

PATROLLING

September 2022 75th Ranger Regiment Association, INC. Volume 34 Issue III



Former Regimental Command Sergeants Major and the current Regimental Command Sergeant Major take a moment to pose for a photo following the 75th Ranger Regiment Change of Responsibility. From left to right: CSM Charles Albertson, CSM Craig Bishop, CSM Curt Donaldson, RSM Brett Johnson, retired CSM Michael Hall, retired CSM Chris Hardy, retired CSM Rick Merritt, and retired CSM Nick Bielich.



*Rangers execute the slide for life during Victory Pond events at RSM Week
Photo Credits: SGT Paul Won/Combat Camera Specialist/ 75th Ranger Regiment Public Affairs*



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September's Patrolling

Front Cover- "Stract"- Regimental Sergeant Majors from the past, present, and into the future plus a Slide-For-Life, to boot

Page 2- "What! No 2023 Ranger Rendezvous!"- That and other updates from President Art "Doc" Attaway's report

Page 3- 75th RRA Financials by Treasurer Roger Crunk

Page 7- Are you getting what you want?- Janet Morgan has some information-ideas on meeting your 5 basic needs

Page 8- Gold Star Mom-Dianne Hammond shares *Summer Ranger Events*

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Page 12- Merrill's Marauders update provided by Jonnie Clasen

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Friday November 11th Veterans Day



75th Ranger Regiment Association

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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 discredits unnecessarily an individual or group.

Deadlines are the 15th of February, May, August, and November for the four yearly issues of March, June, September, and December respectively.

POSTMASTER

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The last 3 months have been busy in the Ranger World, with the Regimental CoR, the RHOF induction ceremony, the off-year Rendezvous, the 1/75 Ranger Ball, the Distinguished Members of the Regiment ceremony, 1/75 CoC, and the CoC of the Airborne and Rangers Training Brigade (ARTB). I also went to Savannah again and met with 75th RRA VP CSM (Retired) Rick Merritt, to do some Association strategic planning, and will be visiting 75th RRA VP Pete Dencker next month in Nashville to do the same. I have some brief details below of activities and events, but most of these are detailed in the 1/75 and RGT UD articles.

Rendezvous:The "off-year" Rendezvous was held in mid-July and was surrounding the RCoR, where we lost a brilliant leader in CSM Donaldson (Donny) to retirement, but got back Ranger legend Brett Johnson. Brett has been in the RGT in some capacity for most of his career, and most recently was 3/75 CSM, STB CSM, and the Ft. Benning Garrison CSM. Donny had a long and distinguished career, again mostly in the RGT, and both are GWOT warriors with numerous combat deployments. The word is there will be no Rendezvous in 2023 in Columbus, as there will be no CoC for the Regiment at that time. The Association is looking at alternative locations due to this anomaly. Currently, we are looking at 1/75 or 2/75 BN locations. We will give plenty of notice for your planning purposes.

CGM:Our efforts continue to obtain the Congressional Gold Medal for VN era LRRP units and companies. We have asked a Senator to write the bill, that will become law. I have been directly involved in both the Merritt's Marauders and WW II Rangers CGM awards, and we have now cracked the code to navigating Washington D.C. politics. What took 8 – 10 years for the MM, only took 4 for the WW II Rangers, and we feel we can get the next one for LRRPS withing 2 years.

ARTB:Unfortunately, we had a training accident in the Mountains during Phase II of Ranger school, and lost 2 Ranger students. At Mount Yonah, a raging storm rolled through and lightning struck a tree and it fell on a small group of students. We lost a recently Commissioned West Point Graduate, and a seasoned SF Staff Sergeant from the 7th Group. Storm protocols were followed, all students and Cadre were spread out in small groups and all metals and other possible items that attract lightning were separated. This was a freak accident that was unavoidable.

The ARTB had a CoC in July, and the new Brigade Commander is from the RGT. The Training Brigade is in good hands with GWOT combat veterans at the helm. The new Commander, Colonel Chris Hammonds, was most recently Deputy Commander of the 75th Ranger Regiment, and has had 3 other tours with the RGT during his career. And his combat deployments include Afghanistan and responsibilities in the Iraq theatre.

RHOF:The RHOF induction ceremony was also in July, and there were 18 inductees. Our nomination committee, Steve Johnson, Rick Merritt, and Chairman Rick Barela did a great job. CSM (Retired) and association VP Rick Merritt was our voting representative. We had a few nominees that were not selected, and our efforts next year will be on improving the packets to provide

the "messaging" the voting Board is looking at. Get your nominees in early for the best opportunity to provide quality packets.

1/75 Ball:See the 1//75 summary of this event in that section, but our Association was represented by myself, VP Rick Merritt, and Past President Rick Barela, and our lovely ladies.

Artifacts:The National Infantry Museum at Ft. Benning is seeking artifacts to display in the "Ranger Section" of the Museum. If you have artifacts you would like to donate please contact your UD.

Website:In our recent "Monthly Officers meeting" we voted to spend the needed funds on building a new website that will bring us into this generation, with better service to inform members and potential members. A Ranger owned company was selected to build the site, so keep an eye out for changes to how we manage your membership information and flow, as well as Ranger community information.

Unit Directors:We now have a quarterly UD meeting and have now conducted 2 so far. The feedback from the last one, in August, was very helpful, and will help guide the future of the association. We are still seeking UD's for the 2nd and 3rd BN, Oscar Company, and STB/MI. If you, or anyone you know that qualifies (mostly affiliation and location) please contact me, or any of the Association Officers.

Unit Reunions:We would like to publish and promote ALL unit reunions in Patrolling Magazine, and urge your UD to provide the information to Steve Johnson, who remains the Patrolling Publisher, and does a brilliant job.

Member voting:There will be a number of items coming up in the near future we want the entire membership to have an opportunity to vote on. To this end we will be changing the procedures for voting to an electronic ballot where we have exact tracking of the results of every vote. These will remain confidential to the individual, so your name won't be attached to your vote, but the results will be tallied. This is an effort to include more members in the process.

We are also going to have the next Officer elections be voted on by all members, not just those who make it to Ft. Benning during Rendezvous.

USARA cross membership:The Officers of both the 75th RRA and USARA have been discussing a cross membership affiliation, whereby the members of the 75th RRA will automatically become members of USARA, and those members of USARA who qualify for the 75th RRA will become members of it. This is an effort to offer resources, information, and programs that each Association has to enhance member service. No funds will be required by either Association, so this is free to all members. A non-voting" membership category will be established at the 75th RRA for USARA members as they will not be paying for membership, so they will not vote, and vise versa. A general membership vote will be sent out in the next few months as we finalize the logistics for this process.

Continued on bottom of the next page

TREASURER'S REPORT

BY ROGER CRUNK

75th Ranger Regiment Association

Statement of Activity

July 2022

Cash Basis Thursday, August 11, 2022 10:51 AM GMT-06:00 1/1
TOTAL

Revenue

4000 Program income - DNP
4002 Membership dues 1,280.00

Total 4000 Program income - DNP 1,280.00

4100 Member donations - DNP
4102 Family fund contributions 405.00
4104 Goldstar contributions 520.00
4110 Operations contributions 330.00
4120 Scholarship 780.00

Total 4100 Member donations - DNP 2,035.00

4900 Interest income 33.86

Total Revenue \$3,348.86

GROSS PROFIT \$3,348.86

Expenditures

6000 Program expenses - DNP
6020 Website maintenance
6021 Constant Contact 45.00

Total 6020 Website maintenance 45.00

6025 Intuit Subscription
6026 Go Payment 20.00
6027 Quickbooks Online 55.00

Total 6025 Intuit Subscription 75.00

Benevolent Contributions 1,689.67
EIG powerweb 466.20
Ranger Scholarship Fund 4,500.00

Total 6000 Program expenses - DNP 6,775.87

6500 Operations - DNP
6516 Postage and mailing service
Postage and mailing service Due 1,265.31

Total 6516 Postage and mailing service 1,265.31

6540 Postage-Secretary 71.60

Total 6500 Operations - DNP 1,336.91

President's Report-Continued from previous page-

Aid and Support-While the Military has provided counseling for the Cadre and students involved in the recent training accident, there is a movement to provide deeper support in this area, and the Associations and members across the Ranger community are providing the funding for this advanced counseling. If you are inclined to donate please do so through the website, where a

Total Expenditures \$8,112.78

NET OPERATING REVENUE \$ -4,763.92

NET REVENUE \$ -4,763.92

75th Ranger Regiment Association

Statement of Financial Position

As of July 31, 2022

Cash Basis Thursday, August 11, 2022 10:25 AM GMT-06:00 1/1
TOTAL

ASSETS

Current Assets
Bank Accounts
1000 Affinity / Operations 11,073.01
Paypal legacy Transfer 250.00

Total 1000 Affinity / Operations 11,323.01

1002 Affinity / Family fund 9,782.59
1030 Affinity / Savings 70,240.79
1040 Benevolent funds MM 57,552.05
1041 Legacy funds MM 8,868.52
1042 Life funds MM 24,704.68
1050 Paypal funds 2,443.44

Total Bank Accounts \$184,915.08

Total Current Assets \$184,915.08

TOTAL ASSETS \$184,915.08

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Liabilities

Total Liabilities

Equity
3000 Net Assets - Unrestricted 202,898.77
Net Revenue -17,983.69

Total Equity \$184,915.08

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY \$184,915.08

category will be established. We have to raise \$20,000 between all the various Rangers organizations for this effort.

rangersbreakfast@75thrra.org Sherry Klein will have a section on Ranger breakfast-gatherings that occur across the country. If you know of any gatherings in your area please advise us so we may publish it in the next issue. We encourage all Rangers to gather frequently and maintain the "Brotherhood".

The Army Reporter

Contents From VOL. 5, NO. 17 28 APRIL 1969

U.S. ARMY VIETNAM

Malaria takes toll of NVA, VC soldiers

LONG BINH- A deadly strain of malaria- 'falciparum', apparently has reached serious proportions in some North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troop units in South Vietnam and has considerably impaired their combat effectiveness, U.S. Army medical authorities said recently.

The disease is appearing with increasing frequency in the coastal and delta regions among the civilian population and there is little doubt that it has been brought into these areas by North Vietnamese troops who have been positioned there.

Interrogation of North Vietnamese and Viet Cong soldiers who have surrendered to American and other Free World forces reveal that malaria has contributed heavily to non-effectiveness of both VC and NVA units. While it has been no problem in some units, the mortality rate of those affected has exceeded three percent. Each month approximately 10 per cent of the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese troops are ill with malaria, and the average time lost from duty is seven to 10 days per month for each case. The malaria rate in some North Vietnamese replacement packets coming down the Ho Chi Minh Trail into South Vietnam is as high as 50 percent.

The North Vietnamese have recognized the dangers of malaria and have supplied their units where possible with drugs such as chloroquine, paludrine, and quinine in order to treat and prevent both falciparum and the milder form of malaria, vivax. Numerous caches of these drugs - manufactured in Red China, East Germany, the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia - have been captured by American troops. Difficulty in moving these medical supplies to forward units because of attacks by Air Force Planes, Army Helicopter Gunships and Artillery have contributed to the inability of the North Vietnamese forces in these areas to control the disease.

The US Army has been waging a vigorous and successful malaria prevention campaign. Commanders at all levels are insisting that Soldiers take the weekly chloroquine primaquine tablet and, in certain areas, the daily Dapsone tablet. As a result, some Divisions do not have a single case of malaria and other units have few. The drugs are virtually 100 per cent effective if taken as directed...

While addressing the incidence of Malaria in the NVA/VC combatants, it states that some American Divisions had almost no cases of Malaria due to strict taking of the antimalarial drugs. One little detail is to be noted. With the 173rd Airborne Brigade, the unit I served with in Vietnam at this time in the Central Highlands, we had a significant percentage of Malaria. In part be-

cause we were in contact with the NVA troop bringing the disease down from the North. The mosquitos bit them and transmitted the disease to us. We got sick. But to take the heat off of the immediate chain of command, some of us, if not the majority were diagnosed with 'FUO', Fever of Unknown Origin, so the Unit Records would not show Malaria. In my case I was hospitalized by Medevac twice, once in May for four days, and a month later in June of '69 for five. The incubation period of the Vivax Malaria strain hits you twice, a month apart. But according to the Government, FUO.

Nothing has changed. People still play semantical games. And as every way of a man is right in his own eyes, no one has the right to say anything that will hurt the self-image of anyone else. That is to be judgmental. And we are told that we have no right to judge another. But common sense tells us that some conduct harms not only the individual but also those with whom he lives. No one live unto himself. We are all part of an interconnected whole. But since Satan decided to challenge His, and our Creator for the right of total self-determination, i.e. to Sin, and passed that rebellious attitude on to our first fathers we have suffered the consequences of those creatures who refuse to acknowledge that simple fact.

The Scripture tells us that it is He, God, who has made us and not we ourselves. Every son and daughter of Adam was brought into the world by the will of another. We have no choice in the matter of time, place, ethnic origin, country of birth, language of our mother, her culture or religion or not. But having grown to the place of accountability before God for our choice of lifestyle we must come to grips with the reality that our lives are permitted, not an eternal right. We are on probation, if you will. And our present choices have everlasting consequences.

I volunteered to serve the Army, the Airborne, the Infantry, the Rangers. There were consequences for those choices, with mostly good and some bad; both for myself, my fellow troopers, my family in which I was born, my wife, my children, and my grandchildren. And for many folk with whom I have had an influence in school, on the job, as a missionary in different countries and for the Church of Jesus Christ at large.

But it is my settled conviction that whoever acknowledges the gift of life through faith in the person and work of God's only begotten Son has been wise enough to pass from this place of toil and trouble into the peace both with and of God. Above all things strive to enter into that Rest. God is pleased with what His Son did to rescue mankind from our lousy choices, and ourselves. Are you?

Joe Marquez, C/1/503rd, '69 N/75th, Juliet, '70 A/2/503rd, '70 Chaplain: the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. Serving those who served. 864-467-0424 Cell 864-525-6941 Our lives are but for a moment, while what we do or leave undone will echo down through eternity.



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75TH RANGER MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BATTALION

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O/75-78th LRP

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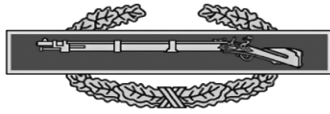
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WHO WE ARE: The 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc., is a registered 501©19 corporation, registered in the state of Georgia. We were founded in 1986 by a group of veterans of F Co 58th, (LRP) and L Co 75 (Ranger) Inf. The first meeting was held on June 7, 1986, at Ft. Campbell, KY.

OUR MISSION:

1. To identify and offer membership to all eligible members of the 75th Infantry Rangers and those who served in the Long-Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) Companies, Long-Range Patrol (LRP) Companies and Detachments, Vietnamese Ranger Advisors of the Biet Dong Quan (BDQ). Also eligible are those members of LRSU units that trace their lineage to Long Range Patrol Companies that were attached to Brigade or larger units during the Vietnam War and the members of the 75th Ranger Regiment.

2. To sustain the Association. To promote and establish *fel-
lowship of the Special Operations ranger community by re-
cruitment and encouragement of active duty and recently
separated Rangers to become members. The association pro-
vides a special "No Cost Membership" to all personnel while
assigned to the 75th Ranger Regiment.*

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

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

SECTION 2: Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol

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

SECTION 3: Long Range Patrol

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

Section 4: 75th Infantry Ranger Companies

- Co F (LRP) 52nd Infantry
- Co C (LRP) 58th Infantry
- Co E (LRP) 58th Infantry
- Co F (LRP) 58th Infantry
- 70th Infantry DET (LRP)
- 71st Infantry DET (LRP)
- 74th Infantry DET (LRP)
- 78th Infantry DET (LRP)
- 79th Infantry DET (LRP)
- Co. D (LRP) 151st Infantry
- Co A (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co B (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co C (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co D (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co E (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co F (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co G (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co H (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co I (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co K (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co L (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co M (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co N (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co O (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co P (RANGER) 75th Inf.



WHAT WE DO: The 75th Ranger Regiment Association participants in a variety of events that support our members and the active duty regiment. Each event is reviewed by the Board of Officers for merit and how it will promote the Association. Our current projects include; awarding scholarships (to qualified individuals) through our coordination and with the support of the National Ranger Memorial Scholarship Foundation. We also provide support to the Best Ranger Competition and any other events the officers regard as beneficial to the associa-
tion ethos.

We hold biennial reunions (in conjunction with the 75th Rang-
er Regiment Rendezvous) and business meetings. The associa-
tion officers, (President, 1st & 2nd Vice Presidents, Secre-
tary, and Treasurer), are elected at the biennial association
business meeting. This reunion is held at Columbus/Fort
Benning, GA
Subordinate units hold off-year reunions at various locations
across the United States per their unit schedule

Presidents

1986-1988	Bob Gilbert
1988-1990	Billy Nix
1990-1992	Bob Gilbert
1992-1994	Roy Nelson (resigned) Milton Lockett (resigned) Duke Dushane (selected by Directors)
1994-1996	Roy Barley
1996-1998	Rick Ehrler
1998-2000	Terry Roderick
2000-2002	Emmett Hiltibrand
2002-2004	Dana McGrath
2004-2005	Emmet Hiltibrand
2005-2007	Stephen Crabtree
2007-2009	William Bullen
2009-2011	John Chester
2011-2013	Joe Little
2013-2015	Bill Anton
2015-2019	Richard Barela
2019- 2021	Stephen Johnson
2021-	Art "Doc" Attaway

SECTION 5: Vietnamese Ranger Advisors BDQ

All units of the Biet Dong Quan (BDQ)

SECTION 6: 75th Ranger Regiment

- 1st Battalion (RANGER) 75th Inf., activated in 1974
- 2nd Battalion (RANGER) 75th Inf., activated in 1974
- 3rd Battalion (RANGER) 75th Inf., activated in 1984
- 75th Ranger Regiment HHC Company, activated in 1984
- 75th Ranger Special Troops Battalion, activated in 2007
- 75th Ranger Military Intelligence Battalion, activated in 2017

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



Dr Janet Morgan, LPC, NCC,
CT/RT, EMDR, MFLC, BC-TM

Dr. Janet Morgan

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706-892-8583

History easily points to successful entrepreneurs and the one trait that they most often share is persistence. The drive to move forward despite past failures or consistent obstacles most often is a singular matter of making a choice to do so.

In a 2016 article in Forbes magazine, Justin Saches suggested “But this is not always natural; it’s a learned trait. This means that persistence is most often a choice. It’s a matter of believing in oneself and finding a way to reach the end result when the first three strategies failed.”

In Basic Training, the cadre pushed, pulled, and encouraged me to accomplish goals that would potentially save my life. By pushing me beyond what I thought were my limits, they showed me that it was possible to do things that I originally did not think I could do. It changed my thoughts. The bottom line is that it is always my decision. I choose to move forward or to quit.

[Patall, Cooper, & Robinson, 2008](#) stated that, “the opportunity to choose improves people’s persistence, performance, intrinsic motivation, and subjective well-being”

In Choice Theory, Dr Glasser believed that the reason we become frustrated is that we are not getting what we want. We then choose a behavior that we think will help us to get what we

want. Those wants are connected to our Five Basic Needs.

The problem is that we don’t know what we don’t know. In other words, what we think we want may not really help us meet our needs. For example, we may think that having sex with many partners is a way to get love and belonging, so we choose to have many sexual encounters to meet that need. If that behavior is all we know and we continue to choose it, we may become frustrated with love and belonging. Until we choose a different behavior, we will get the same results.

“Insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results,” Albert Einstein

Talking to a counselor or a mentor is a great way to find new ways to meeting our needs. Having new ideas on how to problem solve can help us choose new behaviors to get what we want and meet our Five Basic Needs. Once again, the Five Basic Needs are SURVIVAL, LOVE AND BELONGING, POWER, FUN, and FREEDOM. ALL are needed but to each individual, some are more important than others. Refer to the Basic Needs Assessment from last publication.

What do you want? What are your strongest Basic Needs? Who do you know that might give you a different idea on how to get what you want?

Achieving any one of these Five Basic Needs might require altering an approach to a problem. You might initially fail, but persistence towards a goal, never losing sight of what you want to achieve, getting a couple of different opinions or alternate ideas, may be what will ultimately make a difference.

“I have not failed; I found a thousand ways it would not work”
Thomas Edison



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2022 AT 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM CDT

O.P. VetFest VI

Lakeview Pavilion, Old Settlers Park

Sometimes, it seems like I am drifting through this life, breathing in and out moving slowly one foot forward, then another, then one backward step or two. But last month, it was a wild ride. First on the agenda in July was having the privilege to attend the RHOH installation of this year's warriors. I went to salute them all, but especially dear to me was Honorary Inductee, Vic Power. Vic was the proprietor of Kevin Barry's in Savannah, who through the years has given so much to Rangers and Gold Stars,



especially 1/75. The highlight of his installation was when, after the event a call for Rangers to come to the stage for pictures with Vic, there was barely enough room on the stage to accommodate them all. So many from different eras, they came from all over to be there with Vic, just as he had been there for them through the years.

Then Sua Sponte got an invitation from a 1/75 Ranger, Sgt Paul Goldean, who has done well for himself and wanted to give back. The company he works for Pace-O-Matic, invited 10 people to Wyoming for Cheyenne Frontier Days.



Dianne, Vic, and Sandro at the Ranger Hall of Fame this July



Michael Morgan, Patrick Montgomery, and Zach Hays



Dianne with her daughter Brennarae & Grandkids

They were kind enough to include me and a few Rangers. What a time we had!! Everything was gratis.

The company and Paul went way above any expectations with their hospitality, especially with the gifts for the Rangers. We were treated to concerts, rodeos, and the Inaugural Event of Team PBR. Thank you, Ranger Paul, Goldean and Mr. & Mrs. Pace.

And then along came August and my son's Angelversary. It was especially hard this year; I think because the days were the same as they were in 2011. Extortion 17 on Saturday the 6th, my last phone call with Sandrino on Sunday the 7th, and the knock on the door at 0545 on Monday the 8th.

I want to thank 1/75 B Co, Joe and Joe, their wives, all the volunteers, and Chap Henricks, who came out on Monday at 1730 to do Plutino's Work Out and remember him with a BBQ. It was a very nice ending to a very hard day for our family.

RLTW B Co Forever

Several months ago, I was invited to climb a mountain in Alaska with a handful of Gold Star Ranger family members. We would be climbing Gold Star Peak near Anchorage in the Chugach National Forest.

