plates and driving without a license, which had been revoked for nonpayment of child support. The case was referred to the U. S. Attorney's office almost three weeks ago.

Three tickets were issued to Cruze stemming from an investigation into public appearances he made



in which he wore uniforms displaying the rank of colonel and ribbons and medals of valor that authorities suspect he never earned, including the Army's second-highest award, the Distinguished Service Cross. The tickets to Cruze were for falsification of documents, driving with a revoked license and driving with an illegal license tag.

Detective Jack Clements, who conducted the probe, questioned Cruze in the parking lot of a Maryland Parkway coffee shop before driving to Cruze's house at the Las Vegas Country Club, where Purple Heart license plates and military awards were confiscated.

"He was calculating and non-apologetic even when he was busted said Bill Anton, past regional director of the U.S. Army Ranger Association and current vice president of the Special Forces Association Chapter 51 in Las Vegas, who lodged the complaint against Cruze. "I feel violated," Anton, a retired Army lieutenant

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colonel from the Vietnam War, said in a telephone interview Sunday. “We expect Mr. Cruze to be charged and prosecuted for the egregious display and in-your-face attitude for wearing the uniform and decorations of our United States Army, which include the nation’s second- and third-highest awards for valor, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star and Purple Heart medals,” Anton said. Cruze hung up the phone when he returned a call last week to the Review-Journal and was asked about his colonel rank and military career. Later, he was unavailable at his Flamingo Road office, where he works as a registered nurse.

On Friday an FBI spokesman, Special Agent Todd Palmer, said he couldn’t comment on the investigation into Cruze but said, “Any case we investigate is going to be turned over to the U.S. attorney to see if it has merit and rises to the level of federal prosecution.” A U.S. attorney spokeswoman in Las Vegas, Natalie Collins, said Cruze had not been charged, and she would not deny or confirm that he is under investigation.

Such crimes, referred to as “stolen valor,” are a violation of the federal law that makes it illegal for people to wear any U.S. military rank, award or decorations that they did not earn. The most serious violation, displaying the Medal of Honor, carries a fine of \$100,000 and up to a year in jail, said Tom Cottone, an FBI special agent in New Jersey who has made stolen valor arrests. The Cruze case “is a clear-cut violation,” said Cottone, who had consulted Anton about the case. Cruze raised the suspicions of former Army Rangers who were attending an annual conference in late June 2004 at the Riviera. He was photographed wearing a dress-blue uniform bearing a colonel insignia and numerous ribbons and medals on his jacket. When Cruze was asked about his military career, Anton said, his comments didn’t fit with events, locations and dates of military operations.

In May, Cruze spoke to fifth-graders gathered for a career day event at Eisenberg Elementary School, where he wore a green Class A Army uniform and a display of ribbons, said a

source with knowledge of Cruze’s appearance but who spoke on the condition of anonymity. The POW Network, a tax-exempt nonprofit education organization in Skidmore, Mo., helped the former Rangers.

A resume posted by Cruze with a nursing organization says he served in Vietnam from June 1969 to September 1970 as a combat medic and earned the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Cross of Galantry, Soldiers Medal and Army Distinguished Service Medal.

But records obtained by the POW Network under the Freedom of Information Act from the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis show that Cruze never fought in combat and received no awards or decorations. Instead, he is listed as an Army reservist from July 21, 1988, to Jan. 3, 1994, who served on inactive status as a clinical nurse for a hospital unit in Phoenix.

Cruze’s resume states that he holds bachelor’s and master’s nursing degrees from Arizona State University and UCLA, respectively, but according to the Nevada State Board of Nursing, his active nursing license is based on a degree from Grand Canyon University in Phoenix. A Web site that Cruze posts for his fly-fishing guide service describes him as “a retired USA Colonel,” and he is listed on a 2003 Community Bank account statement as “Col. Jacob R. Cruze. “ POW Network researcher Mary Schantag said the U.S. attorney’s office has routinely declined to levy charges in stolen valor cases because they have low priority compared with cases involving terrorism, stolen identities and domestic violence. “This stuff is just so, so wrong,” she said. To the real war heroes, “it’s a tragedy.”

“These guys have earned their medals, spilled their blood to protect our freedoms, and these phonies have stolen the integrity, the honor, the respect that they have earned,” she said. “But they’re not stealing the nightmares, and they’re not stealing the pain. They go through life unscathed.”




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

Unit Director - David Flores



Submitted by: Dave Flores, Unit Director

Well here we are again entering into another holiday season. It seems as if we just finished the last one not that long ago. The years just seem to go by faster and faster now.

There was a time for all of us that one particular year went by very slowly. It was that year we spent visiting a little foreign country you guys remember so well (even though you may hardly have been able to find it on a map before you went there). It was that year we spent trying to survive and keep our brothers and ourselves alive. That year that changed all of us forever. That year that left us with fears and deep wounds that NEVER go away. That year spent in mortal combat in Vietnam. Some would never finish out that year, and for some



of us, that “year” has now stretched into more than 35 years.

It’s now such a laugh now when people say: “Let it go; you made it home; it’s over for you now”. It wasn’t always a laugh to me though. In my younger, post-Vietnam tour days, I would get pretty upset. Now I know that the people saying this really have no idea what our bodies, minds, and souls went through. We that served in combat know; we deal with those memories everyday. There are lots of reminders out there. Some big, like the daily reports of the war on terror, and yet others more subtle. We take them as they come and do our best to deal with them. Just like we did in Nam, we protect the team, our brothers, ourselves. We

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

deal with these reminders in our own way, quietly, without drawing attention. For most of us, our lives go from year to year without much trouble, but even if struggling at times, we seldom share our troubling thoughts. Unless we are among others who, like us, went through their own "baptism of fire" in combat, we keep our thoughts on that long-ago year to ourselves.

So the years go by.

As has been done in this column in the past, I want to take this opportunity to share with you one of the missions our unit performed in Vietnam. The following was provided by one of my former teammates and still a brother, Julian Rincon. That mission has a peculiar name, but a familiar theme for those who served on a LRRP or Ranger team in Vietnam. Here it is.

### THE CRICKET MISSION

Submitted by Julian Rincon, Co. F/52nd Inf. (LRP)/Co. I/75th Inf. (Ranger)

I awoke in the morning feeling pretty good. Our team, Wildcat 7, of which I was the Team Leader (TL), had been out for three days and been extracted just before dusk the previous evening. The team was tired but we had seen a lot of signs of enemy activity in our Area of Operation (AO). The last day of our patrol we had heard enemy movement near us all day long and had been extra alert and very tense for the time remaining prior to our scheduled extraction. Finally, just before nightfall, we had succeeded in exiting the area of heavy movement and been extracted by helicopter and flown back to our base camp Lai Khe.

Our company area in Lai Khe was comprised primarily of rows of 10-men canvas tents, with wooden floors. The tents were extremely hot during the simmering Vietnamese summer and remained hot even during the Vietnamese "winter" (if that season could be actually said to exist in the tropics). Nonetheless, we would generally roll up the sides of the tents to let some of the hot breeze pass through our tents, providing what little relief was available. At least we could strip down to shorts and T-shirts and kick back. That sure beat enduring that same heat while also "humping the boonies" with full rucksack, weapon, and ammunition—our face and all other exposed skin covered with greasy camouflage paste. After each mission, a team had the luxury of a one-day stand down" to clean their weapons and equipment, reload their rucksacks and ammunition magazines, read mail, write letters, and take care of any other immediate tasks. As part of that stand-down day, came a respite from the Physical Training (PT), which was otherwise a standard daily regimen of every LRRP or Ranger unit in Vietnam.

About noon that day I was told to report to the Operations tent. I arrived at the Tactical Operations Center (TOC) with my Assistant Team Leader (ATL), Daniel Wiggins. Wiggins and I were briefed on a new three-day LRP mission to be conducted in the area of Song Be (located approximately 70 kilometers north of Lai Khe, at the southern edge of Vietnam's Highlands region). We were informed that the 1st Division G-2 (Intelligence section) had intelligence reports of a large enemy force operating in the area. Our job was to confirm the Division's information. That was not an unusual report for Song Be, nor would enemy contact

in that area be a surprise. Song Be was an isolated ARVN outpost and district capital, the enemy was constantly in the surrounding terrain and contacts with them by our teams or "line" infantry units of the 1st Division were frequent. Enemy observers could also keep Song Be under constant surveillance from the jungle on the sides of its most prominent terrain feature, the adjacent mountain known as Nui Ba Ra ("Black Widow Mountain). Teams seldom had a dull moment when patrolling near Song Be. Our team Wildcat 7 normally operated with five members, but on this mission I requested and received permission for an extra member. I was worried about expected heavy enemy activity and a six-man LRP team, though still a small element, gave us a much appreciated 20 percent increase in firepower should we indeed make enemy contact. Getting an additional highly trained team member was therefore both an operational boon, as well as a morale booster for the team. So for this particular mission Wildcat 7 would consist of, and its order-of-march be: Freddie Blankenship, point man; Julian Rincon, TL and walking "slack"; Danny Carter, radioman; Daniel Wiggins, ATL and M-79 grenadier; Dave Flores, extra team member; and, Bill Crawley, rear security. I gathered the team and once I went over the patrol order and got down to the equipment phase I told everyone to carry extra ammunition for two reasons: 1) the intelligence reports of heavy enemy activity in our mission AO and, 2) this particular AO was in the Song Be corridor, a jungle corridor running north of Lai Khe all the way to Cambodia, ending just inside of the Cambodian border and not far from branches of the Ho Chi Min Trail. The corridor, drained by the Song Be River, was largely covered by triple canopy jungle, greatly facilitating its use by the enemy as a primary infiltration route into War Zones C and D, and eventually into Saigon's environs. Such jungle cover limited the ability of US forces to cover it with aerial surveillance, even during the daytime, let alone after nightfall. The numerous enemy trails criss-crossing each other in the Song Be AO would attest to the fact that it remained the Vietcong's and NVA's (North Vietnamese Army) own backyard and we were about to enter it without their permission to play a deadly game.

Wiggins and I made a helicopter reconnaissance overflight of our designated mission AO and identified for the UH-1D helicopter pilot the open area we wanted to be inserted into and that we wanted to be inserted in the eastern corner of that clearing. The pilot in turn told us he would insert us into the designated Landing Zone (LZ) on the second "touchdown" of the flight. The strategy used to insert LRP teams was simple but effective. The pilot would fly at just about tree top level, suddenly drop into an opening in the jungle, almost touch the ground, lift off go to a second opening, again almost touch the ground, then go on to a third or fourth opening and do the same thing. Our job was to get off the chopper in less than 5 seconds on that second touchdown, head into the tree line, secrete ourselves just inside it and "lay dog" (silently lying in a wagon-wheel formation, feet to center, each team member facing outward and covering his area of responsibility). Meanwhile, the chopper would continue its pattern of multiple touchdowns until it had cleared the AO. The hope was that any enemy soldiers observing the touchdowns would not know with certainty at

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

which touchdown the team, if any, had exited the aircraft.

The next afternoon, Wildcat 7 was inserted, per plan, onto the east corner of the opening and immediately headed into the adjacent tree line. Just as rehearsed and performed so many times before, as the helicopter approached the LZ the entire team stepped onto the skids and when the helicopter came within approximately five feet of the ground, the pilot performed a quick stall and the team all jumped as the "go" signal was given by me. The helicopter never came close to touching the ground and was quickly again moving forward on to the next false insertion. Soon, with the departure of the clattering helicopter blades, the jungle once again resumed its normal sounds.

We went about 30 meters into the woodline, set up a defensive position and I told Carter, our radioman, to give the helicopter pilot the word that it had been a "cold" (no contact) insertion and that Wildcat 7 was going to "lay dog" for awhile and then proceed with its mission. Unable to initially contact the departing helicopter from the jungle, the team moved briefly back to the LZ to get their radio message out, then returned to their jungle hiding place. As our vision adjusted to the relatively faint light on the jungle floor, we almost immediately saw signs of recent enemy activity. The team moved out and quickly came upon an extensive collection of freshly dug enemy fighting positions. Among the positions were "berms" (earthen barriers) subdividing the enemy base-camp into multiple platoon- and company-size areas. Discovering this recently constructed encampment put the already wary team on an even higher level of alertness as they moved silently through it and deeper into the jungle. We also came upon a medical complex (several bunkers) and could not understand why no one was around. There were lots of medical supplies, but nobody was guarding them. Shortly, we came upon a clearing and stopped behind some bushes and attempted to make radio contact. There was a loud cracking noise that sounded like a stick breaking. Suddenly three gooks with AK-47s appeared, walking directly at us. We waited, in the ready position, and they walked parallel to us on the opposite side of the bushes. We opened fire and instantly killed the three enemy soldiers.

Once clear of the basecamp, Rincon marked its location on his map and called its map grid coordinates into their Forward Operations Base (FOB) radio team, for relay back to company HQ in Lai Khe. He then changed the direction of travel, heading due north and signaling Blankenship, the point man, to find a "Remain Overnight Position" (RON). It was starting to get dark, and this being the early part of the month only a small amount of moonlight could be expected and would hardly penetrate to the jungle floor. In addition, this part of Vietnam was in its monsoon season. This would surely bring pouring rain in the evening then again in the early morning (if not throughout the night). If there was any respite from the rain, then the wind would start drying our soaking wet tiger fatigues and chill us to the bone—strange country. As directed, Blankenship found a secure, unobstructive overnight position. To get into it, we had to slowly, carefully crawl a good ways through thick brush and "wait-a-minute" (thorn-covered) vines to get to it. Once in position we set our claymores (directional, command-detonated mines) around us. If we got into contact that night, the last claymore detonated would

be the one pointing north and thus cover our escape in that direction. As the night progressed, so did the enemy activity. A few hours after it had gotten dark we could hear them moving all over the place. The Vietcong or NVA were using flashlights and lanterns as they moved about all over the area looking for us and shouting to each other, coming close to our position a few times. They clearly knew we were somewhere nearby, but were unknowingly bypassing our redoubt. By the sounds, activity and lights out looking for us we knew this was a large force of Vietcong. No one spoke, our radioman able only to "break squelch" (briefly hold down the speak button) on his radio in order to maintain communications with our FOB radio team. Even radio contact with the FOB was intermittent, as the terrain and weather had caused severe deterioration in the team's ability to maintain radio contact. Carter faithfully broke squelch each hour throughout the night, but the team could not tell if even that minimal communication was getting through to their FOB. I had to admire my team: they were cool and collected, ready to deliver deadly force if we were discovered. Most of them were graduates of the MACV "Recondo School", and most of us had been together as a team for almost five months. Training, combat experience, and well-earned confidence in themselves and each other were irreplaceable attributes of a good LRP team, and this was a good one.

As the rain suddenly began, the enemy search for us started to slow down— even they were settling in to ride out the downpour. Normally, in dry conditions, we would sleep on the ground with all of our equipment on and our weapons lying on top of our bodies. In this kind of weather, just as our enemy, we would sit cross-legged and cover ourselves with the same kind of thin plastic sheet as they, thereby able to keep as dry and warm as possible, but without a noisy and cumbersome American-issue poncho covering us. We were never totally successful in that effort [to keep dry and warm] but did the best we could in order to avoid stiffening up in the wet and cold environment. The rain continued throughout the night, with but a brief respite just before daybreak. During the course of the night, Crawley even had a snake slither over him, finally proceeding on its way as if he had not even been there. All Crawley could do was sit quietly, statue-like, afraid to either disturb the snake or give away the team's position. I would be the last to take the radio watch before daylight, though actually none of us had been able to sleep that night: better groggy than dead. Daylight approached quickly and soon the damp terrain was also foggy. I had each claymore brought into our position one at a time, keeping the noise down. Just prior to moving out of our overnight position I checked my topo map, shot a compass azimuth (direction), orientated Blankenship, and the team headed due north. A few minutes later we came across a trail that intersected our patrol route. After silently observing up and down the trail for a moment, we moved to the jungle on the far side of it. No sooner did we cross it than we heard voices. Quietly proceeding toward them, we soon came into a small clearing and saw two Vietcong digging a bunker. We walked right past them, apparently so stealthily that they never looked up. They just kept on digging and we kept on walking. Neither group said a word nor acknowledged the presence of the other. As we kept walking we began to see more and more

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

Vietcong digging bunkers not far from us. Apparently still unseen, we slowly, carefully continued onward. We had no choice, as the enemy seemed to be in every direction and our current course seemed as good as another did. Finally, just before we got to a large trail, we encountered three Vietcong next to a bunker. As they simultaneously spotted us, we could see them going for their AK-47s. We fired first, shooting them on the run and killing all three as we headed down the trail. While we would normally have avoided staying on any trail, this one appeared to run in a northerly direction, and speed of exit was now our premier objective—any hopes of sneaking to safety now gone with the just concluded shooting of the enemy soldiers at the bunker. As we ran up the trail, we could hear clickers, sort of like those kid's toys called "crickets". Then it dawned on me we that we were not receiving any enemy return fire. The enemy were apparently more interested in surrounding us and running us to ground, using the cricket noises to maintain contact with each other during the pursuit. Perhaps the enemy plan for us now was capture. While our teams had at times gone on "prisoner snatch" (to get enemy prisoners rather than just bodies) missions, we had no interest in being on the receiving end of an enemy prisoner snatch operation. After continuing to run for another several hundred meters, I signaled Blankenship to stop and get off the trail just for a few seconds so I could get orientated and call in artillery, and so Danny Carter could radio Operations as to our situation. We were still hearing clickers all around us. While the rest of the team took to a knee, I was standing looking at my map a few feet from the trail, just inside the jungle. Suddenly Blankenship snaps his finger to get my attention. He signals me that there are three VC on the trail coming directly toward us. We are all frozen in position. We could hear the Vietcong talking and they are carrying their AK-47s slung on top of their shoulders holding their weapons by the barrel, instead of leveled in a ready and alert posture. For whatever reason, call it a sixth sense, the point man, at whom I am looking, brings his eyes up and around and stares right at me. I can see his eyes open wide, knowing this cannot be happening to him. He starts to remove his AK-47 from his shoulder, trying to bring it to a firing position, while he is simultaneously yelling to his comrades what he sees. At the same time, I am raising my CAR-15 to my waist and we all open fire at once. Our shots are on the mark, theirs flying over our heads as they are bowled over backward by our volley. In an "Immediate Action" (IA) maneuver, we quickly and automatically reverse our order of march. Crawley, originally assigned as rear security, now becomes the point man and Blankenship is now rear security. I point in the direction I want to go and tell Crawley there is a potential pick-up zone (PZ) about two clicks (2000) meters away. Now we are off on a dead run. It will be a foot race to the PZ, our lives on the line. We continued to hear the "crickets" but as we neared the open area we also start receiving automatic fire from our rear. So much for them trying to take us alive! Notwithstanding our heavy rucksacks, we slowly gain separation from the pursuing enemy. Thank God for all that PT. Though we cursed it back in Lai Khe, it paid off in dividends as we relentlessly moved to the PZ.

