



SABER

Published By and For the Veterans of the Famous 1st Cavalry Division



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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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1CDA President 2025-2027



enjoying a warm early January after traveling to South Carolina for the holiday. Great to see family but always great to home. I hope it is still warm here when you are reading this next month. After years of very cold weather and much too thin socks and gloves, I just don't enjoy winter.

In November I was honored to represent you in the laying of 1st Cav Div wreaths at the WWII, Korea, and Vietnam Memorials as part of Veterans Day on the Mall in DC. It was a brisk day with blue skies. Special thanks to our DC Chapter who takes care of wreath positioning for us and also had a strong showing at the reception. I encourage all of you to add a Veterans Day trip to DC to your bucket list! Dara and our team at the Association do a great job organizing the events and setting up a small gift shop at our hotel.

Last *Saber* I wrote about GEN Rainey's retirement on Cooper Field on Halloween. Here is another picture from the event with GEN (Ret) Vince Brooks, former Cav Trooper who hosted the ceremony, along with the former 1st Cavalry Division Commanders who attended. I don't think you could put together a more distinguished group of leaders. LTG Kevin Admiral is now the III Corps Commander. Our current Division Commander, MG Felty, was at NTC so missed the ceremony. He did send his ADC(M) BG Pete Glass to represent the Division which was extra special because BG Glass was one of GEN Rainey's Company Commanders in 2-7 Cav in Iraq during the battles of Najaf and Fallujah (2). There were many American Heros on Cooper Field that day.



Since our last *Saber*, I reconnected with Dave Seigel who was a Division G3 Planner while I was on the Div Staff. I remember Dave as always calm – no matter how much he was being 'wired brushed' by the Chief of Staff! Dave also served in the Cav as a Tank Platoon Leader, 2/D/1-8 Cav in Desert Storm. He is retired now and continuing to serve our Army as a Team Leader/Instructor at the Command and General Staff College, Leavenworth.

I also had several great email exchanges with Mr. Rex Gooch, the author of 'Cav Hat' which is available on Amazon. Rex sent me the book, and I thoroughly enjoyed reading comical anecdotes and harrowing experiences involving our great Cav Hat. It's also a great primer on the history of our storied headgear. I highly recommend it as a keepsake or gift.

Jim Dunnigan also introduced me to his blog – Jim's Substack. He puts a tremendous amount of time into collating events with pictures and graphics on his life and his Army experience starting as a draftee in November 1966 and his tour in Vietnam with B Co, 1-5 Cav (Mongoose Brave) starting in 1967. Another highly recommended read if you are interested in history combined with real life anecdotes – like the Tokay Gecko!

The news is official now – our 1st Cavalry Division Horse Cavalry Detachment (HCD) will remain in place and will actually become an official unit of the U.S. Army. This is great news for our Division and also for the Army since the HCD does such an amazing job representing around Texas and the USA. Did you see them standing tall and looking good in the Rose Bowl Parade (despite the rain!)? Thanks again to each of you who reached out to your Congressional Representatives and other influencers to impact this decision. I hear that the Secretary of War himself weighed in on keeping the HCD after receiving feedback from many of you. A special thank you from me to HCD 1SG (Ret) Scott Sjule (and former Association President) who put together the packets of information that were proliferated for the effort. He also provided statements to the press and set up meetings within the Texas Equine Community to garner support.

Continued to pg. 3

Website: www.1CDA.org

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2026

HORSE DETACHMENT by CPT Megan T. Korpiel, Commander

Happy New Year from the Horse Cavalry Detachment! As the Department of War announced recently, The Horse Cavalry Detachment will stay open and continue to honor Division's history through support to local and national events. A new military horsemen MOS is even in the works. It's an exciting time for military equine units!

The Detachment participated in the Tournament of Roses Parade and Equestfest in Pasadena, California. We were featured on several different national and local broadcasts. In case you missed us, we have several more media engagements scheduled. Keep an eye out on the local news and 1CD Social Media pages to follow along. Come spring, we will be travelling all around the great state of Texas during the rodeo season.



CPT Korpiel leads the Detachment in the Tournament of Roses Parade



Local students pet Diablo during a barn tour

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THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

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"We all get the exact same 365 days. The only difference is what we do with them." (Hillary DiPiano)
Bring on the New Year. I look forward to new beginnings, new friends, and new memories.

Current situation on the impending Oral History Project publication:

Here is a letter from the PCI President, "We originally estimated the books to ship this fall; however, I am both disappointed and sorry to report that our backlog of projects at our printer has been impacted by additional production setbacks and we now anticipate shipment in Spring 2026. 1st Cavalry Division Association is in no way responsible for this delay. PCI greatly appreciates your understanding and patience throughout this process and unexpected delays. We encourage you to contact us directly should you have any questions about your order or would like a refund. We can be reached at 1-800-982-1590 or by email at PCIservice@publishingconcepts.com."

Majority of you have already received your 2026 Calendar. As previously stated, the rising cost of printing, packaging, and postage has caused the Association to stop offering the calendar as a gift but to charge a \$10 subscription price for 2027 and subsequent years. If you do not subscribe, you will not be on the Calendar mailing list.

A donation letter was sent out with the 2026 Calendar asking members to check the block if they wanted to subscribe. I do appreciate those who returned their donations forms and were very clear on how to split your check which included the 2027 subscription (and 2028, 2029, 2030, et.). However, several forms were returned with the block checked but there was no specified action for the \$10 subscription. Here are some examples of forms we have received back with the 2027 block checked:

- *Saber* renewal and Association General Fund donation.
- 2026 Calendar donation and *Saber* renewal.
- My favorite – just a checked block.

You can pay for your calendar subscription when renewing your *Saber* (that would be the easiest). We have included renewal options in the *Saber* and on our website, or you can call the office. If you are unsure as to what you mailed back to us, give the office a call.

The 2026 reunion in New Orleans is quickly coming together and will be here before you know it. Make your reservations and don't forget to register. All the information you need is the *Saber* (pages 12 & 13) or you can go online to our website at <<https://1cda.org>>. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

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CHANGE**

Don't Keep it a SECRET, Let us Know About It.
To submit by e-mail, send to memberships@1CDA.org
Clip and Mail to 1st Cavalry Division Association
302 N. Main St. Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703

Last 4 #'s of your SSN _____

Tel: (____) _____

Rank and Name: _____

New Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____

SNOWBIRDS

If you have two addresses during the year, we need to know them. Please give us the dates and addresses for both households.

(Circle one) Winter Summer

Rank and Name: _____

LAST 4#s SSN: _____ DOB: _____

1: Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Dates: _____ Tel: (____) _____

2: Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Dates: _____ Tel: (____) _____

1CDA EVENT CALENDAR

Feb 28, 2026 1CDA Social

July 8-12, 2026 78th Annual 1CDA Reunion, New Orleans

SABER / CALENDAR RENEWAL DONATION FORM

Renew my *Saber* \$ _____ for _____ year(s) @ \$20 per year (6 issues). Fill out and return the form below or attach your *Saber* label so we have your pertinent information.

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Calendar Subscription: 2027 Calendar \$10

Association General Fund Donation \$ _____

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Your "In Memory of" acknowledgements will appear in the HONOR ROLL section of the *Saber*

Honor Roll privileges are given to members who make a donation to the Association, or scholarship donations to the IaDrang or the Foundation. Honor Roll privileges do not include calendar donations nor *Saber* renewals.

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ARTICLE SUBMISSION

Original, clear copies, typed or printed are accepted via
e-mail at Programs@1CDA.org.

Articles should be received at National Headquarters no later than the 1st of every odd month. Any article received after the 1st of the month will be put in
on a space available basis.

Opinions expressed are the writers and not necessarily those of the *Saber* or
the 1st Cavalry Division Association.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To be considered for publication, letters should not exceed 300 words and should
be of general interest and in good taste. Letters express the writer's opinion, not
that of the *Saber* or the 1st Cavalry Division Association.

Political endorsement and poetry cannot be used. Form letters or third-party
letters are not acceptable. Letters which contain libelous or obviously untrue
statements will be automatically rejected.

All letters must be signed with addresses and telephone numbers included.
Names will be used with the letters but addresses and phone numbers may be
omitted. Letters also may be edited for length or clarification.

We reserve the right to reject for publication any letter received. Unused letters
will not be acknowledged.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

I am very thankful and honored to be awarded this scholarship. I still remember when my dad was a part of the 1st Cavalry Division when he was serving in the Army. It's an honor to be given aid by those who aided my dad when he was serving. This scholarship will allow me to continue my college career, studying biochemistry to help further medical research and help others as this division continues to help the people in this country. I hope to contribute all that I can to helping those in need the ways I know how, thank you for aiding this journey and aiding the journeys of many other recipients as well.

Caitlyn Costello



I truly appreciate the opportunity to receive this scholarship from you. I am really thankful and indebted to you for your kindness and support. This scholarship will help me move forward with my education and fulfill my goals.

As a participant of the 1st Cavalry Division Association Scholarship program, I feel privileged and thankful that you chose to invest in my future.

Restfully,
Fredwin Randale Holomon II

Are you Active Duty & serving in 1st Cav?

you or your spouse may qualify for a
1st Cav Division Association

SCHOLARSHIP

REQUIREMENTS:

- Being a member of 1st Cavalry Division Association
- Must be currently assigned to the Division for the length of scholarship
CANNOT be on orders or ETS
- Letter of recommendation from Command Team for Active Duty / employer for spouses

**Accepting applications only 1 April - 1 Aug 2026
NOT accepting early packets**

This Scholarship encompasses FALL 2026,
SPRING & SUMMER 2027 sessions

Email for further details
Memberships@1CDA.org



Culmination of treasured long lost stories or photos from our members.