The elevation at the top is (approximately) 4100 feet above sea level, however the elevation gain would be 3000 feet from the starting point (can you say STEEP)? The distance from start to finish is about three miles (don't quote me on this, I may not be remembering correctly and in my search for the facts, I found differing answers). It seemed doable. The eight of us in the group had been communicating leading up to our departure and were all eager to conquer this challenge together. We were motivated by our fallen Rangers and would be climbing in their honor. There were four moms (a fifth one who lives in AK joined us for some of the time), three widows and one sister. We would be led by two Rangers, one of whom had a personal connection to each of our loved ones. The other is a founding member of a Ranger foundation that secured funding and helped coordinate all the features of our trip.

The trip would take place during the week that became the last week of my son Ben's life. In the thirteen years since his death, those days are always emotionally challenging and wear on me like a heavy coat. Spending that week with other Gold Star Ranger families in Alaska AND climbing a mountain together, made me immediately think how cathartic this trip would be for me. The anticipation and excitement had me picturing myself on top of that mountain weeks before I got there! As an added bonus, I would also be checking Alaska off as the 50th state I have been to. When I found myself walking through the Anchorage airport, I felt giddy. I felt like skipping and singing, "I'm in Alaska, I'm in Alaska"! From the first day to the last, Alaska did not disappoint. We saw bears and moose multiple times. We saw a momma moose with twins and a momma bear with three cubs! We toured Denali National Park, we drove down to Seward, which was one of the most beautiful drives I've ever seen. Once there, we climbed aboard a Kenai Fjords tour boat and spent five hours cruising around on Resurrection Bay. We were fortunate to see otters, puffins, one bald eagle, seals, mountain goats and were treated to seeing a pod of twelve whales "bubble fishing" for herring which had them surfacing, blowing air and splashing their tails for about 30 minutes within one hundred feet of our boat. Alt-



Benergy-shirt at tip of Gold Star Peak

hough it was two days after arriving and everything we did was super-sized compared to normal everyday life, the crowning point of the trip was climbing Gold Star Peak.

For me, personally, I felt like reaching the top of the mountain would not only be a pinnacle for the climb, but also in my grief journey. It was time to take a long, hard look at where I have been over the last thirteen years, cut myself some slack, leave it at the top and emerge feeling lighter with a renewed sense of self. Comparing my life to what I could see of the mountain seemed fair. It was a living parable beckoning me to overcome and rise above. As I said earlier, I had already stood at the top in my mind, so when it was time to begin the trek, I marched forward with confidence. We started at 8:30am. I did not complete the full circle back to the start until 7:00pm. Now let me fill in the blanks for the ten and a half hours in between. Let me also say that if you look up Gold Star Peak on hiking websites, it says it's a 2-4 hour round trip. It is also categorized as a difficult climb. We were warned that the climb would be steep. It was! THE. WHOLE. WAY. We hiked through brush and then tall grass, beautiful fields of fireweed, gravel and then more gravel followed by more gravel. The day started out clear. I don't remember what the temperature was, but we had jackets on and all wore backpacks filled with rain gear, snacks, water and whatever else we thought we needed. Along the way, the men leading the way would point out the peaks we were headed towards. Gold Star Peak was not in clear view for most of the way. It was hidden behind the others. For about two thirds of the way up, the skies stayed clear allowing us to enjoy phenomenal views of the valley behind us and Turnagain Arm which connects to the Cook Inlet. I was sweating. This was definitely not easy.

The higher I climbed, the harder it got. We took ample breaks to catch our breath, drink water or have a snack. As we neared the final stretch, we watched the clouds float up the mountain and cover everything above us. We were hiking in the clouds. Words of encouragement and questions about how we were doing kept me pressing on. Shrouded in complete cloud cover we could no longer see our final destination. Trusting in those who had gone before and were more skilled to lead the way was the only recourse. I was tired and had no clarity on how much further I had to go.

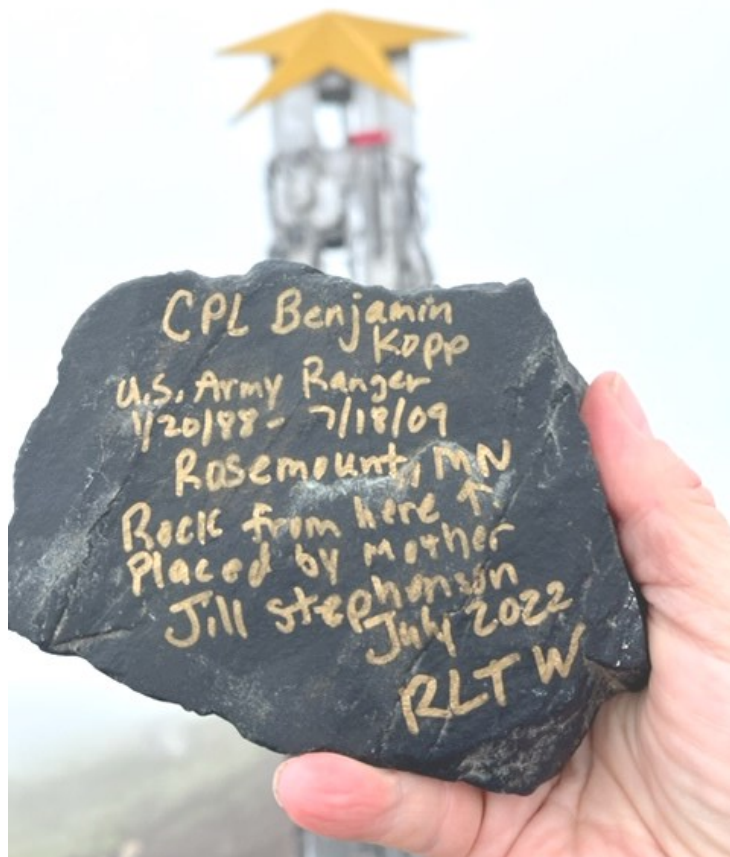
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Can You See How Far You've Come?

I finally started seeing misty, gray figures of people at the top and heard the voice of one of our Ranger leaders shout to me, "Only twenty-five meters to go, Jill! You got this!" Because of the dense clouds I couldn't even gauge how far that was. A few steps later, one of the other moms was there to meet me and tell me I had reached the top. We hugged and cried. I literally let out sobs of relief, joy, pride, and exhaustion all at the same time.

I have seen some stunning pictures of the view from the top of Gold Star Peak. That is all I would get. The blanket of clouds continued to cover the entire area around us making the visibility exceedingly minimal. A brief ceremony was held honoring each of our loved ones. We were given dog tags to place on the Gold Star monument. The pole has five sides, is twenty-one rings in height with a five-point gold star at the top. The twenty-one rings represent the twenty-one-gun salute given for those who died in service to our country. The five-point star at the top points due north so two of its points face east and west paying homage to the lyrics of TAPS, "Day is done, gone the sun." Additionally, the five points represent the five branches of the military. We got to choose where to hang our tags. I chose the eleventh ring on the north side. Eleven is a heavenly number to me and I chose the north post because Ben is my true north. I will always live my life to honor his. I brought a large stone with me from the city where Ben grew up. A friend left it at his grave in Arlington a number of years ago. I had someone retrieve it for me shortly afterwards so I could keep it. I decided to bring it with me to Alaska and leave it at the top in honor of Ben. It was as cathartic as I imagined it was going to be. So many things in life are metaphoric for climbing a mountain, yet here I was literally standing on the peak of one, 4100 (very steep) feet above sea level. To say it was surreal is the understatement of the year.

Although running out of daylight is not an issue in Alaska this time of year, it was time to head back down. We left as a group, but quickly separated into two. The faster ones went ahead and I lagged behind discovering that the going down was equally as hard as the trek up. It wouldn't be long before my feet would let



Rock I left at top of Gold Star Peak

me know that it was actually harder. They did not like forward movement. It felt better to move in sidesteps which, as it turns out, is the best way to traverse steep down hills anyway. After a few hours, myself and one of the other ladies were keeping the same pace, which put us at the back of the pack. The rest of the group was completely out of sight. Fortunately, we had guides who were assigned to stay with us. These men were incredibly

patient as B and I took breaks and never moved beyond a turtle's pace. They were encouraging and engaged us in conversation to keep us focused on something other than the pain our bodies were experiencing. They did all they could to make us comfortable and keep us safe. As we were descending, the skies began to clear and we were once again provided extraordinary views of the valley below. Some of our breaks consisted of laying on our backs in the grass surrounded by tall, pink fireweed. At one point a bald eagle flew overhead. A fifteen-minute break would renew our energy. One of the guides pointed out the peaks behind us more than once as a reminder of how far we had come and what we had accomplished thus far. It was remarkably surreal to see the towering peaks as a living metaphor of my life over the last thirteen years. They were a reminder of how beautifully broken I have been. Sometimes the path is difficult and painful yet taking

breaks to rest and enjoy the magic of where you are in the moment can be renewing and refreshing. Trusting in those who have gone before you and have knowledge of the path you're on is essential. Having someone with you that understands your level of pain is invaluable. The climb up or down may be steep, but you must endure it in order to enjoy the views and magical occurrences of what takes place at either end. B and I completed our descent about ninety minutes later than the rest of the group, almost eleven hours after we started. I could barely walk. Never in my life was I so relieved to take off my shoes. I was so bone-tired all I wanted to do was take a shower and go to bed. After a meal with the group, I did exactly that. The next day I didn't feel nearly as sore as I expected. We all had similar aches and pains, but had to keep going. We had things to do! We were headed to Denali National Park for our next adventure.

Continued on the next page

Can You See How Far You've Come?

The empathy and shared experiences of the men that guided and hiked with us is something that I will keep in the fortunate column for the rest of my life. It won't be erased or forgotten. Without question, I believe every aspect of this trip was divinely orchestrated. These men are exactly the kind I hoped my Ben would have become.

The other Gold Star ladies on the trip will always have a special place in my heart. Some already did before the trip, the rest have joined them. We have walked this journey together and will carry each other as we go on living our lives without our loved ones. None of us asked for or wished to suffer such incredible losses, yet each of us has found strength we didn't know we had. We have used our voices and the wisdom of the years that have passed to

help others along the way. This was never more apparent than all of the moments we spent hiking up and down Gold Star Peak and for the duration of the time we had together in Alaska. My biggest takeaway is that I can do anything I set my mind to. If I believe I can, I will and I have - many times over. Having support is a must. Through those who understand and through an immeasurable faith that all things are possible if you believe and trust in something greater than yourself to keep going.

I recently bought a new Johnny Cash themed devotional (it's really good). In addition to scripture, it has daily wisdom. Day three resonated with me and I felt like it pertained not only to the ladies that I hiked the mountain with, but to so many that I have been blessed to meet along this journey.

Each of us has a unique opportunity to carve an important path

through this world. We do that by not settling for the easy road. By not traveling the well trampled ground that the majority prefer. By not taking directions from popular opinion. We carve a meaningful path by following God's lead. By going against the grain as often as necessary.



Me and Denali sign

The journey can be lonely and difficult at times. Along the way, it helps to have reminders of our unique voice, platform, perspective, and opportunity. It may be a picture of a parent or grandparent who set an unforgettable example for us to follow. It may be a physical or emotional scar that we wear like a badge of honor because it represents our resilience and ability to overcome. It may be a verse, poem, lyric or quote that speaks our truth. It may be a memento that

symbolizes our strength and sense of purpose. Or, as with Johnny Cash, it may be a color or style that says to the world, "By God's grace, I will be a force to be reckoned with. I will not be content with the status quo. I will make a difference."



49th State Brewing sign with the group

My gratitude overflows to Three Rangers Foundation, KUIU (for the amazing backpacks), Wounded Warrior Project and all the people who supported and made this trip possible. A special shout out to Kirk and the men who made Gold Star Peak a reality. An ocean of love to each of the ladies who hold the same title as me: Gold Star Ranger family. Above all, from my heart to the Heavens, deep love,

honor, respect and thankfulness to Ben, Ryan, Patrick, Jimmy, Josh, Joel, Steven, and Andy for their tremendous sacrifice. They will never be forgotten.

Rangers Lead The Way.!



**Two Merrill's Marauders
Gabriel Kinney
and
Winslow Stevens
inducted into 2022 RHOF**



Winslow Stevens Gabriel Kinney

For the first time in years, two Marauders, the late Winslow Stevens from Florida, and Gabriel Kinney, 101, from Alabama, were inducted into Army Ranger Hall of Fame at Ft. Benning, GA July 21st.

Accepting the Ranger Hall of Fame medallion for Stevens, was his son, also named Winslow. A Silver Star recipient, Stevens, fought on Orange combat Team, 3rd BN. Kinney, also a veteran of South Pacific battles, fought on Blue Combat Team, 2nd BN and served with the 475th Infantry. Kinney was unable to attend RHOF due to his wife of almost 77 years, Elena, recovering from a recent illness. His son, Phillip, accepted the medallion for him

NOTE: The 2022 ceremony was the first since RHOF began in 1992 that a Merrill's Marauder has not been in attendance.

However, children of five Merrill's Marauders attended: Stevens, Kinney, Dominic Baracani, Gilbert Howland and Vincent Melillo.

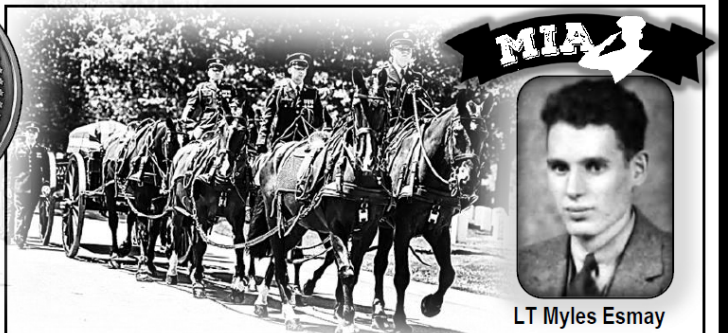


BACK ROW L-R: Mary Howland Wolf, Winslow Stevens, Brian Baracani, Bob Baracani, Bob Howland. **FRONT ROW L-R:** Jonnie Melillo Clasen, Carol Kinney Crawford, Patricia Kinney Nelson and Philip Kinney.



Ohio ceremony honors first Marauder KIA in 1944 with new grave marker

PVT Robert W. Landis, the first Marauder killed, was honored during an Aug. 12th ceremony in Youngstown, OH, where LTC Michael Kelvington, an Akron, OH native, was guest speaker. A new marker honoring Landis' sacrifice and recognizing his unit for receiving a Congressional Gold Medal is now near his newly-cleaned military marker. Kelvington, who has seven combat deployments, is departmental chair and professor of military science and leadership at Ohio State University. He praised Landis, a veteran of New Guinea battles in the South Pacific before volunteering for the Marauders. Assigned to 2nd BN, Blue Combat Team, Landis was on a five-man patrol when he was KIA Feb. 25, 1944, at age 23 during a firefight at a small village of bashi huts. His body was recovered the next day by a second patrol. Tammy Dixon, daughter of 5307th replacement James Junkins JR and a retired Military Science & Leadership administrative assistant, University of Akron in Ohio, planned the ceremony. Vietnam veteran and retired Ranger CSM Jeff Horne collaborated with her on the project.



LT Myles Esmay

MIA killed 78 years ago makes final journey

The remains of 5307th Composite Unit Provisional replacement Myles Wendall Esmay, who would be 105 years old if alive today, were interred Aug. 1, 2022, at Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia. The Utica, NY native, was a 27-year-old lieutenant, Company B, 236th Engineer Combat Battalion, fighting as a replacement when he was KIA June 7, 1944, trying to hold the Myitkyina airfield and capture the town of Myitkyina, Burma. Esmay enlisted in the Army Dec. 19, 1940. In June of that year, he had graduated "with honors" from New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University, NY. Recovery of his remains was announced in May 2021. His nephew, Peter, and his wife, Lynne, from Nyack, NY coordinated with the military for Esmay's funeral - 78 years after he was KIA. "My family and I have learned so much about my uncle through my collaboration with the Army," said Peter. "The amount of time, effort and money the Army has invested to bring Myles home is extraordinary. They have not only brought him home, but they have brought together a family that has been disconnected for so long.

PHOTOS

... BOTTOM: The U.S. Army Ranger Association hosted a showing of the new WW II Merrill's Marauder documentary – with a small display – at Ft. Benning during the July "Ranger Muster."

... LEFT: Jeffrey Hamler shared a photo of the street banner in Baldwin Township, PA honoring his Merrill's Marauder Dad, Russell Hamler, 98.

... CENTER: Siblings Mary Wolf & Bob Howland point on July 21st to their Dad, Gilbert Howland's, stone at Ft. Benning National Ranger Monument.

...RIGHT L-R: Honorary RHOF members Jonnie Melillo Clasen & Shelia Dudley at June 1st Ranger BN Ball in Savannah, which Shelia helped plan.



created by Jonnie Melillo Clasen

HQ 75th RANGER HHC

UNIT DIRECTOR—Tom Maier



Rangers from across the 75th Ranger Regiment formation participated in a number of sporting events throughout the Regimental Sergeant Major week held at Fort Benning, Georgia July 18-21. These events ranged from the famous Darby Queen to a combative tournament, an endurathon, helo-cast, two-gun competition, mountain bike competition, and a combat water survival assessment test. In addition, each Ranger Battalion sent a squad of Rangers to compete in the Regiment's squad competition. Rangers from 1st Battalion took first place both at the Regimental and the U.S. Army Special Operations Command competition. The 1st Battalion squad will go on to compete in the U.S. Army Squad Competition later this year. The week ended with the Change of Responsibility at the Maneuver Center of Excellence Headquarters.

Good day fellow Rangers! The Regimental Headquarters was knee deep in supporting multiple events including the

Regimental Change of Responsibility, Lawson Army Airfield closure, small arms ranges and preparing young Rangers for the Ranger Course.

July ended the summer leave period with Rangers giving much needed time back to their families. The highlight of the quarter was the Regimental Change of Responsibility July 21, 2022 at Fort Benning, Georgia. Regimental Command Sgt. Maj. Curt Donaldson relinquished responsibility of the 75th Ranger Regiment to Command Sgt. Maj. Brett Johnson in a ceremony at the Maneuver Center of Excellence Headquarters.

CSM Donaldson has served in every leadership position from Fire Team Leader to Command Sergeant Major in the 75th Ranger Regiment. Command Sgt. Maj. Donaldson is retiring after more than 26 years of honorable service to our great nation. Command Sgt. Maj. Johnson is no stranger to the 75th Ranger Regiment, having served in every enlisted leadership position from Team Leader to Command Sergeant Major. His most recent assignment was as the Garrison Command Sergeant Major, Fort Benning, Georgia.

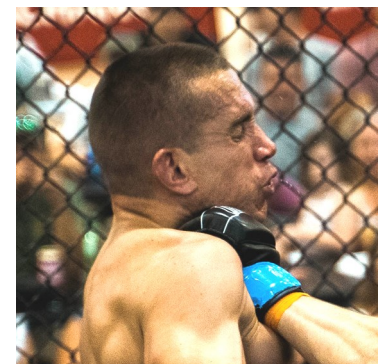


Command Sgt. Maj. Curt Donaldson passes the 75th Ranger Regiment's colors to Col. JD. Keirse, Commander, 75th Ranger Regiment, relinquishing his responsibility of the 75th Ranger Regiment

Photo Credits: SGT Paul Won/ Combat Camera Specialist/ 75th Ranger Regiment Public Affairs



Endurathon



Combatives



1st BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

UNIT DIRECTOR—RICK MERRITT

Hope y'all are having a great summer, enjoining some R&R, while our Rangers continue to keep us safe throughout the world and maintain their readiness through their disciplined training regime.

I recently had the honor to attend the retirement ceremony at the 1/75 Ranger Memorial for Mr. Ronald Wood, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment Human Resources Technician – GS 9. Ron held his current position since 3 February 2015. Prior to joining the Civilian Workforce, he served twenty years in the United States Army as Sr. Personnel Sergeant and retired 1 October 1999 at the rank of Sergeant First Class.



Mr Ron Wood's retirement

Ron was responsible for implementing a comprehensive Battalion-level military personnel (S1) program for the 75th Ranger Regiment in various locations, which is composed of active duty, Federal civil service personnel, and contractors. He currently resides in Richmond Hill, Georgia with his Wife, Debbie, also a Department of Defense Civilian. Ron, thanks for your continued service & good luck to you & your family in retirement, including your golf game!

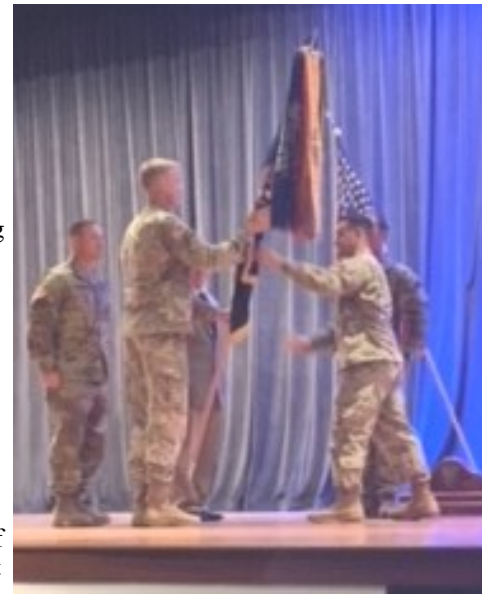
The RSM Change of Responsibility Ceremony & Rendezvous at Fort Benning was held for two of our former Rangers of the 1st



Battalion; unfortunately, it could not be held during the same week as the RHOF Induction Ceremony or visa-versa.

WELCOME BACK RSM Brett Johnson!

It was very inspiring to see our fellow 1/75 Ranger Buddies' Change of Responsibility Ceremony at Abrams Hall on Benning. RSM Curt Donaldson passed the colors off to RCO Keirsey as he relinquished to Brett. (Photo Below)



Curt & his Family will always have a home in Savannah with his Rangers but for now they are in Pennsylvania running the "Family Farm", literally! Both are extraordinary Ranger leaders with continuous combat deployment since 9-11 within our Regiment. Best of luck & God Speed to both families. I could share endless war stories of them both, but I must say, "Nothing ruins one like an eye-witness".

We talk about Rangers for Life.... these two have been Rangers since reaching adulthood although their parents would probably tell us since they were born!