A seeming lifetime later, we break out of the jungle and onto the edge of the designated clearing. We quickly take cover and

start to deliver return fire. I yell over at Carter to "get on the horn" (team radio) and call the TOC and let them know we are at the PZ and ready for extraction as soon as possible. Our extraction helicopter, accompanied by helicopter gunships, should already be enroute and I want to ensure them we are ready and more than willing to get out of there. Just then a "bird-dog" (Cessna 0-1 airplane) spotter plane is circling above us. He has heard our call for artillery and knows we are in a bad situation. He radios us to pop smoke so he can get our exact position. Accordingly, Wiggins crawls out into the open area and pops a green smoke grenade. The bird-dog pilot identifies "green" and we are in business. We cannot see what is on the right side of our position, so I send Crawley and Flores to check it out and make sure we don't get hit on our right flank. I tell them to hurry, as we should soon have incoming friendly artillery and I want the entire team in one, tight group. Our pursuers, however, are not waiting for our help to arrive. We are soon pinned down by heavy automatic fire. While we return fire as effectively and efficiently as possibly, we now are also starting to get low on ammunition. Finally, the requested artillery rounds begin to arrive. As the first round hits one hundred meters from our location, Crawley and Flores are at a dead run, then diving back into our position. Crawley is all excited. He has a red bruise on his forehead and Flores' ear is bleeding, as an AK-47 round has nicked a piece of it during their withdrawal. Bird-dog is starting to get excited, as he sees a large enemy force moving towards us and wants to drop artillery 50 meters to our front and fire for effect. Relying on his judgement, I radio the artillery Fire Direction Center (FDC) to "drop 50 and fire for effect". We need a wall of steel between the enemy and us if we are to survive until we can be extracted. We keep firing, hugging the earth as the artillery continues to arrive—it is "danger close", but much appreciated. I told everyone to stay down as low as they can, as the artillery continues to impact just outside of our position. I quickly ask Crawley: "What happened". He said that just as he and Flores moved into the jungle on the team's right flank, he ran head-on into a Vietcong soldier. They butted heads and both fell to the ground stunned and in shock. Unable to stop, Flores collided into Crawley and rebounded, but stayed on his feet. As Flores recovered his balance, both Crawley and the Vietcong had picked up their weapons, turned around and headed in the opposite direction. But a second Vietcong, unseen behind the first one, recovered enough to quickly get a few poorly aimed rounds off, one of which nicked Flores' ear. Crawley and Flores quickly retreated to the team's position. With the rounds hitting so closely to our position, we started bouncing off the ground with each impact. We would feel the impact, then the splinters and small shreds of metal rain through the trees, followed immediately by the larger pieces, cutting everything in their path: this was really close. After the first few volleys, I asked Bird-Dog if it was safe to move further back into the open area. He said yes, as he took control of the artillery and continued to bring more rounds in between the team and the enemy. Finally, in the distance, we could hear the rotors of our extraction helicopter, beating the air as it headed into the clearing. Two Huey Cobra gun ships accompanied it, ready to chew up the jungle around us once our position was clearly identified to them. The UH-1D



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

asked for a new smoke grenade, everything beyond it to be fair game for the Cobra gunships wrath. As soon as the extraction ship pilot identified our smoke, it came barreling in for the extraction. The extraction ship itself soon also began receiving automatic weapons fire, its door gunners firing over the team's head in response. The enemy fire still being too heavy, the UH-1D flared up and circled away before returning to again try for the extraction. Knowing that the team's time was quickly running out, I advised Bird-Dog to have the Cobras make their rocket and minigun runs from north to south along the tree line, while we awaited the returning UH-1D pick-up ship. With the enemy thus being engaged, and now focusing their weapons on the Cobras, the UH-1D was finally able to land long enough for the team to clamber aboard. As the pick-up helicopter "pulled pitch" and got out of the PZ, the team, and the ship's door gunners continued to fire into the rapidly receding jungle as the UH-1D clawed for altitude and safety.

Wildcat 7 had clearly stirred up a hornet's nest, and had barely made it out of there. The net result, aside from the team's survival with no serious casualties, had been the location of an enemy base camp and confirmation of G-2's hypotheses that strong enemy forces were indeed still operating near Song Be. That was not a "news flash". From past missions, we had pretty well known what to expect going into Song Be. While the enemy base-camp would be targeted for air strikes, undoubtedly new base-camps would soon take its place and follow-on LRP missions and line infantry operations would again go into the AO to find them. For Team Wildcat 7, it had just been another "day in the life". After a day's stand-down in Lai Khe, we would soon be on another mission.

Hard to believe that we were on that mission nearly 37 years ago. It is still vivid in our memories.

Here's wishing everyone best wishes and happy holidays. May the new year be better than the last. I will leave you with this poem sent to me by Ramona Catherwood, wife of Greg, AKA "HOLLYWOOD" Catherwood. This poem was written for Greg by his neighbor, Keric.

**"HOLLYWOOD"**

A year in time so long ago,  
In a far off place you came to know  
The true meaning of valor and ultimate trust,  
Cause without those virtues, every mission was bust!

Those ops you did with your beloved team  
To us outsiders seem like surreal dreams.  
Forgive us please, for we can't comprehend  
Why the scars you bear are forever to mend.

The bonds that formed in that inevitable hell,  
A lifetime later you're still refusing to quell.  
You, Newcomb, King, Durr, Gay, Brown, and others,  
Are more tightly knit than any true brothers.

I see you now, so different from then,  
Who would know you are heroes, instead of just men?

We thank God for your lives and all that you gave,  
For our road to freedom is one you helped to pave.

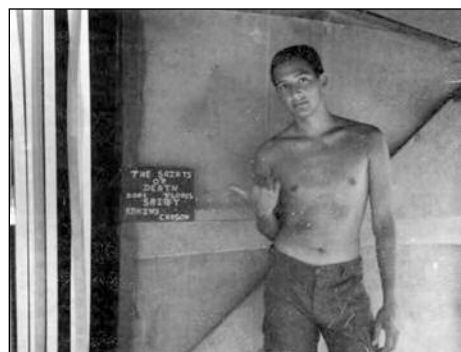
**MANY THANKS,**  
Written by, Keric Sullivan



*Rincon Team Wildcat 7: L-R Blankenship, Carter, Wiggins, Flores, Crawley, Rincon*



*L-R Rincon, Wiggins, Busby*



*Dave Flores in front of team hootch, Lai Khe, 1968*



*In LA Bar, Lake Arthur, Louisiana 2005 Reunion: L-R Dave Hill (back to camera), Randy King, Dave Flores, John Candiloro (back to camera), Julian Rincon, Bob Busby (Unit President)*



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

Unit Director - Rodger Crunk

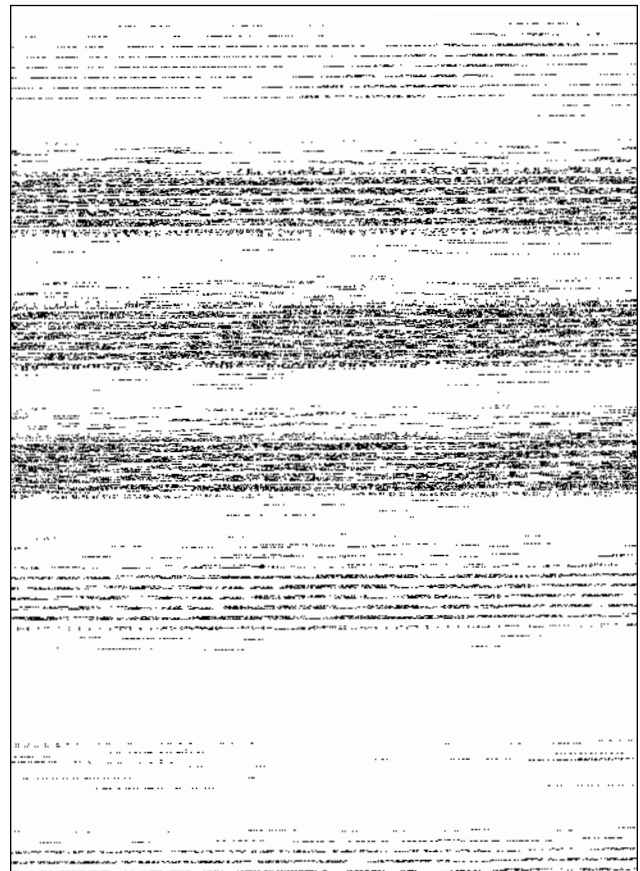
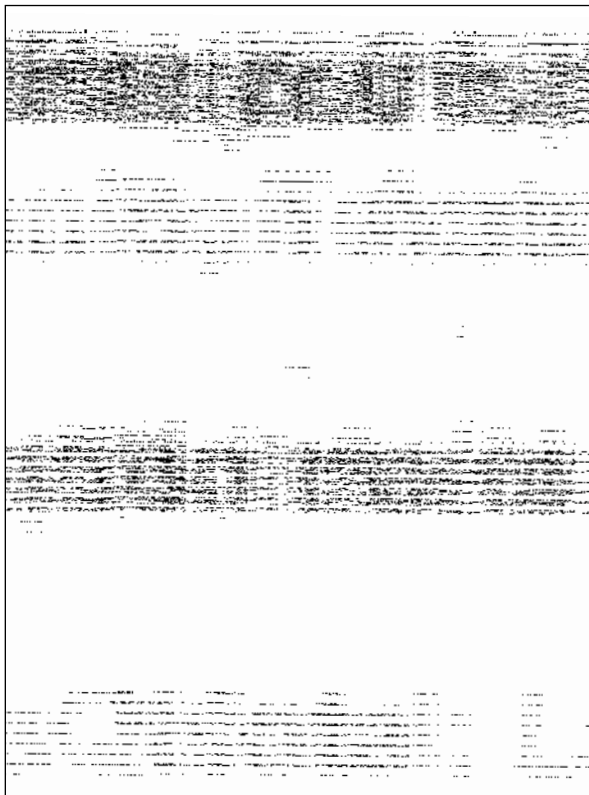
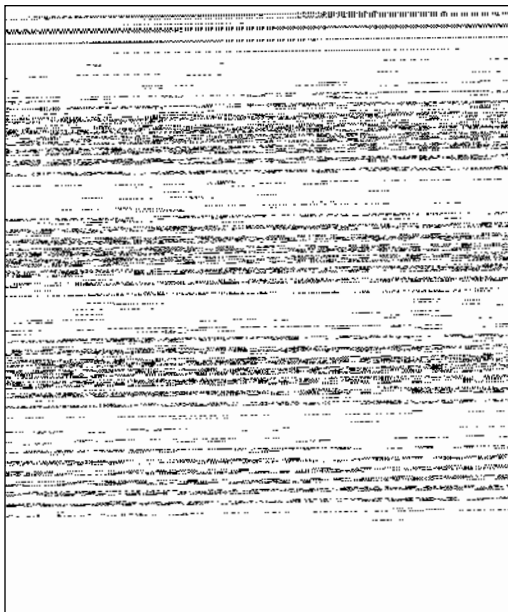


BY: Roger Crunk

Greetings to all;

First, I must apologize for not doing so much lately to stay in touch. I have worked quite a lot in the oil patch the last few months, plus I carry around this load of depression/PTSD that hinders my usual outgoing personality; no comments from the guys who know me please! So, moving right along.

We have some hard data on the K CO reunion for July 2006, which I will include. More will follow later as we nail down some schedule items. I hope to go to San Antonio with Ray Allen in a few days to take care of some of these issues.





**An act of God...I swear!**

First off, please let me apologize for not having a submission in the last issue of Patrolling. It was due to an act of god...my computer was hit by lightning just a few days before my deadline. After three weeks and many frustrating hours I got it working again, without losing any data, but at that point the Patrolling deadline was well past submission time. I'm sorry for letting everyone down.

This past summer saw a great reunion for the 101st LRRP/Ranger Association take place in Branson MO. in June. In conjunction with Operation Homecoming, the 101st LRA held an outstanding reunion that was visited by a load of veterans from other 101st units, and even a few men from other non 101st units stopped in to see us. Our hospitality room was definitely one of the action spots of the event. Make plans to attend next year's reunion now, to be held June 11-19th 2006. Look for more information coming soon at my web site and in future patrolling articles. These just get bigger and better every year.

The 75th Ranger reunion in July at Columbus was another great time. Though not many 101st guys were present, I did meet few new guys and brought them into the "flock". I had the privilege of seeing Lt. General (ret) David Grange be inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame, and then meeting him after the ceremony. He's a great representative from L Company to have in the RHOF.

Probably the highlight of my Columbus reunion experience was pinning the Ranger tab on SFC Robert Whitley. Robert is originally from Camden, ME. and has spent 12 years in the Army, serving at 1/327 INF, 1/325 AIR and 3/325 AIR at Ft Bragg. He is married and has one daughter.

Robert was assigned to PFDR Co. in November of 2004 and I believe he's now serving in Iraq with the latest deployment of the 101st. Pinning on his tab was not something I actively sought out. I was watching the demonstrations at victory pond, and bumped into a couple guys I know who were with the 101st LRSD before it was deactivated. SGT Stephan "Squeaks" Miller and SFC Joe Armstrong greeted me and asked me to have the honor of pinning Whitley. It

was an honor I quickly accepted and feel very proud to have been asked to do. Good luck goes out to Robert, Joe and Squeaks and all the other 101st men now going through their latest trip to the sand box.

A couple other 101st LRSD guys I an across were Steve "Demo" Dawson and Matt Boger. Both whom are now instructors at the RTB. "Demo" took me on a tour of Rabel Hall and has requested items from 101st guys for display on its walls. Anybody have some interesting items you can send Demo? Matt and his wife caught up with me at the Holiday Inn and matt went to lunch with the 101st guys, who were treated by Bob Gilbert. Later after lunch, Matt invited me out to his home where I spent a couple hours visiting and looking through his last deployment photos and collection of memorabilia. Thanks for the break Matt.

Another highlight was attending Roger Browns annual BBQ at his home east of Columbus. Roger has a beautiful place in the country and his wife and he did a bang up job of making about 40 guest feel right at home. It was an interesting afternoon meeting many retired Army people who I have heard of but never had the chance to meet in person. I remember Jake and Willie, along with Snake...all of them colorful characters who did their best to make me feel like one of the guys. My thanks go to Roger for the invitation to join him and the fine hospitality shown.

During the reunion at Branson, I asked to be replaced as unit director. I think 5+ years is enough. Though a replacement was voted in, he declined and asked me to take the position for one more year. I agreed. For me, that means by June, I'll just be handling the web site and scanning photos after that. If he can't take the position at that time, someone new needs to step forward. Burn out has set in and I need a break.

The snow is starting to accumulate here in 'da UP, and by the time you read this, we'll be waist deep in the white stuff. That means I'll be indoors for a few months and I'll have time to work on the web site and scan photos. Start looking for updates when you receive this issue of Patrolling. Until then, RLTW.

Randy White



Here is my wish for all my M Company - 71St Lrrp brethren out there who get this December unit article. I hope this season finds you well and at peace and in good health. I have no news of any unit members in ill health or other stressful circumstances, so I guess no news is good news at this time.

I look for help to write these articles and gladly include any correspondence from unit members I receive between article due dates. As I don't have anything from you guys at this time, I'm relating a War Story from my time and my memories in Vietnam. Every Christmas for the last 35 years I recall what happened

Christmas Day 1968. Some of you guys out there remember it too. Here it is.

We were working out of Firebase Barbara at the time, doing recon missions in the "Pineapples". As there was some sort of ceasefire agreed to, that limited troop movements on Christmas day, it was decided by God knows who, that teams out on patrol but stationary, (not moving around, being in a Day Halt position), would meet the requirement of the cease fire but still be useful to gather intel on the VC in the area. They, (the VC) would certainly violate the agreement and be moving about re-

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

supplying, etc and we would be out watching what was going on. It was decided that heavy teams would be a good idea, just in case we got tangled up with “Charlie”. I recall the reasoning being that support, extractions, etc., was going to be harder to come by on Christmas day.