Send your stories to Programs@1CDA.org

Ranger Team - Hard Rider 74, Cambodian Mission, May

1970 By SGM Lewis "Lou" Bruchey, H Co, 75th Rangers, Vietnam '70-'71
<LWBR@AOL.COM>

On May 1, 1970, the 1st Air Cavalry Division, supported by other U.S. ground forces and units from the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) invaded Cambodia by launching multi-pronged attacks along the border in Corp III. Spearheading the assault were the five- or six-man, long range reconnaissance patrol teams (LRRP) from H Co, 75th Rangers. The LRRPs were the "eyes and ears" of the 1st Air Cavalry Division, and their mission was to provide vital intelligence on the identification, location, and movement of enemy troops.

In the second week of May 1970, army Ranger Team Hard Rider 74 flew from its home base at Phuoc Vinh to 3rd Brigade headquarters at Quon Loi. From there, the team choppered across the border into Cambodia to the 1st Cavalry Division's most northern and remote outpost, the newly established fire support base (FSB) David. The members of our team were: SGT Bill Abbott, team leader; SGT Johnny Rodriguez, assistant team leader; SP4 Darrell Smith, radio man; SP4 Lou Bruchey, medic; SP4 Carl Laker; and SP4 Dennis Smith, rear scout. At a commander's briefing, we learned we were to be inserted into an area of operation (AO) deep into Cambodia and close to three branches of the Ho Chi Minh trail. With multiple trails, a nearby river and bridge, the AO was considered a major staging area for the communist forces.

Within an hour, we lifted off from FSB David and began our long flight west to our AO. The team sat silently on the floor of the Huey, leaning back against our packs with our legs dangling out the door. Beneath us the land rose and fell, typical of the rolling hills of the central Cambodian highlands. The topography mostly consisted of high-thorn, scrub jungle laced with open areas of fire generated grasslands dotted with small trees. Since entering Cambodia, I noticed the marked change in the landscape. All my previous missions in Vietnam had been deep into the bomb scarred triple canopied jungle where there were no roads, buildings, or cultivated fields. Since entering Cambodia, we now passed over dirt roads, small rice paddies, and occasional clusters of huts. My gut reaction to our new AO was "this is going to be different."

As with all missions, the Rangers operated in a "free fire zone." No "friendlies" were supposed to be in our area of operation, so anyone we found in the AO was considered an enemy. Man or woman, young or old. To our mind, they were there for a reason, and that reason was to fight and kill American GIs.

When we finally approached our landing zone (LZ), the chopper dropped steeply onto the slope of a large grassy area. Within seconds of touchdown, Team 74 jumped from the chopper skids and moved across the open area toward the jungle which capped the high ground of a ridge. About ten yards from the edge of the jungle, we stepped over a well used trail that ran paralleled to the tree line. SGT Abbott led us into the jungle where we paused, each man crouched with his M-16 in a ready position, each man scanning his area of responsibility, each man watching and listening. Whether moving, halting, investigating a trail or bunker, or setting up an overnight position, every Ranger had an area of responsibility to monitor so that the team always had eyes and ears covering their position 360 degrees. In the distance, the staccato whomp of our chopper faded away until our world became silent maze of vines, bamboo, and leafy scrub brush.

After a few minutes, Abbott removed his pack and quietly placed it on the ground. In turn, he directed each man to a position. In a typical overnight halt, the Rangers set up in a circle with packs in the center and each man facing out. The LRRPs sat on the ground with legs extended like the spokes of a wheel with their packs in the center, serving as a back rest. I was on the far right as we faced the trail. We could clearly see the open area and the trail, but the jungle vegetation provided just enough concealment that we would be difficult to see from the trail. After establishing commo with FSB David, we gave them our location as best we knew it.

"Did you see the boot marks?" whispered Abbott. Everyone nodded. "Be alert. We're staying here." It was late afternoon and there was much to do before night.

In turn, each man very quietly cleared an area just long and wide enough for sleeping. His pack would be his pillow, his web gear laid along his right side. SPC Smith removed the radio from his pack and placed it in the center of our position. When everyone was settled in, Abbott whispered for the claymores. Each man carried two claymore anti-personnel mines and several strands of detonation cord with blasting caps attached to each end. Abbott and Rodriguez gathered the claymores; then, cautiously, Abbott, Rodriguez, Dennis Smith, and I moved out into the open area. Smith covered one end of the trail, and I covered the other end as Abbott and Rodriguez placed the claymores along the path. After the claymores were armed and placed, Abbott unrolled a spool of electrical wire used to detonate the mines back to our overnight position; then wordlessly, we all moved back into the jungle. The ambush was set.

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TROOPER'S TALE COLUMN
was created for our members to
share your photos or long lost 1CD war stories.
Please consider sharing yours!
Send to Programs@1CDA.org
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

OIF / OEF VETERAN 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion News

SSG Brandy Harvest SSG Kenneth Pannell
HHC 1BSTB, 2007-2009 HHC 1BSTB, 2005-2009
Luckybme04@yahoo.com KaPannell@gmail.com



This column is a collection of stories submitted from 1BSTB Soldiers that served during OIF / OEF.

The 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion deployed with one clear task; clear and defeat the IED, Improvised Explosive Device, which has been responsible for more than 70 percent of all casualties in Iraq. The Battalion quickly became the recipient of the Buffalo, Husky, and RG-31 vehicles. All these vehicles were part of the Department of Defense's MRAP, or Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle project. The V-shaped hull and raised chassis has a proven record against the current IED threat.

All these vehicles were designed with the Soldiers safety in mind. Communication quickly became a focus point for the Battalion. On today's battlefield it is critical that units be able to communicate both by voice and digitally. The question quickly became about how to get all the required communication equipment into the MRAP vehicles.

Additionally, why did these Commercial Off the Shelf (COTS) vehicles arrive to units without these systems? If a unit were to requisition a new M1114 or M1151, they would request communication systems with the vehicle. However, in this situation these vehicle systems were pushed out to the units and integrated into combat operations without the optimal communications equipment set.

The Battalion quickly had to engineer a solution to install these critical communication systems. After surveying the equipment, the communications and automotive section developed several solutions and equipment designs. Thanks to the quick thinking and hard work of the Centurion Communications Shop or (S6), the problem was not only solved, but the way in which this equipment was installed became standard throughout the theatre operations.

Credit to the Soldiers of the 1BSTB Battalion Yearbook 2006-2008 Publication
Brandy M. Harvest- Small & Kenneth L. Pannell



TAPS:

We were notified of the following deaths:

BOGDUE, LTC (RET) Michael, 1-9 CAV. 25 October 2025.
BRANARD, SGM (RET) Thomas A., D Trp, 1-9 CAV, 1966-67. 3 January 2026.
CROSS, Trooper Gerald D., 271 FA, 1944. 24 April 2025.
DIAMOND, SP4 Harry, A Co, 3-13 CAV, 1966-67. 27 July 2025.
FORNARO, SSG (RET) William W., 1-5 CAV, 1964; 1-7 CAV, 1965-66; 1-8 CAV 1982. 2 November 2025.
GARRETSON, SGT Elijah, HHC, 2-12 CAV, 2007. 10 January 2026.
GILSON, SP5 Rickey E., HHC, 228 AVN, 1970-71. 20 July 2025.
HAFF, SGT Robert, HHC, 8th ENG, 1966-67. 20 November 2025.
KRULL, PFC John R., G Co, 8th CAV & 545MP, 1951-52. 23 December 2025.
NICKLES, CW3 (RET) Lance R., 8th ENG, 1966-67. 31 January 2025.
PITCHER, SFC Bernie D., A Co, 8th ENG. 28 October 2025.
RACKLEY, SSG Al, C Co, 2-8 CAV, 1969-70. 17 November 2025.
SPICKLER, SSG, John F., D Co, 1-8 CAV, 1965-67. 2 December 2025.
STANSFIELD, SSG (RET) Jack R., C Co, 1-5 CAV, 1966-67. 9 October 2025.
TAKSA, SGT Jack L., F Co, 2-8 CAV, 1951. 12 July 2025.
YBARRO, SP4 Mark A., A co, 2-8 CAV, 1967-68. 14 November 2025.

ACTIVE-DUTY TAPS:

We have not been notified of any non-combat Active-Duty deaths.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Continued from pg. 1

I also want to extend a prayer delivered Thank You to Sergeant Paul Gassner who passed away in November 2024. Paul was in the Army from 1967-1970 and earned the Bronze Star while serving with the Cav in Vietnam. My Thank You is for both his brave service and for his generous contribution to the 1st Cavalry Division Foundation as part of his estate which is now through the probate process. Paul's contribution will provide scholarships to Cav Troopers, their families, our Gold Star families and families of 100% disabled Troopers.

As is now my standard, let me end with a strong recommendation to clear your calendars and make plans to attend our 2026 Reunion in New Orleans from 8-12 July AND – bring along another Cav Trooper. This is the best way to grow our association – especially Desert Shield/Desert Storm and OIF/OEF Veterans who we need to become involved in greater numbers to keep our Association successful.