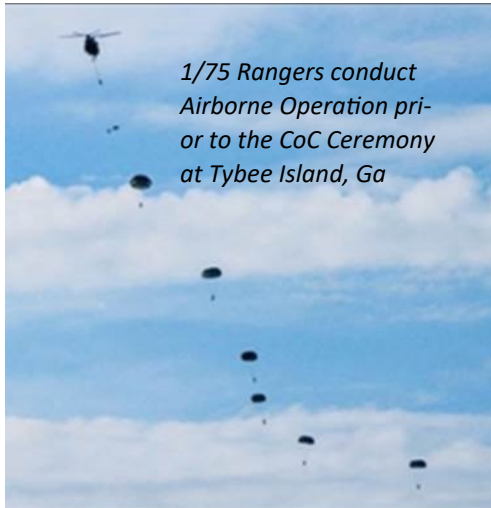
1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment Change of Command:



LTC Christopher Brawley relinquished command to LTC Rustin Necessary in July at Tybee Island, GA. The ceremony was hosted on the beach following an airborne jump into the ocean – embodying the spirit of 1/75 & served

as the perfect farewell to LTC Brawley.

Continued on the next page



1/75 Rangers conduct Airborne Operation prior to the CoC Ceremony at Tybee Island, Ga

The Battalion owes a great debt of gratitude to LTC Brawley for his tireless leadership over the past two years under his command.

As we welcome back LTC Necessary to the Regiment LTC Brawley did not go too far away. He & his Family have returned back to Fort

“Beginning” (FBGA...you always come back!) as he will continue supporting his beloved 1st Ranger Battalion as our 75th Regimental Deputy Commander.

Ranger Ball:

After an intense few weeks of training in June our Rangers took time to wind down & enjoy one of the Army’s oldest traditions at



LTC LeClair and Sheila Dudley

the Ranger Ball. It was an outstanding event that allowed current Rangers to meet & interact with a multitude of Ranger Veterans, Gold Star Families & other distinguished guests to include MOH Recipient SGM Patrick Payne, and guest speaker RSM (R) Greg Birch, as always, he delivered an exceptional war focused message to our Rangers. I was wanting to camouflage as he spoke.

Our Rangers honored their history & built esprit de corps throughout a spirited evening with their guests. A huge thanks to the Savannah Community for putting on a fantastic event. It was sad as we could not conduct the second half of the ball at our former patrol base upstairs in the Hall of Heroes at Kevin Barry’s.

I joined Vic Power (2022 RHOF-Honorary) and 1/75 Ranger vet, Andy Wilbur, with our wives as we took a limousine afterwards to the former KB’s entrance, courtesy of Andy, to propose a traditional post-ball toast to our fallen Comrades; RIP Rangers, you are always remembered, never forgotten.

Savannah’s Finest at the 1/75 Ball



Congratulations to all 2022 Inductees!

The Ranger Hall of Fame added 17 names to its ranks at an induction ceremony for the hall’s 30th class on July 13 at Fort Benning, Ga. The 16 inductees & one honorary inductee include: Lt. Gen. (R) Frank Helmick; Maj. Gen. (R) William Fuller; Col. (R) Gerald Cecil; Col. (R) Shawn Daniel; Chaplain (Col., R) Pat Hash; Capt. Winslow Stevens; Command Sgt. Maj. (R) Clyde Glenn; Command Sgt. Maj. (R) Chris Hardy; Command Sgt. Maj. (R) Jerry McClain; Command Sgt. Maj. (R) David Nethken; Sgt. Maj. (R) Joe Clark; Master Sgt. (R) Harold Montgomery; Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Celiz; Staff Sgt. Joe Williams; Cpl. Gabriel Kinney (Merrill’s Marauder, still living); Cpl. Richard Geer; & honorary I inductee Vic Power.

Below-Vic Powers and friends at his IRHOF Induction Ceremony



Honorary Members of the Regiment:

On the 19th of July at Fort Benning, GA, 1st Ranger Battalion’s Ammo Manager Jeff McCall & the former 1/75 DTA Budget Analyst / current Deputy S1 Angela Grobman were both inducted as Honorary Members of the Regiment for their tireless efforts in supporting the BN for a collective 30 years of service. The Battalion is immensely grateful for their continued service & owes them a great debt of gratitude. *Continued on the next page*

I joined Rangers Pat Montgomery & Mike Morgan, GWOT Veterans of 1st Batt, & MAJ Zack Hayes, HHC, with Sua Sponte Foundation (SSF) members; President Rich Schooley, Sheila Dudley, (The Mother of the Imperial Battalion) & Mr. Vic Power, at the Frontiers Day Festival & Rodeo in Cheyenne, WY. Pat coming from his ranch in Colorado, is a real Cowboy, the rest of us were just wearing the boots & hat for a weekend:) Mike, in from Boston, brought his Ranger Irish heritage to the rodeo to share a friendly reminder of Savannah.

We were guests of Mr & Mrs Michael Pace, Owner/Chairman/CEO of Pace-O-Matic and his COO, Panama OJC Veteran from B1/75, Paul Goldean, as they raised \$50K for our nonprofit SSF supporting our fallen, Gold Star Families, Wounded Warriors, Veterans, active-duty Rangers & their Families!!! Paul continues to live the creed as a Ranger for Life. RLTW!

WOW...many thanks to the Paces, Paul, & the entire Pace-O-Matic TEAM... exceptional PATRIOTS! Check out their website at paceomatic.com -They run a top-notch first-class operation.

The Military Appreciation Day was very moving...as Vic stated, "I felt like I flew out of the Atlanta airport & landed in America". If you ever get the chance, go to the festival.... perhaps a potential 75th RRA Reunion location. Bring your cowboy hat rather than your beret! The challenge & password out west was "Howdy-Doody"

Of course, when our own Gold Star Mom, Sue (Doc Penney's Mother), was interviewing with the local media she had everyone crying...Rich, fellow Veteran supporters, the reporters & the cameramen. Yes, we forever lost a beloved Ranger Brother, Doc Peney, but with Sue we gained a Mom forever. God bless your caring love & dedication to our Rangers Sue!

Recently we had a few Rangers return to Savannah as Ranger Doc Townsend, 1/75 GWOT Veteran, hosted his parents in the historic downtown as the CJCS GEN Mark Milley retired GEN & Mrs Steve Townsend, (AFRICOM), a 3/75 & RHQ Panama/Somalia Veteran.

It was great to have GEN (R) Garrett (FORSCOM) & his wife join the retirement ceremony, (I think he was in every line Battalion & RHQ) along with our own former 1/75 CDR & RCO, the current USSOCOM CDR, GEN Rich & Suzanne Clarke. Our Army's SFAC CDR at FBNC, MG Don & Mrs Hill also attended the retirement, no stranger to our Regiment, as he has also served in all three line battalions and the RHQ.

The next morning, we had a group of Rangers eat breakfast with GEN Clarke, it was good to see his Aide, LTC Matt LeClair, a former 1/75 Company CDR & SGT, join us with Sheila, Rich, Vic, my wife Elizabeth, LTC Necessary and CSM Spenser amongst others.

Afterwards GEN Clarke went on a tour of the additions to the Memorial & received an update of the future "Heritage Center". Of course, who did we see while downtown? RSM Johnson running by in the South Georgia heat! He was in town heading to

HAAF to engage his Rangers & attend the CoR ceremony between CSMs Spenser & Paquette...more to follow on their ceremony in our fall Patrolling Magazine article as we farewell James & his family as they transition towards retirement & welcome back Phil and his Family to the low country empire.

Work is continuing towards the building of the new Heritage Center at the Compound. We hope to have it complete by the 50th anniversary of the reactivation of the 1st Ranger Battalion in 2024 with a ceremonial ribbon cutting.

Our monthly Ranger Breakfasts are held at Perkins Restaurant the first Saturday of each month. Start one in your community! Contact me for more information to add it to our information board.

Speaking of websites, our Association President, Art, is working hard to get ours into the 21st century & we want to design capabilities to pay dues on-line; message boards; news; photos/videos; links to supporting military organizations; group pages for separate Ranger units including our Battalions, Companies & Platoons; & chat rooms. More to follow. Share any feedback with me as our Association officers move forward on the improved website.

1/75 Museum artifacts are requested by the Battalion to add to the HQs & Company COFs.

As well, we are looking for artifacts to support the Ranger Wing of the National Infantry Museum in Columbus, GA. (right outside the Fort Benning gate)

Contact me if you have any you want to donate. Your items will be displayed with a placard/note card with donor (or remain anonymous if you prefer) & the combat history surrounding the artifact.

Keep your annual dues paid up to our 75th RRA so you can continue as active members! Unless you renew, this should be your last Patrolling Magazine AND WE WILL MISS YOU! This is your Association & we want to keep you abreast of our brotherhood!

If any of you are interested in becoming mentors to our Rangers transitioning into the civilian sector contact myself and I will get you in contact with their 1/75 Counselor, CSM (R) McGuffy, aka, Ranger Muggs.

As many of us have served in multiple battalions, I need to help the battalion I spent the most time in finding them a 75th RRA Unit Director, 3/75. Anyone out there? As I do here, I prefer if we could have someone who lives nearby but we are open to anyone across the nation.

Rangers send me any news you would like me to share with our Association and thanks for your continued support!

God Bless y'all and God Speed to our Rangers serving in harm's way. Very Respectfully, Ranger Merritt RLTW



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—STAN JONES

Ranger Raymond Douglas Nolen was laid to rest on May 17, 2022 in Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Killeen Texas. His interment service was attended by Roy Bissey, EJ and Roseann Alexander, Jim Savell, Roy and Debbie Barree, Chris and Janie Rivers, Wayne Cummings, Bill Bowman, John Mikulak, Clarence Avery, Jim Ducharme, Marty Martinez, Elizabeth Smith and myself. Military Honors were given by the US Army, members of Ft Hood, TX. Gun salute and Taps were played and the flag was folded and presented to Tiffany Nolen. On Monday, EJ gave an exceptional eulogy, including the Once An Eagle Ceremony, Ranger Roll Call. In attendance from A Company on Monday were EJ and Roseann, Roy Bissey, Jim Savell, Norm Thomas, Mike Cantrell, Roy and Debbie Barree, Bob and Olga Keehu, Jim Ducharme, Clarence Avery, Wayne Cummings, Chris and Janie Rivers, Gene Gilsdorf, Elizabeth Smith and myself. Elizabeth did a red to white poppy exchange with Tiffany, In the last article Roy commented about Doug following a jeep with a Ranger Scroll on the back only to find out he was a former A Company member. It turns out he also worked at Beck's Funeral Home, where Tiffany had the service. The service is available at [Obituary for Doug Nolen at Beck Funeral Home in Cedar Park](#). Monday evening a Wake was held at The Mill Bar and Grill, one of Doug's favorite spots including a DJ, open mike to make comments, which there were plenty, a BBQ dinner and plenty of adult beverages.

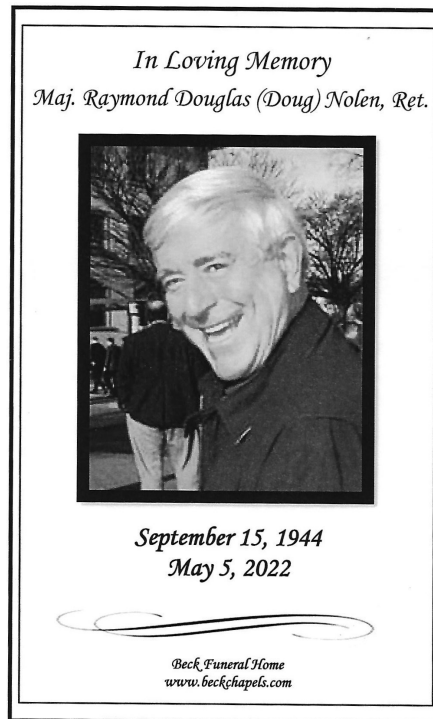
There were many great stories told by A Company members, guys that Doug worked with in V Corps and the Nolen Family. It was a great evening with laughs, tears, and stories and capped off with a rendition of "Blood on the Risers". RIP Ranger Nolen, A Company will carry on your memories and we will see you on the next patrol.

It was amazing to see the lives that Doug affected over his time in the Army and those years after as a contractor. A Company only had Doug for one year, but some of his friends from V Corps worked with him for over 20 years. I had time to speak with Jim Conley and Terry "Biscuit" Ingle. Both worked with Doug for several years in V Corps. I think Doug had shared the story with me before, but Terry shared the "Biscuit" story with me and Bowman over breakfast. They had come in from the field after a long simulation exercise and Doug said he was hungry and gave Terry \$150 to "go find some food". Terry went in to Grafenwöhr and found a Popeye's Chicken open. He ordered chicken wings, breasts, legs, mashed potatoes and gravy and



mac and cheese. When he got back, he laid it all out and everyone started eating. Doug said, "Good job Sgt Ingles, but where are the biscuits?" Terry stumbled and stammered and finally said he forgot the biscuits. Doug asked if he had any change and Terry said no. So, Doug said "No biscuits and no change huh. Well from now on SSG Ingle, you will be known as SSG Biscuit". A nickname he still wears proudly today.

In other news, Jim Savell continues his SF saga with: Working in a grey environment (pt 4) There were several people on the scene of the explosion & everyone was told to stay away. The "word" was....this "new guy" was putting his gear together sitting on the edge of his bunk. He had dropped his gear & a grenade pin had hung up on the bed springs & pulled out. Seems he never knew what hit him. One of the attributes of SOG personnel was....they didn't blab secrets. Returning from Nam I served with many SOG guys & don't recall ever discussing anything. An example of this just happened. Virgil Dillion & I were in A/75th together. Five days ago, we talked on the phone about the Reunion in March. Dillion mentioned he was with SOG. I told him I had been with SOG. This is the first time either of us knew the other had been there. When I would be asked what did I do in Nam....I would reply that I handed out jock straps & basketballs in a gym in Saigon....I would laugh....they would laugh...& I would change the subject. After a few years it kinda bothered me that I didn't even know this 1LT's name. I began a ritual of building a small fire on New Year's & sit next to it &



drink a bottle of wine. Over the years I tried to find his name to no avail. In the '90s CNN reported about a "top secret" unit that used poison gas on enemies. This was debunked. I was watching CNN & John Plaster was being interviewed about this affair. He mentioned "MACVSOG". This is the first time I had ever heard anyone mention it. I didn't know SOG had been declassified. The internet was just beginning. I typed in MACVSOG...up came 2 hits. Haarve Saal had wrote a book (he was married to Jerry "Mad Dog" Shriver's sister) & a woman reporter in Cincinnati, Ohio. I sent a message to the reporter asking if she could find the name for me. I was kinda vague (grey) in my info. She said she had a group of Special Forces guys that she would contact. A few weeks later she replied that there was a 1LT killed in an explosion in the time frame, however, the site wasn't Ban Me Thout. The CIA uses "grey" thingies to make it hard on the enemy. She said that it was almost for sure him, but a little more checking was needed.

Continued on the next page

Then she contacted me..... I have the 1LT's name.

From Mike Theisen: I was in a store (he lives in Minneapolis) and I had my A 75th cap on and a little kid asked if I was a Ranger - I'm still sick and weak and I looked at him and said yes and he said what does that mean and I didn't know what to say to him - he was probably 5 or 6 - and his dad said " he has the nerve to stand alone " - and he nodded to me and I left - I didn't know what to say.

From Tom Brizendine: GETTING A LITTLE OLD, SO I NEED TO PUT SOME DOWN IN WRITING "Ambush that went wrong". West of Chu Lai in the Dragon Valley 1969. After putting the platoon into our ambush patrol one patrol had 5 men. It consisted of three brand new men, Thomas and Green and a new radio operator whose name I have forgotten. This would be their first ambush with two of my best and experienced NCO'S. After my group had set up, we heard an explosion and got on the radio to find out what had happened. The new radio man said, "Everybody is hurt and can't talk". I told him to find an NCO and let me talk to him". He told me the new guy Green had tripped a booby trap mine and him and the other NCO had shrapnel to the head and both were going in and out of consciousness. I packed up the Ambush team and went to help. The only man not injured was the Radio operator. All were Medevac'd to the 97th Field Hospital with all but the RTO and Thomas sent Stateside. Thomas had a very bad wound to his lower leg and had a very bad limp. He was eventually sent back to the states and discharged from the Army. 1969 An - ton Bridge, Chu Lai. This happened on highway one. My platoon had lucked out and got bridge security. I had a command bunker on the south side bank of the river and the rest of the platoon had security on the North bank. We were pulling security with a platoon of P.F.s (popular forces). Sgt. Ames was on radio watch, and I was cleaning my weapon. We heard weapons fire coming from the opposite end of the bridge. I grabbed my weapon and a bandoleer and went outside. I loaded my weapon and saw the PF'S were firing at someone on the bridge, and an MP jeep came off the bridge in a hurry and people were scattering all over the bridge. I saw a Vietnamese man running I yelled out in Vietnamese for the man to halt. He raised his hand and said something that I could not understand. The man was getting closer, and I yelled again for him to stop. At that time Sgt. Ames ran out of the bunker and yelled "LIVE GRENADE"! then I knew what he had in his hand. At this time, the man had moved between myself and my other bunker as he started his arm swing to throw the grenade at the bunker. I fired on automatic, hitting him 18 times. Everything thing was in slow motion; I could see the round hitting him tearing bits of flesh and clothing away. One hit him in the hip, and I saw his wallet fly out. I hit the ground as the grenade exploded and was right back on my feet and I could not remember reloading my weapon but angry at him for me having to get my weapon dirty. The guy was down and in no condition to continue to fight. The MP jeep turned around, picked the man up and hauled him away, took him to the hospital. I immediately called the rear and told them what had happened. The Bn. EX. wanted me to kill some more people I told him there was no one left but civilians. The MPs came back and arrested me for possible murder. I was kept in Vietnam past

my time to return to the States. But they decided it was justified murder. The MPs took me and put me on a plane. I was barred from serving in Vietnam for a year. 11 months later I was back in Vietnam with the 101st Airborne out of Danang. The reason I was arrested was this was right after the slaughter at My Lai. My company was to patrol this area for introduction of NVA and VIET CONG (VC OF ARVN 'S (ARMY OF VIETNAM), ASSIGNED TO US FOR THIS MISSION. We were airlifted in, and the LZ was expected to be hot. We evidently surprised them as we did not receive any fire when we landed. Third platoon was on point followed by my platoon then the ARVN's. We started receiving small arms sniper fire. The ARVN'S were picked up and taken to the rear to celebrate TET. Approximately one hour after the ARVN'S flew out, we received our first casualty. The point man for third platoon was killed. As we continued our patrolling, we continued to receive small arms sniper fire? The CO. requested air support/FAC (forward air control). The pilot of the FAC came in did a barrel roll and fired his rocket marker round into the middle of third platoon causing several casualties. Our search led us to an embankment and as we traveled along that automatic weapons fire, I saw the man in front of me and bullets were hitting all around. The man behind me said he didn't know how I made it because round was kicking up dirt all around me. He was more than likely getting the same as me. Enemy fire increased as well as mortar fire. We fought our way to a small hill surrounded by rice paddies and jungle. This was an old position of the VC or NVA with trenches from one position to another and loaded with mines and booby traps. Our artillery or air force had cleared the enemy because no standing trees. We set up our perimeter and defensive positions as we continued to receive small arm and mortar rounds. The company Commander sent a platoon out for reconnaissance. We got about 50 meters and got pinned down. As we returned fire, our machine gun on the right jammed due to overheating. The gunner could not eject or even use the cocking lever. I used my boot to kick the operating lever backfiring off a round just barely missing my head. I heard movement to our front, and the enemy had gotten to within 10 feet of us and sneaking up and firing on us and us firing back and I heard SSG Mason grunt and went limp. I fired off two magazines into the bushes and when the enemy fire had stopped, I rolled SSG Mason over, he had been hit in his web belt buckle and opening him up and his intestines were exposed. (I THINK I COVERED THIS IN ANOTHER POST.) We got Mason back up the hill and dusted him off to the 93rd field hospital. We were out of range of our own artillery and the Company Commander called for an airstrike on our position. As the jets came in for strafing runs you could see the pilot and the ejected shell casings as they left the aircraft. They were also dropping 500-pound butterfly bombs as the bombs left the aircraft, the fins would open up. We were so lucky...we had the battleship New Jersey fire for us. As those 16-inch shells came over you could hear them as they came in. We used the artillery to cover us as we went back to the company. Those bombs and fire from New Jersey when they went off you could feel the blast go by you and then suck back in as it returned the expelled air. THIS IS A CONTINUING MESSAGE OF TET 1969, RECON. IFORCE.

Continued on the next page

CPT. JESSUP had called for resupply as we were getting low on ammunition and water. The slicks were getting shot up as they made their passes, but a dust off was able to land and take out our wounded. As the resupply birds made their runs, they kicked out our supplies and paused just long enough for two of our men sp/4 Treet and a new man jumped from about 10 feet to the ground. The new man had a case of ammo in his hands and broke his leg when he hit the ground and medivac on the next chopper that was able to land. When we were able to take a rest, my RTO was next to me as a mortar round exploded next to us. He was drinking his last hot chocolate he had when the mortar round hit going into his jaw knocking out his teeth and the can he was drinking from that mission lasted for three days. DRAFT NOTICE!!! I was on my second tour in Vietnam and got this mail that said I had been drafted. Two years back-to-back, Combat Infantry Badge and Staff Sergeant stripes, and I get this notice. Went down to the Post office where our local draft was located, in uniform, I presented myself, and said I'm presently on active duty and on leave to go on my third tour. The guy told me that in that case, I could ignore the notice, and they would correct their files.

From Donna, Tom's wife: The only place I remember about that place is Captain Nolen's office. I brought a birthday cake over for Tom. Captain Nolen said, have a seat on the couch. Well, I got cold chills, got up, turned and there was the largest rattle snake. About that time, Captain came in and said the guys are bringing Tom in. I said here is his cake. I am going outside. He said you met Ralph. I said who. I went out. I never went over there again. "I hate snakes".

Attached if there is room are two pictures from Doug Nolen's funeral. One is the front gate (*To the right*) to the cemetery and the other is the cover of the pamphlet the funeral home had made (*First Page*).


When I left Ft. Hood in August of '74 to go to Berlin, the company was at Camp Bullis and I went back a few days early to turn in my stuff. Gene Gilsdorf was there, and I was talking about trying to drive my '69 Judge, GTO back to Indiana and Gene said he would be happy to take it off my hands. We went back and forth a little and settled on \$1,200. I quickly got the title taken care of and he was off. At the Waco reunion in 2019, he told me that a few months later he needed to sell the car and sold it for \$1,200, with a \$600 now and \$600 on payday. Gene gave him the car and the title and never got the other \$600. I sent Gene an email this week about watching a Barrett-Jackson Auction and a 1969 red GTO Judge sold for \$160,000. Sure, wish I could get a do-over on that one.

Ed Thurman, AKA, LT. Thurman has put another video on YouTube. He took pictures from the "73 Reforger trip and put it to German tunes. I wish I had made that trip, but I was enjoying trying to push Georgia into China at jump school.