Anyway, two Heavy Teams, aka Hunter Killers, were put together. One was lead by SSG Victor Bosquez, and the other by SGT Welty, with me, the still unproven SSG Houghton, fresh from Recondo School as the ATL of Welty’s team. Dave Wolfenbarger walked point for us, and other members of our unit I recall being on that team were, Dan Fisher, Terrell Ross, Charlie Hunt, and 4-5 others long since forgotten by me.

Both teams landed in our AO by chopper. We mixed in with one of the infantry units of the 199th who staged some kind of sweep in the area of the “pineapples”. Both teams hunkered down and hid while the infantry staged and moved out. This was Dec 24th. We lay there for a time while the grunts moved off on their sweep. After an hour or so, two black pajama clad guys showed up in the LZ to see what the infantry unit was up to, or left behind I guess. I remember they showed up rather quickly, as the grunts weren’t gone all that long. They sort of caught us off guard. We weren’t hid well yet, and a couple of the men in an effort to hide better or get a good look, spooked them. They just flat disappeared from view! I was concerned, as was Welty and Bosquez, that we had been compromised. But the decision was made to continue the mission. After a time both teams moved off to our separate AO’s and night halt positions without further incident. Our team set up close to a canal, we set out claymores and spent the night without trouble. The next morning, instead of moving off to a day halt position, we stayed where we spent the night....not something we did on normal missions, but we weren’t supposed to be moving during this Christmas day. This AO was a “free fire zone”, anybody out here on any other day was asking to die. When daylight broke the place started crawling with gooks. I saw more gooks that day than any other time I was in Vietnam. I don’t recall seeing many weapons, but the locals seemed to be re-supplying the VC. They were not trying to be quiet either. They didn’t have a clue we were just a few feet away as they floated by in their sampans. I recall seeing quite a few women that day. Maybe they were out to see their men. Several sampans went by so close to us you could hear them talking and see their eyes. We saw quite a few people moving around on foot too. We saw them on all sides of us. I was sure we would be discovered before days end. Sgt Welty and I discussed the possibility that we may have been seen, and we should move as early as possible. We did! I recall being restricted as to how soon we could move.....we started 30 minutes early. By then the gooks had thinned out. Apparently they knew the cease fire was over

too. On the way to our night halt position I remember Dave Wolfenbarger walking into a ground nest of bees. We were crossing a pineapple field when it happened, scavenging a few pineapples as we went. I picked three or four crossing that field, and I was third from the end of the column. That was unusual as



poachers and the VC usually had them picked clean. Anyway the Bees really got after Dave, he ran ahead as far as he dared, stripping clothes, dropping pineapples and fighting off bees! They were mean, persistent little bastards! The rest of us spread out and walked a wide path around the nest, picking up the gear Dave unassed in the bee fight. Oh, Dave was walking point with his re-curve

bow and a 45 pistol at the time. Anyway, we got reorganized and started out again. We came to the next canal, crossed it and turned left moving along the edge of it. We got spread out as we crossed it. I remember Charlie Hunt, the tail gunner...was in the canal coming up the bank when the column stopped! VC coming out of the bush not 80-100 yards in front of us! Both columns, 10 LRRPS and an

unknown number of VC walking straight at each other but 100 yards or so left of each other. Like two ships that pass in the night. The only thing was it wasn’t night and we didn’t pass!

We both turned left....one pineapple field apart. Lucky us, we turned the corner first. Now this pineapple plantation area was shot and bombed to hell and hence uncultivated for some time. There was quite a bit of plant growth along that canal dike we were walking on, except where I was when the column stopped! They, the VC, moved out into the pineapple field and walked parallel with their dike. A sure sign the dikes were booby trapped. We shouldn’t be walking that dike! Now being caught out in the open, all I could do was just squat down. There was enough grass in front of me to hide some of me. God I felt naked! If the shit hit the fan this little bit of grass was stopping nothing! I tracked the point man with my M-79. We had a M-60 on the team up front somewhere, and I knew the gunner was tracking the point man too, he was going to hell in a flash if he so much as farted! There was a woman walking with him. I remember his ak-47 was at sling arms. As he moved from my left to right, he stopped and looked across the field to our side. I was about to let them have it when he tuned back and started walking again. By now two VC were just about straight across the field in front of me. They were my target now. Charlie Hunt and the guy to my right were responsible for the point man now. I swung my M-79 and tracked the two guys in front of me now. They walked in twos for some reason. The point man had the woman with him, and these two were walking almost side by side. The guy ahead a little, had an AK-47 and his buddy was carrying an ammo can and a rice bag. I had them in my sight when out of the corner of my eye I saw the point man stop again and look my way. I fired the 79 and heard

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

the thump and tracked the grenade arcing toward the two men to my front. It hit just short of them and they disappeared in a cloud of dirt. All hell broke loose with M-16's and the M-60 chucking out rounds.

Being caught in the open I immediately kicked backwards to get in the canal. I hung up on a small tree behind me. I thrashed my way off it and slid into the water. Now I had something besides air and a few weeds between me and them. I had 50 or so rounds of HE in my rucksack, and a couple in an ammo pouch on my belt. I had some useless canister rounds mixed in the pouch too. I dropped most of them in the water trying to get the second HE round in the tube. About the time I got the second round in the tube, Welty was shouting to "get the God damed 79 going"! I shot the hell out of that tree line, but by the time I got it going again, I never saw another VC. The two guys I hit with the 79 got up and ran straight away to, thru, and past the canal into the next pineapple field.

They left their sandals, ammo can, rice bag. And the AK apparently got to heavy to carry and was left sticking barrel down in the far bank of the canal they fled thru. We called out for "Chu Huoys" One VC came out of the brush to be shot up by the guys on the left who didn't hear the call. Poor bastard. We advanced to their side of the field. Gunships arrived, but it was almost dark by then. We didn't need them and we were not getting extracted. I told Sgt Welty we should get some "Arty" in here, at least a marker round anyway. I don't think he was

confident in his ability to call it, so I said I'll call it! Where are we? He was navigating so he had the map. He showed me where we were, or so he thought. I called in a mission, called coordinates, azimuth, range, and begged for "HE on the deck". Of course I didn't get it, thank God. The first 105 round, a "willie peter" went of 100 meters over our head. I remember Dan Fisher was on that heavy team, because I can still hear him shouting, "what the f--- was that?" Sgt Welty had us one pineapple field off from where we really were. And being the rookie I was I called "check fire, check fire" instead of just adjusting fire. I called into question the "lay of your guns" and the pissed battery commander came back on the "horn" "somebody better find out where the f--- they're at out there!" I adjusted fire, got arty between them or what was left of them and us. When things finally quieted down I heard a woman scream out in the dark night. I don't know if it was a scream of pain or mourning, but it was a dreadful sound.

We found a body, an M-1, a AK 47, grenades, documents and some ammo the next morning. We were extracted by PBR (patrol boat river) soon after daybreak the next day Dec 26th. I have a photo of the captured weapons. Ross and Hunt posed with them when we got back to FSB Barbara. Every time I see that photo I remember that Christmas day 1968. Christmas has never been the same.

Steve Houghton, Unit Director, 71st Lrp - M Co 75th

**N/75 - 74TH LRP - 173RD LRRP**  
Unit Director - Reed Cundiff

Reed Cundiff -- [ercundiff@comcast.net](mailto:ercundiff@comcast.net) -- (505) 523-5081

Roy and Joyce Boatman's son, Gy/Sgt Darrell Boatman was a Marine Corp Gy/Sgt stationed in Alanbar Province in Iraq with the 2 MEF EOD. He was mortally wounded two weeks ago. Darrell leaves two children (Darrell Jason, age 17 and Lauren. Age 19). He and his wife lived in Jacksonville, NC. In lieu of flowers the Boatman Family is requesting donations go to:

EOD Memorial Committee  
PO Box 594  
Niceville, FL 32588

The web site for the above is: [www.eodmemorial.org](http://www.eodmemorial.org)

**Figure 1. SSgt Roy Boatman in 1969.**

SM Jeff Horne's son, PFC Josh Horne completed his first tour in Afghanistan with C/3/75th Inf Regiment. Jeff hopes to see him when he



returns for Kosovo in February.

MSgt Ron Thomas has written about one of the early patrols and Robert "Doc" Clark has written about one of his patrols with Pat Tadina.

The following patrol write-up was written by retired SF MSgt Ron Thomas is one of the great legends of the very early days of the pre-provisional 173rd LRRP. This tale was well known throughout the entire 173rd Airborne Brigade. I didn't know until Ron sent me the photo that I knew a number of the guys on the patrol.

I have had one hell of a time getting in touch and talking to those on this mission. I did talk to retired MSG Chaney, who was



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

the team leader. He kind of remembers it as I do so lets go with this.

The G-2 called us for a mission in late 65 or early 66. They wanted two teams to look at the Courtney plantation, which was just on the border of D zone. The mission was to be inserted on the edge of the plantation at 1800, recon the area and be extracted the next morning at 0600. Now this is where shit happened. LRP was under the control of the commander of E/1/17th Cavalry. The CO got wind of the mission and wanted to be part of it. Since there was going to be two teams, he got to put one of his senior NCOs as team leader. That is were Chaney comes in. After getting our briefings and understanding of the mission, we were picked up by the choppers and flew off to the plantation. The choppers had to come into the LZ, touch down, do a 180-degree, to turn around and off load, and then leave the same way they came in. After the insertion we moved into the tree line about 10 meters and lay down to get adjusted. About a minute later, Baker on my left said, did you see that? I said I sure did. There were a whole lot of VC running all over the place. Then all hell broke loose with fire coming from three sides and troops running all over the place. At this time Chaney called for a May Day extraction. The two choppers came back and did a fly over. They came under heavy fire and flew over to one side of the LZ. They told Chaney to get our heads down and they would do rocket and MG fire on our position. All of a sudden, the tops of the trees started to get blown around by the rotor blast and all kinds of fire was coming from the choppers. The two teams were also heavily engaged in small arms fire. Chaney moved down the line and told us to move back to the edge of the tree line, that one chopper was coming in to get half the team and that the other chopper would make his run for the other half. I looked back down the open field and saw the first chopper coming. He touched down, turned his 180 and started moving very slowly. All of a sudden all of us were in this one chopper. It took him a long time to get air speed, get his nose up and fly away. When we landed, we got our asses chewed for all getting in one chopper and then got debriefed.

One of the battalions was lifted into the area the next morning. What they found was this. The (LRP) teams had been dropped into a regimental mess hall. The VC, like us, eat in groups, officers/ NCOs/enlisted and that is what saved us. No one was in control of the VC situation until we were able to react and get fire support from the helicopters.

**Figure 2: Sgt williams, Sp4 baker, Sgt thomas, Sp4 farley, Sgt smith, Sp4 christensen, (I think big jake was taking the picture)**



Time: Mid August 1967

Location : Flight, NE 35-40min by slick of Dak TO, RVN

Team: Tadina, Rabel, Ingram, Kankowitz, and Clark(DOC)

Recon flight day prior revealed old rice paddies and berms in the bottom of valley with thick 2-3 canopy jungle on the surrounding hills. The valley ran for miles to the North/Northeast. There were few LZs in the surrounding hills. The terrain was typical for the central highlands with steep hills and no obvious way through them.

After the last light infiltration on the following day, the five of us were at the edge of the valley floor hauling ass to get away from the noise of the chopper that had dropped us off on the run. We laid still for a bit, then moved up the hill and further NE until just at dark, we put out a couple of claymores and laid head to head for a cozy listening post throughout the fortunately quiet night. We pulled in the mines at first light and moved upward and further from the infiltration point. We were looking for a trail /complex and base camp supposedly in the area, Tad found the trail(no surprise, the guy was a born, natural guerrilla fighter with instincts hard to compare ). We laid up just down from the trail, put out four claymores in all direction (God I love those things). We hunkered down to see what was going on. Rabel, Tad, Kankowitz and Ingram sat in a semi line and I was down and further to the right. After a bit five to six jokers came bopping down the trail. A signal shot rang out very near our location but we remained silent and waited. Soon another group came bopping down the trail also moving north to south, and another signal shot was fired. We remained very still and became very concerned as we realized that there was a sentry in the immediate area who was notifying a close proximity base camp that the groups were using the trail and were en route to enter the camp. This went on throughout the day, with various bands of 5-6 and sometime 12 or more bopping down the trail, being signaled to enter the camp, and going about their business. None of them had a clue we were even there.

Around 1600 hours, Tad called for an artillery strike from a FSB covering our operation, 155's if my memory is correct. A FAC pilot was dispatched on station to coordinate with us. The FAC pilot made a pass in our vicinity and the words he told Tad were, "you guys are sitting on an ant hill", meaning there are many MF's in this camp we were looking for. The next words were to keep to keep our heads down and get low and that they were going to fire for effect with the first rounds. The first salvo came streaming overhead with no smoke rounds or adjustment. This FAC pilot was pretty good at math and advice. "Keep your heads down..." NO SHIT, those rounds would hit and each salvo would lift our bodies off the deck and drop us down. Then debris of all kinds would fall from the sky on top of us. This went on for the better part of 30-40 min, blasting the hell out of these guys and we never did hear another signal shot from JOE sentry. He probably hauled ass. Each blast brought dirt, limbs, trees and who knows what else raining down upon us. There was no shortage of adrenalin here. Just after the last strike, we rounded up our mines and collectively got the hell out of there, moving northeast and down to get some distance between us and the scene. We moved very silently to a really good hiding point with good observation and cover and put out the claymores, God I love those things and laid up for what was sure to be an ass pucker of an night. After dark, we watched multiple flashlights in areas all around the location from where we had come as well



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

as above and below. They never got too close, cause they didn't know where we were, OH yeah! And we'd blown the crap out of the all afternoon, "might want to think twice about messing with those guys." We rounded up our stuff at first light and began to get out of the area. We figured that we had worn out our welcome. We began a slow and forceful move toward lower ground but we were still in the mountains with no real LZ's in the immediate area.

We began moving near a creek in multi canopy jungle and we just had the feeling we were being tracked. The feeling was mutual between the team members. So Tad (being the sly one) had us stop and wait, and take a little break. We were laying there when he snapped his fingers and pointed. There was a guy crouching behind us giving directions to his boys to form a horseshoe ambush around us, We figured there were 8-10 guys but they didn't know we had seen them, Tad told Rabel, Ingram, and Kankowitz to take off down stream while I was laying there studying this guy's face through the sight of my weapon watching his every move. Tad, rigged two Claymores with eight second delay fuses, (God I love those things) planted them, tapped me on the leg as I move away he pulls the "T" trigger on both Claymores and we hauled ass following the direction of the other three guys. Long story short, those Gooks stood up to see where we had gone, those Claymores (God I love those things) blew their balls off, the screaming, yelling, firing random direction toward us began. They don't know where the hell we went, they just knew they that might not want to mess with these guys anymore. We all blasted down and through the creek, and came to a little hootch built deep and right next to the creek. It was big enough for 8 or so guys to lay in, all soft and comfy and not visible from anywhere, obviously another listening post for the base camp complex, we paused there and called for extraction. What a great idea.

We were told that extraction would be on top of some hill in

forty-five minutes. Time was a problem and we probably don't have forty five minutes. So we hauled ass up the hill and located a sort a LZ.

You'd think it all would end there and we would just wait to be pulled out (not a chance), Rabel (yes the real deal), says to me "Doc let's, go!" as he shoves another Claymore my direction, and I ask edwhere and he said back down the hill" OK, so we take off, him and I about half way back down the hill to make sure these fine young worthy oriental gentlemen don't continue our way. We put out a couple of Claymores and wait for the Chopper to show. God I love those things too.

Rabel and I were sitting there on the side of this hill, Claymores out, max adrenalin pumping and he says to me "Doc, don't you just love this shit." Two gunships showed up on station and start making passes with the machine guns blasting down through the area we had just come out of. On the second or third pass the line of rounds came not more than ten or fifteen feet from Rabel and my position. We decided it was time to vacate the area, pulled in the Claymores and hauled ass up the hill to the chopper that we can hear on approach. We arrived to see the ship hovering off the deck by several feet with the other three scrambling to get on board, Rabel crawled up and in and I latched onto the skid as Sgt Brocius (big smile on his face) grabbed me by the back of the pack and pulled me aboard as the slick takes flight.

As I look back these days to the times, the men, the missions, and adventures of the past I know in my heart that that mission was the example of how the war should have been executed by the design of those who knew the tactics, stealth, and ferocity of guerrilla warfare. I have always said I would not wish my past and experiences on any one, and I would not trade them for anything ). Claymores (God I love those things) DOC Clark 173rd Airborne Brigade (SEP) LRRP 1967-1968 Recondo # 419



## O/75 - 78TH LRP

### Unit Director - Michael Feller



BY: Mike Feller

Well it's that time of year the snow is melting and the buckets are hung on every telephone pole on Maple St in Manistee. Although I can't figure out the one hung on the pole on Seaman Road, but that's life up north.

Flipping through some old *Patrolling* Magazines I found an article Bailey had written about Charles Wright and the mission that ended his life. Using the information available to him Bailey was able to relate the where and when of Wright's death but got me to thinking about the mission itself.

The mission started in the normal and prescribed manor Teams 1-6 and SSG Harris's team [can't recall #] were to conduct a stay behind mission in an AO occupied by a line Co and would be relieved in place by another line Co in 3 days Which



probably meant 5.

The Rangers were to arrive in the co area via the morning log bird. Teams were to wear standard fatigues over cammies, hiding the fact that LRP teams were arriving. The teams were to receive an orientation of the company area and decide on ambush locations. The teams were supplied with and briefed on a device that would enable them to detonate 5 clay mores from up to 3Ks away. This ambush aided by sensors would be set near a trash collection point that the grunts were leaving behind. After a night ambush teams were to leave the co area and establish a patrol base; one team conducting patrols while one team monitored sensors. The line company had several sightings, but was unable to engage the enemy due to the tall grass and numerous tunnels in the area. Hopes were that when the company left local units would send foragers

O/75 - 78TH LRP (CONTINUED)

into the disserted company area.