Bring a Battle Buddy – old or new!
First Team, Rosey Carter

LRRP/Ranger News



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Brothers – I'd like to start by extending my hope and prayers that everyone had a great Christmas and New Year Holiday season and that you're looking forward to a healthy, happy and prosperous 2026! BTW - thanks to all who sent greetings! The years seem to pass so quickly and our numbers continue to get smaller – which drives me to do my best with the *Saber, Patrolling*, and our Newsletter to keep us all in touch as well as document our experiences and our stories so our children, grandchildren and young Rangers will have a sense of our exploits and what we were able to accomplish during our time in the breech (I've seen published that we were the most decorated Unit in Vietnam).

My ability to do that is entirely dependent upon you communicating your stories, whether they are related to specific missions or to your everyday experiences while with our unit.

This edition's article is just that – it's about the origins of what was.... beside the TOC.... probably the center of activity in the Company area. So thanks to Lou Brouchy – we have a firsthand account of the origins of "The Ranger Inn" – Thanks much Lou (I've replaced a few words to avoid any possibility of censure)!! For those non-Rangers who resided in Phouc Vinh or Bien Hoa and happened to pass by the Ranger Compound – you probably saw or heard it.

Before that I would like to honor one of our own who did not make it back. Kenneth Eugene Burch. Kenneth was born in Cataula, Georgia on 4 November 1950, and he was KIA on August 11, 1969, and buried at the Ft Benning Post Cemetery. A tribute (a written letter and a commemorative bracelet) was left at The Wall by his cousin who also served in Vietnam:

Dear Ken - It's been 25 years today since you left us! It's hard to believe. They say time heals all wounds and in a way I suppose it does. But time can never remove the hole that is left, the emptiness, or the hurt that surfaces each time I look at this "Wall." I'll never forget the day I found you. The "Wall" had been up for four years, but I had never visited it. I didn't need it!

When I returned from Nam I closed that chapter of my life, put it behind me and got on with living. I worked about three blocks away and one day, for no apparent reason, found myself walking nearby. I knew you were here, but when I found you, I felt like I had been kicked in the stomach. The feelings and memories suppressed for years came boiling up. I cried and cried and cried.

I have visited the "Wall" regularly since then - four - five times a year and stop by Panel 20W, Line 128 each time. It has helped get the feelings out into the open and deal with them. Each visit is different, but another step in the healing process. Some are quiet and reflective and some are turbulent and full of emotions. I know today will be the latter. I think of you often. You will forever be 18 and you are missed! Your cousin, Bobby [handwritten inscription] / 48th Infantry Platoon, Scout Dogs / 196th Light Infantry Brigade

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress July 9, 1918 (amended by an act of July 25, 1963), takes pride in presenting the Silver Star (Posthumously) to Sergeant [the Specialist Fourth Class] Kenneth Eugene Burch (ASN: 68007797), United States Army, for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam.

SP4 Burch distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action on 27 June 1969, while serving as a rear scout with Company H (Ranger), 75th Infantry (Airborne), 1st Cavalry Division, during a long-range reconnaissance patrol in Phouc Long Province, Republic of Vietnam. As his patrol waited on a night ambush position, a large enemy force approached their location.

SP4 Burch engaged the enemy, wounding one of the insurgents. The enemy then attempted to overrun the ambush position. SP4 Burch then waited until the enemy had reached his position then fired a claymore with devastating effect. As armed helicopters arrived over the patrol's position to support the besieged patrol, SP4 Burch exposed himself to the hostile fire to mark the location with flares.

As his position was approached from the rear, SP4 Burch held a strobe light aloft to signal the helicopter gunships and mark the patrol's position. He received a painful wound in the arm but remained in an exposed position to mark the patrol's location. His gallant action was in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

Before we get to Lou's story I wanted to remind everyone about the upcoming **1CDA Reunion in New Orleans on July 8 – July 12**. Look forward to seeing everyone there. If you are interested in helping the Association ladies out and **volunteering at the reunion**, let me know and I'll pass the word to the Association.

Once again a big thanks to **Lou Brouchy** for his story of the Ranger Inn!

"Late in January 1970 I had just graduated from Ranger training at H Co, but I had not been assigned to a team. I was sitting in the 2nd platoon barracks one night getting to know some Veteran Rangers over more than a few beers when somebody said a Vietnamese rock band with Go-Go dancers was playing over at the airstrip. That sounded like a great idea. After flying half-way around the world to Vietnam, processing through the hassles of the 90th replacement center, then surviving the hell of ranger training, I really needed a break. So, with a few other Rangers, I walked over to the airstrip to enjoy a nice, relaxing evening of music and dancing girls.

Less than an hour later, I was in the middle of a fistfight with about a half-dozen kicking, cursing, and very drunk Soldiers from the 1/9th. I didn't know who

or what started it. I only remember dodging punches, swinging at anyone not wearing a beret, and someone jumping on my back with his hands around my neck trying to strangle me. We were badly outnumbered, but we were holding our own until everyone was finally separated and some semblance of order was restored. Unfortunately, during the melee the rock band and Go-Go dancers fled, and the concert came to an abrupt end.

When we got back to our barracks, we sat on our bunks, laughing and joking about the fight until SFC Duncan stormed in. He didn't mince words.. You F...ing guys are in a lot of trouble. The Old Man and the First Sergeant want to see all of you --- NOW!"

Stunned, we marched to the orderly room and stood outside at attention, until one by one we were called in. When my name was called, I went into the office where CPT Griffith and 1SG Rovano were sitting behind a desk. CPT Griffith was not in uniform and looked like he'd just gotten out of his rack. Neither man was smiling. This was not a good sign.

CPT Griffith began. "Were you in the fight over at the show tonight?" My first instinct was to play dumb and answer, 'What fight?' But my shirt was torn and bloody, and I had claw marks on my face and neck. There was no way to lie my way out of this one. "Yes, sir," I replied.

"What happened?" "Don't know, sir," I answered. "It all happened so fast. Everybody started swinging, and I was just trying to protect myself." "Protect yourself? How so?" "I started swinging, too." Rovano sneered. CPT Griffith sat stone-faced, staring at my uniform and the welts and scratches on my face. "Are you hurt?" "No, sir." In fact, I was feeling no pain except for my right hand which had started to swell. My only concern was getting kicked out of the Rangers before I'd even gotten in.

CPT Griffith leaned back in his chair. "How long have you been in-country?" "In Nam?" I replied. "Yes. We're in Vietnam." "About a month," I guessed. "You're off to a good start," he said evenly. "Thank you, sir," I replied without thinking.

Griffith turned to Rovano who just shook his head and looked away. When the Captain looked back at me, I thought I'd be packing my bag and put on the first chopper out of Phouc Vinh. Goodbye Rangers. Hello grunts. But CPT Griffith gave me a break. "You are confined to the company area. No more booze. No more fighting. No more stupid shit. Be ready for duty tomorrow morning. And Private Bruchey, I never want to see you in here again. Do I make myself clear?" "Yes sir." "Dismissed."

The following morning at formation, the First Sergeant announced that because of an unfortunate *incident* last night at the concert all the unit clubs and bars at Camp Gorvad were off-limits to any Ranger and excessive drinking in the company area would not be tolerated. These rules would be strictly enforced.

For me, the aftermath of the *incident* was both good news and bad news. The good news was --- I had all my teeth; my scratches, bruises, and swelling were healing nicely; and I was still in the unit. The bad news was --- my duty was filling sandbags, and I was not assigned to a team.

Then, one afternoon as I was filling my umpteenth sandbag, SGT Taijeron showed up. Everyone called Taijeron 'Pineapple,' not because he was sweet, but because he was from Central or South America or maybe even the Philippines. Nobody knew and nobody asked, but everybody was glad he was on our side. He was a hard-ass, short and stocky, and a high energy guy who always had a smile on his face, even when I once heard him tell another Soldier he was going to kick his head off his shoulders. Pineapple was a battle-tested and highly decorated Ranger, but he was near the end of his tour. Officially, he was 'out of the field,' but today he was on a new mission.

"Drop your shovels and get your 16's," he told me and Bill Francis, another FNG (funny new guy) and classmate of mine who looked as bewildered as I did. "What's up?" I asked. "Supply run," said Pineapple. Francis and I retrieved our M-16's, then Pineapple led us to the back of the company area where a Ranger had just finished painting our unit identification on the bumpers of a deuce and a half. This is a big truck and hard to miss, but I had never seen this vehicle in the company AO. The truck had no overhead canvas, and the bed was empty except for a few scattered sandbags.

"Get in the back," ordered Pineapple. "Where are we going?" asked Francis. "Bien Hoa," said Pineapple. "You guys are my security. Lock and load." I had flown from Bien Hoa to Phouc Vinh, so I knew this was not going to be a quick dash around the neighborhood. Plus, it was late afternoon, and I had some concerns about being on the road in the evening or possibly after dark. "We coming back tonight?" I asked. "Maybe we don't come back," Pineapple snapped. "And don't ask so many questions."

It took us a few hours to drive the 50 miles to Bien Hoa. Poor roads, convoys, water buffaloes, motor bikes, and old women walking along the road balancing bundles on long poles made it slow, stop and go. Pineapple was a terrible driver – speeding up, slowing down, grinding gears, swerving, braking and constantly screaming obscenities at anyone in his way. As we neared Bien Hoa the traffic increased with swarms of motorbikes weaving all around our truck. Pineapple boiled over. He leaned out the window and pointed to the motorbikes that were tail gating us, then in exasperation yelled at Francis, "Throw a magazine at those #\$\$%^&*@."