Not much else to report this month. Send me some stories, even if they are only partially (embellished) true. Don't forget to check on your fellow Veterans, even Navy guys are Vets and may just need a "Hey" to get them through the day.



Next edition will come out around Veterans Day. Find a ceremony or gathering near you and participate. Be proud we are Veterans and even prouder we are Rangers. RLTW!!



★ RANGERS LEAD THE WAY ★

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VISIT RANGER.ORG TO LEARN MORE

ARVIN RANGER ADV, (BDQ)

UNIT DIRECTOR—BILL MILLER

Fellow Rangers and Co Vans:

Feature: "VIETNAM VETS DAY"

BY: Keith Nightingale

29 March 1968. III Corps, Long Khanh Province, South Vietnam. YT595066. Suoi Cat Village. 52nd Biet Dong Quan. 0630. (All times from my log)

Suoi Cat Village sits astride QL 1, the main artery of the nation. It is a small village dominated by Chua Chan Mountain—a dramatic geographical feature with the foreboding presence a Nui Ba Dinh to the south. The area on both sides of the road is heavy jungle interspersed with cleared areas for small farms. Small streams intersperse the area. It is Prime VC country and Suoi Cat village is a long term VC village by experience, but denied by the Province Chief.

The population is less than a hundred who live in thatch houses on both sides of the road. The primary industry is the making of charcoal. On one side of the road are ten kilns. These are large mud and stone structures about 20 feet high and more than a hundred feet in circumference. Most days, the kilns are a smoking black presence depositing a thin layer of black ash on the village.

0715—Today, there is no smoke. SSG Ivory, the Deputy advisor, notes this from a distance. Ivory is running a ten vehicle convoy of Rangers to Gia Ray Village to begin a sweeping operation. Gia Ray is the location of a large rock quarry run by a small US Army Engineer element that was evacuated during Tet, a month previously. The need to return to open the quarry again in order to restore QL 1 to a functioning entity—a major Joint US-SVN priority.

The convoy, departing Xuan Loc, consists of two jeeps and eight trucks and approximately half of the Ranger Battalion. Ivory and his counterpart, Captain Tot, the battalion Executive Officer, have placed their jeep in the middle of the convoy with two gun jeeps at the head and tail of the convoy.

This is the tail end of the monsoon season. The sky is low and mottled with clouds less than 500 feet above. The air is still with a dampness rapidly dissipating with the morning sun. Not yet flying weather.

Ivory approaches the village and immediately notes that no one is in sight. A bad impression from a bad place. The convoy continues at a slow pace through the western portion of the small ville and begins to approach the eastern portion with its kilns. No smoke is emitted from any.

0806—Ivory's highly developed senses of foreboding are almost



immediately rewarded with loud bursts of AK and RPD fire crisscrossing the convoy. The lead jeep is immediately engaged and the entire crew is either killed or wounded. (There were two KIA and two WIA).

The village erupts in fire on the convoy with the primary attack coming from the kilns. The VC had established themselves in the entrance to the kilns by digging into the door entrance. They had excellent fields of fire and protection from the bulletproof walls.

The Rangers went into immediate action, firing at both sides of the village as they unloaded from the trucks and established posi-

tions on both sides of the road. The tracers from both sides began small fires in the thatch material of the shops which quickly turns into a major fire reducing both sides of the street to smoking ash and burned tin sheeting. This had the effect of stopping the VC fire within the village as they retreated toward the kiln complex.

0807.Ivory to me, "Musty Races Six this is Musty Races Five. We are ambushed at Suoi Cat. Stopped. At least a company of VC. Casualties. Request fires over."

Me to Ivory, "Give me a grid Over."

"Six this is Five YT597065. Over."

"Six. Roger. Wait."

Me to MACV HQ, "Tiger TOC. Musty Races Six. Troops in contact. Request fires YT597065."

"Tiger TOC. Roger. Wait."

0812—Five minutes elapse. Ivory tells me they are pinned down and cannot advance. The force inside the kiln complex dominates the ground. The Rangers had maneuvered to the front after clearing the village, now essentially burned to the ground. Women and children can be seen moving into the surrounding jungle. Ivory reports that the Rangers have killed more than 20 VC and taken minor casualties. (Later established as 5 KIA and 12 WIA.)

"Musty Races Six, this Tiger TOC. Fires denied. It's in a pacified village and we don't have air overhead to adjust fires. Over."

"This is Races Six. We have a major ambush and multiple casualties. This place is not pacified. My Five can make any adjustments, Over."

"Tiger TOC wait, Out."

0814— "Races Six. This is Tiger Three, Province will not permit fires."

Continued on the next page

“Pull back or resolve on own initiative. We are trying to get a bird overhead. Over.”

“Races Six. Roger. Out.”

“Races Five, This is Six. Can you pull back? Over.”

“Five. Negative. VC in rear. We are pulled into a perimeter about fifty meters from the kilns. Over.”

“Roger. Wait.”

Major Hiep, the Ranger battalion commander had been listening to the dialogue as well as talking to Captain Tot on the Ranger net. While this was going on, he had dispatched two trucks with 4.2 mortars mounted on the open with heavily sandbagged flooring. He directed the trucks to Bin Lo Village, YT530060 and assembled the remainder of the Rangers to reinforce Tot. He did not inform 18th Div HQ as was a requirement. He and I led the reinforcements.

“Tiger TOC, this is Races Six. We are moving out to the ambush site. Over.”

“Races Six. Over.”

1019—Within twenty minutes, they were in place. Capt Tot began to adjust fires of the mortars. The transmissions were almost indecipherable with the fires of the ambush dampening any voice.

“Races Six. Tiger TOC. Halt the convoy. Division higher wants you to withdraw rather than clear the village.”

“Tiger TOC. Races Six. I do not command this group. Suggest Tiger talk to counterpart. Over.”

(At this point, Hiep turned off his radio.)

1021-1100—The mortar fires were adjusted into the kilns which

were quickly reduced to rubble. The clear area around the kilns now became a Calderon of fire from the Rangers as the VC attempted to retreat into the jungle.

The Rangers cleared the area and counted 26 KIA's. Two VC were taken prisoner, and the remainder retreated into the jungle. The convoy, now reinforced with the entire battalion, proceeded to Gia Ray with Hiep's radio in the off position.

Later, he was reprimanded by the Division Commander for leveling a pacified village and converting peaceful people into potential VC. Hiep responded that the village already was VC as demonstrated by the Ranger casualties. This terminated the meeting.

It was just another day in Vietnam

Quote:

“If we are to guard against ignorance and remain free, it is the responsibility of every American to be informed.”

Thomas Jefferson:

Quote:

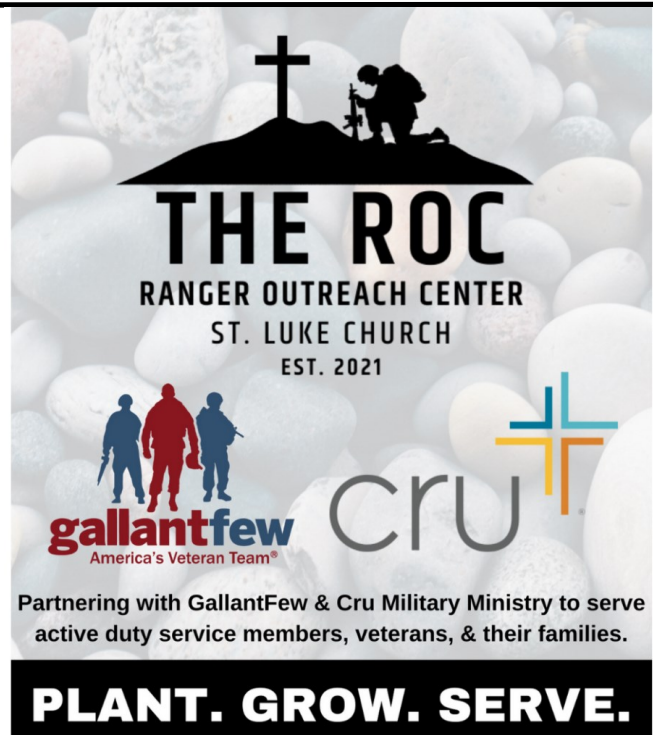
“If ignorance could be banished from our land, a real millennium would commence.”

Ephraim Cutler (1815)

Mu Nau

Bill Miller/BDQ Unit Director

Please look at your address label. It will have your year, and member number. If the year is 2022 or earlier, your dues are due and this will be your last Patrolling sent to you.



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—MARC L. THOMPSON

Greetings and Salutations fellow LRRPs, Rangers, and Jayhawks... Please stay safe and stay healthy.

UD/OFFICERS MEETINGS

The Association is conducting quarterly meetings with officers and unit directors to identify areas of concern and effort. Topics to be discussed by said officers elsewhere in the magazine and on the website, as appropriate.

Some recent topics included the possibility of scheduling annual reunions to possibly be scheduled at various sites around the country (to be more appealing for spouses and families, etc), and website enhancements.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS:

RECEIVED FROM LIDIO KERCADO (30 June)

Hi Marc... I hope you are doing well. This is Lidio Kercado ("The Ghost Ranger"). I was in Daddy Haugh's Platoon when I was at Ft. Carson. I don't remember that last time I emailed you to say hello. Right now, I am recovering from a bout of COVID, but nothing serious, thanks to the four shots I got.

Just to let you know what I was up to since the last time I emailed you:

I am retired, but still teaching Astronomy and tutoring students at the local college on a part-time basis.

I was studying a type of Japanese Swordsmanship known as "Batto-Do", had risen to rank of "Sho-Dan" which is equivalent to black belt level, was assistant instructor, and then the Pandemic came the Dojo closed down.

It was a real experience learning and pushing yourself to get the various levels.

I started Batto-Do using a wooden sword, but when I went to a live sword at first, I was very cautious, but with time you get comfortable with it, keeping mind of course that it is a very sharp sword.

You then get to what is known as the "sword cutting phase" in which you learn to cut into tatami mats starting 4 times in rapid succession at different cutting angles, then 5 and finally 6 cuts.

If you search "Batto-Do" on YouTube, you will see what I am talking about. The fascinating part was learning defense against multiple attackers. The capability to draw your sword and defend and strike one attacker, and again against a second attacker is fantastic. But like anything is involves hours of practice. When I am tutoring students at the college in Mathematics, I say to them:



"Now that you have learned these methods, you must practice keeping them fresh in your mind, and after you have finished practicing, you practice some more". I think there is something of the Ranger Creed in there.

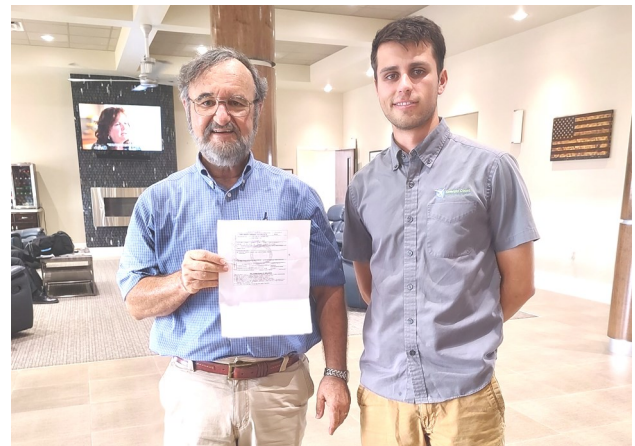
I just want to leave reminding everyone, not to lose their guard, like I did, and to stay safe. This is not over yet.

Take Care Marc, Lidio. RLW

RECEIVED FROM TIM LEADBEATER:

Tim recently completed his private pilot certification, and also was lucky enough to undergo spinal fusions!

Subject: Checkride Scheduled. I've been driving over to Bob Sikes airport in Crestview, Florida since early January for flying lessons with Emerald Coast Aviation. It's about 140 miles west of Tallahassee on I-10. I usually get at least three three-hour lessons in over a two- or three-day period and stay at the Crestview Fairfield Inn for two or three nights each week. My CFI has been trying to schedule my checkride for my private pilot's license with a DPE (Designated Pilot Examiner) for a couple of weeks. Not sure why but it's been challenging to find one who isn't already booked well into the future. A few days ago, my CFI let me know he'd finally found a DPE who is available on or after June 6. I scheduled the checkride for June 8. So, I've got 14 days to put it all together. Until June 8, I'm in "exam mode" and focused on the checkride. Learning to fly at my "advanced" age has been an amazing experience and a challenge. It's hard to believe I have about 400 landings now. Thankfully, I've come a long way since the first ones at the beginning where I was either bouncing or porpoising down the runway or on a path to a violent intersection with the Earth's surface before the CFI intervened. Cheers!



Tim (L) and his CFI, Collin. When it comes to flying an airplane, the learning never ends. *Continued on the next page*

Sat, 30 Jul 2022: Yesterday morning I had an anterior cervical discectomy fusion on C5-C7. Over the past 5 weeks I experienced a significant loss of strength and function in my right hand (I'm right-handed). Although some symptoms were present when I tested for my private pilot's license in June, they've gotten much worse since then. I would not have attempted the test with lack of function I've had in my right hand over the past 5 weeks. Things should start to improve quickly now with the surgery behind me. Matthew Lee, M.D. at TOC did the surgery. He's first rate. He's right up there with David Bellamy who replaced both my hips in 2011. Other than some discomfort when I swallow, I'm feeling good. Hang in there, Tim!

JIM REYNOLDS (VIA FB)

Jim Reynolds posted a photo of a newspaper clipping regarding the time the Company jumped into Alaska (yeah – that one where we had to make multiple passes so they could chase the critters off the drop zone). Mike Moser said the snot froze in his nose going out the door on that one! We will post the photo of the article in the next issue (and copy the text so that you will be able to read it)! Thanks, Jim!

BLAST FROM THE PAST:



Moser's Group 2016

A group photo at Mike Moser's in 2016. Left to right: “Chick”, Marc Thompson, Earlier Generation Veteran, Marty Patterson, Jimbo Baggett, Mike Moser, Jim Broyles (RIP), UNK. Kneeling: Herbie Baugh, James Parker. Photo courtesy James Parker.

FB ARE DIRTBAGS

Kim Maxin has been keeping us in the loop about the Eldon Bargewell Memorial (and fundraising), but, unfortunately, Facebook has taken to marking anything like that as “spam” and removing it (even from the private groups). So, please refer to the

last issue, or google the topic for more info, and ways to contribute (if desired)... grrr...!!!

LEO STARKEY: B/75 & VII CORPS COINS

Leo Starkey had another run of B/75-VII Corps LRRP coins made. He has about 40 available. These coins feature the B75 Scroll on one side, and the “Eyes Behind The Lines”/VII Corps/C-58 logo on the obverse (see previous issues or the Facebook groups for pics). The cost is \$20 per coin (which covers what Leo paid) plus postage to you.

Through Zellepay: send to rgr3969@hotmail.com.

Through USPS: send payment to: Leo Starkey; 802 W Main St.; Yorktown, TX 78164

NOTE: CONTACT U.D. for telephone number.

As soon as Leo receives payment and shipping address, he will ship the coin(s).

Leo, bad man that he is, is also researching having our old B/75 PT shirts reproduced. More info on that as it becomes available.

Until next time... High Speed, Low Drag... V/R:

Marc L. Thompson, Unit Director

VII Corps LRRP Association

REUNION June 14-17, 2022: LRRP Reunion; Nashville, TN – AAR

From: Richard Foster. G'day Troops!

I hope this finds you all in good, though probably hot, spirits in the beginning throes of what promises to be a HOT-ASS summer. Our 2022 Muster in Nashville is history. I had anticipated perhaps ten or more troops plus assorted wives or significant others to show up, that was not to happen due to personal issues and factors beyond our control. You can blame the latter on whatever you want, but I believe with all my airborne 11-Bravo heart that this sorry-ass, feckless bunch of politicians played a heavy, heavy-hand in it all. So, enough of my lamentations; on with reunion news of note to all in the Ranger/LRRP community.

Thanks to the following and their wives for all the travails and tribulations that they endured in coming and going to Nashville, primarily transportation snafus. Bob Vanasse's car engine lights left him worrying about how he was gonna get home to Rutledge, while Kirk Gibson and Fatback Hathaway didn't know if they would be spending the nights in Nashville and Chicago airports. Rescheduling and cancellation of flights home left them and their lovely wives' patience being tried too much. But they all made it, I think; Fatback and Melissa never returned any calls: "Well, did they ever return; no, they never returned and their fate is still unknown. *Continued on the next page*

They may fly forever over the skies of country...." On a better note, Steve Lengel, Bob Vanasse, and I and their brides traveling by car made it home safely and poorer. Thanks Brandon and your sorry minions for continuing to talk the talk of building back better, you REMFS!

Overall, though, we had a pleasant, good time getting together and checking out the musical country haunts that entertained us and the bunches of people that expressed appreciation for our service to country, especially those who bought us a round of tangible appreciations. We had to admire Steve and Bob who had real problems doing all the walking with us, but they never faltered (only limped) getting back with us to our barracks. On the whole, I think it was a good trip and get-together, if only it made us glad to be home again. After all, isn't that what vacations are all about? To Larry Fee, Zeke Evaro, and Tom Forde, thanks for the heads up about being unable to make it. Zeke has heart problems, Tom had a hip replacement, and Larry's wife had a death in the family. We're hoping the best for you all. Now, eat right, stop smoking, and move more so we might see you all in Columbus GA next year! As usual, I've probably forgotten something, so bear with me. It ain't easy being absent-minded. Til next time...AIRBORNE ALL THE WAY LRRPs/Rangers!

VII CORPS COL. MALTESE RIFLE RAFFLE:

ALCON: As promised at the 2021 reunion, I have procured a Henry H04 Golden Boy .22 Rifle to be donated, at your discretion, to be raffled off at our next reunion in 2023. All proceeds are to be donated to the 75thRRA Family Fund. All that I require is the privilege to have the brass receiver engraved/dedicated to Col Edward Maltese (OSS (Jedburgh Group), 10th SFG, Father of LRRP Co. (1960 USAER) V/VII Corps)). Since I've not heard from the Assoc re the above suggestion, I am going to assume that no news is good news in this case. All I ask is that the Assoc provide the raffle tickets and the administration of such and the transfer of the rifle from me to you to the winner. It is my hope that this will become an annual tradition with each of the 75thRRA units, with each unit volunteering once: We, the USA LRRP (VII Corps), B75-C/58 LRP-Co. (AIRBORNE) donate this hoping to "prime the pump".

Good night, Boys... See ya in the by and by!

Pfc E-10 Dick Foster, President, USA/VII Corps LRRP Association

FROM ZEKE:

I thought you were a 11C, "C" for "El Crankero?" On a separate note, CSM Dave Clark is retiring in August, and there will be a "Retirement ceremony", time and date to be announced, FT Bragg, NC.

I have written an article on CSM Clark for the next Patrolling Magazine, but I want to run it through CSM Clark and upon his approval I will forward it to our Unit Director. In August, one will be posted here on the net, and I will forward you a copy. Now, go home and rest and answer that gadget called the "telephone or cell Phone".

AND NOW – THE MAIN EVENT:

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR DAVID L. CLARK, UNITED STATES ARMY

by: Ezequiel B. (Zeke) Evaro, SGM (U.S. Army, retired)

As I look back on the many years that have gone by, my thoughts take me back to a small Kaserne in Nellingen, Germany, where most of us who made up the Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol Company (Airborne), first met. That was a unit that came into existence under the direction of the Department of Defense and attached to United States Army Europe VII Corps for both logistical and combat support, later became Company C, 58th Infantry LRP (ABN), and later still was redesignated Company B (Ranger) 75th Infantry (Airborne).

Most of us were 19 and 20 years old, who thought we had the world by its horns, we didn't realize that it was the world who had us by our balls. Some of us came from the 82d Airborne Division, or the 101st Airborne, via the 505th and 504th located at Lee Barracks, Mainz Germany; and some from the Airborne School in Ft. Benning, GA. Many others volunteered for the unit and went to the 8th Infantry Division jump school, in order to be accepted. I still remember hearing a First Sergeant at the Second of the 505th telling his company commander:

"We gotta stop this recruiting going on. We are losing the best men we have".

We left by train heading towards Stuttgart. Once the train arrived at Stuttgart, deuce-and-a-half trucks were waiting for us to take us into Nellingen, a few miles away, where we arrived at our destination, Nellingen Kaserne. The company consisted of two patrol platoons and a commo platoon. Most of the assignments had already been made when we got there. I was assigned to the 2d Platoon. Our Platoon Sergeant was SFC house, (KIA Vietnam, R.I.P.). First platoon was led by SFC Brown, an NCO hard to forget, a no-nonsense NCO and a super leader and soldier, who was severely wounded in combat in Vietnam, and is now deceased, (R.I.P.).

Early in 1963, both our First Sergeant and SFC House DEROS'ed, and we received a new First Sergeant along with a new platoon sergeant, a young man by the name of SFC David L. Clark. I remember him very well as he stepped in front of our platoon and declared with a loud and crisp voice "I am your new platoon sergeant".

At that time in my life, I could vaguely speak and understand English, but there was no misunderstanding in my heart, based on his military bearing as to who was the new man in charge. As time went by, we began to realize what a special individual he was and there is no misunderstanding that he still is, and always will be.

Unfortunately, we didn't have him as our Platoon Sergeant for very long. Fate would have it that our first sergeant would get killed in a jeep accident, and SFC Clark was moved up to 1SG and promoted to First Sergeant, E-8.

Continued on the next page

SFC Jack Luse, who was my patrol leader, was therefore moved up to fill the platoon sergeant slot.

As the months went by, we began to realize the admiration, the love and compassion that 1SG David L. Clark displayed for us and the unit he represented. Those of you who know CSM Clark or worked for him, know who CSM Dave Clark is. If need be, CSM Clark would go into the pits of hell and lock horns with the devil himself for any of his friends or troops. In our darkest days, 1SG Clark was there looking out for our health and welfare. In the darkest of the many storms that we went through, we watched him standing tall like a giant oak tree, bending with the wind but never breaking...

Dave Clark (CSM) we learned so much from you in those days and over the years... And those of us who served under you owe you a world of gratitude that we can never repay. Yes, Command Sergeant Major Clark, on our worst days, you gave us hope for tomorrow, you lit up our path and you were that shining beacon on the hill.

You taught me and many others that there is no letter "I" in "team"...

You taught me and many others that when a soldier stumbles, you don't kick him in the teeth, you help him up, dust him off and send him on his way...

You taught me and many others that no matter how tough the going gets, find a way, go through it, around it, or over it.