It all sounded good on paper. We went to the chopper pads that morning dressed in two sets of fatigues even steel pots that thankfully were to be left on the choppers. Some one had not mentioned the plan to S4. The choppers were not there and would not be there till much later. As we found out we had the last bird to arrive in the company area. When we arrived we moved to the greeting party and asked “Where’s the CP? “ Wherever the f\_\_\_ you want, we’re out of here.” Apparently these grunts were waiting on the choppers we had been tying up so selfishly. Well so much for the grand tour. Move into the tall grass and get cammied up. Team 1 cammie up, team 2 security and look out for the dump.

When I got back with info as to where the company dump was, Carson was out of fatigues and cammied so he took security and I changed. Moving in a direction opposite my path, he returned advising me we had movement. I had cut the pickle suit off so I skipped the grease paint and we went to check on the movement. Well when it rains it pours. The Infantry left something behind. There on an old ammo crate sat one each cherry Lt. FO with a .45 and a box of C-rats. Not a care in the world, that he knew of. The kid was so new his cloth rank was

still shiny. We moved the Lt into the perimeter and briefed him. Sir you got the rank but we’ve got some idea what we are doing so just stay in the middle and do what you are told. When ask what he was doing there he said he was to link up with the new Line Co in an hour. Curious that must be the one to relieve us in a week. No time to figure that out, the word was we had movement on the other end of the perimeter.

There was a quick flurry of gunfire and the word that Wright was down. A look and I could see he had aid. That trip we had an actual medic who was trying to start an IV as an RTO was calling for a medivac. Tortiece, who had just gotten out of those damn fatigues, had not gotten his web gear back on and had been leaning across it during the encounter. When he swung it into place I noticed something fall and handed him the AK round as a souvenir. Doc said he couldn’t get the IV started with no pulse. When the medivac got there I had already briefed my new found LT with my instructions “when the chopper comes get in set down, on the body if you have to, but stay on till it lands.”

As the Medivac left, a LOH that had been on station directed us to pursue the enemy force which lead to an afternoon of clearing tunnels and another medivac but that’s another story .



**P/75 - 79TH LRP**  
Unit Director - Bill Davis



# Winter Patrolling Papa Company

## “Lest We Forget”

**Carter, David Edward SFC Aug 10, 1969 Feb 27, 1941 Hamilton, OH 20W L121**

**Dowd, Thomas Joseph SSGT Dec 21, 1969 Dec 11, 1948 Philadelphia, PA 15W L77**

**Barber, David Leon SGT Dec 21, 1969 Jul 31, 1948 Defiance, PA 15W L76**

**Burke, Roy Jeffrey SP/4 Dec 21, 1969 Apr 22, 1950 Carnegie, PA 15W L75**

**Sinclair, Gary Philip PFC Dec 21, 1969 Nov 05, 1947 Queens Village, NY 15W L79**

**Dean, James Howard SP/4 Dec 21, 1969 Mar 22, 1948 Huntington, WV 15W L77**

**Biegert, Ronald Lee SP/4 March 15, 1970 Aug 27, 1948 Minneapolis, MN 13W L129**

**Smith Stephen Lee PFC March 1, 1971 Jan 02, 1951 Ottawa, KS 4W L15**

**Williams, Jr. James T. SP/4 March 1, 1971 Feb 10, 1943 New York, NY 4W L15**

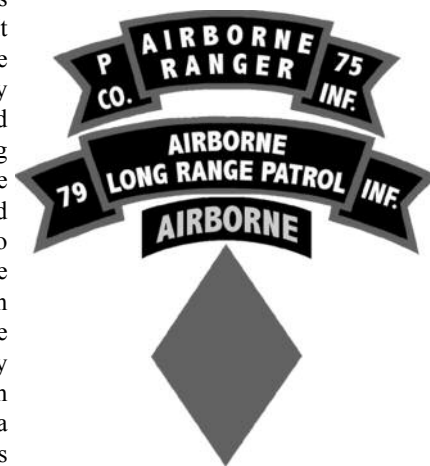
I had the pleasure of going to Nashville for a gathering of

LRRP’s and Rangers from F 51st LRRP’s . It was a great time. These men in F Company served with 2nd Field Force performing missions all over the Delta. They were formed on 25 September 1967 to be the eyes and ears of the Commanding General in that AO. At the beginning of 1969 they were sent north to form the cadre of both Papa and Oscar Companies when the 75th Ranger

Regiment was reorganized. To quote Terry Roderick ‘these were the men that spawned us’. It was their skills and expertise that allowed us to continue on the tradition.

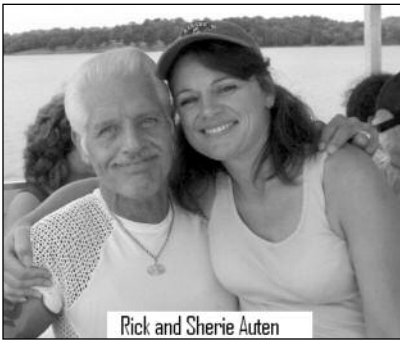
There was one man who attended who deserves special mention. That man is 1st Sgt Walter Butz. Even after 35 years it was quite obvious the love and respect the men of F Company held him. 1st Sgt Butz was the heart and soul of the Company. He was the E.F. Hutton of his time. When Sgt Butz talked, you listened!! Any man who could channel the energies of the different characters of the Company is a man you should tip your hat to!!

Dave Barfield did a great job of organizing and pulling it all off. What was even more amazing is that Dave did so after crawling out



P/75 - 79TH LRP (CONTINUED)

of a hospital bed after having a near fatal ski boat accident just a few weeks before the reunion. If you didn't know it, you wouldn't have



Rick and Sherie Auten

been able to tell. I guess at one time or another all of us have been told that we are a bit hard headed, well that is a classic example. I took a few lessons on how to put on a reunion from Dave.

Before I forget I want to also send a special thanks to Bobby Hampton. For those of you in Papa Company early on, you're

likely to remember Bobby. He worked in the mess hall up the road from Papa Company. In the time he was there until he left in March of 1970 there wasn't a team in the field that Bobby wasn't aware of. He knew who was out and more importantly, when they came in. There was always a hot meal for those returning from the field, no matter what the time of day. Bobby was the only non-Ranger type that I remembered from those days, and I'm sure I'm not the only one. Bobby, a Nashville native helped Dave out greatly putting on the reunion and was quite a gracious host and guide.

There were a few of us there, myself included who weren't in F 51st, but wanted to have the opportunity to find out about our



Steve and Becky Korenick with Luke and Donna Ferguson

history. Others were Terry 'Rock' Roderick, Eddie 'Hardcore' Johnston who was accompanied by his family, wife Kitty and sons Mason and Nick. Larry Smith was also in attendance. Then there were those who made the turnover and

fought with both F 51st and Papa Company. Dave Barfield and Hank Snow are two that come to mind. I know I have missed some, my apologies. Then there were those who served in both units in more than a limited capacity. Ken Emmick and Clyde Tanner are two names that I can name. Clyde was there with wife Susan and Daughter Sara. Last but certainly not last was Rick Auten who attended with wife Sherrie. A character to say the least, but was a true warrior and a hero. With the expertise he acquired while working as a Team Leader with F 51st was one of those who set the standards that Papa Company attained.

Finally I want to share with you a dinner that Terry Roderick was able to participate in. Steve Korenick and his wife Becky came to Florida from Texas for a visit. Lt. Korenick XO of Papa Company, as most of us knew him retired as BG Korenick, Commander of Alaska's National Guard. I believe Steve was the longest serving officer in Papa Company. While there he was able to hook up with Capt.'s Gary Hall with his wife Patsy and Luke Ferguson and his wife Donna. Luke retired as a LTC. Gary and his wife are now serving as missionary's in Africa, while Luke and his wife are selling real estate in Florida. Gary and Luke, with Steve's assistance were, in my opinion and from what I can gather the best

officer cadre that Papa Company had. They had a great time swapping stories, many of which I'm sure were true!!

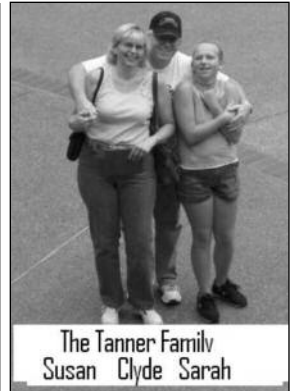
Time to close for now, but before I do I want to let you know that I will be contacting Ted Tilson and Larry Smith very shortly to work out the details of our next Company reunion, which will be held next summer somewhere in the Maggie Valley area of North Carolina. As soon as the details are worked out I'll get a mailing out.



Patsy and Gary Hall Terry Roderick Steve and Becky Korenick



Dave Barfield w/ Sgt LRP



The Tanner Family  
Susan Clyde Sarah



The Johnston Family: l-r Eddie, Kitty Nick and Mason

I'm sure it will be a great time to be had for all.

One final note for you information. Bobby Turner is in the struggle of his life. Your thoughts and prayers would be appreciated. His wife Gail told me that he's a warrior and is fighting another battle. If you knew Bobby, (hell even if you didn't) A phone call would be appreciated. It truly lifts his spirits!!



Rick Auten then

In Ranger Brotherhood, Bill



## D/151 LRP/RANGER

### Unit Director - Tom Blandford



Hello D 151 friends,

Note that our new association President is Loren Dixon and VP is Bob McIntire, best of luck to them. Bill Schoettmer and I enjoyed being your President and VP. the past 2 years. I will continue to be the 75th RRA Unit Director until somebody steps forward. It's a very worthwhile job but I hope to be relieved of it sometime. Call me if you're interested. 317-846-6374

From Zita Moore August 26-28, 2005 -

Indianapolis Air Show at Mount Comfort Airport. Company D (Ranger) 151st Infantry were the honored guests at the Mount Comfort Air Show, which is one of the largest air shows in the nation, featuring the Navy Blue Angels. The Air Show is a fundraiser for Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis, IN. The air show features some of the finest pilots in the nation, and some very vintage aircraft.

Our location was on the center of the flight line, and we got to watch all the planes go by. The highlight of the show was the Blue Angels. Phil Cravens found that Ranger Marvin Kinder lives in Greenwood IN. and suggested that he be Company D (Ranger) 151st Infantry's honored guest. Ranger Kinder watched as the WWII vintage aircraft went by, and he'd point to it and say, "I flew in one of those!" Who is Ranger Kinder?

He is one of the men from the 6th Ranger Battalion that liberated Cabanatuan Prison Camp in the Philippines. The 6th Ranger Battalion exploits are chronicled in the movie The Great Raid, as well as the book Ghost Soldiers. It comes out in DVD on December 20th. I have read the book, and it is one of the best books I have ever read. You can find Ranger Kinder on page 280 of the paperback version. He really enjoyed the show, and we really enjoyed hosting him. He was truly an inspirational person to meet. A big thank you to Phil Cravens for the suggestion, and a big Thank You to Bill Schoettmer for helping me pick up and drop off Ranger Kinder. I hope we can see him again.

Tom Sloan visited Iron Mike's family October 9-16 - *My main reason for this mail is to tell you that I was on a trip to Western New York October 9 - 17. On Friday, October 14th, I took a run to Cuba New York to meet with VFW Post 2721, view CPT Mike Reitz' display and meet with his family. I had written to the Post Commander asking for an interview and the chance to meet with the family. Joel Vanik, the Post Commander, was a very gracious host, he met us at the Post, gave us a tour, treated Elaine and myself to a lunch, and arranged for Mike's family to meet with us. I took several pictures of Mike's display in the meeting hall of the post, as well as several other pictures. My pride took a hit when I saw the plaque F/51 had there. I had a couple of D/151 scrolls with me and gave Joel one to place in the display. I gave a second one to the Post Quartermaster: They have a display of shoulder patches and other military insignia*

*over the bar and I asked him to add our scroll to the collection.*

*Mike's mother and several other members of the family (didn't take notes and my mind is bad) so I can't tell you who they were. One I think was Mike's step-sister or half-sister. They, and Joel, were delighted that I had taken the time and the trip to go there and visit. We had a great time discussing my recollections of Mike, his actions, and other memories I have of him, and also discussing about a hundred other things. Mike's Mom is 87, a delightful person (while all of us were drinking beer, she had a Bloody Mary). All of them said that visits from members of the 151 would be very welcome. I told Joel that several trips were made to honor other of our comrades who were lost: He said that if we would do the same there, he would try to arrange for the State VFW to also have an honor and color guard for us.*

*Cuba is not hard to get to. Exit 28 at Mile Marker 91 off I-86 is Route 305. Take a left, go about 3/4 mile and the VFW Post is on the left. Joel said that they have a hotel in the area, but I cruised around for about an hour and never saw it. The closest "big" city is Olean, about 15 miles away (which is where Mike actually lived).*

*I was unable to visit Mile's grave. The VFW guys could direct me to the cemetery, but didn't know his exact location. Mike's family*

*came in around suppertime: It was getting dark already and they had other commitments for the evening, so it was postponed until "next time". Everyone there made me feel very welcome and they all expressed their appreciation that I made the visit. They expressed that visits from our unit would also be welcome.*

*By Tom Sloan D(Ranger) 151st INF*

November 11, 2005 - Veteran's Day Parade – We had a good turn out for the parade, I counted 24 guys and some wives. We fell in behind the Sons of the American Revolution, and were followed by the Arsenal Tech High School Marching Band. D/151st was the only Vietnam Veterans in Division 1 of the parade, and the first Vietnam Veterans of the entire parade. Please participate in some Veteran's program when and wherever you can. It's very worthwhile. A lot of you have children and/or grandchildren whose schools have a program to which they are to bring a veteran - please go, teach the young ones what they need to know: "Freedom isn't free - and anything worth having is worth fighting for."

Dedication of "the Army National Guard Warrior Training Center", Fort Benning GA, date pending - The dedication of the Army National Guard Warrior Training Center to Ranger Bill Butler (D/151) is still pending however they are "moving forward" with it. That was the cryptic answer I got today. I will be notified when they have a dedication date in mind.

From Jim Rawlinson

*The National Personnel Records Center has provided the*



D/151 LRP/RANGER (CONTINUED)

following website for veterans to access their DD-214 online: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov> The National Personnel Records Center is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files. Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents. Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180 which can be downloaded from the online web site. The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records center's mailroom processing time. Also, because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized.

From Pat O'Reilly Jarrett (Skip Baranowski's Fiance in 1969)  
I want to personally thank all of Skip's "comrades" who visited his gravesite. That was such an awesome thing to do and touched me deeply. If I had known, I would have been honored to thank each and every one of you.

Skip was one in a million and meant the world to me. It was so

long ago but still seems like yesterday. I was a 22 year old girl. I am now a 58 year old woman who likes to focus on the good memories like how proud Skip was to be an Airborne Ranger and all the stories he would tell me about his buddies and the training to be an Airborne Ranger. I think the fact that he was drafted and chose to do what he did said it all. I also remember how proud he was when he bought a red Chevy convertible and drove it down from Rochester. I was one of the cars that had a glass rear window because I remember that there was something in the window well and I remember the glass shattering. He took it really well (I would have had a fit) and that said a lot about who he was. He also had a real goofy streak to him. He was so even-tempered. I remember trying to get him riled up and let me tell you, that was an exercise in futility.

I moved on with my life but have never forgotten. He made me a better person for sure. I have 2 sons one of whom is in the Navy flying in and out of "hot spots" in the world and I like to think that Skip is up there watching out for him.

Fondly, Pat O'Reilly Jarrett

Tom Blandford, Unit Director for Co D 151 email: [tomblandford300@hotmail.com](mailto:tomblandford300@hotmail.com)



# OPERATION UNIONTOWN III PART 4

**BY: Russ Dillon**

This portion of Operation Uniontown III, picks up on February 25th through March 3rd of 1968 and consists of 11 team operations.

**Team 21** was a light 6 man team that was inserted into their AO (Area of Operation) on February 25, 1968 at 1345HRS (1:45 PM). On February 26th Team 21 reported finding a possible mortar site. At 2022HRS ((8:22 PM) Team 21 reported movement 15 meters North Northeast of the team's location. At 2028HRS (8:28 PM) Team 21 reported that the movement had ceased. On February 27th and 28th Team 21 had negative activity to report. On February 29th at 0848HRS (8:48 AM) Team 21 was extracted.

**Team 47** was a light 6 man team that was inserted into their AO (Area of Operation) on February 25, 1968 at 1403HRS (2:03 PM). On February 27th Team 47 reported a carbine shooting at a helicopter 400 meters north-northeast of the team's location. On February 28th Team 47 reported more carbine shots 400 to 500 meters north-northeast of the team's location. On February 29th at 0839HRS (8:39 AM) Team 47 was extracted.



**Team 12** was a heavy 12 man team that was inserted into their AO (Area of Operation) on February 28, 1968 at 0738HRS (7:38 AM). At 1201HRS (12:01 PM) Team 12 reported seeing 1 Vietcong filling his canteen at a stream that the team was setup at. Team 12 did not report again until February 29th at 0715HRS (7:15 AM). In the report Team 12 reported at 0100HRS (1:00 AM) 2 Vietcong filling their canteens at a creek to the teams South. When the Vietcong departed, 1 went towards the East and the other to the Southeast. Team12 also reported that at 0400HRS (4:00 AM) 7 Vietcong appeared to be looking for something and came within 25 meters of team. On March 1st at 0800HRS (8:00 AM) Team 12 was extracted.