Francis stood up, flipped his M-16 to automatic, and fired a full magazine off the back of the truck. The rounds peppered the road in front of the motorbikes. The bullets ricocheting wildly, scattering the bikes. Miraculously, Francis didn't hit any of the wide-eyed Vietnamese. Pineapple almost came out of the truck window. "What are you doing?" he screamed. "I didn't say shoot them." Francis shrugged. "You said throw a magazine at them." "Unbelievable!" sputtered Pineapple, "Unbelievable!"

Continued to pg. 5

**PLEASE CONTACT THE SCRIBE ABOVE
TO SHARE YOUR
LRRP RANGER STORIES!**



5th CAV News

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Here we are, in a brand-new year! And that is no small thing! Many of us have had times we thought we had already seen our last New Year. If we are able to talk about this one we obviously bettered our own estimate of that time! Congratulations! I certainly feel that way.

The 5th Cav Regt Association is currently working through a number of organizational issues that while not particularly interesting, have to be dealt with. Some of you are aware that we have been, (unsuccessfully) trying to get our website up and functioning. There is now hope that this might be addressed soon. The problems were not due to any lack of effort by the people who have been working the issue.

We have also been faced with the need to move our legal address to Texas and that has been essentially completed. At this time we are trying to get moving on several other items as well and looking through the calendar in order to prepare for things like this year's Division Reunion, among others.

The 5th U.S. Cavalry Association, for some time now, has been seeing much more input from our Desert Storm Vets. Our president, J.D. Shockley, our Secretary, James Noel, and our Treasurer, Gary Marstall are all from Desert Storm and from 1/5. There are others as well although some of these members, (including one of these officers) are still working. Being retired from the military does not usually lead to a life of ease. I say this as encouragement for all of us, and if you are one of our follow-on brothers and want to see input from your peers please feel free to talk to us. We need each other!

Working on this missive, I took a break just a bit ago and wandered out to where the family was watching the Rose Parade. Coming into the room they all said, "Look! Isn't that from the Cav?" I looked up and there was our mounted unit from Ft. Hood, strutting their stuff for all to see! When this kid wandered the in the woods with the Cav way back in '69 that picture would never have occurred to me! Fifty-six (?) years, but now we're cool!



Our friend **Jim Dunnigan** recently sent a bit more material of his time in Vietnam, and as it turned out, some of it took place over the holidays of that time and it seemed a good note to follow up on. Here it is (in part).

As I mentioned, our young Soldier had completed his five day leave in Hong Kong over Christmas and rested, rejuvenated and serene, landed at the huge port of Cam Ranh Bay. He had to find his way back to his unit, Mongoose Bravo, and after hopping rides of various sorts, he managed to arrive at the forward fire base where he might hop a log bird, supply helicopter, taking resupply to the boonies. Instead a chopper crew getting ready to take their just repaired machine on a test flight offered him a ride-and what a ride it was! Hueys never had their

doors closed, which made interesting anyway, but this crew put that machine through every maneuver possible, a memorable New Year's Eve!

So anyway, he rejoined his company and New Year's Eve and Day were typical, humping across and through the terrain, pulling watch at night-the usual grind. The next morning they were rousted out with "saddle up!" Mongoose was to make an air assault to assist the 50th Mechanized Infantry which had made contact with a North Vietnamese between Dam Tra O Lake and the South China Sea. They landed to the south and proceeded north toward the 50th thus trapping the NVA between the two bodies of water.

Our young Soldier was next to last in the column of Troops heading toward the sound of battle. A long column of fleeing, terrified villagers, old men, women and children were heading the opposite direction. Our Soldier looked behind him and saw the new Trooper in the rear with his rifle slung over his shoulder praying the rosary; counting his beads, as the Irish say. Our man was aghast!

The rear of the column is not nearly as dangerous as the point, but sometimes the enemy waits and attacks the rear. The young Soldier, a grenadier, carried a specialty weapon, an M79 grenade launcher and was not supposed to be on the point or the rear as this was a single shot weapon augmented with a sidearm. However, in this case he thought it might be wise to switch places with the new guy (FNG) and, after offering said new guy a few kind words of constructive criticism, did so.

The three rifle platoons split up when they began to on the NVA troops. Rounds for the enemy and the 50th Mechanized were whizzing by. Doug Curtis, 3rd Platoon, well known to many of you, dove on a low pile of brush and found that he was staring into the lifeless eyes of an enemy soldier whose comrades had apparently made an unsuccessful effort to conceal.

Our subject in 2nd Platoon and his fellow Troops were joined by an APC from the 50th. An RPG (Rocket Propelled Grenade) burrowed into the sand between our young Soldier and the APC. The crew of that vehicle, apparently believing in the old adage, discretion before valor, pulled back. As they left, the firing intensified and our boy rolled from one side of a rice paddy dike to the other to avoid being hit. Unfortunately, someone had planted prickly pear cactus on the dike and he felt as though he had tried to make love to a porcupine. Fortunately and right on cue, a gunship arrived and the enemy were forced to pull back.

In the meantime 1st Platoon was patrolling a short distance to the east, closer to the sea, Birmingham on point. He was suddenly hit and his squad leader, Smokey, tried to retrieve his body and was hit in turn. Manly, our artillery FO, (Forward Observer), got to Smokey's body but was struck while carrying him back to 1st Platoon's position. Manly walked to the arriving Medivac chopper holding the bandages that were holding his entrails but died either on the way to or after arriving at the aid station. We were able to get to Birmingham's body after a brief firefight. We never left our dead behind!

The ground fighting slowed down as gun ships and fighter-bombers pummeled the NVA and that night Puff the Magic Dragon, a prop-driven plane with mini-guns mounted in the doorway and dropping flares, caught many of the NVA in the open trying to escape across the lake. The battle was over.

Jim's story in the last few paragraphs, which represents a hell of a welcome back from a holiday, draws the scene on a not so uncommon several days in the life of a Cav Trooper. Every deployment holds such possibilities. I sincerely hope your New Year is much more peaceful!

Contact the scribe above to share your 5th Cav stories!

If you were ever a part of 5th CAV, make sure you're a member of their Association

www.5thCav.org

SUPPORT YOUR UNIT LEGACY!

LRRP NEWS

Continued from pg. 4

When we finally arrived at Bien Hoa, we pulled up to a small building somewhere on the sprawling base. A Ranger I'd never seen before came out and greeted us warmly. "Did you bring the bolt cutters?" "In the truck," Pineapple answered. "We good to go?" "Roger, that," the Ranger nodded. "We'll do a recon, then you guys can grab some chow and rest up." "What time are we going in?" asked Pineapple. "0330." Pineapple beamed. "Perfect."

Many thoughts crossed my mind that night. I was hot, sore, filthy-dirty from road dust, and bone-tired, but I could not sleep. Our 'recon' was a distant drive-by of a supply depot that was heavily fenced and ringed with triple coils of concertina wire. Our 'chow' was a cold can of C-rations. Our 'rest-up' was a tortuous few hours on the metal floor of the truck bed with rock-hard sandbags as our pillows.

Since arriving in Nam, I had survived a rocket attack in Bien Hoa, the stresses of Ranger training, a fist fight at a USO show, and an ass-chewing from my company commander who said he never wanted to see me again. Now, I was preparing to break into a military supply depot in the dead of night to steal a load of lumber, then take a 50-mile pre-dawn drive through the Vietnam countryside back to Camp Gorvad, a base named after a colonel who had been killed there a few years earlier.

I figured our chance for a happy ending that night was one out of three. Either we'd miraculously succeed with the raid; or we'd get caught and spend the rest of the war in the Long Bien jail; or we'd get shot by some trigger-happy MPs or the Viet Cong in a road-side ambush. The odds were not good, but they were probably better than spending a year pulling long range patrols as a LRRP.

At 0330, using only black-out lights, our two-vehicle convoy moved out with the unknown Ranger leading the way in a Jeep. Pineapple, Francis and I following in the deuce and a half. When we neared the depot, our truck stopped while the lead Ranger continued on, scouting the area for roving MPs or other guards. After a few minutes he returned and gave us a thumbs up.

The road leading into the compound was long and downhill. At the start of the decline, Pineapple cut the lights and the engine, and Francis and I pushed the large truck as it silently rolled down to the entrance. With a pair of bolt cutters, I cut the lock, removed the heavy chain and swung open the gate, then Pineapple drove to the huge pallets stacked with lumber. Within seconds, we were loading 4' x 8' sheets of plywood. We worked as quickly and quietly as we could, but

every sound was amplified by the stillness of the night. As the minutes dragged on, I was very concerned about the time and the noise, and I prayed the MPs wouldn't come charging in with their .45's and M-60's blazing. I was relieved when we finally slid the last sheet of plywood on the truck, and it was time to go. I was more than ready to get the hell out of Bien Hoa.

"Let's get some 2' x 4's," said Pineapple. His voice was loud and clear. It cut through the night air. It shocked Francis and me. WTF! We were already pushing our luck, and he wanted 2' x 4's? It was beyond belief that we hadn't already been caught. He had to be kidding.

Pineapple wasn't kidding. Somehow, he'd noticed the empty spaces between the plywood and the walls of the truck bed and decided they were a perfect fit for 2' x 4' x 8's. There was no point in arguing, so we spread out in the darkness until we found the pallets of framing lumber. For a few more agonizing moments, we crammed studs into the narrow spaces until the truck was tightly packed, and we could steal no more.

"We're good," said Pineapple. He was a man of few words. Now, it was escape and evasion. When we exited the compound, I closed the gate and secured the chain with the useless lock. Using only our black-out lights, we snaked our way through the sleeping base and headed out for Phouc Vinh. This time, Francis and I road up-front, M-16's between our knees.