You taught me and many others to always do the right thing no matter how painful it got...AND Most of all, you taught us to love our nation with all our hearts, pain, anguish, and tears and to treat our subordinates as we treat our own family. And without a doubt, Command Sergeant Major, you are the epitome of the Army's non-commissioned officers corps, bar none. Today I can tell you that no amount of words can describe the heartfelt gratitude and unquestionable love that I, and many others, have for you. Yes, the years have passed but the memories remain, and they will be buried with me and with many others when God almighty shuts our light switch off.

When CSM David L. Clark retired from the Army, the Army lost its very best, for there will never be another soldier that can take his place; and today as CSM David L. Clark (U.S. Army, retired), retires from government service, our nation has lost its very best, for men like CSM David L. Clark are not born every day.

God bless you, Sergeant Major, may God almighty in Christ Jesus lead you through the storms of life, and may his holy presence never depart from your life.

Respectfully Submitted:

Ezequiel B. Evaro (Zeke)

SGM (U.S. Army, retired)

Airborne all the way!!!

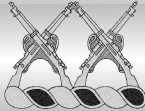
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C/75 - E/20 LRP

Unit Director—Darryl "Bones" Benton



Chapter 5, *Starlight Patrol*, Part-Two is continued with *Patrolling* from the book *Ghost Warriors* by LT Bob Stein, one of the original members of E/20th LRP. E/20th became C/75th Rangers in early 1969. *Ghost Warriors* takes you into the jungles of Vietnam in late 1967 to accompany the brave men of E-Company's twenty-eight Long Range Patrol teams, later redesignated as Army Rangers. Part-Two follows:

The sun's first light told me it was time to move. I signaled my men forward and we were on our hands and knees for hundreds of yards as the hours passed. Then there it was! Milt found an opening for escape. We stood up, but with our first movements we were spotted. We had to run! Everyone had to run! We made contact and both sides began firing. There were glimpses of NVA moving through the jungle everywhere. We were shooting at anything that moved. Our training was paying off. We knew where to fire (aiming low), how to move forward, and how to hold the enemy back for a moment. This would be our one chance to call for an emergency extraction. It would be up to Lt. Stein to save us. His experience and expertise was now our only hope. Shaffer hit the ground and called in our situation report, making it clear we'd made contact and were being pursued; while he was reporting, we continued to cover him. Just as we expected, Lt. Stein had four slicks and two gunships on quick reaction status. His choppers were warmed up and in the air in minutes. They were on the way.

Lt. Stein and I negotiated an open LZ for extraction. Next we had to get there. We needed to move farther downhill through heavy jungle vegetation. The dense bamboo thicket slowed us down; as we broke through, the noise continued to alert the NVA where we were and which way we were heading. They continued in hot pursuit and we five continued holding off dozens or more, not to mention the large number we were facing on the entire mountainside. Then we heard the beautiful sound of six helicopters coming to our rescue. They were there! Lt. Stein was in the Command and Control chopper ready to aid us in getting down to the LZ. The lieutenant and I were in communication. His gunships were going to make a pass. The lieutenant requested we pop smoke to mark our position. The red smoke was put out and the color identified. Lt. Stein directed his gunships to fire between the ridge above us and the smoke. He was careful to fire parallel to the smoke and the ridgeline so we wouldn't be on the gun target line. The gunships opened fire with rockets and machine guns.

We kept popping smoke; each time the gunships were firing closer to us than they had on the previous run. This was a very risky maneuver, but we had to slow the NVA. We had to keep moving or die trying. After breaking through the last of the bamboo, we found ourselves at the bottom of the mountain next to an old rice paddy. This was just where we needed to be. Team 4-

5 positioned a defensive line facing uphill, ready to fight anyone who followed us. The last pass from the gunships was so close that the hot brass from the cartridges hit us and we dropped for cover. Lt. Stein informed me that with the next pass-by, the slick would be coming to pick up the team.

I told Milt to go out and guide the chopper—the most dangerous part of any extraction. The incoming door gunners were nervous coming into a hot LZ and when a camouflaged soldier popped up like a jungle ghost, it required superb fire discipline not to have friendly fire casualties. As Milt was motioning the chopper down for extraction, a gunship was firing constantly on each side of the chopper. We turned and ran

toward it. As we ran, my mind silenced and I took note: we were all there. We were running for the chopper—all of us were alive! Then I heard the rushing sound of bullets. Bullets were flying everywhere. The sound was deafening. We couldn't hear anything but the machine guns, not even our own heart beats. We were not loaded yet and I wondered if we would really make it or be shot while loading. There was no looking back—you just go forward. If anyone was hit, we would grab him and get him to the chopper, but we must keep loading. We had to get out.

Team 4-5 was loaded. We were holding on tightly and screaming, "We're in! Go, go, go!" The chopper lifted at full throttle with rotors popping and we were heading out. Both door gunners fired their M60s until we found the safety of the blue sky. "Safe"—that was a word I hadn't used for a while, but we were safe, with no one even wounded. After we pulled up, Lt. Stein had his gunships expend their remaining ammunition on the enemy's suspected locations. The door gunners and Lt. Stein fired into the jungle at the unseen enemy. This eighteen-hour mission to go only one-half mile in and one-half mile out was as intense as any I ever experienced.

We returned to camp and I immediately rushed to headquarters to debrief the colonel and his team. I was excited and proud to let them know about the strength of the NVA, the high-speed trail, and that my men made it out safely. We were ready for our next mission. A major asked about the secret scope. I explained the seriousness of the situation and told him we had to leave it with the rest of the gear. I tried to make the colonel and his team understand that we had to drop all unnecessary equipment and get out. That was the standard operating procedure on high-speed evasions from large enemy forces—you drop and go. But this was not standard to them; this was their Starlight Scope. No one was interested in *why* the scope was left behind. They just wanted it back—and quickly. They explained to me that a Starlight had never been lost in Vietnam and I would not be the first to lose one, especially on their watch. Lt. Stein was ordered to bring back that scope with no questions and no excuses.

Continued on the next page

Since his dedication to following orders was unwavering, he began planning a recovery mission. He knew we could accomplish any task. He had complete confidence in our training, our skills, and us. This was a team he had personally mentored. We'd made it in once and we could do it again. We could and would complete this mission.

That afternoon Lt. Stein contacted the 1st Battalion of the 22nd Infantry 4th Division and found a 4th Division Company about a three-day tactical march from the mountainside where we'd left the scope and equipment. This company had approximately 110 men plus air support and I felt secure with them. They would provide cover so we could locate the Starlight Scope. I thought we probably could find the place I'd dropped it, but usually when gear was left the NVA retrieved it. Would it really still be there?

I went back to my men. They were ready and willing to turn around and head back into the jungle, to the mountainside we had just left, to recover our gear and the top-secret scope. We immediately began to regroup, preparing ourselves. We knew what was out there and we would be ready this time. Lt. Stein pulled me aside, looked me right in the eyes and asked, "Can you find that scope?" I looked back at him, and although not entirely sure I knew I *had* to find it, so with all the confidence in me I replied, "Yes, Sir."

The next thing the lieutenant said was a surprise. I would be the *only* team member going. I would lead the troops of the 4th Division to the scope; it would be totally up to me to navigate through the jungle back to that tree where we'd found protection during the night. Team 4-5 would not go in together. We all looked at each other, but no words were spoken. I would go without my brothers and they'd have to let me go alone. We all were disappointed, but there was nothing to say—orders were orders. At least they would get some rest and be safe for about a week. They went back to the barracks. I went forward and followed Lt. Stein to the chopper. We jumped on and we were off.

As we lifted off the tarmac and flew toward the jungle, I sat on the outer door of the slick. I peered down at the trees watching the beautiful landscape pass beneath me. How could it be so peaceful looking from above, and just below be filled with death and war? I contemplated the mission that I was now on ... no team ... just my mission. I realized I was probably the only one-man mission the 4th Platoon or any other LRP Company had ever sent out. Now I had even more to prove to everyone, but mostly to myself.

Since I was the team leader, I would be expected to lead an infantry company (officers included) on a three-day march to a mountainside to find a single most important large tree and locate the Starlight Scope. I thought about the tree. In my mind, I could see its outline and the branches as they looked above me, but I had only seen the tree in the dark, and I hadn't made a position mark on our map that would be of any value. Not to mention that the mountainside was full of NVA soldiers who would not be happy to have us there. It was all daunting—it would be for anyone. I would have to rely on my training for this to be successful. I thought of Sgt. Johnston and the other three men I had served with in Chippergate 4-4. I would do this mis-

sion for them.

The popping of the chopper's blades brought me back to reality. The chopper was descending toward green signal smoke that was floating up from a jungle opening. I arrived to meet a new group of brave men so we could go on this mission together. I was a squad leader with the 101st Airborne Infantry 1/327 A-Company "The Assassins" 2nd Platoon. I had been through three major battles with the Screaming Eagles prior to joining my Long Range Patrol Company. These experiences would all be to my advantage. I knew I would fit into any infantry company perfectly. Now it was time to find that scope!

There I was getting off the slick by myself; it was the strangest feeling. My feet hit the ground running. I could hear my boots pounding the ground because I was alone without my team. Never had an insertion felt this way. To *feel* alone and to *be* alone on the jungle floor of Vietnam was a moment I will never forget.

I saw the company commander and wondered how this mission would end. Would these men fight as hard as the other men I'd served with? The 4th Infantry Division had a reputation of being strong and fearless, but what about this company? Time would tell.

Before dark I received a situation report and devised a plan of action with the officers. An artillery battery with six 105mm Howitzers was moved into a position to support our company. Each 105 had an eight-man crew and could fire three to eight rounds per minute with a variety of ammo and an effective range of a slightly more than seven miles. I would lead this company whose main order was keeping me alive if and when contact was made with the NVA. As much as I wanted to stay alive, I did not want anyone to risk his life for me. I quickly came to the realization that it wasn't necessarily *me* they wanted to protect, but the information I held. That Starlight Scope was important. I *had* thought about it, but at that moment I grasped the scope's true value. Because of the 4th Infantry Company's vigilant protection of me, I was not to be the *point man*, but I was to *point the way*.

The captain told me to stay with his 1st Platoon near the platoon leader and his RTO. I was toward the back of the point squad almost in the middle of eight or nine soldiers. I directed the squad and marked the trail, followed by the entire company to the mountainside and hopefully the Starlight Scope. I was instructed to stay in radio contact with the captain, so under almost any circumstances I would be kept safe whether I wanted to be or not.

Two days of marching passed with no NVA contact. We couldn't see the mountain except on the map—the triple canopy made seeing anything but what was directly in front of us impossible—but I could feel we were getting closer to it. Very soon now we would know if I was going to find that tree. We would know if I was going to be the first, and maybe the only, sergeant to lose a top-secret weapon in Vietnam. I had less than twenty-four hours before the culmination of this mission. That night was unusually hot. I sat with the company officers going over plans to move up the mountainside. I explained to the captain the details of my mission just a few days prior.

Continued on the next page

I told him I had only seen this area in the dark, and was not really sure where I was going to go once we got to the bottom of the mountain. That's when we decided I would take the point position. There was no one else who could do the job, and I had to be up front to retrace my team's steps. It was all on me; all these men were looking to me and following me. The pressure to succeed was to the max.

I was thinking about Team 4-5, wishing my point man, Milt, and the other men were there. Walking point for an infantry company was not a completely new assignment to me since I had done it before. I had been positioned as *a* point man but not *the* point man. To some degree, I knew what to expect. I knew there would not be a head-on attack and the NVA soldiers would only have small arms to fire.

I also knew that together Team 4-5 would have had a better chance of figuring this out, but that was not the way it was going to be. I would need to find one tree within a half-mile length on a mountainside, in the thick brush of the jungle. I knew there was a large trail nearby, but that was all I could be sure of. My plan was to go to the original insertion LZ and move upwards, trying to retrace our steps. That was the only thing to do, but the last time I was there things didn't go as planned. I had no idea what to expect. I would have to resort to taking this mission on the fly.

It was dawn on our *D Day*. This was it, the third day of marching, which meant it was time for me to move to the front. The whole company would be following me today. As I was moving forward and passing all these soldiers, I looked at them—so many men. I was thinking, "Follow me, trust me, I will lead the way." I tried to look at many as I possibly could right in their eyes; I wanted them to feel total confidence in me. I wanted them to know I was a man to follow.

Within two miles of the LZ, we began taking fire from snipers and the NVA began making small ambushes, the way they loved to fight. These were their standard tactics. I hoped these attacks were not a sign of bad things to come. Either way, one thing was sure, they were not happy to have us back so soon. We were crossing through an old rice paddy before we began the incline, exactly where I'd entered before with Team 4-5. I glanced at the sky and saw gunships were holding over us. I could hear choppers landing behind us. More troops were arriving. Looking back now, I feel like it was all unbelievable. I entered the jungle and was at point with over one hundred men behind me. It quickly became an all-out attack on that mountainside, but there was support everywhere. The gunships were firing in front and to the sides of our column. I felt untouchable. The NVA troops were scattering everywhere, but because of the great number of NVA we were taking some fire. I continued pushing up the hill in the direction I believed we had taken before. This mission was not going to be given to us. If we were to find the secret scope, the NVA were going to make us fight for it. They were going to make a stand and they did not want to be pushed off that small mountain. We didn't care. We were going to push them out and they had no idea how determined we were. The battle for that mountainside was on. This was a massive number of men fighting. There were still many NVA soldiers, just as Team 4-5 had reported. We actually

had to hold up and wait for more support, which was provided immediately. The 4th Infantry was moving in troops for our support as we were fighting our way up.

I reached a site we had not passed in the previous mission and stopped. Within hours the territory was ours. There was a perimeter forming around the entire area and the NVA were successfully pushed back. We stopped attacking and the 4th Infantry troops continued to protect the perimeter and fight. I could hear the NVA all around me. I knew they had to be wondering why we were there, what we wanted, and what had just happened.

I couldn't think about anything except locating the tree. I had to think. Where was that tree with our packs and the Starlight? I concentrated on my mission ... find the scope. I kept moving through the jungle, the excitement of the battle all around me with the anticipation that at any moment, I may be holding the scope in my hands again. It was all very powerful.

All that I can say is that within a short period of time, I came upon the tree. I knew it was the one! I crawled into the surrounding brush and there it was. Yes, most amazingly the Starlight Scope, untouched and in perfect condition, was exactly where I had left it. It was a miracle!

A full platoon of U.S. troops surrounded the tree and me. The soldiers grabbed all the equipment, they grabbed me, and we headed back down to the LZ at double-time. A slick came in as I ran into the landing zone; I jumped in, placed the gear beside me, and held the Starlight Scope in my hands. It all happened so fast, there was not time to even reflect on my amazing find. As we lifted I said out loud, "Mission complete."

While in the air returning to base, I considered the massive coordination and thought that was put into this mission. A lot of brass made it work. They wanted that scope at any cost. I knew the only thing that saved my stripes and me that day was that the NVA did not find that scope. It still boggles the mind. What were the odds they didn't find it? A million to one, the way I figure it.

As we landed and I got off the chopper there he was, Lt. Stein, smiling. He placed his hand on my shoulder and said, "Great job! All that's left is to sign the Starlight Scope back in." It was as if he never doubted me. I felt so much pride in knowing this man and I trusted he felt the same about me. As we walked, Sgt. Johnston came to my mind—he and my entire Team Chipergate 4-4.

I have never heard of any other one-man mission on any recon team in Vietnam, so I consider it a first and only. I believe it to be the only time a Starlight Scope was lost and recovered under heavy fire in only five days. This specific mission's success goes to the bravery and determination of my Team 4-5, the men of the 4th Infantry Division, and to Lt. Stein for allowing me to redeem myself, believing in me, and trusting I could get the job done—which I did. I was in shock then, and when I think about it today, I still am.

LT Bob Stein



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—ROBERT HERNANDEZ

Rangers, Family and Friends;



Lieutenant Colonel Rick Stetson (Ret)

June 19, 1944 - July 28, 2022

Rick passed away with his family at his side on July 28, 2022 from complications from a serious fall he had while running in downtown Montgomery, mapping out the route with some friends for a race the following weekend. He suddenly stumbled forward and then collapsed hitting his head on the asphalt.

Rick was a remarkable man and after graduating from high school in Barrington, Illinois and a year at the University of Illinois, Rick enlisted in the Army in August 1964. He did his basic training at Fort Knox and advanced infantry training (AIT) at then Fort Polk where he for applied for and was accepted to attend OCS (Officers Candidate School) at Fort Benning Georgia.

After graduating from OCS in January 1966 followed by Airborne and Ranger schools, he was assigned to the newly reactivated 9th Division in Fort Riley Kansas. In late October, while the division was preparing for deployment to Vietnam he was one of two officers selected to form a new unit called the Long Range Patrol Detachment (LRPD).



On January 3, 1967 the Long Range Patrol Detachment was deployed to Vietnam where Rick would act as Operations officer and was responsible for assigning missions to the varies 5-man teams and safely controlling the insertion of the teams deep in enemy territory. He also ran several combat missions as team leader.

After his deployment he extended for six months to serve with the Ranger School's Patrolling Committee at Fort Benning. He then returned to college to finish his education at Troy State University (Alabama) where he graduated with a BS and MS Degrees. He ran track, cross country, married, became a father of two sons, was a high school guidance counselor and joined the Ala-

bama National Guard and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel on November 1, 2003. He served his country with pride and distinction.

Rick's jobs and professions following his military service include Admissions Counselor, Director of Alumni Affairs, Director of Veterans Affairs, Head Track and Cross-Country Coach, Public Address Announcer, Troy State University, Troy Alabama; Guidance Counselor, Charles Henderson High School, Troy, Alabama, Announcer, WTBF Radio, Troy, Alabama; Special Investigator; Duxbury, Massachusetts.

Rick continued to support his old unit the Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol by helping to plan, attend and acting as unit director for 4 years. He also contributed articles to Patrolling magazine and was awarded E Companies highest award, the Matsuda/Nelson award. He was a remarkable man and will be sorely missed.

Rick's military awards include: Alabama Distinguished Service Medal, Air Medal w/"V", Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Ranger Tab, Parachute Badge, Jungle Expert Badge, and MACV Recondo Badge.

Rick was preceded in death by father, Win, his mother, Currie, his brother, Peter, and brother-in-law, Leon. He is survived by his two sisters, Deb and Dede (and her husband Michael); a brother-in-law, Ron and his two sons, Stephen and Scott. He is also survived by several nephews: Nick, Alex, and James and Gary, Simon and Daniel.

A \$500 donation was made by the unit fund to Rick's favorite charity the Stetson Family Kindred, the family's nonprofit.

Bob Hernandez

Unit Director

E50/E75

LRRPs Led The Way/Rangers Lead The Way



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—JOHN MCGEE

Company F, 25th ID LRRP Patrolling Article

While searching my pea sized brain on what to write for this issue of Patrolling, I of course went scrolling through the 300 plus channels on my Smarter than me TV. I came across the History Channels presentation of Special Operations, Silent Warriors: LRRPs. I had seen this production three or four times before, but I once again sat down watched it. I doubt there are very few of us in the brotherhood that have not watched it at least once. Just in case you haven't seen it, I think they did a pretty decent job at telling our story. Narrated by Tom Selleck it went a little heavy on making us out to be kind of super soldiers. I think most of us would describe LRRPs/LRPs/RANGERS as soldiers who were trying their best to be professional. Accomplish the mission and make sure we brought ourselves and our teammates back safely. Looking back now I think that at the time we maybe did not comprehend just how hazardous our missions really were. When I talk to Vietnam vets now about who and what we were, many of them think we all had a few screws loose to do what we did.

One of the issues that the documentary focused on was how our units went from Provisional LRRP units to Divisional LRP Companies to the 75th Infantry RANGERS. All it took was the stroke of a Department of the Army pen in January of 1969 and magically all LRP personnel became Rangers. History and lots of research that of course there was lots of political wrangling going on at the highest levels of Army leadership for that to take place. The documentary discussed on where our lineage really rested. They installed the 75th Ranger lineage linking it to Merrill's Marauders but, our genesis is more Special Forces Operation Delta B-26 and B-52 teams. They discussed how many of the Divisional LRP soldiers were not enamored by becoming Rangers. I think most of us thought that to be a Ranger you had to have earned the tab



at Fort Benning. Personally, as a member of Company F, 50th Infantry LRP, I have never truly considered myself a RANGER. I was then and still are proud to have been a LRP.

Where I am going with this, is that once again after watching the documentary being reminded of just how much Big Army politics have played in just screwing the whole thing up. How much did that stroke of a pen play in the whole who has the right to wear the Ranger Tab from Vietnam? Why did the Army regulation allowing WW2 and Korean war soldiers that earned a Combat Infantryman's Badge while serving in a Ranger unit be authorized to wear the Ranger Tab but Vietnam

soldiers under the same circumstances could not? There was friction between the Ranger Associations on who could join what group and who were really Rangers. Tab versus Scroll? What the Hell? It is still going on today. I was told recently that there was resentment by some, if not all the Ranger Associations, when the Long Range Reconnaissance Association was founded. Again, does it go back to the Tab, no Tab discussion. Because a lot of LRS/LRSD personnel were not 'REAL' Rangers. I believe that the LRRRA is probably the fastest growing of all the 'Ranger' type Associations. Just maybe all of us who belong to these associations should get our heads out of our collective 4th points of contact and start working with each other. Being veterans, we all have the same enemies. The Veterans Administration, Big Army and the corrupt politicians in Washington DC that want to continue to attack our benefits. By the way how is that free Medical and Dental care for the rest of your life working out? Sure, just because your DD214 states you served in Vietnam doesn't really mean that you were actually there!!!

Our Company of year reunion is looking good. We are seeing more reservations being made by unit members. Be There and Be Square !!!!



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—AL STEWART



Tribute to Danny Jacks

There are characters you meet during your life that simply stand out as unforgettable. For me and I would guess many others, Danny was one of these people. Danny passed away on July 12, 2022 (see link to obit below) leaving a large hole in the heart of our E/51st-G/75th Association.

Danny was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame in 2005

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Li4SjO5AbI>

<https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/25336456/danny-jacks>

STAFF SERGEANT DANNY L. JACKS

Staff Sergeant 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, Americas (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 the 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 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 a 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 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 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.

I did not serve during the same period as did Danny, but I got to know him during our reunions. The fun side of Danny was always present when he and his wonderful wife Marcell were together. Danny's standard claim to fame always began with his announcement as being "an Arkansas chicken farmer." His down-home country wit and wisdom endeared himself to all. He also would at times announce to his listening audience that he was a bonafide war hero.