**Team 14** was a light 6 man team that was inserted into their original AO (Area of Operation) on February 28, 1968 at 1340HRS (1:40 PM). Just after this insertion the 199th LIB called and informed F/51 LRP that Team 14's AO had changed and that the team was outside of where the 199th needed them. Team 14 was extracted on February 28th at 1456HRS (2:56 PM). At 1806HRS (6:06 PM) on February 28th Team 14 was reinserted into their corrected AO. On February 29th at 0517HRS (5:17 AM) Team 14 reported having movement to the teams South and East. The team also saw 2 Vietcong lighting cigarettes 30 meters south-

## F/51 LRP (CONTINUED)

southeast of their position. The team also reported that 1 of the Vietcong had dropped his weapon. At 0712HRS (7:12 AM) Team 14 reported a Vietcong just around the bend of the trail that the team was at. At 0718HRS (7:18 AM) one of Team 14's members stepped out into the trail and saw 1 Vietcong in black PJ's and a bush hat. The team member believes that the Vietcong person was waiting for him to move. At 0745HRS (7:45 AM) Team 14 reported 1 squad of Vietcong 35 meters to the Teams south-southeast. At 1218HRS (12:18 PM) Team 14 reported 1 Vietcong in a similar uniform as before and was sure that the Vietcong had seen him. At 1245HRS (12:45 PM) Team 14 reported that the Vietcong looked at Team 14 got up and had an RPG in his hand. Team 14 threw a grenade at the person who ran into a bamboo thicket. At 1330HRS Team 14 reported having movement 75 meters east of their location. At 1335HRS (1:35 PM) Silver Spurs 26, a reaction force was inserted and started making their way to Team 14. At 1420HRS (2:20 PM) the linkup of the two elements was completed. At 1550HRS (3:50 PM) Team 14 reported finding a 10 man ambush position that the team leader believed that the Vietcong was trying to draw the team into. At 1619HRS (4:19 PM) Team 14 reported that they had one sick team member, but no extraction was made of the team member. At 1914HRS (7:19 PM) Team 14 reported that they were in contact with 2 Vietcong 15 to 20 meters South Southwest of the teams location. On February 29th at 2050HRS (8:50 PM) Team 14 was extracted.

**Team 11** was a light 6 man team that was inserted into their Landing Zone on February 29th at 0812HRS (8:12 AM). At 1915HRS (7:15 act with Team 11PM) Team 11 reported movement 50 meters South of the teams location. Alpha relay was informed to make commo checks with Team 11 every half-hour. On March 2nd at 0731HRS (7:31 AM) Team 11 reported hearing movement that sounded like children and Lambretta. At 1715HRS (5:15 PM) Team 11 reported that they were in their RON (Remain Over Night) location. At 1735 Team 11 reported hearing movement 100 meters Southeast of the team's location and ox cart noise 75 meters South of the team's location. At 1830HRS (6:30 PM) Team 11 reported 11 Vietcong 20 meters from their location. At 1833HRS (6:33 PM) Team 11 reported that they had made contact with 3 Vietcong. At 1845HRS (6:45 PM) Team 11 reported that they were heading to the LZ (Landing Zone) with gun-ships covering their withdraw. At 1849 Team 11 was extracted and returned to the Company compound and was resupplied. On May 3rd at 0015HRS (12:05 AM) Team 11 was reinserted into G 2/11's perimeter for a stay behind mission. Team 11 was extracted at 0800HRS (8:00 AM) on March 3rd with negative activity reported

**Team 26** was a heavy team that was inserted into the 3/7 INF perimeter at FSB Turtle on February 29th at 1700HRS (5:00 PM). On the morning of March 1st Team 26 and an element of the 3/7 INF were inserted into an AO (Area of Operation) of F/51 LRP with Team 26 staying behind after the 3/7 INF had left the area. At 1426HRS (4:26 PM) Team 26 reported that they were in their RON (Remain Over Night) position. On March 2nd at 0756HRS (7:56 AM) Team 26 reported that they had children in

their ambush site. The 14 children were gathered up for extracted back to Redcatcher rear. In the process of extracting the children, 3 managed to get away and headed in a Northerly direction. During the extraction the C&C (Command and Control) helicopter spotted Vietcong 300 meters North of the team's location, but could not make out the actual number. At 0910HRS (9:10 AM) Team 26 reported hearing voices Southeast of the teams location. At 0945 (9:45 AM) Team 26 was extracted and reinserted into another area. As team 26 was being inserted into a new area, bicycles were spotted in the area. At 1339HRS (1:39 PM) Team 26 reported being in contact with 4 Vietcong. Results of the contact were 2 Vietcong wounded and 2 Vietcong escaping. The wounded POWs were extracted while Team 26 stayed on the ground to link up with the reaction force. At 1405 (2:05 PM) the link up was complete with the tracker team and at 1620HRS (4:20 PM) Team 26 was extracted.

**Team 45** was a heavy 12 man team that was inserted into their LZ on March 2 at 1725HRS (5:25 PM). At 1915HRS (7:15 PM) Team 45 reported 15 rounds being fired 400 to 500 meters approximately South Southeast of the teams location. At 1930HRS (7:30 PM) Team 45 reported hearing an engine run for 1 minute and stop, then it started again for another minute and stopped again about 200 to 400 meters South Southeast of the teams location. At 1940HRS (7:40 PM) Team 45 reported that they were in contact which resulted in 2 Vietcong killed and 1 Vietcong wounded. The wounded Vietcong was taken prisoner and was identified as a Vietcong officer. At 1959HRS (7:59 PM) Team 45 reported they were again in contact at their same location. Gun-ships were called in and fired up the area. Team 45 was extracted at 2050HRS (8:00 PM) with unknown results of the second contact.

**Team 15** was a light 6 man team that was inserted into their LZ on February 29th at 0816HRS (8:16 AM). At 0956HRS Team 15 reported that they were at their assigned watch area. During Team 15's stay they reported no activity in their assigned area. On March 4th at 1045HRS (10:45 AM) Team 15 was extracted.

**Team 23** was a 12 man heavy team that was inserted into 3/7 INF perimeter on February 29th at 1700HRS (5:00 PM). On the morning of March 1st a stay behind mission was started with Team 23. Team 23 reported negative activity during their RON (Remain Over Night) location. On March 2nd Team 23 had moved to another RON with negative results again. On March 3rd at 0627HRS (6:27 AM) Team 23 reported hearing what sounded like a claymore explosion 700 to 800 meters Northeast of the teams location. On March 4th at 0640HRS (6:40 AM) Team 23 reported negative activity. Team 23 reported feeling that the Vietcong were on the South side of the river. On March 5th at 0657HRS (6:57 AM) Team 23 was extracted.

**Team 31** was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their LZ on March 3rd at 1815HRS (6:15 PM). On March 4th at 1455HRS (2:55 PM) Team 31 was told that a friendly unit was digging up Vietcong graves 300 meters East of the teams location. At 1710HRS (5:10 PM) Team 31 reported hearing 4



F/51 LRP (CONTINUED)

mortar rounds being fired 400 to 500 meters West of the team's location. Team 31 also reported sighting 4 personnel on the top of a hill 300 meters West of the team's location. On March 5th at 1045HRS (10:45 AM) Team 31 reported that children had walked into their area and told the team that there were Vietcong West of the team's location and that they had mortars and rockets. At 1045HRS (10:45 AM) the armored reaction force, Kingly Legion 51 of the 17th CAV, was dispatched to Team 31's location. At the link up, the children were again questioned and a search was conducted with negative results. At 1348HRS (1:48

PM) Team 31 was extracted and taken to the 199th INF rear.

**Team 12** was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their LZ on March 3rd at 1350HRS (1:50 PM). At 1625HRS (4:25 PM) Team 12 reported having movement to the team's North. At 1701HRS (5:01 PM) Team 12 reported that the movement to his North had stopped. On March 4th Team 12 reported negative activity in their area. On March 6th at 0840HRS (8:40 AM) Team 12 was extracted.



**LRRP DETACHMENT-3RD ID**

Unit Director - Michael McClintock

**3rd Infantry Division LRRP Detachment**

*Mike McClintock, Unit Director*

First of all, let me apologize to my brothers of the 3rd ID LRRP Detachment for missing the last couple of issues of Patrolling. No excuses, it's just that stuff happens. Speaking of stuff happening, I want to congratulate Bill Anton, Unit Director of H/75 (E/52) for his efforts in busting a wannabe Colonel who claimed to be Ranger and Special Forces, and who had the audacity to show up at USARA's Annual Ranger Muster in Las Vegas in June 2004. "COL" Cruze was wearing dress blues with the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star with 2 OLC, Soldiers Medal, BSM, and a Purple Heart, just to name a few. None of which had been awarded to him (the guy was a Reserve 2LT in the Army Nurse Corps and never left the Country). He did have a hot looking blonde on his arm at the ARM awards banquet (who turned out not to be his wife), so I suspect that he really got busted twice!

Ranger Kurt Sayers has sent me a picture he took of Ranger Kanaan Merriken's RIP graduation at Fort Benning in November (see attached photo). Ranger Merriken was both the Leadership award winner and the Honor Graduate of the class. Recall that Ranger Merriken sustained a serious head wound in Iraq and was medically discharged. Ranger Merriken had a long and difficult recovery period, but his wife Kari was with him all the way. He is standing with Kari in the picture. The 3rd ID LRRPs sponsored him for Life Membership in the 75th Ranger Regiment

Association. The speaker at the RIP graduation was 1SG Robb Nichols of HHC 3/75. He was Kanaan's Platoon Sergeant prior to his injury and asked to speak at his graduation. Merriken had previously completed RIP and Ranger School, but had to retake the RIP to demonstrate that he was again fit to fight. Kurt said that "It was incredible event to see a man who has overcome so much adversity and expected nothing less but to live life on his terms to again return to the fight." To the best of anyone's knowledge, Kanaan has been the most severely wounded OIF/OEF veteran to have appealed his medical board findings and been returned to active duty.

Kurt Sayers was also severely wounded in Iraq and was medically discharged. He was sponsored for Life Membership in the Association by A/75. He has recovered from his wounds and is again serving in an undisclosed capacity. Both of these young men and their families are the embodiment of Ranger strength and courage. God bless them, their families and all Rangers.





## ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ)

Unit Director - Mike Martin



Fellow Rangers and Co Vans:

As I write this article in the early morning hours, a heavy frost as white as “old man winter’s whiskers” covers the ground which is the norm for this peak of autumn, when whole belts of wooded countryside have turned into skeins of gold, red and russet; an English bone china cup holds deep black chicory laced coffee that I sip from, as rote memories fill my mind.... I partake of this heady brew in rapt contemplation—without being pretentious—recalling memorable events that I was a part of, or can attest too, during my military sojourn: one such anecdotal story, among many, is the unheralded life of Madame Ho Thi Que, the **Tiger Lady** of the 44th Vietnamese Ranger battalion.

### The Tiger Lady

Her exploits were legendary, even in the war torn region of South East Asia. She marched and fought with one of the most respected military units in Vietnam: the South Vietnamese 44th Ranger Battalion, ‘The Black Tigers. ‘ Madame Ho Thi Que, or ‘The Tiger Lady’, had earned her reputation the hard way, and her fame had spread throughout South Vietnam. Her husband, Major Nguyen Van Dan—the commander of the 44th Rangers—was also a warrior. He had been awarded almost every South Vietnamese military medal that was issued. His 44th Ranger Battalion had been awarded the US Presidential Unit Citation—the first South Vietnamese unit to be so honored.

It was during the beginning of the American troop build-up in an unconventional war that would take thousands of American lives before it drew to a close. It was a war where American advisors fought side-by-side with their Vietnamese counterparts, often dying in the process. It was a war where the field advisor spent as much time trying to understand the nature of the people, their culture and his own existence, than he did his mission of containing Communist insurgency.

It was a war in which stores would emerge of great warriors and their performances on the field of battle; some apocryphal, some true. The story of the Tiger Lady was such a story; a courageous and remarkable woman and soldier.

In 1965, the South Vietnamese people were shocked when they heard the news that Madame Ho Thi Que had been shot and killed by her husband, Major Nguyen Van Dan. Major Dan was quickly arrested and jailed in connection with the death of his wife. On 5th May 1966, after a quick trial, he was sentenced to serve one year in prison for the “murder”.

In court he had testified that Madame Que had attacked him with a knife when she had found him with a younger woman in the tiny village of Vi Thanh, a village often used by the 44th Ranger Battalion as a forward support base during their operations in the U Minh Forest. He claimed to have shot her in self-defense, stating, “her jealousy was as fierce as her courage in combat.” The prosecutor had countered that the Major hated his wife and

had killed her because he thought her jealousy had ruined his career. Other ranking South Vietnamese officers believed that Dan was distraught over the fact that he had been replaced as battalion commander of the 44th after the unit had suffered a disastrous defeat after being ambushed by two Viet Cong battalions. The rangers had lost 58 KIA and over 70 wounded, including all of the American advisors attached to the battalion. Shortly afterwards, while a full investigation was underway, he had been quietly transferred to a lesser position as a security officer in another area of operations.

There was a general consensus among many of his fellow officers that the Saigon government had been looking for an excuse to relieve Major Dan. A great deal of resentment had arisen against him because of the many heralded victories of the 44th Ranger Battalion, the reputation of the Tiger Lady, and his own personal success. Like his wife, Nguyen Van Dan was a colorful figure; he had led his rangers on many successful combat operations, which made his fellow commanders pale in comparison. Wearing

his maroon beret in place of a helmet, and armed only with a .38 caliber revolver, he was an inspiration to his men. He carried a lacquered swagger stick, which he used with dramatic flair in the heat of battle to exhort his rangers in the attack. But his success was not enough to protect him from petty jealousies of his fellow officers.

After the trial, Dan stated, “I accept the verdict. It was inevitable.” He showed no remorse for the death of his wife and longtime companion. Known as ‘Big Sister’ by the Vietnamese rangers who fought by her side, they remembered her for both her temper and her kindness. Many rangers had felt her wrath when she caught them stealing a chicken or looting a village’s belongings. She often reverted to swearing, shouting and sometimes even slapping the culprit to drive her point home. But at other times, her compassion and understanding were the soothing balm that comforted a wounded or dying soldier. She felt a deep sense of responsibility for all her ranger brothers. Caring for the wounded on the battlefield, or approaching stubborn government bureaucrats to insure that a dead ranger’s family received the



*Colonel Ho Ngoc Can, a highly decorated Ranger Commander, 42nd Battalion, who fought to the very last.....He was executed by the communists in Can Tho on 14 August, 1975. His wife and son now live in California.*

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (CONTINUED)



**Ranger Advisors (44th BDQ). SGT “Buck” Allen and SSG Barnes, after a large battle near the U-Minh Forest; Spring 1965. Both Advisors would receive severe combat wounds.**

reputation became legendary and inspired the rangers until the cease-fire in 1975.



**Left to right: Major Nguyen Van Dan, (pronounced Zahn), husband of the Tiger Lady and Commander of the 44th Ranger Battalion; 4th Company Commander Captain Hue, who would become the youngest Major in the Vietnamese Military, and the next Battalion Commander. The 44th was awarded the U.S. Presidential Unit Citation on 6 April, 1965. Major Dan was later killed in III Corps in hand-to-hand fighting while trying to avoid being taken prisoner by the Communists.**

benefits due to them, was as much a part of her personality as the open hate she harbored for the enemy. She would not hesitate to lend or give money to the wives and families of the wounded or slain rangers to tide them over during their period of grief. She felt their pain, sometimes shaving her head in a sign of mourning. She attended the customary burials conducted for the dead, and through her mask of grief watchers stated that they could see her determination to settle the score. She set the standards for morale and esprit de corps in the unit during her service with the rangers, and her

After her death in mid December 1965, one of her daughters came to Soc Trang (the home base of the 44th Ranger Battalion at the time), trying to collect some of the debts owed to her mother by a number of the rangers. The family was having a difficult time making ends meet with the mother gone, and the father in jail.

Little is known of the Tiger Lady’s childhood except that she lived for a time in the Imperial City of Hue. In the war against the French, she served as an intelligence agent for the Viet Minh until the latter part of 1953, just prior to the French disaster at Dien Binh Phu. During this period she met and married her husband, Nguyen Van Dan. When the

two of them saw that the Communists were taking over the Viet Minh, and that they were determined to rule the nation, the couple left the movement.

Within a year, Dan had joined the Vietnamese Army. Madame Que joined too, rising to the rank of master sergeant during the remainder of the colonial period. But her legend was built on her deeds on the battlefield with the Biet Dong Quan (Rangers) in the early sixties. She was often seen at the height of battle, moving forward under intense enemy fire to aid wounded rangers. The Tiger Lady led by example, almost always up front with the lead company. She often charged headlong across open rice paddies with the assaulting rangers, inspiring them to victory. Her courage and sincerity were never questioned.



**The feared Tiger Lady (Madame Ho Thi Que), debriefing a Viet Cong prisoner; 44th Biet Dong Quan, 1965. Note the BDQ Badge with red background that she is wearing.**

She stalked the battlefield armed only with a pearl handled Colt .45, wearing a helmet with black and yellow stripes and the black tiger head—the symbol of the 44th Vietnamese Ranger Battalion. The Viet Cong knew her well. Stories were told they named her “Madame Death”. It was reputation well earned and rightly deserved, for she could be as dangerous as any combat soldier. She had seen war as few Americans would ever see it. She wore numerous medals testifying to her courage and her prowess in combat. Just a few months prior to her death, she had survived a ferocious battle with a guerrilla force estimated at a thousand strong. An American Advisor was killed in that fight and another one severely wounded. She came out without a scratch.