We arrived back at H Company in the early morning. Rangers came out of the barracks and unloaded the truck. That day, our resident artist repainted the truck bumpers. That night, the deuce and a half was abandoned where it had been requisitioned (stolen) a day earlier. It seemed like business as usual in H Co. No harm. No foul. No big deal.

Several days later, I was assigned to John LeBrun's team and pulled my first combat mission. When we returned to the company AO, our unit clubhouse was under roof. It was not finished, but it was up and running. We had a place of our own --- the Ranger Inn.

This is a true story, and I'm sticking to it.

Footnote: Weeks after the *incident* I overheard some Soldiers talking about the rock concert. They said it had been very good --- while it lasted.

Until next time – RLTW

"For those who've fought for it – life has a flavor the protected will never know"

12th CAV News



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Semper Paratus and Salute Welcome to the year of 2026. Hope all had a merry and bright Christmas, and the New Year rang in on a positive note. For our household it was peaceful and laid back. Only made two trips back to the Highlands Trails of 1966 and returned relieved both times. Maggie and I celebrated 26 years together on 31 December and look forward to a good year on several fronts.

Last column of 2025 closed out with an overview of the Phase I of the Vietnam War, August 1965 through December 1965. January 1966 the war heated up with Operations Matador and Masher/White Wing. During the months January-February 1966, the Air Mobility Concept established itself as an effective strategy and tool to combat the enemy and save lives that would otherwise have been lost in previous wars. Supporting fire power, flexibility and immediate mobile responses to reported hot spots made the 1st Cavalry the 'Feared Darlings' of the U.S. Armed Forces in Vietnam.

'Operation Matador' initiated 1 January 1966 - 23 January 1966, sent 1-12 Cav on a search and destroy mission in Western Pleiku and Southern Kontum Provinces. The mission was to Highway 19 for a road move from An Khe to an assembly area known as Cateka Tea Plantation later designation as the 'Stadium.' Companies Alpha and Bravo were dispatched to secure the west and east sides of Highway 19. After Alpha and Bravo Companies had secured the locale and other surrounding points of interest Companies Charlie and Delta headed to the 'Stadium' in sandbagged vehicles under the direction of a MAJ Cantrall. Supporting this movement of 113 vehicles was the 20th Aerial Rocket Artillery which enabled the Battalion to arrive at 'Cateka' without incident. By 3 January, the full First Brigade had been staged in the area.

On 4 January Bravo Company made three air assaults into the heavily vegetated areas of Duc Co near the Cambodian Border and Southern Kontum Province. On 5 January two Viet Cong were captured and large rice caches discovered. Alpha and Charlie Companies made assaults on 6 January. No enemy were engaged but one VC was captured. Moving on to 9 January, assault Troops were forced to jump 12 plus feet from choppers. Recon resulted in the capture of one VC. Charlie Company again assaulted near the Cambodian Border and again on 12 January. The 1-12 Cav returned to Base Camp An Khe 19 January 1966. Although no heavy enemy contact was made, 'Matador' was considered as an excellent training ground to wet the feet of the newly arriving replacements into the battalion.

During this time, two Civil Affairs were undertaken by 1-12 Cav. A Vietnamese Village in the Pleiku vicinity wanted to relocate. A MAJ Cantrall and CPT Steimert (S-2) orchestrated the relocation in a matter of four hours moving people, livestock, food, furniture, and equipment. In the words of LTC George G. Eggers, Jr then Battalion Commander 1-12, the major problem of the day was one stubborn bull that required the brute strength of several Troopers to load him onto the CH47. A rice thresher was picked from a VC controlled area and given to the village chief of Song Ton. Valued at about \$500.00 American an agreement was made with the chief for him to build a containment building for the thresher and raise money to repair the machine. On 5 May 1966, the village chief received his thresher that helped keep the village alive economically.

Operation Masher/White Wing commenced on 24 January 1966 continued through 12 March 1966 in the northeastern section of Binh Dinh province. Conducted in three phases. On 23 January Alpha Company was securing the 3rd Battalion 18th Artillery Battery and a Howitzer Battery 6th Battalion 14th Artillery on a convoy move 50 kilometers north of Qui Nhon on Highway 1. After eight days 1-12 Cav airlifted to Phu Cat with Bravo Company landing north and Charlie Company landing south. Delta Company Reconnaissance Platoon was the reserve. This lift required 24 UH-1Ds and 14 CH47s. All units had closed with negative enemy contact.

On 25 January LRRPs were sent near the hill masses while Bravo Company air assaulted 29 miles north of Qui Nhon. Charlie Company was alerted to reinforce 2-7 Cav, 30 January Alpha, Bravo, and Charlie Companies were sent on 'seek and kill' missions. At 1550-1835 hours, Charlie Company encountered small arms fire with two KIAs and four WIAs. Aerial Rocket Artillery (ARA) was called on and five VCS were wounded. An additional LRRP team went northwest and engaged eight VC, killing seven and capturing one.

The documents captured revealed that the 8th Cav Regiment had infiltrated Binh Dinh Province from Quang Nai Province in late 1965. Information from a VC captive indicated a large PAVN force in the area. On 4 February at 1915 hours 1-12 Cav was alerted for Phase II of 'Operation Masher' which netted nine VC killed and 13 captured.

Phase III of 'Operation Masher' began 5 February. 1-12 Cav was sent into An Lao Valley. 8 February the Battalion moved into a valley complex resembling an 'Eagles Claw' or Crow's Foot Claw. 9 February Alpha and Charlie Companies were maneuvered to function as blocking elements in a valley with Bravo Company being the assault company. 11 February Charlie Company assaulted and objective in the area and found anti-helicopter stakes on LZ. Contact was made killing three VC and six wounded. On 13 February, Bravo Company captured a sniper, took fire from a village, and had the village leveled.

14 February an Alpha Company patrol contacted an unknown number of VC and brought Artillery Fire. A radio research team picked up VC radio transmissions. A fix on the frequency was made. 15 February the Battalion was inserted into LZs near the site and Alpha Company engaged with seven VC in a cave found rucksacks, 20 bed hospital and several women nurses.

On 15 February, Charlie Company came across seven VC bodies. Two WIAs were incurred but again the Air Mobility flexibility came to the rescue and hoisted the WIAs out of the thick vegetation. Charlie Company found a commo cache containing approximately \$100,000.00 dollars of U.S. Equipment.

'White Wing Phase II' began 22 February and concluded on 28 February. Alpha and Charlie Companies made an assault on 21 February. Reconnaissance were sent out with negative contact, but 2nd Platoon met with intense enemy fire. Unable to move in any direction the Company receiving casualties.

23 February Charlie Company was heavily engaged for seven hours sweeping through the valley. It was discovered that the attack was by the 7th Battalion 18th PAVN Regiment. Finally, on 25 February the Battalion was removed back to LZ Bird and to An Khe on 27 February.

Operation Masher was a joint military operation that included the U.S. Army—with the 1st Cavalry Division leading the way—the Army of the Republic of Vietnam, and the Republic of Korea Army (ROK) fighting against the PAVN 3rd Division and main force regiments of the Viet Cong. Its name was changed to Operation 'White Wing' at the urging of President Lyndon Johnson because he thought it should sound more benign. Much controversy was stirred up by the PAVN propagandists accusing the U.S. of intentional displacement of the South Vietnamese villagers.

2-12 Cav played a key role in the operation and incurred 32 KIAs while 1-12 Cav incurred 26 KIAs across the months January-February 1966. Next column will report the incidences of 2-12 Cav being involved. Bottom line was, 1st Cavalry Division was established as the preeminent Division of the Vietnam War. A legacy we would want to continue throughout the succeeding wars from that time, Gulf War, OEF/OIF to current day.

2026 is a turning point year for our 12th Cavalry Regiment Association under the leadership of the Vietnam Era Troopers. We face the possibility of dissolving as an officially registered 501c (19) Nonprofit in the State of Florida and with the IRS. We hope to pass the history onto current era Veterans who served with a 12th Cavalry unit during their time periods. If interested in carrying on the tradition, contact Thomas Crabtree at 432-853-4851, email <mmctlc3@aol.com>.

"That's all for now folks." Until March, "May the Chief Chopper Pilot Hover over us, the Original Paratrooper correct our parachute malfunctions, the Head Point Man keep us in the assigned AO."

Crabtree Out 'BOOT to BOOT'

References for above report taken from Organization History of 1st Battalion (Airborne) 12th Cavalry, 1 January 1966 - 31 December 1966, by George G. Eggers, Jr, LTC, Infantry Commanding

**Contact the scribe above to share
your 12th Cav stories!**

**If you were ever a part of 12th CAV,
make sure you're a member
of their Association**

www.12thCav.com

SUPPORT YOUR UNIT LEGACY!

OTHER REUNIONS:

D 1/5th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division Vietnam Veterans (1965-1971), 15th Annual Reunion, 21-23 April 2026. Savannah, Ga, POC: David Michalak, 734-777-5019 or <dmich1248@gmail.com>.

15th Medical Battalion Association 2026 Reunion /100-year Anniversary of the 15th Medical Battalion Celebration, 22-26 April 2026. Hyatt Place Oklahoma City/Bricktown, 20 Russell M. Perry Ave, Oklahoma City, OK 73104. Reservations: <<https://shorturl.at/Lewqk>> or call 405-702-4028. Group code: G-MBAS. POC: Huey Huether, 830-456-5580 or <medevac2@15thmedbnassociation.org>. Info at <15thmedbnassociation.org>.