I was fortunate enough to sit and listen to Danny on many occasions. Most of the time, Danny spoke of family, fishing, hunting, and raising chickens. On one occasion, my wife and I were at the home of Frank and Carol Svensson for one of our California reunions. Danny was talking about how he almost died, was saved, and almost died again. It seems that after being severely wounded, he was flown to Japan for medical care. Staff from the military hospital were busy unloading the wounded from the aircraft. Like most of the wounded soldiers, Danny was on a gurney and had been positioned outside the aircraft on the tarmac with a number of others. The hospital staff were busy moving patients into the facility. It was about lunch time and Danny found himself alone on the tarmac, unable to move, and in the very hot sun. Danny was doing his best, calling out for help but his pleas were unanswered. You would think that moving all wounded into the treatment facility would have a failsafe procedure so that "there would be no man left behind." Dehydrated, and suffering from the sun beating down, Danny believed he would die. Fortunately, a lone (I don't remember if it was a soldier or airman) was walking by and Danny called out to him. At first the person simply ignored his calls but Danny's pleas for help finally got his attention. He had to beg to be rolled into the shade and then beg some more for the guy to walk into the admitting area (he was afraid to roll him there himself) and notify hospital staff that he had been forgotten.

While Danny's presence always drew a crowd at our reunions, he didn't have much clout on the airfield that day.

Danny's passing, and those of others over the past few years reminds us of how fragile our Association has become. We have plans for 3 more reunions including our upcoming meeting in Niagara Falls. I have reached out to several Rangers who I know can still travel, encouraging them to make the trip this year.

Continued on the next page

We are all fortunate to still be around, but we are also on the downhill slope. Take the time and make the effort to attend. It might be the last time you are able to shake hands with a dear friend.

While I am talking about old friends, there is one person who has done more than anyone else I know to keep our Association and the Ranger Association running and healthy over the years. His fingerprints are all over our nominations for the Hall of Fame, our Ranger Community, and our own Association. If you are conscious and alert, you know that I am talking about Steve "Tower" Johnson. When you read a newsletter, it is Steve who makes it happen. Thanks, Steve for all you have done and all you still do to keep ours and the Ranger Regiment Association alive and well. A job well done with little thanks or recognition.

Assistance Needed

Hi,
My half-brother served with E-51st as a LRRP. His name was Sgt. Alan F Angell and was killed July 20, 1968 in the Quang Tin Province.

I am just trying to connect with people who may have known him in Vietnam. If by chance you can ask or find out any information, it would be much appreciated. Welcome Home and thank you for your service to this great country of ours. May God and Jesus bless you.

Robert Racicot
robert.racicot.ii@gmail.com

Ranger Jeff Streucker is taking on The Munga- a mountain bike race covering 1,000 kilometers in South Africa with no support crew or stops. Struecker is prepping for the strenuous event to raise funds and awareness for TRF.



www.jeffstreucker.com/munga

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

UNIT DIRECTOR—BENNIE GENTRY



Pete Dencker

I want to start out acknowledging the H Company reunion that was held during the first week in July in conjunction with the 1st Cav reunion in Dayton OH. It was a special occasion. First - it was well attended, but most-

ly because of the presence of Jim James, the "Father" of E 52nd/H 75th.

Jim had not been well for a while so his passing a few days later was not unexpected by his family, but his son Drew eloquently summed up the last months of his life.

"I was with him when he passed, and we could not have asked for a more graceful exit. I know this trip he made to Dayton kept him going for months leading up to the event and he would not have traded that experience for anything."

The admiration and respect for Jim and what he was able to accomplish was clearly on display. I'm sure Jim left Dayton with great memories of the reunion, his Ranger Brothers, and knowing how he impacted the lives of us all who served with E52nd/H75th.

I thought it would be fitting to include the article I'd written for Patrolling some time ago that talked about Jim and the "birth" of our unit.

The Beginning.

I would first like to thank Col (R) Jim James for taking an inordinate amount of his time to walk me through his experiences building the 1st Cav's LRRP unit. I realize there have been times when all of us have questioned the Army's decision-making process, but this was one time they hit the nail on the head. Jim was unquestionably the right man for the job. It is in-

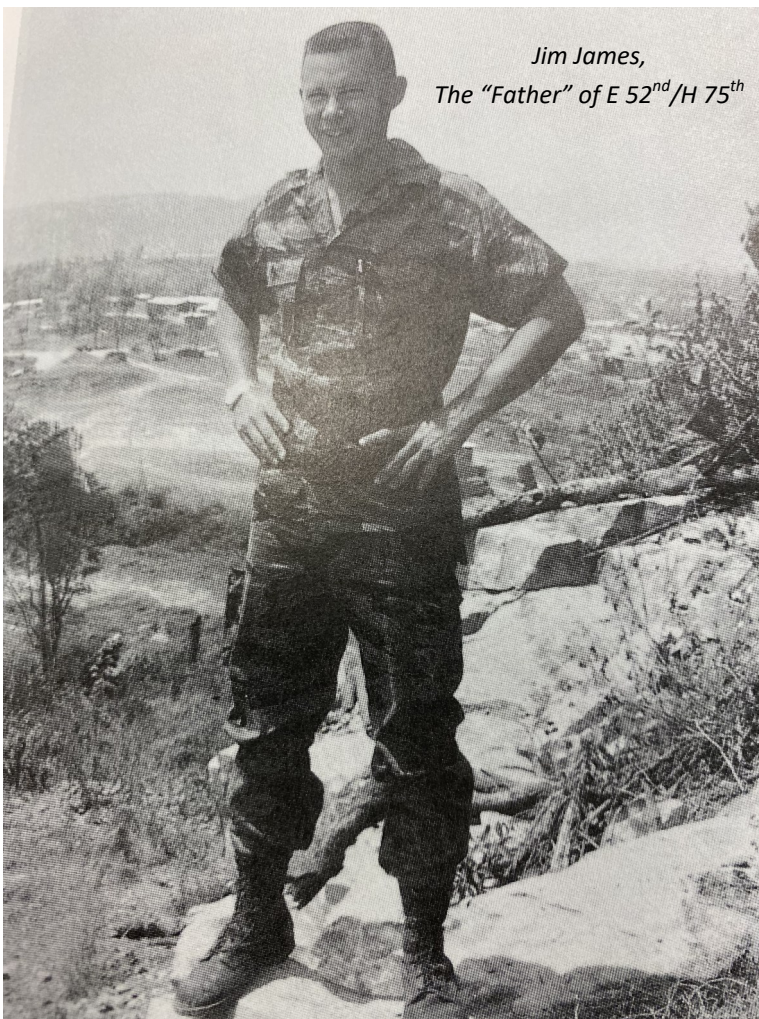


teresting to note that many of the practices and procedures Jim instituted early in the Unit's history were still standard operating procedure during my time with H Company from Dec 1970 through the summer of 1972.

I must admit I've become addicted to learning about the history of H Company, its earlier designations - and the LRRPs/ Rangers who created that history prior to my arrival. My hope is that the "young" Rangers 70-72 will also want to learn about the amazing history their predecessors (66-69) created and similarly hope that the "older" LRRPs/Rangers will come to learn and appreciate how the young guys picked up the banner and carried it proudly to the finish line. Together it's an amazing story of courage, dedication, and sacrifice.

For those interested, there are a number of books out there that cover the topic - but for those who want to read about this piece of early history in detail, read Kregg Jorgenson's book - The Ghosts of the Highlands - (which I've read about 8 times now) and which provides a detailed look at Jim James, the "James Gang" and the amazing story of "the beginning".

A little history. The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution in 1965 marked the beginning of a buildup of American troops in Vietnam. This buildup was escalated by the extensive bombing campaign of North Vietnam which caused the conflict to further escalate. At this time there were only 2 Divisions that were operating as "airmobile" units - the 11th Air Assault Division - which was replaced by the 1st Cavalry Division and the 101st Airborne Division which had been reorganized like the Cav with 3 Battalions of Rotary



Jim James,
The "Father" of E 52nd/H 75th

wing aircraft and a fixed wind company. Later in July the announcement was made that the 1st Cav was being sent to Vietnam.

Continued on the next page

In August, the advance elements began arriving and established a temporary base camp near An Khe – a short distance from Qui Nhon on the coast. These advance elements including the 8th Engineer Battalion began working on the largest helipad known to man, and the accompanying defense perimeter and encampment which would become known as Camp Radcliff.

Note - Major Donald Radcliff was a member of the advance team from the Cav who was tasked to identify the ideal location for the camp that would later be named in his honor. While conducting this search he volunteered to fly a support mission for local Marine units who were launching an attack against a VC Regiment at Chu Lai. Radcliff provided close support for the Marine troop carriers and as a result of his quick reaction to the numerous threats during this contact saved countless Marine lives. Unfortunately, he was mortally wounded during the battle and became the 1st Cav's first casualty.

It was 28 September 1965 before the 1st Cav officially assumed complete control and responsibility for the defense of An Khe and the surrounding Tactical Area of Responsibility. Over the next year there were numerous operations designed to implement the relatively new "airmobile" concept of attacking the local VC and NVA forces in this area of operations. Silver Bayonet, Shiny Bayonet, Long Reach, LZ X-Ray, Matador, Masher, White Wing, Lewis and Clark, Davy Crockett Crazy Horse, Paul Revere, Thayer, Irving, to name some of the operations that were undertaken.

It was now November 1966; the 1st Cav was still operating out of Camp Radcliff/An Khe in II Corps. The current Commander of the 1st Cav, Gen Norton recognized the success that air mobility had created but also recognized the need for a new and different way to supplement the Air Mobile concept. This new "economy of force" strategy was in the form of long range reconnaissance patrols. The 1/9th along with Battalion recon teams, and of course SF Teams had already demonstrated a level of success utilizing these tactics and the thought of having a dedicated unit responsible to the Division G-2 was even more intriguing to Norton.

General Norton and his G-2 Col. Ray began a search to identify a leader that had the capabilities and experience necessary to build and run such a unit. A number of highly thought of candidates were interviewed and ultimately Cpt Jim James was selected. Jim was a seasoned line officer who was about halfway through his tour and to this point had served as a Company Commander with the 1/8th Cav. Jim was also SF qualified and had previously served as an A Team Leader in Ethiopia during the conflict with Somalia. He had also served as a Recon Platoon Leader with the 1st Aviation Combat Team in Varna Italy. He was a perfect fit for the challenge ahead.

Once selected the challenges began immediately. Not only was he the only "asset" of this new unit – but there was no money or equipment available and at that point no means to even locate anything that was needed to get things started. It was clear from the start that the term "midnight requisition" would become an important part of his vocabulary going forward. From the per-

sonnel side of things, he also knew that he would become a thorn in the side of any Battalion, or Brigade Commander who recognized that his intent was to steal their best NCO's. An auspicious start to say the least. His first hires would be critical to his success so he looked to resources he was familiar with and that he knew could get the job done - experienced NCO's and particularly NCO's who had SF experience or who had worked in the Ranger Department at Benning. Recruiting was the task at hand which became "a very interesting process." For Jim it was all about picking the right people. His first hires were 1st Sgt Frederick Kelly, followed by Staff Sgt Joe Kline. These two had the right background to help Jim get his rear area organized and the new unit moving in the right direction. Once the rear was established and somewhat under control it was time to see what other units who had utilized long range reconnaissance methods were doing with regard to tactics – and probably more important - how these units were staffed – what did these soldiers resume's look like. The Cav hierarchy recognizing Jim would need transportation to get around and visit units that were stationed throughout RVN, provided a helicopter and crew "on loan".

Jim's first stops were with the 101st followed by the 173rd, both of which had already employed the long range patrol concept as part of Division operations. The next stop was with 5th Special Forces Group. Because of Jim's background as a Team Leader with SF, and his understanding of Delta Team operations, he was aware that more than any other unit, 5th Group had a clear understanding of how small unit reconnaissance groups should train and work. Their unique training process was ever evolving and eventually grew into a more formal training regimen that became known as Recondo training - used for quite some time by LRRP units and other "special troops". After his visit to 5th Group Jim headed to meet with the Australian SAS group. They had been in Vietnam since the early 60's initially in an advisory capacity but as time went on their involvement moved to more of a combat role. Jim was impressed in general with the quality of "soldier" he encountered there, the high level of training, and the quality and effectiveness of their leadership and support functions. They seemed to have it all. His "on the ground" education complete it was now time to put to use the valuable lessons that he had learned.

Knowing he would need leadership support as he started the recruiting process in earnest Jim selected Ron Hall as his Executive Officer. Ron had been a PL with the 1/7th Cav and had a great reputation as a capable and hard charging officer. They started recruiting immediately – focusing on Non-Commissioned officers – especially those that had experience as RI's at the Ranger School at Ft Benning. Over the next few weeks Jim made additional selections - Patrick O'Brien who was a squad leader with the 2/8th and had been an RI before Vietnam. Staff Sgt Ron Christopher came from another line unit, and from the 2/8th James selected Sgt John Simones who had served with a Marine Force Recon unit before his time in the Army. Jim also began filling in positions to handle operations, communications, and other support functions. Things were beginning to take shape.

Continued on the next page

Jim began presenting to groups of incoming soldiers offering them the opportunity to serve with a LRRP unit. At the same time Lt Hall was recruiting Montagnard's and special Vietnamese scouts that would eventually form an indigenous platoon. Later they would work individually as members of the LRRP Teams. This was a seasoned, battle-hardened group that would provide invaluable help to the Teams in the field.

For a period of time the training process included successfully completing the Recondo school. The first graduates provided the foundation for building operating teams and the necessary support functions – Rudy Torres would head up commo, Tom Campbell – operations while Ross, Guerrero, Simmones, Biddle, Fletcher, Spina, and Lopez would work with Team Leaders O'Brien and Christopher establishing the first 2 Teams. By February of '67 the Teams were ready to deploy.

One of the challenges James recalled was to ensure that the Teams understood that their mission was reconnaissance – a concept that for some was difficult to embrace. Another challenge came as a direct result of the initial success of the Teams – which did not go unnoticed. For a period of time the Brigades were able to convince Division that the Teams could be better utilized if they were on loan to the individual Brigades. something that did not sit well with Cpt. James.

As we talked it became clear that some of the other problems experienced by the early LRRP Teams in MR II and later MR I remained problems in later years – particularly communication. The Cav's ultimate relocation to MR III and the resulting change in topography compared to the mountainous terrain of MR I and II, was a huge help as the Company was able to utilize radio relay stations that were maintained on 1 or 2 mountaintops that for the most part kept teams throughout the entire MR III in regular communication with the Company TOC. In cases where communicating with the radio relay stations was questionable Teams were able to rely on Air Force forward air control aircraft which were in the air almost 24/7 – but to the end – and because at the time we worked the entirety of MR III, communication was always a concern. The mission changed to a degree, but the primary function remained the same - reconnaissance – Initially working for the G-2 in the mountainous areas of MR II and then MR I where previously the VC/NVA had free reign to move around as they pleased. Teams would identify enemy activity and the Cav would react company or battalion size units in response. In later years the Company would review soft intelligence with the G-2 and later the Brigade S-2 after the Cav standdown. The process involved plotting agent reports, unidentified radio stations, SLAR (Side looking Airborne radar), Sniffer readings (helicopters fitted with devices that identified areas of high ammonia contents), reports from other Teams that indicated enemy activity on a map. Once plotted it was easy to identify areas of concentration. At this point in the evolution of our involvement in RVN – “blade time” was at a premium – so rather than react a Company or Battalion to these concentrations or “soft intelligence”, the Division/Brigade would identify an AO, then react a Ranger Team to verify what was there. In the later years it was not uncommon to blow and ambush on the way out.

Back to 1967 – the battle rages on, it's clear the VC/NVA who had been used to operating in this area almost uncontested for a long time, were aware of the deployment of LRRP teams however they struggled trying to combat the small, well-trained units that the LRRP challenge presented. Interestingly a very similar scenario to what US forces experienced during our initial involvement and occupation of RVN.

It was still relatively early in the year when Gen. John Tolson took over command of the 1st Cavalry Division. Tolson was the former commander of the Army's Aviation school so it was clear that he had good working knowledge of the airmobility concept – but it also became clear that he also had an appreciation for how LRRP operations could be complimentary to Division operations. As such Gen. Tolson made the decision to increase the size of the LRRP detachment to Company size. James recalled that he only learned of the change when he returned from R&R. Although James was happy with how the development of the LRRP unit had progressed, as well as the lack of casualties – he realized this new directive would mean a new and larger recruiting effort. James was concerned but insistent about maintaining the quality of the new recruits as well as ensuring that the new recruits would be as well trained as the existing LRRPs. One of the immediate results was the need for developing a home-grown training program as the Recondo school didn't have the capacity to handle this new challenge.

It was also at this point when the Montagnard's and Vietnamese scouts were integrated into the Team structure. As expected, the integration worked especially well. This was another policy that carried forward to later years with great results.

In April of '67 Sgt Simmones Team was on a mission north of An Khe in search of a VC battalion that was thought to be working in that area. Once the Team was on the ground things started out normally although Simmones' experience had his “6th sense” working overtime. Accompanying TL Simmones was his ATL Doug Fletcher, along with Geoff Kooper, David Allen Ives, Allen Carpenter and Art Guerrero. All were experienced LRRPs except for Ives who was on his first mission. After moving off the LZ they found a good location to spend the night and after performing a “buttonhook” maneuver which would take the Team in a wide arch around the proposed NDP to ensure they were not being followed, they settled in for the night. The next morning – before dawn – Ives asked one of his Teammates to cover him while he left the Team perimeter to empty his bladder. As soon as he left the perimeter the Team could hear and see movement and at that point the VC engaged Ives and the Team. Ives was killed and Kooper, Carpenter and Guerrero were wounded. The battle raged on with the surviving members of the team, doing what they could for the wounded and holding the VC at bay until gunships/support arrived and they could finally be extracted. The LRRP's had suffered their first loss.

We honored David Allen Ives in a previous edition of Patrolling as the unit's first casualty and hope to cover some of the incredible missions that took place during the first year of the unit's existence in subsequent issues of Patrolling.

Continued on next page

This piece is about Cpt. Jim James whose time in country was coming to a close. The Cav had identified Captain David Tucker to be Jim's replacement. Jim remembers that it was tough to think about letting go of the unit that he had literally birthed – the unit that had grown to be a formidable piece of the puzzle in the fight against the VC and NVA in and around An Khe, Camp Radcliff and the 1st Cav's area of operations. There was an awards ceremony prior to his leaving where he was awarded a Bronze Star w/V device for his efforts responding to a Team in contact. While attempting to extract the team their helicopter was hit and incapacitated. James and the Team remained on the ground in contact with the enemy for the remainder of that day and overnight finally getting extracted the following day. Some suggested that his effort and bravery warranted more than a Bronze Star and could not understand how the award process evolved. (After reading about this experience, the actions of Cpt James, and the Team were impressive, and I will hopefully be able to highlight that mission in an upcoming issue). At this point however, it was almost time for James to go home.

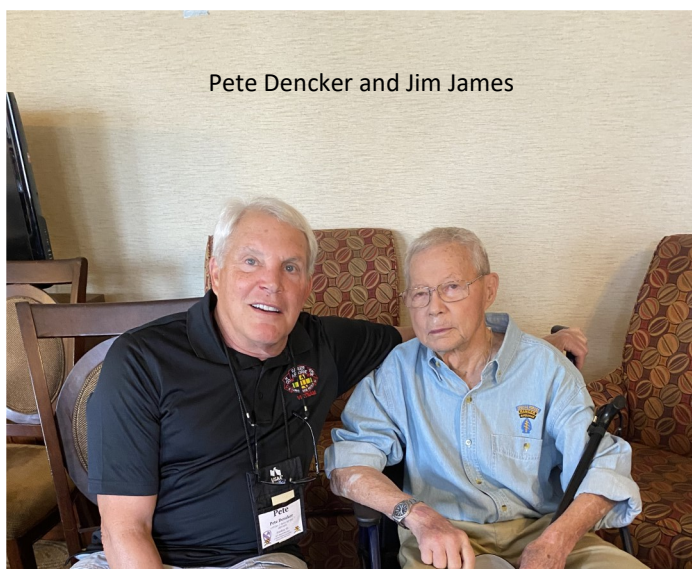
Jim was enjoying himself relaxing in a swimsuit and catching some rays in the Company area passing the last few hours before he would be catching a "freedom bird" back home when he noticed some activity near the TOC. James went over to see what the activity was about. There was a Team in contact - The XO was at G-2 and Cpt Tucker was in Da Nang trying to "requisition" some needed communication equipment and interviewing potential recruits. Because no one else was available, and due to the nature of the contact, Jim made a decision that the Team would have to be extracted. Not wasting any time Jim jumped on the extraction helicopter and to the amusement of flight crew, was still in his swimsuit and sunglasses. As they arrived on station, they could see the gunships firing in support of the Team. As the Team made its way to the LZ and the extraction bird started its short final – they started taking fire. Regardless the pilot guided his helicopter down to the hot LZ and as the door gunners hammered the tree line the Team was able to board the slick. While continuing to take fire the pilot then maneuvered the helicopter up and away from the LZ. The team was elated and particularly impressed with Cpt James uniform – or lack thereof. They were wondering why he was there to begin with, and he answered, "I still have a few hours to go".

Jim's Obituary—Woolwich, ME _ James "Jim" Drake James of Middle Road, Woolwich, ME passed away peacefully in his home on Monday morning, 18 July surrounded by his loved ones.

Jim was born on 28 Oct, 1937 in Philadelphia, PA, the son of Rear Admiral Walter F. and Esther (Crawford) James. He attended the University of Illinois graduating in 1959 with a BS in Political Science and went on to earn his Master's Degree in International Relations from North Carolina State University in 1972. While at the University of Illinois, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

Upon graduation from the University of Illinois, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, Infantry. Thus begun over 29 years of service to his country. Most of that time was spent in Special Operations - Special Forces, Ranger, and

Airborne units. While a Captain, he commanded a Special Forces "A" Detachment deployed to Ethiopia and served as an advisor to Haile Selassie, Emperor of Ethiopia. Jim deployed twice to Vietnam, once in 1966 where he was selected by the Division Commander to organize the first Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) Unit from the ground up. This LRRP/Ranger Unit is said to be the most decorated Ranger Unit in American History. A book was later written on this unit featuring Jim and his LRRP brethren entitled "Ghosts of the Highlands". Jim deployed to Vietnam again in 1969 and served as a District Senior Advisor. Jim went on to command the 172nd Separate Infantry Brigade in Alaska. This unit was stretched all over Alaska and consisted of 5 battalions, an Air Cavalry Troop, an Engineer Unit and Command and Control Headquarters.



Pete Dencker and Jim James

High level staff positions included the Department of the Army Headquarters and the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. On the Army staff, he was responsible for fielding the Bradley Fighting Vehicle.

Jim's military schooling includes Airborne School, Ranger School, Jumpmaster School, Pathfinder School, and the Special Forces "Q" course, among others. He also graduated from the National Defense University in Washington D.C.