The mystique and legend of the Tiger Lady continued to grow long after her untimely death. She was a warrior bigger than life and a heroine of unparalleled magnitude. Among the rangers and ranger advisors who served with her, her memory will never die.

“The sun is setting with no road ahead,  
In vain I weep for loss of country...  
Although I die yet I still live,  
Through sacrifice I have fulfilled my duty.....”

1907 Revolutionary heroine—Ch’iu Chin  
**VIETNAMESE RANGER ADVISOR REUNION (11-13 May 2006)**

We all believe in a personal invulnerability, like a snowflake that’s guaranteed not to melt, but like the duration of combat missions depended on the objective, our lives are encompassed by epochs of events, sickness and age...the years go like dark clouds racing over distant treetops; our ranks are thinning each year.....Now is the time to stop procrastinating and register—many of you have—for the reunion. It’s not just for the camaraderie, but too, for the preservation and presentation of our material history and heritage of our service as Ranger Advisors. We are making great strides in this effort, working with one of the Army’s major museums. So, dust off your beret, check your map,

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (CONTINUED)

and call BDQ Doug Perry and register now!!!

Doug Perry Home Tel# 706 864 2732 or work,706 864 5630 EXT 613 perryd@benning.army.mil

**HOLIDAY GREETINGS**

Most of the holidays will be over as you read this article, but we wish all the BDQs, Advisors, and their families a great HolidaySeason We also send our greetings and prayers to our military and their families during this emotional time of the season; we appreciate your spirit and professionalism—You are the “Torchbearers”.

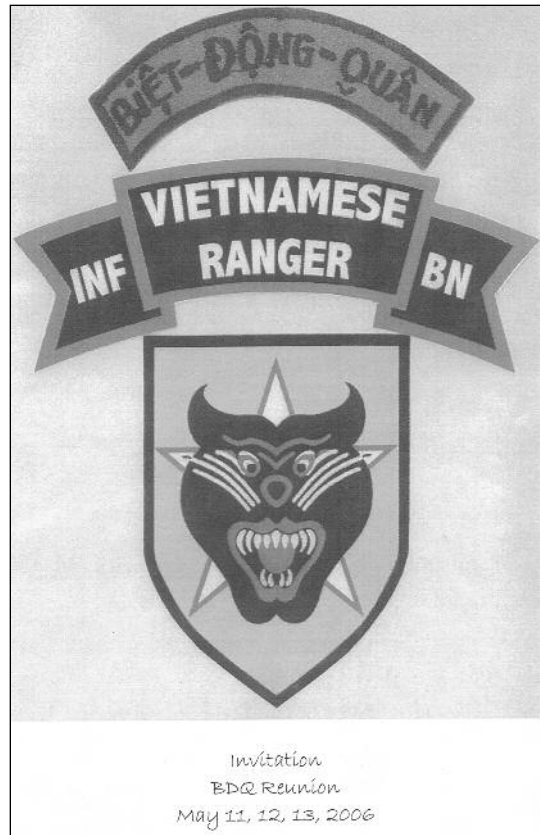
**A GLIMPSE OF INDOCHINA HISTORY**

The French came back to Indochina on an August night in 1945, when Colonel Henri Cedile (the new French Commissioner for Cochin China) parachuted from an American C-47 with two others, landing in a rice paddy to the south in Cochin China; at the same time Major Pierre Messmer (new Commissioner for northern Indochina) with a captain and a lieutenant jumped from another plane to the north in the Tonkin region near the China border....

**CONTEMPLATIONS**

You were once wild here.  
Don't let them tame you.  
...Isadora Duncan

**SHOOT LOW**, I'll see you on the High Ground. Mu Nau Mike Martin, Unit Director



## BULLETIN BOARD

**Family Fund & Membership:** I would normally list the contributors to the Family/Christmas fund in this issue. The response has been so overwhelming that I have been unable to post all the accounts and get this issue out on time at the same time. Rather list some and leave others out, I will list no one in this issue and list all contributors in the March, 2006 issue. For the same reason, I will list no new or upgraded members in this issue. That will also be done in the March, 2006 issue. As the invoices come in, there are quite a few that decide to upgrade their membership to a Life Membership. I don't want to miss anyone, so look for the info next issue.

**OFF YEAR REUNION** – The membership passed a resolution that will enable us to have an off year or social reunion in 2006. There are several purposes behind this move. Perhaps the most important is that none of us, especially the Vietnam era guys, are getting any younger. Any excuse to see each other is a good one. Each year brings the sad news of yet another of our brothers who has gone before his time, suffering from some strange malady picked up on his all expense paid tour of South East Asia. It won't be too long before natural attrition kicks in, and it won't be before his time. Besides, our reunions are fun for the most part. Even for the people that work them. The reunion will have no business meeting, election of officers or other official type meetings. We will have an informal, “State of the Association” meeting & suggestion period, and we will have a banquet so that we can share a meal together. The reunion will be held **June 12 – 18, 2005** in **Branson, Missouri**. That's right, not adjunct to an Army base. There are many, many things for non-military types, (spouses & kids to do). We will be there at the same time as the annual “Welcome Home” festivities, so there will be a lot of military-related stuff going on as well. **Room prices will be in the \$50.00 - \$60.00** range, so this will be an affordable stay. The March, 2006 issue of *Patrolling* will have the prices, hotels and all the sign up information.

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By: Bob Smyers

# CHRISTMAS

We celebrate December 25<sup>th</sup> as the day our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was born and we call it Christmas day. The word Christmas simply means people gathering in mass to celebrate Christ birthday, thus the word Christmas. The whole Western Christian Church from early on celebrated this day to commemorate His birth. Some time later the Eastern Church accepted this day also to celebrate Christ birth. No one knows the exact day Jesus was born. Some say April 20<sup>th</sup> and others May 20<sup>th</sup> and still others say January 6<sup>th</sup>. It matters little, the important thing is Christ came.

I am sure many agree that Christmas in our time has become a time of commercialism. The retail industry invades our mind and thinking long before the day arrives. Initiating a subliminal message in such a way a subtle way, that we rarely recognize it. Usually they begin by placing a few Christmas items in a high traffic area, but make no hoopla about it. They know the sooner the Christmas shopping switch is activated in our mind; the more people will begin thinking about Christmas and start buying. They are not doing it to remind us of the reason for the season. In fact it is almost taboo to use the word Christmas. Used to it was I will be home for Christmas or have a Merry Christmas. Not to offend anyone we now say, I will be home for the holidays or have a happy holiday.

Are we allowing retailers and advertising firms to succeed in getting us to think of material things, rather than the true meaning of the day? If you are anything like I am, you are tired of hearing about Christmas long before it gets here and look forward to it being over. Does this mean we do not love our Savior? No, but we are all flesh and the flesh is easily irritated. Do you think maybe we are allowing the joy of Christmas to be taken from us?

May we be encouraged not to allow commercialism to cloud our mind concerning this festive time, a time we enjoy with family, friends, and neighbors. I humbly suggest the head of the house or one appointed to tell the Christmas story as we gather to celebrate and exchange gifts. Reminding all, that Jesus gave the greatest gift of all, His life that we may have redemption from sin and life eternal with God. We need only ask for redemption, but it must be by faith in the Lord Jesus.

Many reading this are looking forward to Christmas, and as we do, let us not forget, it is The Most Glorious Day for all humanity. The birth of our Lord and Savior that gave his all, to free all from sin. Thanks for allowing me to share.

Hoping all will have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Be safe! Remember our troops and their family in your prayers. May God bless each and every one of you.

Bob Smyers

Chaplain of the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association

# T A P S . . .

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF**  
**MASTER GUNNERY SERGEANT**  
**DARRELL WAYNE BOATMAN, USMC**

**Born: June 25, 1967**

**Entered into Rest: November 3, 2005**

**And if I go,  
 While you're still here...  
 Know that I live on,  
 vibrating to a different measure  
 -behind a veil you cannot see through  
 You will not see me,  
 So you must have faith.  
 I wait for the time when we can soar  
 Together again- both aware of each other,  
 Until then, live your life to its fullest  
 and when you need me,  
 Just whisper my name in your heart  
 ... I will be there.**

One of the most beloved and important figures in the history of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association recently lost his son in combat in Iraq. Darrell Wayne Boatman was the middle son of the Boatman family and a 20 year veteran of service in the United States Marine Corps. For those who do not know Roy Boatman, Darrell's father, I'd just like to note that he was the glue that held this Association together during some trying times over the earlier years and he has helped or assisted nearly every member who ever had a problem for over 10-12 years. He's a personal friend to me even though we did not serve in Vietnam together. That's why it hurt me so much to learn of Darrell's death in Iraq.



Darrell worked in EOD (explosive ordnance disposal) and was doing his job when he was initially wounded by a piece of shrapnel from an IED (improvised explosive device) that penetrated his head and caused injuries that took his life. He was doing his job and it cost him his life.

He was moved to a hospital in Germany soon after he was injured and the

damage was too severe for the medical personnel to save his life. Roy and Joyce Boatman and Darrell's wife, Michelle, were able to fly to Germany and see Darrell before he was removed from life support, due to the severity of his head injuries.

Darrell was then flown to Jacksonville, North Carolina, where Camp Lejeune is located, for memorial services. A special thank you to David "Frenchy" Chaisson, who left his home in Louisiana, days after a hurricane came through and damaged his home and property, to go



to North Carolina to be with Roy and the Boatman family and offer whatever assistance he could provide. Frenchy was in Roy's AO when he returned from Germany, ready to offer his support in any way the Boatman family needed. Frenchy served with Roy in Vietnam and they have had a lasting relationship ever since they reconnected many years ago. People like that are abundant in our Association and it's always good to see. Roy told me that Frenchy took over and was helpful in many ways. I'm sure the entire Boatman family was grateful. A couple of Roy's former Company Commanders in Vietnam (John Lawton and Dick James) were helpful too in getting them to Germany to see Darrell by cutting red tape and getting things done in the Washington, D.C. area.

Roy told me he was very impressed by the entire handling of his son by the USMC and he could only compliment them for the treatment the family and Darrell received during this whole ordeal. The services and ceremonies held at Camp Lejeune were impressive, well earned, and deserved by Darrell. A large gathering of active duty Marines and other veterans and the family was held in the chapel at Camp Lejeune. There was an overflow crowd and Darrell was honored with a full military service, complete with a 21 gun salute. It was done very gracefully and with honor. I was impressed, along with everyone else who was there. I'd like to mention that Pat Tadina, Hal Herman, Dick James, John Lawton, Duke and Marion





# T A P S . . . (continued)



DuShane, Jay and Marsha Lutz, Roy & Sharon Barley and Mary Rossi (widow of P/75th Ranger,

Mike Rossi from Ohio) all were in attendance to honor Darrell. Roy and Joyce have been part of the Papa Company Ranger family for so long that we sometimes forget that we did not serve together in Vietnam. They are family to us and we felt their pain and loss more than you could imagine. The entire Boatman extended family was there and the Boatman's have been blessed by many grandchildren to carry on the name and legacy of the Boatman family. Darrell is survived by his wife, Michelle, and a son, Jake, who is 17 years old and on pace to attend Duke University on academic scholarship, and a daughter, Lauren, who is 15 years old. He is also survived by his brothers, Tim and T.J., who live in the Fayetteville, N.C. area, and two married sisters, Terri and Carol. I might add that Tim recently retired from the U.S. Army with over 20 years of service. To say the Boatman's are a military family would not do them justice. If you want to find a family who knows what military life and sacrifices are about, I offer you the Boatman's.

In closing, I have to admit that Darrell has been on active duty for many years and I never got the opportunity to get to know him as well as some of the other "kids" in Roy and Joyce's family. My impressions of Darrell are not as abundant as I would have liked, but he was much like his Dad and he had a great sense of humor and was loved dearly by his family and peers in the USMC. During the period when Darrell was injured and the prognosis was not positive, Roy sent out a message to many of us when it was clear that Darrell would not make it due to his severe injuries..... I'd like to offer some of the words to you to remember.....

**Sent:** Friday, November 11, 2005 7:16 AM

**Subject:** My Marine

As many of you already know. I will bury my son Darrell next week. Below are details.

Viewing: Monday 14 Nov 2005:

Jones Funeral Home  
Jacksonville, NC

Memorial Ceremony: Tuesday 15 November 2005  
Protestant Chapel  
Camp LeJeune, NC

No flowers please. In lieu of flowers. Donations to the Marine Corps EOD fund.

Thank everyone for their kind words. The brotherhood that you have displayed to me and my family is beyond words.

**"I will have no major problems burying the Marine that served 20 years and 5 months and died in Iraq. I am proud of him beyond belief.**

**I will have problems burying "MY SON" and best friend. He was a damn good man and a hell of a lot better person than me!"**

**Roy Boatman**

I don't know if I personally agree with everything Roy said, but those were his words and he knows a lot more about it than I do. I know he loved his son very much and they were very close. Roy used to joke with us about his son being in the Marines and how messed up he was by going there. Tim, the oldest son went into the Army and that made for some good joking and harassment for Darrell I'm sure. The family would also like to thank everyone who sent cards, e-mails, and donations to the Marine Corps EOD Fund in memory of Darrell. The family is trying to move along now, but it will be hard and they know it. I have to admit that Darrell's passing is the closest person in my life to die in Iraq. He thought it was important enough to volunteer to go back over there again when he didn't have to go, but his sense of honor, duty, and country compelled him to leave his family again and to do the job he was assigned to ensure our freedoms and safety in this world of global terrorism that we are experiencing today. Blue skies and fair winds to the Boatman family. Marine Corps EOD and Rangers Lead the Way !!!

Respectfully and with love; Terry B. Roderick, Past President, 75th RR Assn. (1998-2000)

## MY MARINE / MY SON

We were notified on the 2nd of Nov. that Darrell Boatman our son of 38 ? years and a US Marine for 20 years and 5 months was severely wounded in Iraq. That notification has brought pain, pride, loss and perhaps the most important of all, the realization that friends and family are important to the healing process. Darrell's wife, Michelle, Joyce and I were flown to Germany from Washington DC where we had to stop so Michelle could pick up a passport. A Marine Corps escort was there to provide transportation. We were also met by Dick James (former commander of N/75 and 74th LRP). The escort took us to the State Department where I witnessed a few things that have

impressed me and will continue to impress me till I am gone. I saw our young Marine escort whispering in an admin clerks ear something that was unintelligible to me but I did hear him say in a stern voice, "make it happen and make it happen now". This was a young E4 helping out in military fashion. This same young Marine posted himself at parade rest outside the ladies latrine for over an hour while Michelle was upset. I had talked to the Doctor in Lansthule Germany who had told me of Darrell's prognosis. He was basically brain dead when a piece of shrapnel had taken out the left side of his brain to include the portion of the brain that controls automatic functions, ie breathing etc. We then flew to

# T A P S . . . (continued)



*Pall Bearers*

Frankfort where we were once again met by a Marine Corps escort who drove us to Landstuhle Hospital. We were quartered in the Fisher house (a non profit living establishment much like the Ronald McDonald house's) that was directly across from the Hospital. We were given Phone cards that totaled over 900 minutes to keep the family in touch with the US. After seeing my son I noticed the male nurse who was taking care of Darrell's needs. This nurse was professional, focused and dedicated. I was again impressed at the treatment we were receiving and now with my son's treatment. He came out after about 4 hours and asked me what my affiliation with the Rangers was? I told him and he turned over the credentials that all hospital personnel wear and on the back was the 1st Battalion scroll, his Ranger Tab, and our Motto "Rangers Lead The Way". My son was being cared for by a Ranger! He had served with the 1st Bn. during the 1976 to 1978 period where my old commander on Okinawa and in Vietnam (1965) Art Stang was the 1st Bn. Commander. We signed the necessary documents so that our son's useful body parts could be donated to others and waited while he was unplugged from the life sustaining equipment. The tears flowed and we all hung on to each other. The Marine Corps was there for anything we needed and at all hours of the night. The flight over was hard me physically as well as mentally and we asked to be upgraded to business class. The Marine Corps did this for us and we are extremely grateful for that. Darrell's remains were flown in two days after our return and we met him along with his bike club and the Marine Corps escort who had known Darrell for 15 years. During our time in Germany, the family got together at our house in Elizabethtown and lowered the flag that has always flown over our house to half mast. The men got together and toasted Darrell's life till they had emptied a bottle of Jack Daniels. My B-I-L (retired MSG USMC) got the Marine Corps colors and it now flies below the US flag. All thirteen grandchildren, 4 brothers and sisters and their spouses, my two sisters and their husbands were at my house when we returned. Frenchy Chaisson, 74th LRP, who served in the same unit as me in RVN showed up and what a help he was. He volunteered to do any and all things that we needed to do. He asked nothing but gave everything! Roy Barley E/50th had taken on the responsibility of notifying via email all



*21 Gun Salute*

interested parties. Joey Welsh was also notifying many people. Pat Tadina and Hal Herman showed up at the house, both had also served with me in N/75. We have received over 150 condolences in the way of cards and approximately 200 emails. We thank all the people who have taken the time to show their concern to us and for Darrell. Duke and Marion DuShane, Terry



*Folding the Flag*

Roderick, Jay and Marsha Lutz and the widow of Mike Rossi, Mary (all P/75) as well as Hal Herman, David Chaisson, Pat Tadina, Dick and Dee James and John Lawton (all N/75) and Roy and Sharon Barley E/50th LRP attended Darrell's viewing and his memorial ceremony. During the viewing all past and present military personnel were asked to come forward where Duke DuShane read the order awarding Darrell his jump wings. Darrell's brother Tim (Army retired) pinned the wings on Darrell. Darrell had broken his leg in Jump School in June 2004 on his forth jump. He went to jump school after 19 years in the Corps. Duke DuShane who was part of the cadre at Jump school in the 70's went out to LTC McCaffrey and the commander of the 1st 507th awarded Darrell his wings posthumously. This meant a hell of a lot to me and Tim personally. I pinned Tim and Tim pinned his brother. Duke has been my friend for the past 18 years and I value his friendship greatly. Thanks again Duke! The next day we had the memorial ceremony at Camp Lejeune. Living in a military community and being retired I've attended numerous military funerals over the years. However, Darrell's was done with full honors and by the Marine Corps NCO's. The two

# T A P S . . . (continued)

officers involved were the Navy Chaplain and Post commander who presented United States Flags to both Michelle and Joyce. A piper played the Marine Corps hymn, Taps was blown by the bugler and the 21 gun salute was given. It was one of the most professional and moving memorial ceremonies that I've ever attended. The presence of so many friends mentioned in this article has renewed my faith in this association and the members who make up our association. Without their help and well wishes this whole tragedy would have been much harder. Joyce and I have now joined the thousands of this war and hundred of thousands before us who have lost a son or daughter. We will feel his loss for the rest of our lives. His children will feel the loss for their lives. It is now my job with assistance from the rest of our military family to instill in Darrell's children just what this sacrifice means to them and this nation of ours. When the men in my family who have served in the military go to the cemetery this year on Memorial Day, as we have done for 30 years, we will include My Marine/My Son in the toast we give. He will be remembered – he will be honored!