D Co 2/8 Cav 2026 Reunion, May 2026. San Diego, Ca. Info will be on <www.AngrySkipperAssociation.org> POC: Doug Hilts <Hiltsdm@yahoo.com>

1st Cavalry Division Association 78th Annual Reunion, 8-12 July 2026. Sheraton New Orleans, 500 Canal St, New Orleans LA. Reservations Dept: (504) 525-2500, Press 1 or use the provided link to make reservations on-line: <<https://book.passkey.com/e/51069296>>. Do NOT reserve more than one room.

Vietnam Helicopter Crew Members Association Reunion, 12-16 August 2026. Embassy Suites

Albuquerque, NM. Contact Jim Sheridan 901-850-0500 or <vhcmaed@sprynet.com>

**Have your upcoming reunions posted here!
Email to Programs@1CDA.org**

HORSE DETACHMENT

Continued from pg. 1

in the area come out and see us!

The Horse Cavalry Detachment is fully open to the public! Please come visit us at our barn for a barn tour or our Thursday 1000 demonstration at 69007 Trooper Loop, Fort Hood, TX. Please check out the link on the Association website to make it easier to request the Horse Cavalry Detachment to support an event in your area. We do ask that you have the request turned in for consideration 120 days before the event so that we have enough time to prepare. Please call (254) 287-2229 with any questions.

Check us out on Facebook (1st Cavalry Division Horse Cavalry Detachment) where we post pictures from the barn and strive to keep everyone informed of upcoming events and ceremonies. HOT TO TROT!

7th CAV News



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Greetings and a Happy New Year to all Garryowen Troopers! Wow! The years are just flying by. Looking at my header photo, taken in April of 1969, I am reminded of the words to an old song, "This is me. It was war. You can see, I don't look much like that anymore." So true. Time marches on and drags all of us along for the ride. For aging Veterans, the years have brought a little wisdom and some perspective on our place in the universe, along with a whole bunch of pain. The milage is starting to show and battle damage is really adding up. Doctors appointments start to crowd the calendar. PTSD, back problems, leg problems, shoulder problems, etc. ad infinitum. Add in the long-term effects of the Burn Pits and Agent Orange, and it's obvious that the years are going to take their toll. Everything takes more effort. Even something as enjoyable as taking that big vacation can turn into a big pain in the ass. A 7th Cav brother reminded me that many of us can't drive at night anymore, if at all, and air travel can be overwhelming. Long lines, crowded airports, rude people, and sky-high ticket prices make travel tough. Yet, despite all of these challenges, the upcoming 1st Cavalry Division Association Reunion in New Orleans is going to be worth the effort and expense it takes to attend, if it's at all physically possible. Let's face it, folks. It isn't going to get easier down the road, and NOLA is the perfect place for a reunion. The WWII Museum alone is worth the trip and the food is the best in the world.

Here's the past 7th Cav scribe, my platoon leader and mentor, Karl 3/6 Swenson, and his thoughts on why numba one GI like NOLA longtime:

"Hey, GI! I show you numba one good time!" By Karl Swenson

The 1st Cavalry Division Association invites you to New Orleans this July for our highly anticipated Annual Reunion. Scheduled for July 8th through 12th, 2026, this event will be headquartered at the Sheraton New Orleans hotel, perfectly situated one block away from the vibrant French Quarter. Here, you will be surrounded by world-class restaurants, lively bars, top-notch entertainment, and exciting casinos, all providing the backdrop for an unforgettable gathering and a numba one good time. When was the last time you enjoyed a cold beer with a fellow war buddy? For many, these moments are rare and precious. The reunion in NOLA offers a unique opportunity to reconnect, share war stories, reflect on times past, and strengthen friendships that have stood the test of time. This event is more than just a gathering—it is a celebration of brotherhood and shared history.

Just imagine all those Stetsons and Cav Patches in one place! Beyond the camaraderie, attendees can explore a variety of New Orleans attractions. While in town, explore the World War II Museum, or take city excursions like French Quarter walking tours focusing on history and architecture, Garden District mansion tours, Ghost and Voodoo tours, delicious food tours, swamp adventures complete with alligators, and classic jazz cruises on a steamboat. Don't forget to check out the Gift Shop for all your Cavalry merchandise—shirts, pins, Stetsons, and everything else Cav-related.

If you are ready to join us, registration is easy. Fill out the registration form on page 13 of this newspaper or visit the Association website at 1cd.org. To secure your hotel accommodations at the best price possible, call the Sheraton New Orleans at (504) 525-2500 and select option 1. Most importantly, make sure you are there to be a part of this extraordinary event! – Karl Swenson

Wanted: Information about SFC Leo Kubat, RA 17259763. Served in Korea from late Aug 1950-summer 1951 with I Co, 3d Bn, 7th Cav Regt. Preparing a memoir for Kubat family and appreciate personal details of him and of operations of I Company or 3d Battalion especially after moving north of Pyongyang in late October 1950, retrograde to the Han River that winter and then advance north of Seoul in spring 1951. Already have considerable information of operations of 7th Cav Regt and 1st Cav Div for that period. Contact Joe Beben, 775-220-1684, Email joebeben@gmail.com.

Fernando "Nando" Salinas, a Sergeant with Charlie Company 2/7 during the Vietnam War, is looking for his battle buddies from 1966-1967. Anyone who wants to say hello can reach him at purplenando67@gmail.com.

A Difficult Homecoming and a Path to Healing - By: Karl Swenson

Like many others who served in Vietnam, my return home was not met with the gratitude or respect I had hoped for. Instead, I encountered suspicion and resentment from people in the United States. We were often labeled as "baby killers," and the political motives behind the war were repeatedly questioned. Many placed blame on us for incidents such as those involving William Calley and his platoon. The reasons for this hostility seemed endless, resulting in a deep-seated anger directed at those of us coming back from the war.

In response to the negative atmosphere, many Veterans, including myself, chose to hide our service. I deliberately avoided wearing hats or shirts that referenced my time in Vietnam and refrained from sharing my experiences with others. It felt safer to bury any evidence of my involvement in the war. Forty-four years after my first tour in Vietnam, I reconnected with several members of my unit, Echo Company, 1st Bn 7th Cav. Since then, we've managed to meet almost every year in some fashion. These gatherings gradually helped me realize that I had nothing to be ashamed of just because I was assigned to a war zone. We were simply fulfilling our duty as Soldiers. My friends encouraged me to seek support from the VA for the challenges I faced, including PTSD and exposure to Agent Orange.

Motivated by their support, I decided to submit my first disability claim to the VA, believing the process would be straightforward. However, I quickly discovered how challenging it actually was—my initial request was denied. Determined to continue, I reviewed the requirements more closely and tried again



Karl Swenson & his son Adam

but faced another denial. During this difficult time, I learned about the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) organization. I had previously thought DAV only focused on rehabilitation, but a friend informed me that they also advocate for Veterans navigating the VA system. With little to lose, I reached out to DAV. After a face-to-face meeting and a few phone calls, I received a letter from the VA—about five weeks later—granting me a 100% permanent disability rating. Without the DAV's assistance, I might still be struggling with VA bureaucracy. Now, I strive to give back to the DAV. I recently completed my second annual 5K Run, Walk, Roll, or Ride event, raising \$3,000 for the organization to help them continue their mission of providing life-changing support to Veterans. The money-raising was much easier than I thought. I put a note on Facebook, talked to a few friends, and put informational sheets on some public bulletin boards. My largest donors were Veterans.

This year, my son Adam joined me for the 5K; he walked while I rode in my VA-provided wheelchair. Participating in this event made me feel like I was truly making a difference and expressing my gratitude to DAV for what they had done for me. If you are having difficulties obtaining your disability rating or need other types of help, consider reaching out to DAV. They are there and ready to assist. If DAV has already helped you and you'd like to give back, think about joining the 5K next year. It is always held the week of Veterans Day. For more information, visit dav.org.

*Here's another excerpt from Jasper Catanzaro's outstanding book: *Vietnam War Diary*. Thursday, November 3:*

We prepared to go on a long patrol this morning. We left the village and walked for about an hour before entering some rice paddy terrain. By now, the sky had turned very gloomy. It was very cloudy, as though it could rain at any time. This area was flat and muddy. Here, we would cross small dikes between rice paddies. There was little water in these paddies, just enough to turn the dirt into sticky mud. This mud made it more challenging to walk in. We crossed a couple of rice paddies like this and then came upon a hedgerow consisting of small trees. We quickly passed through this thin hedgerow and entered another small muddy rice paddy next to a village.

At this time, I was out front of the line. Behind me, to my right and left, were about four Soldiers in the shape of the letter V. Behind us was the rest of the platoon, about 20 more. A Vietnamese man was in front of me, cultivating this rice paddy with a hoe. He was dressed in black pants and a white collared shirt. It seemed odd that he was dressed this nicely to be hoeing in this muddy, empty paddy. He was working so hard he didn't see us approaching him. We kept walking towards him and the village. When I was about 25 feet from the man, he looked up and was startled. I can only assume he was startled by the sight of 20 fully armed Soldiers walking toward him. Before I could say or do anything, he dropped his hoe and turned to run. I lifted my arm and was about to yell for him to stop, but in that split second, I heard a shot behind me and saw the Vietnamese man thrown forward and fall about 10 feet from where he had been tending the muddy land.