Jim's final military assignment was as the Assistant Division Commander, 1st Infantry Division, The Big Red One in Fort Riley, KS. Jim's awards and decorations include Bronze Star Medal w/ Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Medal (3), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Presidential Unit Citation Award, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal w/ Silver (1) and Bronze (1) Star, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Combat Infantryman Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, Overseas Service Ribbon, Master Parachutist Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Ranger Tab, Legion of Merit, Army Staff Identification Badge, Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal w/ 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, Meritorious Service Medal w/ 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, Special Forces Tab, and Bronze Star Medal w/ V Device 1st Oak Leaf Cluster.

Continued on the next page



Jim lived a life of adventure and challenges and fulfilled his mission of taking care of soldiers and their families. He enjoyed spending time in the out of doors with his wife and sons engaged in activities such as hiking, camping, fishing, and hunting.

He is predeceased by his parents; brother, Robert Crawford James, sister-in-law Ann Van Etten James; and daughter-in-law Erica Pepin James.

He leaves behind his wife, Linda Hartness James; his son, James Hartness James, grandchildren Hollis and Peyton, and daughter-in-law, Kim; his son, Andrew Franklyn James, daughter-in-law, Kelly, and grandchildren Jackson and Riley.

Jim's interment will take place at Arlington National Cemetery on 16 September, 0900 hrs.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made to Tunnel

Jim retired from the military and went to work at Bath Iron Works in the Engineering Department from 1988-2000 and served on the Board of Directors for the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) from 2012-2016.

to Towers Foundation, <https://t2t.org/>.

RIP Jim James - RLTW

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



UNIT DIRECTOR—DAVID A. CHRISTIAN

Yes, the Country has been hot - Covid has returned in some places- Ron Crews is traveling around in his Red Truck and while Ron Imel is organizing motorcycle rides with his American Legion Post, *Members* fight off major and minor illnesses but mostly it has been hot, and I thought I would take this issue to look back at some LRRP/Rangers experiences.

Some History from my Eyes

Time flies - I look back over the decades and see how our unit the Long Range Recon Patrol (LRRP)/ Rangers came to be part of the 75th Ranger Association.

It seems that David Flores, David Hill, Ron Crews, Lt Jerry Davis, 1st Sgt Carl Cook, Bob Busby, Bill Goshen and possibly John Candiloro and a handful of fellow LRRP/Rangers came together to save our history with the First Infantry Division, the Museum and in or about 1993 started reunions.

Ninety nine percent of our Unit in Vietnam were volunteers and were Airborne. Many went to Ranger School in the States or Recondo School in Country or Special Forces at Fort Bragg. I had the opportunity to

meet three of the Officers but in my opinion, it was clearly a Non-Commissioned Officer Special Operations Company divided into teams and teams working out of base camps throughout the First Infantry jurisdiction. It was too great a History to just “fade away.” Almost all LRRP/RANGERS arrived as individuals and left the unit from ‘65 to ‘70 as individuals, therefore Flores and associates had a real challenge to bring the teams back together for reunions.



Additional Personal History from Vietnam

I vividly remember Captain Price (Special Forces), Lt. Lowry and Lt. Jerry Davis. I was in the middle of the above three officers and uniquely spent three months with the scrolled LRRPs. My personality clashed with the good Captain Price, therefore I requested a transfer to Recon 1/26 Platoon Leader. Lt. Davis followed me and had the distinction of being one of the longest serving Officers of a LRRP/Ranger outfit to serve during the Vietnam War.

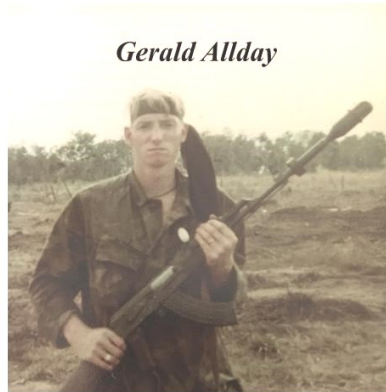
The Non-Commissioned Officers either came up through the ranks or were called “shake and

bakes”; having completed an NCO academy. These sergeants traditionally became the team leaders in LRRP/RANGERS and promotion to Staff Sergeant was soon to follow. The result was that the teams were often formed under the command of an NCO team leader and an assistant team leader.

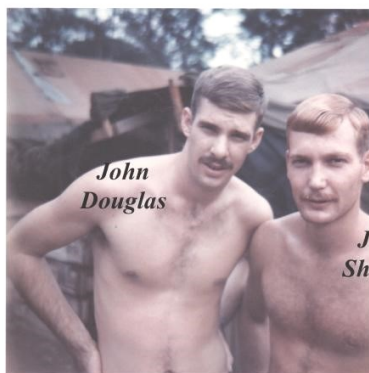
We also had Senior NCOs in the company, such as Sergeant Morton (the Physical Training Sergeant - ugh- in Vietnam heat), and Sgt Tapia. I went out with different Team Leaders - Sgt. Washington, Sgt. Woodruff, etc. The first patrol that I ventured into



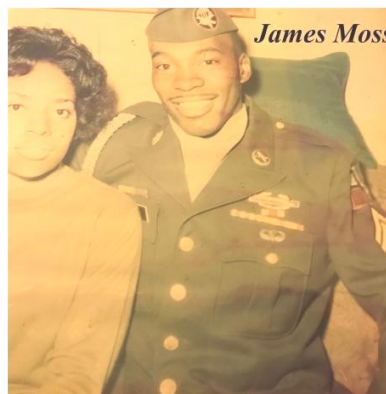
gt. Dave Hill with his Scout Dog, Rex, Quan Loi, 13 July 1968--Just Before DT



Gerald Allday



John Douglas



James Moss

the jungle through the “roam-plough” I met and befriended Tom McMahon. Teams were made up of many individuals like Blankenship, Hiyaishi, Crews, Randy from Tennessee, James Moss, Nicholson, and Davis killed on one of my missions (RIP), Law MOH (RIP) and Greg Bennet were just some names that come to mind. Many, many more wore the scrolls LRRP/Ranger, but I am just sharing those that come to my mind, history of personal service.

Continued on the

General Westmoreland started the formation of the LRRP outfits for each division with the mission of stealth to identify the enemy location- equipment- direction of movement - size of enemy elements, etc. The unique thing was that the intelligence given to our teams by the Tactical Operations Center was exact at times and teams were dropped near or on top of the enemy locations. In these situations, we would become Hunter/Killer teams with a fight and flight mission to the nearest pick-up zone until extraction (if possible).

AT LAI KHE BASE CAMP

The rifle cleaning area; the squad bag for water; The CQ across the road and teams in their hootches are all vivid memories but the Company bar was the best. When we were back at base camp at Lai Khe we had an odd dog; pet monkeys and some of our best times were mail- call; chow and orders for Rest and Relaxation.



Some unit updates and The Association after our War.

We have come a long way with the election of officers and Unit Directors Since 1990's

UNIT DIRECTORS OVER THE YEARS

Dave Flores, Dave Hill, Barry Crabtree, Michael Sharp, and David Christian to name a few.

And it seems their main role is to assist the President and other elected officers of the unit with a magazine article. This is a challenging position with the advent of social media because many of the members are informed on activity issues before publication of the magazine. Most Unit Directors pull on their past and present experiences - for example Ron Crews stealing my shirt to fight with the Engineer Battalion stationed at Lai Khe (where is the shirt Ron).

REFLECTIONS BACK

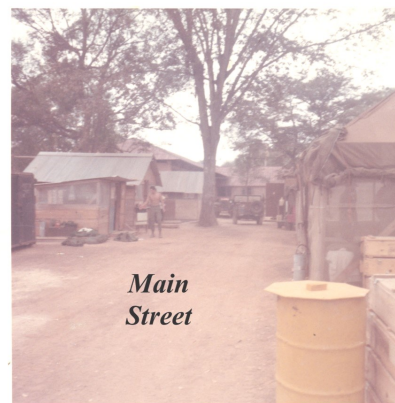
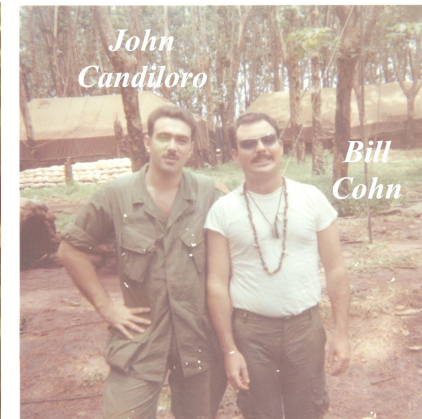
Some of the Regions of LRRP/ Activity in Vietnam

The teams moved with great stealth from the Cambodian Border to Saigon. Traditionally inserted by helicopter yet some of our brothers from Combat never received an Air Medal? I will mention a few of the re-

gions ``Song Be, Loc Ninh, Quan Loi, Lai Khe, Pho Loi, Di An, Bien Hoa, The Michelin Rubber Plantation, and the Ho Chi Minh Trail along the Cambodian Border.

Today

We have a proud history and have had reunions across the United States. We have lost many to Combat Disabilities and Agent Orange poison but as we gather at each Reunion, we always remember those that stood shoulder to shoulder in battle with us. Many are presently on the



sick list, but all remain strong with memories and history of our battles and will forever preserve our history.

Personal update on myself (David Christian). I painfully hit my leg on a drawer in the hotel at the Louisiana reunion. The morning of departure, I shook the pain off, went down to the lobby and said my goodbyes to members and families. Dave Hill was kind enough to give us (Ron Imel-his wife and myself) a ride to the airport and all seemed well. After I returned home to Washington Crossing, my leg became painful to walk. I went to a massage therapist, Chiropractors and finally after about a month to an orthopedic doctor and to the hospital for MRI, etc. I was put in the hospital because the medical people discovered that I had a blood clot in my knee. They said I created the perfect storm by hurting my leg before jumping on a plane. So, I am pleased to inform all that God spared me and I have been treating for blood clots in my right leg since our Reunion.

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Spouses and families must be mentioned:

Important in many ways, the Spouse or loved one of a Member plays a significant role in everything from the reunions to keeping social connections. A Salute to the Unit Women.

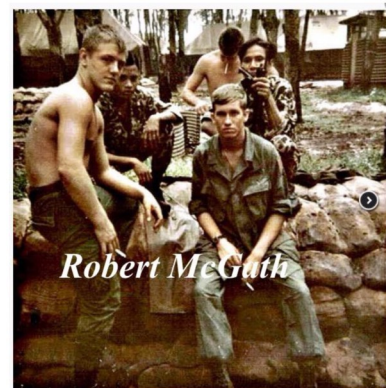
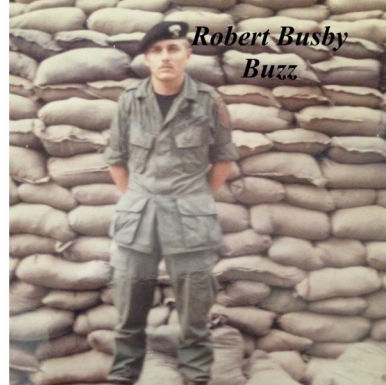
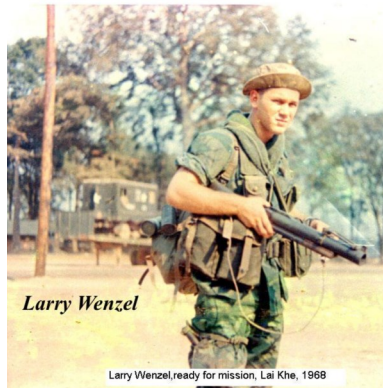
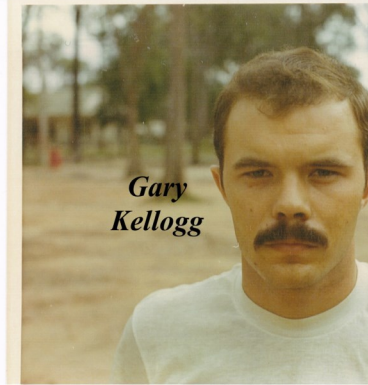
Almost all of our members have received a Veterans administration disability. Many are on disability roles at 100%. It should be noted that the families of our Brother Veterans and their immediate spouses are the main "Aid and Attendance" for the Veterans and can receive compensation for their care. Please file a claim with the VA if you fit into this category.

Some memories and facts of interest during my tenure with the outfit from my first day as Airborne-LRRP

1. Memorial Services

2. Our Unit had the first Team that was rescued by a Cobra helicopter with team members hanging onto the rocket pods and the skids. I think it was the 173rd Air Assault Helicopter Company from Lai Khe that performed the rescue helicopter

3, General Ware being shot out of the air and killed in his Command-and-Control chopper.



4. Robert Law was killed saving fellow team members and received the Medal of Honor.

In closing I will post some photos of Memorial Day as I experienced the celebration, and I would like to report that my Grandson started his first year at West Point and I ask that you wish him well.

Finally, I ask that all members and or their families email or text me at the following #'s or addresses if you participate in a Veterans or Military or a Veterans Administration event.

This is very important as we would like to keep

Patrolling Magazine an important part of historic resources for the Rangers, the First Infantry Division and most importantly for your families.



Memorial Day Parade Right to left Grand Marshall Dave Christian, grandson J Burke prior to entering West Point, brother Daniel Christian

Dave Christian
I 75th UD

Combatwriter6@gmail.com



K/75 - E58 LRP - 4TH DIV LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—ROGER CRUNK

As the Unit Director of K-Co the following story is one that I thought should be shared with everyone as a feature article instead of just a K-Co article. I am embarrassed to say that I was not aware of this story until recently. Wayne Mitsch our K-CO webmaster came across this in his ongoing research about missions that had multiple KIA's. I was aware of this particular mission as others that had multiple casualties. Unfortunately, we do not have after action reports before May of 1969 so much of our official records are lost to us.

My wish is that this story will honor Sgt. Don MacPhail (POW) of K-Co LRRP/Rangers.

I would like to personally thank Mark Malloy for his permission to publish this. The article will explain his connection

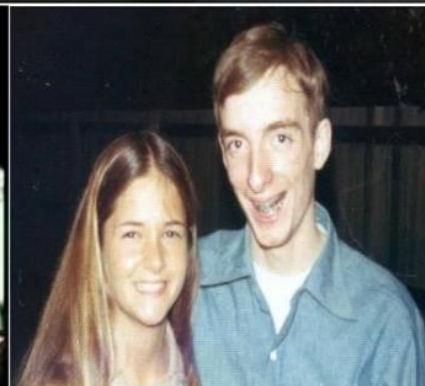
Remembering Sgt. Don MacPhail

By: ASHF President, Mark G. Maloy
Photos: Sgt. Kenneth Hess and Pfc. Nathaniel Irving

For over a decade I wore a POW bracelet in Sgt. Don MacPhail's honor and memory. This is the story of Sgt. Don MacPhail and our unique history in pictures, words, video links and newspaper files.

For my 16th birthday on August 16, 1971, Irene Pfeffer gave me the bracelet she had worn during that year honoring Vietnam War POW, Sgt. Don MacPhail. Irene was my older sister's college roommate and lived with us during that summer's college break. These sorts of bracelets were new at the time and the group providing them had begun their unique program in the fall of 1970. Irene had no details about Don except he was a POW. She was aware I wanted the bracelet and she gave it to me after I swore to wear it until Don came home.

I did my best to keep that promise.



Top: SGT Dan MacPhail's bracelet that I have owned for 48 years; Lower Left: SGT Dan MacPhail on March 3, 1973, being released after 4 years of captivity; Lower Right: Irene Pfeffer Scherer and Mark Maloy in 1974

In 1972, I wrote a government agency trying to get information on Don MacPhail. I later received a short reply that stated he was in the Army, he was from Ohio, his status was MIA and presumed killed in action. I continued to wear the bracelet to honor the fallen hero. When the POW's were freed in 1973, I didn't find his name on the initial list of prisoners to be released. 46 years ago, there were limited ways to get information like this. For the next 27 years I would assume Don was dead. I stopped wearing the bracelet in the early 1980's and put it away with other cherished memorabilia.

In the fall of 2000, I was watching a Vietnam POW Veteran on a PBS documentary talking about his captivity, I noticed he was wearing a POW bracelet. It inspired me to try and discover what I could find out about Don. Perhaps I would learn the details of his death and try to connect with his family. I could give them my bracelet. The fairly new Internet was making such searches possible. Instead, my searching on the Internet led me to discover Don was alive and living in Massachusetts!

After many calls to anyone named MacPhail in Massachusetts, I found him.

Overwhelmed hearing his voice on the phone, I offered a very tearful, "I thought you were dead!" He laughed and said, "You and everyone else!" He was in the last group of POW's to be released. He wasn't on the initial lists offered to the media.

My first conversation was the start of a very special relationship. Knowing Don was pivotal in my life. He helped create a passion for honoring veterans. Don's story would help inspire this Foundation being created 12 years later.

Continued on the next page

On February 1, 1969, Company K (Ranger) of the Army Infantry was activated. Later known as the "Highland Rangers" (covering the Vietnam Central Highlands) their mission was to provide long range reconnaissance, surveillance, harassment, and target acquisition.

On the evening of that activation, Company K's Team C was dropped by parachute inserting them to monitor enemy activity around a jungle river valley in Pleiku Province. The recon team consisted of SGT Kenneth Hess, SGT Don MacPhail, PFC Nathaniel Irving, and a Montagnard Scout (Central Highland native familiar with the area) named Ju Hmok.

Patrol leader SGT Hess radioed on the second day there was nothing to report but he was feeling ill. He declined the team being extracted early. SGT MacPhail took over as team leader. The 4-man patrol later reported again that everything was normal and they were waiting at the pick-up zone. No further contact was received. Shortly after that, Team C was surrounded by Viet Cong and the battle began.

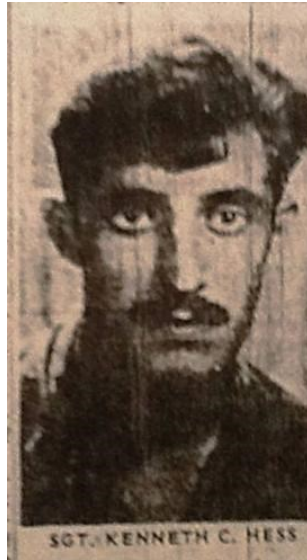
Team C was ringed by what appeared to Don to be 15 or 20 Viet Cong heavily armed with .50 caliber machine guns and AK-47s. As the firing commenced, PFC Irving was the first killed from a massive head wound. While trying to find cover. SGT Hess, Don, and Ju Hmok were trapped. A 25-minute firefight followed.

The three were effective using M-60 machine guns, as well as fragmentation and phosphorus grenades. However, their best escape route soon became impassable when the VC lit the dry elephant grass in that area on fire. The combat became hand-to-hand. Don was able to shoot a VC attacking SGT Hess but Don was then hit with a bullet to his leg.

By the time Don could focus again, SGT Hess had been killed. Ju Hmok saw Don go down and Don's memory was that Ju assumed he was dead as well. Ju broke free and was last seen by Don running to safety. Firing as best he could, Don then ran directly through the burning grass and attacking Viet Cong. He killed two VC as he broke through to the cover of a ravine and was able to make his escape from the deadly encirclement.

Ten days later, two companies of the 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry reached the firefight area where they found the bodies of SGT Hess and PFC Irving. Infantrymen mistook Team C Scout Ju Hmok for a "wounded but armed NVA soldier" and killed him at a distance. He apparently had hidden successfully after the assault and was running towards the soldiers for rescue. (Source: "Rangers At War, LRRPs in Vietnam").

23-year-old SGT Kenneth Hess was only weeks away from his tour ending. While in Vietnam, his wife had given birth to a son he would never see. History had repeated itself- SGT Hess' father had died in WWII before Kenneth was born.



Photos: SGT Kenneth Hess and PFC Nathaniel Irving

21-year-old PFC Nathaniel Irving appears to have had the nickname "Dobie Jones" according to Don MacPhail's recollection of the team and the attack. PFC Nathaniel Irving would have a daughter born to him 6 months after he was killed.

After a difficult effort evading the VC, Don was captured 4 days after the attack on Team C trying to get to a Special Forces Camp. He was shot two more times in the leg and was hit with grenade shrapnel.

From the very beginning of the war, North Vietnam's stated position was that American prisoners

captured in North Vietnam were "war criminals" who had committed crimes against the North Vietnamese people in the course of an illegal war of aggression.

This meant North Vietnam denied American prisoners the privileges and rights granted to prisoners of war under the terms of the Geneva Convention.

Don received no medical treatment after capture and was taken unconscious to a POW camp in Cambodia. His next memory was being hung over a tree branch with an empty grave below him. His interrogators said it would be his grave if he didn't tell them what they wanted to know. They tortured him for 4 hours putting metal rods through his bullet holes and whipping his back.

He carried no identification on him when he was taken prisoner. He assumed the identity of a dead friend, which had been suggested in his training if captured.

That helped confuse his captors with the misinformation he could offer. Unfortunately, it might have also caused the confusion the Army had about his actual status. For years it was presumed he'd perished. His family was told he was dead.

This initial torture would be the beginning of much more to come during his 1,498 days in captivity. 38 months of that imprisonment held in solitary confinement, usually with his legs in shackles.

Don was moved to several POW camps during the next four years.

Continued on the next page



In front of the "Hanoi Hilton" Don is 4th in on the far right

He watched his fellow prisoners killed in front of him or die from torture, disease, and starvation. He would attempt multiple unsuccessful escapes, which caused the ongoing tortures to be even more severe. Certain methods of tortures he survived are too shocking to elaborate here.



Free at last on March 16, 1973

He went from 190 pounds to barely 100 in a very short time. He lived on rancid soups made from rotted squash or pumpkins, ate rice infested with maggots and was rationed barely enough water to survive on.

There were periods when the meager camp food supply was unavailable due to the chemical defoliation going on by U.S. Forces. At one point, he stealthily developed a way to raise rats for food. He endured intestinal parasites, beriberi, jungle rot, respiratory infections, and more. Amazingly, he found ways to do daily exercises!



Photo: Clark AFB Hospital March 17, 1973

Don is seen here (above) with the group of POWs he was released with. He's third from the left sitting on the floor. The Clark AFB Hospital staff left up their Valentine's Day decorations until the last of the POW groups were released at the end of March 1973.