**Master Gunnery Sergeant Darrell W Boatman**



*Roy & Joyce Boatman  
Receive Condolences  
From Camp Lejuene  
Commander*

## HOT NUMBERS

### DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

VA Benefits  
800-827-1000

VA Life Insurance  
800-669-8477

VA Education Benefits  
888-442-4551

VA Health Care Benefits  
877-222-8387

Gulf War/Agent Orange Helpline  
800-749-8387

VA Center for Women Veterans  
202-273-6193

Board of Veterans Appeals  
202-565-5436

TO OBTAIN COPIES OF MILITARY  
RECORDS 866-272-6272

[www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov)

DEPT OF DEFENSE POW/MIA AFFAIRS  
703-699-1169

NATIONAL GULF WAR RESOURCE  
CENTER 800-882-1316

EXT. 162

NATIONAL COALITION FOR HOMELESS  
VETS 800-838-4357

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION  
800-772-1213

[www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)

## STATE ADVOCATE COORDINATOR

It seems that I always get into trouble extremely easy. After speaking with Emmett about working on keeping a portion of the web site up, I went to the hospital and had to postpone my learning about working on a web site. Now it seems that I am working as the State Advocate. Again after speaking to Emmett. (I wonder if he tricked me into this job?) I would like to thank Tom Gage for the important work that he has done in this position and wish him well in his future endeavors.

I am very happy to have the time to pick up the reins and take over from Tom. It certainly is a very important job that the state coordinators have. I know that the families and friends of our comrades that have departed feel the warmth and love we shared with each other and now we share with them. They feel this because we take the time to assist the families and to show our own devotion for our true friends and brothers.

As I obtain the rosters for the states and the men that are filling those positions I can not help but get emotional knowing that they are taking care of our own. As far as myself and the President of the Association feel it is one of our most important duties we can have. As Emmett has put it in the past our folks know that they are not taking the last steps in life alone, that we still care for them enough to assist their families and show our respects to them, our brothers.

As I become familiar with my duties I will be calling on some of you to fill the positions that are still empty in your state. I will be asking you to set up a roster of the other men in the state if possible to assist you, of course they will have to want to assist. Who would not want to assist in such an important duty and responsibility? . It already has been said that it is an important duty and I feel it takes more than one person to fulfill it.

We must consider that even if we were not in this persons unit, we still respect him because we know what he has done for his country and for each of us. We still owe him the honor of being there for him as he was there for us. We depended on each other in combat during dangerous missions and the least we can expect is that we are there for each other when we depart this world.

So please be accepting when I do contact you. Please accept the honor of being the 75<sup>th</sup> Rangers representative for your state and know that when you finally have departed for your last patrol that a brother will be there to see that all goes well for you and your family.

As a man I consider extremely important to me that was my leader and friend has said many times. (You know who you are Mark.)

Until our next patrol, keep your powder dry and may God bless us all, those that are still here and those that have departed.

Gene Tucker  
State Advocate Coordinator  
75<sup>th</sup> RRA

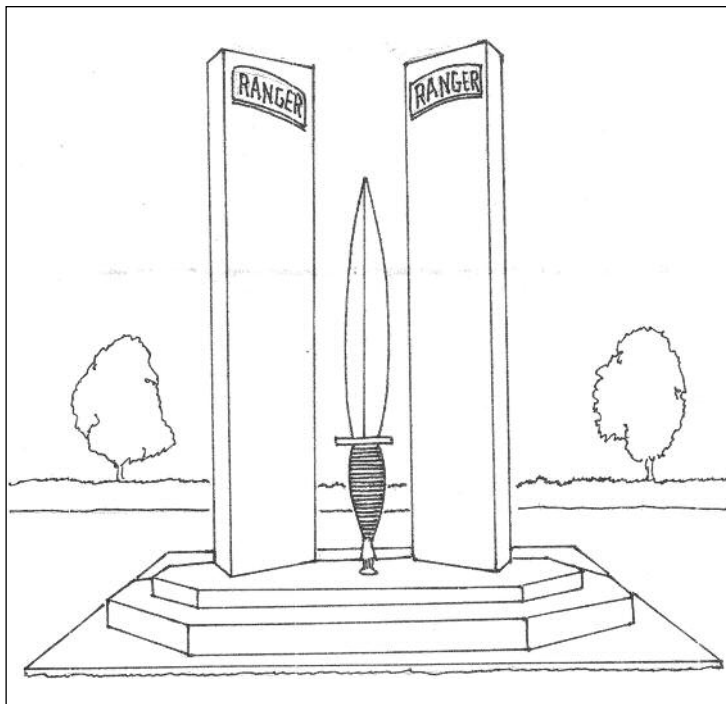
# THE AMERICAN RANGER MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

The Planning/Operations Committee, chaired by BG (R) Jim Herbert, of the newly incorporated American Ranger Memorial Association, Inc. met twice while in St. Louis. All Ranger associations had a representative present except MMA (their rep had a family event come up and canceled) and the two active duty associations (we keep will them informed but feel it best they not be invited to get directly involved at this stage of the project). MG (R) Jack Singlaub attended the second meeting and voiced his support along with sage guidance including that we Rangers must work as one on this and other critical projects.

A monument honoring the American Army Ranger in the national capital near the Arlington Cemetery is now more than just an idea. The American Ranger Memorial Association, Inc. was incorporated in Georgia as of 05 July 2005. The title "American Ranger" is used, not US Ranger, as Colonial Rangers fought in wars some 166 years before the US Army was formed. Application to IRS has been made to become a tax-exempt organization per IR Code 501 (c) (3). Once approved, that will allow donations to be deducted as tax free by the donor. Actions have been taken to obtain the required Congressional Resolution authorizing placement of a monument in the capital area. After considering a half dozen or more proposed monuments, the Planning/Operations Committee is leaning towards the example described below. An artist's version of it is on the following page.

The base is three tiers of gray granite. The bottom tier is a square approximately 29 X 29 feet & 21 inches thick. The second tier is an octagon about 21 feet across & 14 inches thick. The third (top) tier is also an octagon close to 12 feet in diameter & is 7 inches thick. Various quotations of distinguished Rangers, replicas of shoulder patches, and emblems may be etched or placed on any of these edges or at selected spots on the deck. Maybe there will steps and ramps to allow visitors to visit each level (much depends on what the various reviewing groups may allow or require). In this example there will be two pillars of black marble approximately 23 feet tall, 6 feet wide, and one foot thick standing atop the third tier. At the very top of each pillar will be a "RANGER" arc with the letters and border being gold faced. On one wall will be listed all the significant wars (21 or so) in which Rangers have fought since 1633 to the present in Iraq, with space allowed for more to follow. Quotations and other writing may be etched on the other walls and the edges. The pillars will be about 5 feet apart, set at 45 degree angles on each side of a bronze Sykes-Baine knife, some 18 feet tall, that is pointed straight up.

An electronic "Information Station" may be included that will allow visitors to see Rangers in action and hear some Ranger history by the push of a button. Flowers and small shrubs may be planted around the base and along the walk to the monument. It will be accessible by the disabled. All depends on final approval by those who must approve every detail. The costs of building, erecting, and maintaining will be defrayed by support from large corporations, philanthropists, and others who may choose to donate funds. An endowment will be established so the interest and dividends from it will more than cover, perpetually, the costs of maintenance. *Bill Spies, secretary, The American Ranger Memorial Association, Inc.*



# MERRILL'S MARAUDERS



**Yank The Army Weekly-  
CBI-Edition June 24 1944-  
Vol. 1 No 47**

**By Sgt. Dave Richardson,  
Yank Staff Correspondent.**

## **OF MULES AND MEN. BEHIND JAPANESE LINES IN NORTHERN BURMA**

Odds and ends from the battered diary of a footsore YANK Correspondent after his first 500 miles of marching and Jap-hunting with Merrill's Marauders:

### **WELL-FITTED:**

SUCH specialists as clerks and radiomen were pressed into service as mule-drivers with the Marauders to make up for a shortage of experienced animal men. Leading, feeding, watering and grooming the mules turned out to be one of the toughest jobs in the raider outfit.

Passing through the pick-line after a day's march Brig.-Gen. Frank D Merrill came across a sweating grimy-faced mule-driver tenderly combing a mule's back.

"You certainly seem to take good care of your animal," remarked General Merrill. "Had much experience with mules in the states?"

The soldier, Pfc. Casey Turiello, turned his weary face. "No, sir," he said. "But I did see a mule once—on an ice wagon back home in Brooklyn."

### **PARTNERS IN MISERY:**

ANOTHER mule-driver was having trouble with his animal. It balked at the bottom of a very rugged Burma hill. The driver had to coax, cajole, cuss and tug at his animal constantly. Finally on one hill the mule stopped dead and layed down. This was the last straw.

"Get up, you sonuvabitch," cracked the driver, who had answered President Roosevelt's call to join the volunteer Marauders. "You volunteered for this mission too."

### **JUNGLE LITERATURE:**

FOR weeks the Marauders hadn't seen a piece of mail or a scrape of reading matter. They sweated out a few books or magazines each time transport planes roared over to parachute rations and ammunition to them. Then one wonderful day after an attack on the main Jap supply route near Laban, the unit I was with finally got manna from the sky—an airdrop of a few books. Not many of them—one book to each platoon. Eagerly we scanned the titles.

The books were the "Pocket Book of Etiquette." "Children's Book of Wild Animals." Boy Scout Hand Book." and last but not least, "Rhyming Dictionary of Poetic Words and Phrases."

### **BATTLE OF VERSE:**

SPEAKING of poetry, there's a saying that when a GI starts composing verses he's been in the jungle too long. Both the Marauders and the Japs they fought had a candidate for this dubious distinction of "Jungle-Mad Poet Laureate."

Representing the Marauders was T/5 Stanley L Benson, a gun repair man. Here's his first endeavor in the field of verse:

Four thousand dead Japs behind us —  
A hell of a stinking mess.  
The lives ones now around us  
Soon will join the rest  
When Tojo gave his orders  
To kill us one by one,  
He didn't know Merrill's Marauders  
would sink the rising sun.

(Benson took a slight poetic license in his first line. Actually the Marauders are credited with killing only 2,000 Japs in six weeks.)

And the Japs literary weapon in this battle of the poets was this hymn of conquest, found on the bullet-riddled body of a dead Son of Heaven. It doesn't rhyme when translated into English, but it still possesses undoubted literary merit:

With the blood-stained flag of the Rising Sun,  
I'd like to conquer the world.  
As I spit on the Great Wall of China,  
A multi-hued rainbow rises above the Gobi Desert.

On the Ganges River at the foot of majestic Himalaya  
Mountains,  
Sons of Nippon look for some crocodiles.

Today we're in Berlin,  
Tomorrow in Moscow,  
Home of snowbound Siberia,  
As the fog lifts we see the City of London,  
Rising high, as the ceremonial fish of Boys' Day does.

Now we're in Chicago, once terrorized by gangsters,  
Where our grandchildren pay homage to our memorial  
monument.

Oh, Governor-General of Australia and South America,  
Only Japan sweet odor of fragrant blossoms permeates.

When I die I'll call together all the devils,  
And wrestle them in a three-inch rivulet.

I've set my mind on making my home in Singapore.  
For there my darling awaits my return.

(Looks like the babe is going to have a long wait. Right now her poet is wrestling with the devils.)



MERRILL'S MARAUDERS (CONTINUED)

**COLUMN COMMUNIQUES:**

WHEN the Marauders reached the rugged hill country of the Monaung Valley, their columns of men and pack mules started to string out as mules tumbled off ridges and bogged down in muddy ravines to hold up part of the column. Frequent messages were passed verbally from man to man up the column to keep the point platoon posted on the progress of the rear.

Usually these messages were "The column is broken behind the \_\_ platoon." or "Lost contact with the mule train." Occasionally however, a new wording crept in to cause confusion.

One of these new wordings was contained in a message passed up one rainy night on a forced march through enemy-infested jungles. "There's a gap in the column." was the way it started. When it reached the front of the column, however, it had changed to "there's a Jap in the column." T front, unperturbed, sent back word to throw him out.

Some hills were so steep steps had to be cut into the sides so the mules could climb up. On one of these occasions the message was passed from front to rear for "All men with shovels forward." When the message reached the rear it had become "Old men will shuffle forward." Some wiseacre sent back the retort: "We young guys aren't exactly prancing up these hills."

**HARA-KIRI TWO TO ONE:**

FOUND in a Jap supply dump were packs of "Silver City" cigarettes that exhibited the Nipponese flair for imitation. The packs were similar in size and design to those of popular U.S. brands. According to the English wording on each package,

they were manufactured by "Eastern Virginia Tobacco Company." And there was a familiar ring to the blurb on the back of each pack: "Silver City cigarettes are a blend of the finest Turkish, American and domestic Tobaccos, manufactured by expert craftsmen and guaranteed to satisfy the most exquisite of smokers."

**CONTENTS NOTED:**


FOR security reasons the Marauders could neither write nor receive mail while behind enemy lines. After two months of marching and fighting, however they were pulled back for a rest and got that long awaited mail drop and an opportunity to write V-mail replies.

In a stack of letters from a gal back home, S/Sgt. Luther S. Player of Darlington, S. Car., came across the remark, "I'll bet you're seeing plenty of action." Players unit had been cut off for ten days' during which it was shelled and counter-attacked constantly. He answered his gal's letter as fully as censorship would permit. "Baby," he wrote, "you ain't kiddin'."

T/Sgt. Joe Diskin of Hoboken N.J., received among his mail a letter from an old pal who didn't know Diskin was overseas. Diskin is a World War I veteran who's been in the Regular Army for 27 years and was sent back to the States from Pearl Harbor as "unfit for foreign service" because of 1918 wounds and age. His pal's letter read. "I am in Italy and have been in action. Believe me, this war is too tough for you old guys. No wonder you're back in the States." Diskin had just led his platoon against a fierce Jap counter-attack. His reply is not for publication in YANK's sacred pages.

UNITY ■ STRENGTH ■ PURPOSE

RANGER



BATTALIONS      ASSOCIATION      NEWS

## The 6th Ranger Battalion

**Activated 26 Sep 1944      Deactivated 30 Dec 1945**

The 98th Field Artillery Battalion was a regular army mule pack artillery unit stationed in Camp Carson, Colorado in 1942. The unit consisted of three firing batteries plus headquarters and service battery. The unit had the 75 millimeter howitzer for fire power and nearly 1000 men and 800 mules. On 13 December, 1942 the unit was sent to Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia via rail to a staging area for overseas debarkation. Soon thereafter, the mules were

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Ranger Battalion (CONTINUED)

sent to a port in San Francisco to be loaded on an animal ship for overseas destination. The 98th arrived at Camp Patrick Henry on 31 Jan 1943 after a two day stop going through the Panama Canal. A tent camp was set up at the edge of Brisbane awaiting the arrival of the mules. However, the Australian government refused to allow the mules to enter the country due to a law forbidding the importation of foreign animals. So, on the 9 February 1943, the unit was sent to New Guinea via Liberty ship. They arrived on the 17th of February and set up a tent camp about 20 miles from Port Moresby. The mules arrived a few days later. For the next year it was training, but no action and 6th Army decided the unit was obsolete and sent the mules to the CBI theater. The battalion commander LTC Callicut was transferred to the 1st Cavalry. A new battalion commander arrived by the name of LTC Henry "Hank" Mucci. Mucci was a short but well built 33 year old West Point graduate who had come from Hawaii where he operated a Ranger type training camp.

**Army Rangers**

Mucci informed the battalion that it was being converted to Rangers and a large turn over of personnel began. He was brilliant as a leader, but demanded the best from all his men "or out you went". The Rangers only needed 500 men, so half were sent out very soon after training began. The new officers arriving were primarily infantry and two were engineers.

**Finchhaven, New Guinea**

By 1 July 1944, the battalion had pretty well completed the necessary training, so they were sent to Finchhaven where the unit was reorganized into the T O and E of a Ranger Battalion which consisted of six rifle companies, headquarters and service company combined.