With my ear still ringing, I spun around to see the Sergeant, only a dozen feet behind me, lowering his rifle. He had just killed this man, and the bullet had just missed my head. I was shocked at why the Sergeant killed the man and nearly killed me. I could see most people doing what the man did, being startled and warning the rest of the village. There wasn't time to reflect on what just happened. Being in front, I was the first to see the man the Sergeant killed, close up. In the few seconds it took me to walk the 25 feet, he was now lying on the muddy ground in an enlarging pool of blood. His clean white shirt and black pants now had a mixture of blood and mud on them. I wasn't sure of his age, but he must have been about 30 years old. Whatever his age, he wouldn't get any older. One bullet to his head ended his life immediately.

We would never know if he was a Viet Cong, a village leader, or one of the farmers of this village. No one stopped to stare at him; we had to keep moving because now everyone in the village and surrounding area would know we were there. If there were any V.C. around, they were now alerted we were there. We fanned out as we moved on past his body and entered the village. As we moved into the village, everyone in the platoon was tense and had their weapons ready to fire. The village comprised ten huts in a semi-circle and an open common area in the center. There were a few women and a couple of children around who were very afraid as we entered the common area. I didn't see anyone searching the huts. I was just told to move on. So, we left the village and looked for remnants of the V.C. or N.V.A. who might still be in the area.

To be continued... Jasper Catanzaro's book, *"Vietnam War Diary – As Told By A Combat Infantryman"* is available on Amazon in paperback, on Kindle, and as an audio book. This is a great war story. I've read it several times now and have passed the book to my son who also thinks it is one of the best 'Nam books ever.

Jim Savage writes: Past members of the Regimental Band have asked me to get the Band History online again. I am pleased to report that I have successfully completed the mission. It is the beginning of a New year and the Phoenix has risen. The Regimental Band is once again online for viewing some 2 plus years after it was dissolved. Here is the website: 7thcavalry.atwebpages.com/band/7-cav-Regiment.html

Congratulations to the 1st Cavalry Horse Detachment on the recent Army decision to keep the Fort Hood unit active. Garryowen!

Okay, gotta go. Send in your stories. Boz, out.



Contact the scribe above to share your

7th Cav stories!

If you were ever a part of 7th CAV, make sure you're a member of their Association
www.us7thCavalry.org
 SUPPORT YOUR UNIT LEGACY!

8th CAV News



Larry "The Saint" Hempfing
10820 Clearwater Dr
St Louis, MO 63123-4913
TheSaint@primary.net
314-229-7701
www.8Cavalry.com



Hello again 8th Cavalry Veterans. Well, your scribe messed up. Being a rookie, I didn't take into consideration that I wouldn't be writing again until after Christmas and New Years. I hope all of you and your families had a wonderful time together and a belated Merry Christmas to all.

It's that time of year where the weather is not very pleasant and our opportunity for any outdoor activity is drastically reduced. However, we can find plenty to do in our homes. I know I can and along with home the VA gym down at Jefferson Barracks is a very nice place to get some exercise.

I've been in contact with one of D2/8 ex Platoon leaders Doug Magruder who has taken the time and interest to not only converse with me but has recently sent me a pretty cool little piece about something positive that occurred to him while in Vietnam. Doug got the job as S2 after he was the Platoon leader of 1st Platoon (White Skulls).

Doug Magruder writes:

On 6 May 69 just after the NVA withdrew from a disastrous attempt to overrun LZ Carolyn (They lost 198 KIA and we lost 10), LTC Richard Wood, Stone Mountain 6, asked me to come to his bunker. I was his S2.

Mtn 6 told me that my dad, A Merchant Marine, had asked his ship's Captain to contact the 1st CAV Division HQ to see if there might be any way to arrange for me to meet him in Da Nang where his ship would soon be docking.

The request was passed down to MTN 6, who gave me Courier Orders to fly from Tay Ninh to Da Nang (340 miles by air) to meet my dad. We spent 3 days and 2 nights together just taking in the sights of the city, which was occupied primarily by Marines and Navy personnel.

I felt like I was the only Army grunt in town! That trip is one of the good memories I have of VN. I have always been grateful to MTN 6 for giving me the opportunity to spend a few days with my dad.

As a side note, I am still in touch with LTC Wood. Also, on a return trip to VN in November 2018 with my nephew and his wife, we were not able to locate the BOQ or even White Elephant Street. I would like to encourage your readers to visit the National Infantry Museum at Ft. Benning to see the LZ Carolyn Memorial that was dedicated on 20 May 17 in memory of the 10 men KIA on the LZ and in Honor of LTC Wood for his outstanding leadership.

Recently, received a letter from a 8th Cavalry Veteran who served in Occupied Japan and whose name is **Lloyd Grable**. Lloyd's job during that time was the Range officer. Training Troopers on everything from 45 caliber pistol, a 30 caliber Mossberg, mortars and 105 Howitzer. Lloyd ended up a Captain at the Pentagon and after achieving his degree at University of California after which he was the director of the U.S. Navy's 350,000 civilian employees. Whew!!! Lloyd was quite a busy fellow.

Appreciate all the information Lloyd and hope you continue to be a subscriber and reader of the *Saber*. Keep reading that 8th Cavalry section and thank you for sharing some of your interesting career with all of us. It was a pleasure to hear from you.

Two things before closing. Our own ex-writer for 8th Cavalry section, James Dotson, is and has for many years supported Veterans in and around his area in Kentucky and Tennessee during the Christmas season. He does so by purchasing items like blankets, buying food items and personal need items and delivering them to the facilities the Vets are residing. Talk about the Christmas spirit.

We have someone in our midst that is another Santa Claus. Thank you our Brother and may God bless you.

Lastly, I want to send our condolences to Sandy Rackley whose husband Al passed away after his battle with cancer. Sleep in peace Al.

Until next time hoping you had a wonderful Christmas and wishing all of you a Happy New Years and Healthy 2026.

Honor and Courage,
Larry Hempfing

**Please contact the scribe to share your
8th Cav stories!**

SUPPORT YOUR UNIT LEGACY!

**If you served with 8th Cav,
Join your 8th Cav Association**

NEW MEMBERS:

PFC ALEXIS-JACK ASHANTI TX 1-DIVARTY
2LT ALLEN KASSIDY AK C 1- 215CSBN
SSG ANDERSON NEIL MO 91ENG
2LT ARWADY BRANDON M TX 1-120QM
PFC BECERRA JESSE TX HHB DIVARTY
2LT BIRDSONG DAKOTA TX 1-9C
MAJ BRODERICK MOLLY TX HHT 3ABCT
E-5 BRUNO THOMAS AZ HHC 15TC
SGM CABALLECO RICHARD R. TX 1-5C
PV2 CANAS MICHAEL TX HHBN 3BCT
E-3 DALACIES JEAN PIERCE BALURTE TX 3-16FA
E-4 DYKES RUSSEL TN C 2-12C
1LT EDEGBE NAOMI TX HHC 1-115BSB
SGT FIFER BLAKE TX HHC 1ABCT
SPC FRAZIER RICHARD CA D 2-5C
PV2 FREEMAN JULIAN S TX 1-3BDE
2LT GAGNON JESSE TX 1-15BSB
PV2 GAVORNICK NICADEMUS TX C 2ABCT
SGT GIFFIN SHAWN TX F 3-227AN
MR. GOOCH REX TX 175 L-ASSOC
CW2 GOODRICH MICHAEL TX B 1-15BSB
PV2 GUARDADO ISAAC TX 1- 3BDE
PFC HADLER GREY VA A 1-5C
SPC HAMMOND CUTTER B FL 2BCT
PV2 HARRIS GAVIN MT 1-1CD
SFC(RET) HARTMAN SCOTT FL A 4ABCT
MR. HAYES WILLIAM PA 176 L-ASSOC
SGT HELLING GRIFFIN TX 2-5C
CW5 HINCH SAM OK C 1-9C
PFC HORN DIKAEL TX DIVARTY
SSG KWOK GREGORY TX 1-7C
SGT LARS JEANNIE MO 2-12C
SGT LAVENDER BLAKE R TX 1-9C
PFC LIMON-PRECIADO JAZMIN CA 1-9C
PVT MANGUM COLE W TX 1-1CD
PV2 MATHURIN JONATHAN FL 3-16FA
SGT MERCADO ANDREW TX HHC 1-8C
SFC MORMAN VERONICA OK D 1-27MSB
PV2 NICHOLS TAMARA TX E 1-56ADA
SSG NIEVES LUIS R. TX A 3ABCT
E-7 O'NEILL EDWARD TN 1-215BSB
SFC PRICE ROBERT W. SR. AZ 1-9C
PV2 RERRICHA SETH PA D 1-58AVN
MSG RITTER JEFF TX HHB 1-82FA
SPC SALAZAR ANTONIO TX 8BEB
SGT SALERNO FRANK J. NJ B 1-77FA
CW2 SHAVER TRAVIS OH HHC 1-227AVN
SGT SINGLETON SHAWN T. AL HHC 1-8C
CSM VOWELL DAVID TX 1ACB
E-3 WEST DWAYNE TX C 2-8C
PV2 WHITSTON GAGE M. OK 1BDE
MAJ WILKINSON ALEXANDER TX HHBN 1-1CD
E-3 WILKS ADIRAN V. TX HHB DIVARTY
SPC WOOTEN JOHN IN 194ARN



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Both Military Edition Prints are autographed by the artist and numbered



Turning the Corner
Task Force Baghdad
by James Dietz
31" x 19"
\$40

Operation Iraqi Freedom Task Force Baghdad Print
As a commemorative to the division's tour of duty, this painting by James Dietz captures the essence of a street scene in Baghdad with Cav Troopers and the equipment they used in the effort to help the Iraqi people "turn the corner" on the road from tyranny to democracy.

scene in Baghdad with Cav Troopers and the equipment they used in the effort to help the Iraqi people "turn the corner" on the road from tyranny to democracy.