When freed, he'd require parts of his nose, cheekbones, jaw and ribs rebuilt with plastic bone inserts. His fingernails had all been routinely pulled out. He needed large areas of scars from beatings on his back treated. The emotional damage from years of torture, isolation, terror, hopelessness and illness would take its toll. There are videos from Press Corps film (go to vimeo.com and type in Don MacPhail) with Don's release at Gai Lam Airport outside of Hanoi and arrival at Clark Air Force Base. After I found the film, which ran nearly two hours, I had a hard time recognizing Don among the prisoners in his brief footage. Weighing barely 100 pounds, you will notice how stiff his walking is from bullet wounds to his legs and years of torture. Getting off the plane at Clark AFB, he's clearly enjoying the chewing gum that was handed out on flight.



Here, he is seen running to his mother Fran MacPhail's arms

Continued on the next page

Requiring multiple medical treatments, Don was immediately flown to Valley Forge Hospital in Pennsylvania where he would be reunited with his family. Don would spend much of the spring and summer of 1973 at Valley Forge getting treated for the physical and emotional traumas he endured.

From vimeo.com, search: NBC News Report on POW Don MacPhail 7/4/1973 This is a three-and-a-half-minute video report from July 4, 1973. I recently discovered it through a news archive. It covers some of Don's struggles acclimating to life after his years as a POW. It features an interview with his wife Charlotte. His daughters Barbara and Lisa Marie are seen.

Charlotte lived with Don's parents during his captivity. She was a VA nurse. After his return, Don and Charlotte would have two more daughters, Laura and Dawn. Sadly, their marriage would not survive. Don would later have a second marriage that failed as well. He then met Frances O'Rourke when they took classes together. They would marry and have a son, Ian.

Frances answered that memorable call from me searching for Don in 2000. I could hear little Ian crying in the background as she called Don to the phone. 18 years later, we were reunited through Facebook.

In His Own Words

During a phone conversation 17 years ago, Don told me he had done several interviews with a local paper during 1973 and 1974. A couple years ago, through an Internet newspaper archive, I found a lengthy candid interview he provided the Lowell Sun newspaper. It was published over 5 days in full page installments. In it he covers his capture, captivity and observations on the conduct of the war.

The files can be accessed using the link below. You can download them for reading on a PC monitor or laptop. They need a screen larger than a smartphone and once downloaded can be enlarged for easier reading. The print will require some patience.

<https://files.fm/u/xff733zn>

Don and I never met in person. He wasn't one for email, so our relationship was through phone calls and occasional letters. I wasn't the only one who wore a bracelet in his memory during the war and after! They are still for sale. I planned a few trips to meet Don, but we could never synch our schedules. Don's full-time job involved a lot of travel.

After his return, he stayed in the Army until 1977. He then worked for the railroad. A growing family transitioned him to police work for many years. He then became Dean of Students for Turner Falls High School. While all that was going on, he managed to get a bachelor degree in criminal justice and a master degree in public administration. When I talked to him on that first call in 2000, I asked what he was doing for a living.

He gave me a run down of his careers and then proudly said he'd gone back to what he'd loved the most. He was an Amtrak engineer.

My bracelet is in a display box with the photo of Don being reunited with his brother. It sits on a shelf at our "A Square Heroes Foundation" office in my Concord, CA condo. Next to it are books about Vietnam and a few of them offer stories about Don.

Some of these books came out around the time I found Don and I sent him a copy of *Glory Denied*. Its author, Tom Philpott, had interviewed Don extensively in the mid 1980s. The book wasn't published until 2001. Don's K/75th Company story, is featured in *Rangers at War*. He also gets a mention in *Honor Bound: American Prisoners of War in Southeast Asia 1961-1973*.

Don passed away in September 2011 at home of cancer; he was only 63. I didn't know he was ill when I wrote him early in 2011 telling him about the research I was doing on my late Uncle Bob Maloy's WWII service. Research, and the relationships formed from it, that would become our A Square Heroes Foundation. I did tell him that wearing his bracelet and my later search for him gave me the inspiration to find out everything I could about my beloved Uncle.

As long as I live. I will regret not having met Don in person and thanking him. He will always be a part of the work we do for vets. I owe a debt of gratitude as well to Irene Pfeffer Scherer who gave me his bracelet in 1971. Irene, I didn't let you down!

It is my hope to someday give my bracelet to Don's son, Ian MacPhail.



Don MacPhail, Frances MacPhail, and their son Ian

Story with more photos can be found on ashf.net



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—CHARLES “CHUCK” REILLY



A number of former “L” Company Rangers from the 1970-71 era gathered together for a fishing trip at Nehalem Bay in northwest Oregon the first of week of August of this year. It is one of the most picturesque spots in all of the Pacific Northwest and equally famous for its great fishing. The group included David “Muldoon” Rothwell, Mike Berg, Steve Barr, Jim “Paul Bunyan” Suomela, Jimmy Sheppard, Al Parada and Garry Bandy. They were accompanied by two of Mr. Berg’s brothers, Ben and John, as well as their guide Russ Morrow. From all reports, it was quite the excursion and plenty of fish were reeled in including King Salmon, Black Bass and Dungeness Crab. From the photos I received of the event, it seemed as if everyone involved caught something noteworthy. There were several other former Rangers scheduled to make the trip, but they had to bow out at the last minute. That’s too bad because from everyone’s account, a great time was had by all. I have included a number of pictures of the trip including a huge bucket of fish from one of the group’s very successful days.



“Bucket of Fish”



First photo is L-R Steve Barr, Jim “Paul Bunyan” Suomela, Dave Rothwell, Al Parada and their guide, Russ Morrow, kneeling



Group Photo

L-R John Berg, Jimmy Sheppard, Al Parada, Steve Barr, Garry Bandy, Dave Rothwell, Jim Suomela, Ben Berg, and Mike Berg

A lot of credit should go to Mr. Rothwell for organizing the trip as he is a native of Oregon and very familiar with the region’s best fishing spots. This wasn’t the first fishing trip he planned with his former Ranger comrades and hopefully it won’t be the last. As for future reunions of “L” Company Rangers, the next one is scheduled for 2023 and probably sometime in April. The location agreed on is way down in Louisiana, and as long as it’s nowhere near Fort Polk, I think it will be acceptable for all attendees.

Continued on the next page

Jimmy Sheppard showing his big catch of the day

L-R Lt. Bob Suchke, Rob Wimmer, two obscured Rangers hiding behind the captured weapon, myself (with the beret and mustache), Nick Gibbone and Dave Quigley

Luckily, I have mostly good news to report in this issue. That is, no deaths to report. Former Ranger Dave Quigley's wife Aline has kept us updated on his condition. According to her, Dave was in the ER again during the first week of August due to a blocked catheter and low salt. The doctors changed the catheter and started him on sodium chloride pills twice a day. The doctors wanted to keep him in the hospital for a couple of days, but the intrepid Mr. Quigley wasn't able to make that commitment and demanded to be sent home. The doctors plan to do a Urodynamic test on him as soon as possible. In layman's terms, Urodynamic testing involves exploring everything in one's lower urinary tract. As someone who served with Quigley and went on missions with him, I truly wish him the best and a speedy recovery. He and his wife currently live in the San Bernardino, California, area. I reside in Manhattan Beach which is about 75 miles away. It's about an hour and a half's drive and I've decided to make the trip out there to see how he's doing first-hand as soon

as I can. I'm sure he'd be happy for any support from his Ranger comrades. I will report on my visit to Quigley in the next issue. I have included one of the few photos I have of him during the war years (sometime in early 1971) where a group of Rangers gather around a captured NVA 30 caliber machine gun mounted on a tripod (left column, second photo).

Lastly, while on vacation in July on the island of Kauai (Hawaii), and while enjoying my morning coffee, I purchased a copy of the Honolulu Star Advertiser and noticed this headline: "Two Hawaiian soldiers to receive Medal of Honor." As I read the article, I discovered that both men served in Vietnam during the time of their citations. One of them, a SP5 named Dennis Fujii, was a crew chief of a medical evacuation helicopter who participated in a rescue mission during the infamous LAM SON 719 invasion into Laos in February of 1971. As things turned out for him, his helicopter was shot down and everything went downhill from that point on. Afterwards, he volunteered to remain on the ground and was the only American soldier among a group of surrounded ARVN Rangers. He was vital to the entire group's survival as he was able to direct Cobra gunships to fend off a major attack of NVA on their position. He was wounded several times during the battle but continued calling in the much-needed support. SP5 Fujii also had to defend the position alongside the ARVN Rangers and spent half the time using his M-16 to ward off enemy soldiers. He eventually was evacuated to the Division hospital in Phu Bai and recovered from his wounds.

What struck me about the whole story was the fact that this was a soldier who fought in the same I Corps region as the rest of the 101st Airborne Division's LRRPs and Rangers. We were also involved in LAM SON 719 as well and his story triggered a whole slew of memories from that critical time for "L" Company. Fifty-one years later, Mr. Fujii lived to see his heroic actions rewarded and received the Medal of Honor at the White House on July 5th. He was a member of the 237th Medical Detachment which was part of the 67th Medical Group. What also struck me about SP5 Fujii's story was this: how many people out there actually have ever heard of LAM SON 719? Answer: almost no one. It was supposed to be an all-ARVN operation and the U.S. military was only going to provide some support. In the end, 215 U.S. soldiers died during the operation and over 1100 were wounded. 38 U.S. servicemen were also listed as MIAs. Over 100 helicopters were completely destroyed as well as over 600 damaged (20% of those beyond repair). I guess it could've been a lot worse since the ARVNs lost upwards of 5,000 men KIA. As most of you know, the operation was a complete disaster for the South Vietnamese and a major step towards their eventual defeat. It was also the last major ground battle of the war in which the U.S. military participated. LAM SON 719 was supposed to prove that President Nixon's "Vietnamization" plan was a success. Unfortunately, it proved exactly the opposite.

That's all I have for now, gentlemen. Hope you're all doing well and staying healthy and happy in these difficult times for our country. As always, RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!



N/75 - 74TH LRP - 173RD LRRP

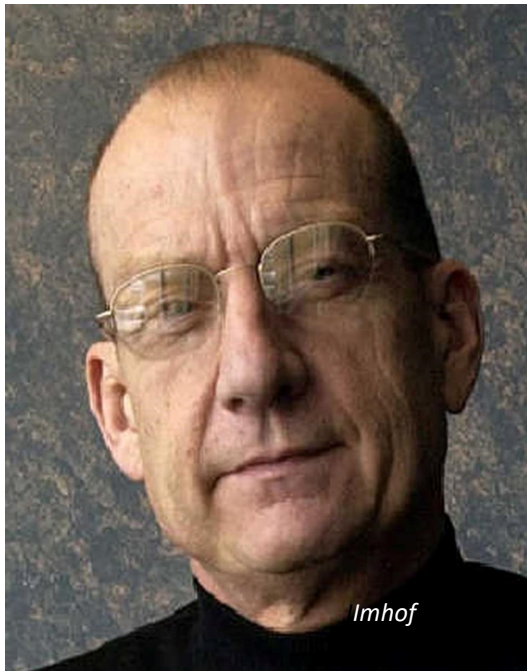
UNIT DIRECTOR—RUDY TEODOSIO



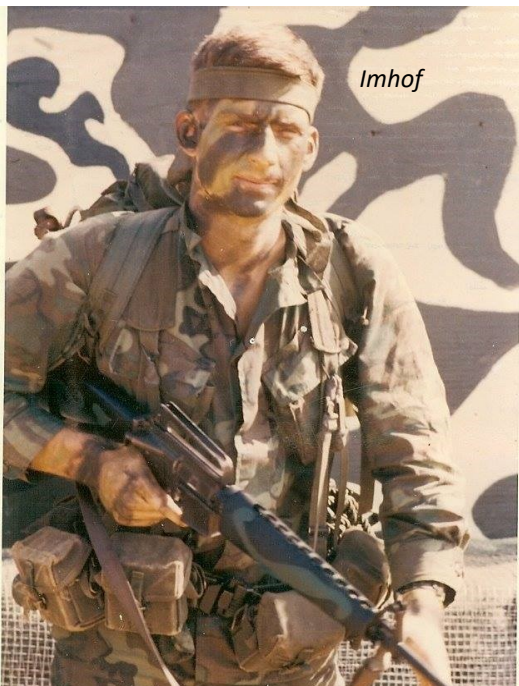
GALLANTLY WILL I SHOW THE WORLD THAT I AM A SPECIALLY SELECTED AND WELL TRAINED SOLDIER. MY COURTESY TO SUPERIOR OFFICERS, NEATNESS OF DRESS, AMN CARE OF EQUIPMENT SHALL SET THE EXAMPLE FOR OTHERS TO FOLLOW.

FOLLOW.

RANGER HUGH IMHOF



Imhof



Imhof



TWO ARMIES

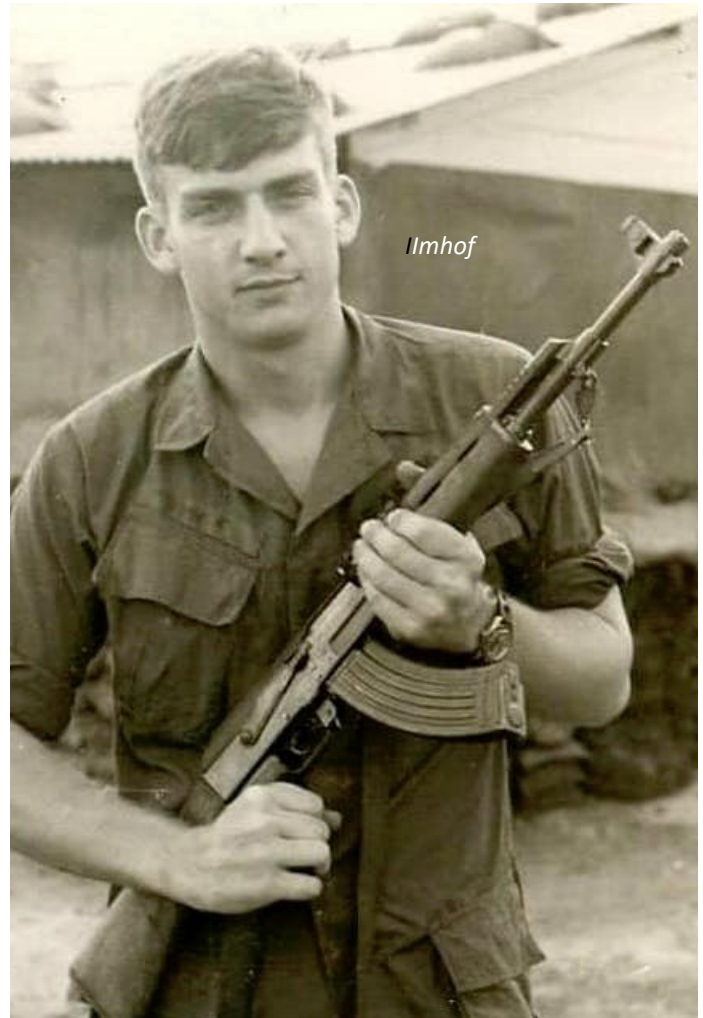
I'd like to have two Armies, one for display with lovely guns, tanks, little soldier's staffs, distinguished and doddering Generals and dear little Regimental Officers who would be deeply concerned over their general's bowel movements or their Colonel's piles, and Army that would be shown for a modest fee on every fairground in the country.

The other would be the real one, composed entirely of young enthusiasts in camouflage uniforms, who would not be put on display, but from whom impossible efforts would be demanded and to whom all sorts of tricks would be taught.

That's the army in which I should like to fight.
Jean Larte'guy

On the 30 June 2022 Ranger Hugh Imhof (Spokane WA) has crossed over to the other side of the river. Ranger Imhof served with ECHO Team from 1969-70. Ranger Imhof's services was held in Spokane WA attended by family members, former Ranger Team-mates and members of Killing Man's Son Motorcycle Club that consist of former members of the 75th Ranger Regiment.

Hugh Imhof, three photos on this page



Imhof

Continued on the next page

PAST AND PRESENT

??? DO YOU RECOGNIZE ANY OF THESE LRRPs/RANGERS ???



Continued on next page

??? DO YOU RECOGNIZE ANY OF THESE LRRPS/RANGERS ???



Unit Coin and Patch N/75



A **Dedication and remembrance Ceremony** was conducted 12 August 2022 at the gravesite of a very special original of the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), PVT Robert W. Landis. Marauder Landis was the first soldier of Merrill's Marauders killed in action while conducting their historic combat mission in Burma.

The ceremony was the culmination of a journey that began in 2017 as Tamara Dixon (daughter of a surviving Marauder), and CSM(R) Jeff Horne (a N/75th Ranger from the Vietnam War), sought to clean a long-forgotten grave in a Youngstown, Ohio cemetery. Tammy had been an avid researcher of the Marauders given her Father's service and became aware of the Landis burial site. Originally, both met at the cemetery and cleaned mud, leaves, and debris off the simple bronze VA marker. As this cleaning became a semi-annual event (Memorial Day and Veteran's Day), they believed a more befitting stone that told the Landis story was in order. Jeff thought of the stone inscription and had Milano's Memorial Company engrave it. Tammy started planning the event and contacted Ranger LTC Mike Kelvington who agreed to speak at the dedication. Word spread quickly among Rangers, Veterans, and relatives of the Marauders.



LTC Mike Kelvington— Featured Speaker



In the early morning hours on a beautiful Northeastern Ohio Friday, an eclectic group of Americans assembled to honor a neglected warrior's grave from a nearly forgotten theater during World War II, the CBI. The local VFW Post posted the National Colors and conducted the honor guard for 21-gun salute. Tammy Dixon gave an introduction of the Marauders and PVT Landis. MG Carmony, a

retired Commanding General of Landis's original WW II legacy 37th Infantry Division, introduced LTC Kelvington who then spoke of the significance and hardships of the Marauder's mission, the spirit and sacrifice of those volunteers, and how the Rangers of

today carry on that determination and honor. Ranger Frank Stetka recited the Original Ranger Creed written by CSM(R) Neil Gentry, upon the reactivation of the 1st Ranger Battalion in 1974. Army Chaplain James Lewis recited a solemn prayer and Taps was sounded by a trumpeter. The ceremony concluded with CSM Horne leading the Once an Eagle Roll Call, with the original verbiage as conducted by the Darby Rangers (CSM(R) Jeff Mellinger provided the script from his own archives).



The following Rangers and Relatives stood tall at the graveside; Frank Stetka (C Co 1st BN and RI), Scott Horsington (1st BN), Mike Kelvington (1st BN, 2d BN, RSTB, and 75th RGR RGT), Lee

Stacey (1st BN), Tod Carmony (RGR and CG 38th INF DIV), Isaac Master (1st BN), Dan Corall (1st BN), Jeff Horne (N/75th), Tamara Dixon (Daughter of James Junkins), Dolores McIntosh (Daughter of Frank Krasa), Jim Kelley (Son of Merle Kelley), Meg Kelvington (Army Aviator and West Point Graduate), and Tom Corall (Ranger friend and supporter).

A common thread of thought among those attendees was, "Thank God there are men within our Nation that serve with such honor and fortitude." God bless America and those who serve in our military.



P/75 - 79TH LRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—JERRY YONKO

Greetings to all my Papa Company Brothers, Sisters, and Friends, I hope you are doing well.

The Papa Ranger family must come from a hardy stock. We made the reunion, had a blast and recovered from the Covid that we almost all contracted while there. I think it is interesting that the three folks who did not attend the boat trip walked away unscathed while almost all the rest of us were infirmed. Note to self: don't book large groups together in the future or at least until the pandemic is really over. Despite getting sick I think we all had a great time celebrating life and the fellowship of our exclusive group. Below is a photo with the names of our Papa Ranger Brothers who attended and enjoyed Branson.



vacked to the airbase and lost touch with each other. At the last reunion in Cherokee NC, we met again for the first time in 40 years, and I have enjoyed our rekindled friendship since. Thank you, Roger, for your contribution of the walking stick.

Papa Company performed many different type missions in extreme I Corps and the DMZ. After speaking with the guys from the "old company" their missions were very different from those experienced by the guys from the "new company". I know that there seemed to be a lull in the NVA activities prior to the period that culminated in the Lam Son 719 operation. I can remember many missions where we didn't see anything at all, and it frustrated me at the time that there was seemingly nothing going on. I was driving Capt. Johnson, our CO and while in a discussion with him he

explained to me that it was just as important to know where NVA weren't as it was to know where they were. I was young and didn't quite understand that concept until he explained that fact to me. In retrospect, I now appreciate that quieter time in country more and remember mostly the nicer aspects of our day-to-day existence during that time and not so much the hardships and very real dangers we faced daily.

I heard recently from Terry Roderick's daughter Cindy, and they are going to let us know when Arlington

is going to perform his interment service. I am going to try my best to be there whenever it gets scheduled. Terry is a Past President of the 75th Regiment Association and it's only right that we honor him.

I have never been to DC and look forward to doing a little sight-seeing while I'm there. I want to visit the Vietnam memorial and just see the city. As soon as I hear further news, I'll share it with everyone.

Continued on the next page



2022 PAPA COMPANY RANGER REUNION
BRANSON, MISSOURI

L-R: Clyde Tanner, Dave Marchbank, Jerry Yonko, Gary Norton, Tom Jones, Dave Gates, Bobby Hampton, Ted Tilson, Carney Walters, Eddie Johnson, Duke Dushane

While at the Friday night banquet at the Plaza Hotel, we had a drawing for a handmade Papa Company walking stick produced by our own Roger Honeyager. Roger and I served together on Killer 1-1 and were both wounded in the same action 2 clicks north of the Khe Sahn airfield. We had set out a mechanical ambush the night before and were retrieving the claymore in the early dawn when a group of NVA wandered into Roger's view. He opened up and in the ensuing skirmish he and I, as well as another Papa Ranger were injured. We were promptly medi-



Gary Norton and Jerry Yonko with Walking Stick by Roger Honeyager

While in Branson, we all wore, with pride, our new Papa Co t-shirts and cap and I thought it remarkable at the reactions we received from doing so. I was struck by the many people I have never seen before, thanking me for my service, to which I always reply, "It was my honor to serve." I don't try to come off as a warrior or a bad ass, but I guess it is inferred when you wear anything Ranger. In the Plaza hotel elevator where we were staying, there was a young boy going up with his family who asked me if I was a soldier? It was my pleasure to tell him that I had been though I wasn't any longer. I had just put on one

of our new Papa Co. caps and so I took it off and gave it to him. You would have thought I had given him a new car. The next morning at breakfast I saw him and his family eating waffles and when his father saw me, he came over and told me his son refused to take his new ranger cap off because he was so proud of it. He thanked me for being kind to his son who apparently was on his way to St. Jude's in Memphis to begin treatments. I hope he wears his cap with pride and that it gives him strength enough while doing so to endure his coming hospital stay. It is mostly not the big things that we do; it is the small acts that mean so much to most. Stay tough little man.

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