**Off to the Philippines**

D-day invasion of the Philippines was designated as 20 October 1944 with a large invasion on the beaches of Leyte Gulf. However, the Rangers were given an assignment to land on D minus three to take control of three islands at the entrance of Leyte Gulf, so as to eliminate any interference with the main invasion. The companies of A, C, E, F, and HQ personnel to land on Dinagat, B company along with reinforcements from some HQ personnel to land on Homonhon and D company to land on Suluan and destroy a light house the Japanese were using for communications for ships and aircraft. The battalion left Finchhaven on 10 October 1944 on three APD's for a seven day trip. Four days out a large typhoon hit the convoy. It was so bad that the navy felt the ships would not survive so they held back two of the three APD's, but company D attempted to land on Suluan. It did not work out and they were forced to withdraw. PFC Zufall was killed by the Japanese and became the first 6th Battalion Ranger KIA. The next day, the 18th, the weather was great and the units landed and accomplished their mission. The Rangers on Dinagat erected the first American Flag in the return to the Philippines. B company met no resistance on Homonhon so they were ordered to go to this small island of Suluan and destroy the lighthouse. Navy transportation was not available, so they had the Filipinos take them across the water some four miles in sail boats. The Rangers were able to destroy the lighthouse and many of the Japanese troops in what turned out to be a twelve-hour mission. It nearly became a disaster when Cpt Bull Simons and DR Jim Fisher and several other Rangers had to be rescued by Lt Leo Strausbaugh's platoon. Soon, all the Ranger companies joined together near Tacloban on the island of Leyte. They did primarily patrolling until the order came through for their participation of the Lingayen Gulf invasion of Luzon.

**Luzon**

On New Years Day, 1 January 1945, the 6th Rangers loaded on a ship in the harbor of Tacloban and joined a convoy heading north. The Rangers landed on Lingayen Gulf beach on 10 January 1945. B company was soon sent to Santiago Island to defend the entrance to the Gulf and deny the enemy any foothold behind the American forces.

**Cabanatuan Raid**

Army Intelligence had now determined that the Japanese were holding a large number of POW's in a prison camp

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Ranger Battalion (CONTINUED)

30 miles northeast of Manila in Cabanatuan near Cariboua, Neuva Ecija, Province. Most of the prisoners had survived the Bataan Death March. The 6th Rangers were given the assignment to “bring the prisoners out alive.” LTC Mucci selected Captain Robert Prince who commanded C company as assault commander and also a platoon of F company commanded by Lt. Murphy. Alamo Scouts were assigned the mission of forward scouting and Filipino guerillas for flank protection. The rescuers departed on their mission at dusk to walk 30 miles to the prison camp, crawling the last mile on their stomachs. They arrived at the camp about daylight 30 January. They hit the camp and brought out 512 prisoners of war, killed about 200 enemy troops, but lost only two Rangers, one being the Fisher, Battalion surgeon, who was killed by a mortar shell. He is the same Fisher who was rescued on Suluan. Some prisoners were able to walk, others rode carabao carts provided by Filipinos, while Rangers carried some like babies who were too emaciated to walk or ride. They were eventually picked up by ambulances and taken to 92nd Evacuation Hospital in Guimba. Much credit goes to the P-61 Black Widow pilots who flew over the camp and created a threat to the guards so they failed to spot the approaching Rangers. General MacArthur said after the raid, “No incident in this war has given me greater pleasure”. Sixth Army commander General Walter Krueger later decorated all the Rangers with LTC Mucci and Captain Prince receiving the DSC, the other officers were awarded the Silver Star and the enlisted men the Bronze Star. A few of the Rangers and scouts were sent back to the US to meet President Roosevelt, Chief of Staff Gen George Marshall, and made numerous speeches throughout the United States.

**After the Raid**

The battalion moved to the town of San Fernando, 40 miles north of Manila, and occupied seven houses, as their base of operation. Soon after the raid, LTC Mucci was transferred to the Sixth Division and became a Regimental Commander and was promoted to Colonel. Major Robert “Woody” Garrett became the new battalion commander and promoted to Lt. Colonel, Captain Bill Simons then became battalion exec and made Major and Lt. Leo Strausbaugh replaced him as B Company commander and promoted to Captain. The battalion did not operate as a unit, but as individual companies. Missions included Ipo Dam, Cararuan Hills, Dingalen Bay, running patrols for the 6th Division, destroying a pillbox west of San Fernando, Baugio area, and so many more.....

**Aparri Operation**

In late May 1945, Sixth Army formed a task force that would join together on the northern tip of Luzon which would have a mission of taking the town of Aparri which was on the east side of the Cagayan River, then control the airfield to the south of Aparri and continue south to meet up with the 37th Division which was moving north up the valley. This would result in dividing the Japanese forces, if the Americans controlled the road running north and south. The Army requested a company of Rangers to join the task force and spearhead the assault on Aparri. LTC Garrett selected Captain Strausbaugh’s B company for the mission. On 1 June, B company dug in on the west side of the river waiting to attack after the artillery and PT boats blasted the town of Aparri. They crossed the river on 21 June 1945, secured the town of Aparri, moved south, and took the airfield just prior to a paratroops jump by a battalion from the 11th Airborne Division. The Rangers then drove south till they made contact with elements of the 37th Division. B company was then relieved and flew back to San Fernando. The mission lasted 30 days.

**Atomic Bomb**

The Aparri operation ended the combat days in the Philippines for the 6th Rangers and they began to prepare for the invasion of Japan. When the Atom bomb was dropped on Japan on 6 August 1945, which led to the surrender, the Rangers were sent to Japan as occupation forces. On 30 December 1945, the unit was deactivated in Japan. The Rangers were either sent home or assigned to other units.

*From the RBA website - Contributed by Leo V Strausbaugh Col AUS Retired*



**SUPPORT OUR TROOPS** by *Ranger Bob Black*

No matter what your feelings are about the war in Iraq we have a duty to support the American men and women that are putting their lives on the line. As citizens and as veterans we have a clear and present call to speak out to our President and the Congress, newspapers and magazines in support of our troops.

That help is critically needed at this time and it involves the question that has become a witch hunt in this country about "Torture."

I believe that any man who has fought in ground combat has a definition of "Hell." War is cruelty, it is killing, it is man at his most elemental form and efforts to make it into fair play and good sportsmanship border on the ridiculous.

Without having a definition of what is torture, there is an upheaval in the press, on TV and in congress about our military torturing people. We have soldiers who are being prosecuted for scaring an enemy and for exercising self preservation.

This is being done in the laughable belief that it will keep terrorists or nations we fight from practicing torture. Tell that to the Gestapo, the Japanese, North Korean or North Vietnamese Armies.

If you value our freedom and the lives of those who now fight our countries battles I urge you to write your representatives and your media. If congress is going to pass laws about torture they need to clearly define it. What is torture to a man sitting in a comfortable office in Washington DC may be a matter of survival to a man fighting our countries battles.

What follows is the letter I have sent to ALL my representatives and I am writing national and local magazines on the same issue. Please stand up for our troops.

**LETTER TO CONGRESS**

Our young people on the firing line in Afghanistan and Iraq are in need of voices in Congress who will speak out to protect them from a witch hunt that has developed.

There is a hue and cry in our country about torture by our military. Careers, indeed lives are being ruined and some soldiers are being cashiered or imprisoned. Actions commonplace in previous wars are bringing soldiers up on charges. To gain information, an officer fires a round into the ground beside a prisoners head and the officer faces courts martial. A young Marine uncertain if a wounded enemy has an explosive device or is feigning injury shoots and kills that enemy and faces investigation. Rangers strike a captive they do not feel is following instructions with a broom handle and they are under investigation. Strange that we give medals to soldiers for killing and prosecute them because they scared or humiliated an enemy.

General William Sherman accurately stated "War is hell and you cannot refine it." Wars are won by killing people. We seek to train our military to be the best killers on the battlefield. We send them into the hell that is ground combat with all the fear, anger and passion that is found in battle and then add to the problems of their

**Ranger Inf Co. ABN (CONTINUED)**

lives by restrictions that have not been required of Americans in previous wars.

Congress has embroiled itself in this matter. If our Congress is going to pass laws regarding torture by the American military, It has a duty to provide a precise definition of what constitutes torture in war.

I ask that you speak out for our soldiers on this issue.

PLEASE WRITE YOUR CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND YOUR NEWSPAPERS ON THIS ISSUE.

**Korea and War**

In mid-April 1951 we began a series of daytime missions that gave us a different view of war. Chinese supply lines were overextended. The enemy was withdrawing northward, screening their movement with skilled reconnaissance units. We were unaware of this action at the time, but our senior commanders believed that the Chinese were preparing a major attack. In our sector of the 24th Division's front, the American advance had paused briefly while events developed. It was our mission to determine the situation in our sector.

On a sunny spring day, the three platoons of the 8th Rangers moved from concealed positions, passed through friendly lines, and proceeded on different routes to different objectives. Prior to departure we were teasing Tony Velo. He had a little Beretta pistol that he treasured, and he had worked on it till the weapon glowed. Most of us who carried .45-caliber pistols as a side arm thought the Beretta was useful only for shooting flies, but Tony loved that pistol. Jimmy White confided in me that he had been detailed to carry extra ammunition for the platoon machine gun. Though he would still be with the platoon, he would not be with our squad. He was very concerned about not being with those who were closest to him. It was a separation of only a few yards, but it seemed a world away to Jimmy; I understood his feeling. In battle you feel lost without your friends nearby.

In the 3d Platoon, our lead scout was Pete Torres. He was called "Silent Pete" for his ability to move ghostlike through rough terrain. Torres was followed by some men with automatic rifles, Lieutenant Strong, and radio operator E. C. Rivera. Stepping cautiously, wary of mines, we moved down a wooded ridge and into intermittent brush and broken ground. We then moved toward Hill 299, which rested between the lines and took its name from its elevation on the map. Now and then we could see the high ground that marked the Chinese main line of resistance (MLR). The only Chinese we encountered were rotting corpses, charred black by napalm.

Thirty-three men were on this patrol. If we encountered the Chinese, we had little doubt that we would be seriously outnumbered. The morning wore on, with the heat and the expectation of battle rising. Our scouts were not finding the enemy but war is filled with expecting one thing and finding another. Emplacements were there but not the enemy. We thoroughly scouted the area, found it deserted, and decided it was time to return to friendly lines.

Tree- and brush-covered ridgelines ran from the hill, and one of these flanked open ground with woods to either side. We were moving down this ridge when the sound of nearby gunfire from the woods closest to the Chinese lines grabbed our attention. Flushed like a covey of quail, a small number of US soldiers came running out of the woods across the open field directly to our front. They were men of the 19th Infantry Regiment Intelligence and Reconnaissance (I&R) Platoon who had been conducting a reconnaissance when they were located by the Chinese. Lieutenant Strong snapped an order and we dropped into firing position, flipping off the safeties on our weapons. The Americans had no sooner reached the woods on the other side of the field than a torrent of Chinese soldiers poured out of the woods in hot pursuit. The discipline instilled during our training held firm. Not a single shot was loosed until the Chinese were in the middle of the open area. Lieutenant Strong gave the command, "Fire!" In Ranger lore, what followed became known as the (Hill) 299 Turkey Shoot. The enemy did not have a chance, which is the best way to fight a war. We were good shooters and the roar of our fire was deafening. I

Ranger Inf Co. ABN (CONTINUED)

was one of six BAR men. Firing from the prone position with a bipod supporting the rifle barrel, we had a shooter's dream. An observation aircraft later estimated that seventy dead lay in the field. Other Chinese had followed their comrades to the edge of the woods, and we now began a firefight with them. Some of their bullets struck home. First to be hit was Pete Torres, who was shot through the face. The sight of Pete, his face covered with blood, numbed my mind. He lost so much blood that I felt certain he would die. Gil "Doc" Gregory was hurrying to his side. Training took over and I continued to fire. I learned later that the bullet went in on the high side of Pete's right eye, exited under his left jaw, and lodged in his shoulder blade. Doc Gregory extracted the bullet using a pair of fingernail clippers.

Eventually we achieved fire superiority and were able to force the Chinese to withdraw. Seeing this, Lieutenant Strong ordered us to pursue. With adrenaline flowing, we attacked. \_\_ We encountered a fortified bunker that stalled our advance. I heard Strong's voice yelling, "When I throw the grenade, everyone goes!" The Chinese position was destroyed. Firing from the hip, we then continued our advance. A Chinese soldier rose up to throw a grenade, but just as his arm went back, Ranger Bill Williamson shot him and the grenade exploded in the Chinese position. As we drove into their line, the Chinese realized that they were confronting a small force and began to flank us. Now they became the attackers. Mortar rounds were dropping around us, and machine-gun fire and shrapnel were hitting our men. Jimmy White, our Little Tiger, was killed either by a grenade, mortar round, or a mine, something that exploded at his feet and tore life from him. The Chinese attempted to block our route of withdrawal, and bullets came at us from all sides. Rangers Washburn and Waldecker were hit. We knew, when surrounded, to concentrate our fire in one direction and break out. With Strong and Cox leading, we fired and ran, fired and ran.

Like angry hornets, they pursued us while we moved as rapidly as we could, dragging and carrying our wounded with us. A Chinese machine gunner was covering an open space from long range, which we had to cross. Several of us noticed a peculiar circumstance. If an unhurt man was crossing the field, the gunner would attempt to shoot him. If someone was carrying a wounded man, the Chinese soldier did not fire. Was this a Chinese Beau Geste, a gentleman warrior on the other side? Was he changing belts of ammunition or firing elsewhere? It was best to take no chances and run like hell.

As we retreated we continued to suffer casualties. Most of us could run, but Tony Velo was seriously wounded, hit in both thighs by automatic weapons fire. We had tourniquets on both of Velo's legs, but his blood kept dripping. The men to my front took turns carrying Velo on their backs, his hands tied across their chests. We moved rapidly, the scouts running ahead while several of us with automatic rifles covered the rear. As we moved more to the center of the open land between the armies, the Chinese ended their pursuit. To make better time, we followed a dirt path used by local farmers and woodcutters; narrow and thick with dust, it ran uphill and down. I followed closely behind the men who were taking turns carrying Velo. As I moved along I could see the bright drops of Tony Velo's blood settling into the dust of the trail.

Exhausted, we reached our lines. Other soldiers came to help with our wounded while the remainder of us rested on the reverse slope of the ridge. After a time Sergeant Cox took us to a truck on which Tony was lying. "Take your last look at Velo," said Cox, "he's dead."

Sometimes when looking toward rear areas I would see a helicopter with a stretcher affixed to each side—they were not for Rangers. We had no helicopters and no stretchers. In all our fights behind enemy lines, the practice of carrying out our wounded on our backs was routine. Helicopter evacuation for our casualties could not take place forward of friendly lines. It was too dangerous for the helicopter. Many a man risked his life to bring out a wounded companion. When possible, we brought out our dead as well.

*From "A Ranger Born" by Col. Robert W. Black, Random House Publishing Group with permission of Ranger Bob Black*



I had no Christmas spirit when I breathed a weary sigh,  
And looked across the table where the bills were piled too high.  
The laundry wasn't finished and the car I had to fix,  
My stocks were down another point, the Chargers lost by six.  
And so with only minutes till my son got home from school  
I gave up on the drudgery and grabbed a wooden stool.  
The burdens that I carried were about all I could take,  
And so I flipped the TV on to catch a little break.

I came upon a desert scene in shades of tan and rust,  
No snowflakes hung upon the wind, just clouds of swirling dust.  
And where the reindeer should have stood before a laden sleigh,  
Eight Humvees ran a column right behind an M1A.  
A group of boys walked past the tank, not one was past his teens  
Their eyes were hard as polished flint, their faces drawn and lean.  
They walked the street in armor with their rifles shouldered tight,  
Their dearest wish for Christmas, just to have a silent night.  
Other soldiers gathered, hunkered down against the wind,  
To share a scrap of mail and dreams of going home again.

There wasn't much at all to put their lonely hearts at ease,  
They had no Christmas turkey, just a pack of MRE's.  
They didn't have a garland or a stocking I could see,  
They didn't need an ornament—they lacked a Christmas tree.  
They didn't have a present even though it was tradition,  
The only boxes I could see were labeled "ammunition."  
I felt a little tug and found my son now by my side,  
He asked me what it was I feared, and why it was I cried.

I swept him up into my arms and held him oh so near  
And kissed him on the forehead as I whispered in his ear.  
"There's nothing wrong, my little son, for safe we sleep tonight  
Our heroes stand on foreign land to give us all the right,  
To worry on the things in life that mean nothing at all,  
Instead of wondering if we will be the next to fall."  
He looked at me as children do and said, "it's always right,  
To thank the ones who help us and perhaps that we should write."  
And so we pushed aside the bills and sat to draft a note,  
To thank the many far from home, and this is what we wrote:  
"God bless you all and keep you safe, and speed your way back home.  
Remember that we love you so, and that you're not alone.  
The gift you give you share with all, a present every day,  
You give the gift of liberty and that we can't repay."

Michael Marks: "I freely submit this poem for reprint without reservation—this is an open and grateful tribute to the men and women who serve every day to keep our nation safe."

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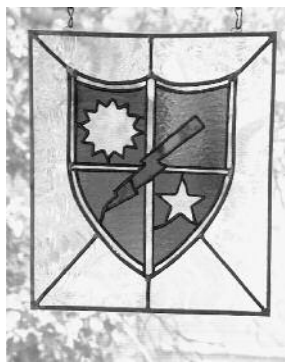
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