Liberation of Baqubah
Oct 2006 - Dec 2007
Iraq
by Joe Kline
28" x 20"
\$40

Deployed to Diyala Province, Iraq in September 2006 with 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. 1-12 CAV assumed an area of operations of over 300 square kilometers. The battalion pursued an aggressive campaign of counter-insurgency operations focused on securing the war torn provincial capitol. Determined to strike at the heart of the insurgency, 1-12 CAV established permanent combat outposts in the most dangerous parts of Baqubah: Buhriz, Khatoon, Old Baqubah and Tahrir. From these outpost 1-12 CAV conducted aggressive, near-continuous combat operations to destroy the insurgency. The Liberation of Baqubah was in keeping with the proud history of the 12th Cavalry Regiment.

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1ST CAVALRY DIVISION PRINTS

Turning the Corner Print Qty: _____ Total: \$ _____

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Address: _____

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302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522

NEW PINS



**1st Cav Div Assn Pin
1.5"
\$6.00**



1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION HISTORIAN

Dennis Webster
513 Louise St, Copperas Cove, TX 76522
254-220-2164
Dennis.Webster7@gmail.com



UNITS INACTIVATE

The history of the 1st Cavalry Division is continually changing. Not just the different deployments and actions but the units that make up the First Team.

Our Association has members that served with the 1st Cavalry Division in World War II, in Japan on occupation duty, in Korea during the Korean War and while on the DMZ. We have members who were with the 11th Air Assault Division or 2d Infantry Division at Fort Benning and reflagged as the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) and served in Vietnam.

Other members were stationed at Fort Hood and deployed to Operation Desert Shield/Storm or fought with the First Team in Iraq or Afghanistan or currently serve now. During all these times the configuration of the Division was different with units being activated, assigned, attached, and inactivated and reassigned. The result of all these changes is that each of us sees the 1st Cavalry Division differently.

In late December of 2025, there were two units of the Division inactivated on the same day. They were inactivated because of changes in the way the Army will fight in the future has restructured the organization of the 1st Cavalry Division.

On 16 December 2025, the 2d Battalion, 227th Aviation Battalion and the 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry were inactivated in a ceremony conducted on Cooper Field at Fort Hood, Texas.

Both units were part of the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade. The equipment from these two organizations will be reallocated to other units or turned in for disposal in accordance with guidance from the Army.

The Troopers of these units will be reassigned within the 1st Cavalry Division or reassigned to other units on Fort Hood or may be assigned to other bases in accordance with the needs of the Army.

What will remain, will be the history and legacy of these units and the Soldiers that served in them.

2d BATTALION, 227th AVIATION REGIMENT (LOBOS)

On 1 February 1963, the 31st Transportation Company was redesignated as Company B, 227th Assault Helicopter Battalion and activated and assigned to the 11th Air Assault Division (Test) at Fort Benning, Georgia.

On 1 July 1965, 227th AVN was assigned to the newly redesignated 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) and later that summer deployed to Vietnam. While in Vietnam they would earn two Presidential Unit Citations, three Valorous Unit Citations, and a Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army).

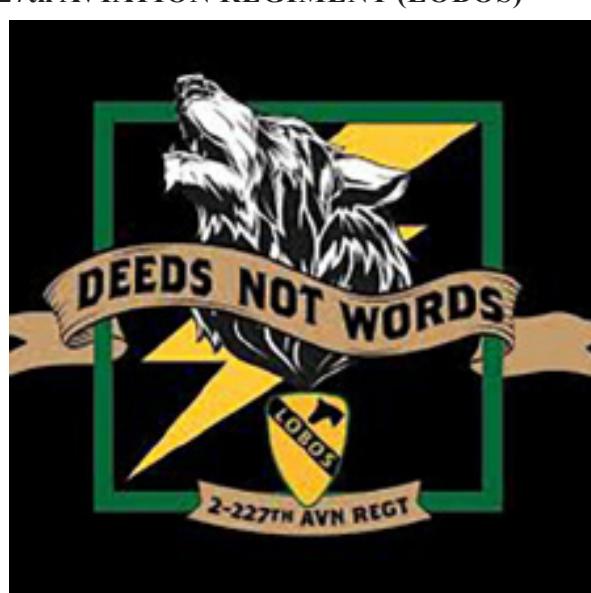
The 227th AVN Battalion departed Vietnam and was assigned to the 1st Cav Division at Fort Hood in 1971 and was inactivated in 1974. The battalion was activated at Fort Hood again on 21 May 1978 and later inactivated on 1 September 1985.

On 16 July 1987, B Company, 227th Aviation was redesignated as HHC, 2d Battalion, 227th Aviation and relieved from assignment to the 1st Cavalry Division and assigned to the 3d Armored Division and activated in Germany. While assigned to the 3d AD, the battalion participated in Operation Desert Shield/Storm.

The battalion was relieved from assignment to the 3d AD and assigned to the 1st Armored Division in Germany on 15 August 1992 and served there until 16 February 1997 and assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division.

Back with the First Team, the 2-227th AVN deployed to Kuwait and within a 48-hour period deployed to Somalia. In 1999, the battalion spent six months in Bosnia in support of Stabilization Force 4 and was selected as the Army Aviation Association of America's (AAAA) Aviation Unit of the Year.

In 2005, elements of the battalion supported disaster relief operations in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. During this same time five Chinook crews



2-227 AVN Chinook in Pakistan 21Feb06

and aircraft deployed by STRAT-AIR to Pakistan for fifty-six days of relief efforts from the earthquake. The 2-227th would return to Pakistan for Earthquake II in February of 2006.

During the Operation Iraqi Freedom the battalion earned two Meritorious Unit Commendations in 2006-2007 and 2009-2010. Additionally the Lobo Battalion received a Meritorious Unit Commendation for service in Afghanistan in 2011-2012 and a second MUC for Afghanistan in 2014.

The 2-227th AVN returned to Europe for the third time executing missions in Germany, Romania, Latvia, Lithuania, North Macedonia, and Poland. After returning, the battalion conducted two National Training Center rotations, fought fires, and was awarded the "Air, Sea, and Land Rescue of the Year Award" from AAAA for its actions in the Guadalupe Mountains in May 2023.

Deeds Not Words!

7th SQUADRON, 17th CAVALRY REGIMENT (PALEHORSE)

The 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry was constituted on 1 July 1916 in the Regular Army as Troop G, 17th Cavalry and organized at Fort Bliss Texas.

The unit was inactivated in 1921 and would go through several in-activations, activations, and redesignations before being redesignated and activated as HHT, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry on 25 November 1966 at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Taking the nickname of "Ruthless Riders" the squadron deployed to Vietnam on 28 October 1967 as a separate Air Cavalry Squadron of the 1st Aviation Brigade.

While in Vietnam, the 7-17th CAV would earn a Presidential Unit Citation and three Valorous Unit Citations while providing the 4th Infantry Division and other allied units combat aviation support until departing

Vietnam for Fort Hood, Texas.

At Fort Hood, the squadron was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division from 1972 to 1975, and the 6th Air Cavalry Brigade as an attack helicopter squadron from 1975 to 1986. The Squadron was inactivated at Fort Hood on 16 July 1986.

On 16 February 2006 the Squadron was activated as the "Palehorse" Squadron adopting the motto "Death Rides" and was assigned to the 159th Combat Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. While part of the 101st ABN they deployed several times to Afghanistan earning a Valorous Unit Citation and three Meritorious Unit Commendations.

Inactivated on 15 September 2015 and relieved from assignment to the 101st ABN, the 7-17th Cavalry was activated and assigned to the Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division on 16 October 2015. During its tenure with 1st Air Cavalry Brigade Palehorse participated in one combat deployment and three operational deployments.

In 2018 the squadron deployed to Syria as part of Operation Inherent Resolve where two of its aviators (CW5 Crandall and CW3 Okpala) were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for engaging a joint force of Russian Wagner, Russian Spetsnaz, and Syrian government Troops protecting U.S. Special Forces and other allies.

In 2019 the squadron was deployed to Korea and in 2021 and 2024 they deployed to Europe to deter Russian aggression.

Upon a Palehorse, Death Rides!



7-17C Apache in Europe 9Jun22



SPC Lemon readies a RQ-7B V2 Shadow Exercise Swift Response Macedonia 11 May 2022

15th MED/15th FSB/15th BSB



Terry A. McCarl
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402-296-3150
TerryAMcCarl@gmail.com
<https://15thMedBnAssociation.org>



Happy 2026 to all 15th Medical Battalion Veterans and others reading this column. My name is Terry McCarl and I am the 15th Med BN Association Historian (since 2016). I will be serving as the Interim 15th Med BN/15th FSB/15th BSB *Saber* Scribe until a replacement for Mike Bodnar can be found.

MIKE BODNAR RETIRES AS SABER SCRIBE AFTER RECORD OF 26 YEARS OF SERVICE

Mike Bodnar retired in August 2025 from the position of Scribe for the 15th Med/15th FSB/15th BSB Column in *Saber*, the bi-monthly newspaper of the 1st Cavalry Division Association (1CDA). Mike faithfully held that position from January 1999 to August 2025, 26 1/2 years and 160 *Saber* columns! According to 1CDA records, Mike is the longest serving 1CDA Scribe for *Saber*, the first issue of which was published in October 1951.

Mike served with HSC, 15th Medical Battalion as a Medevac Medic from Jan 70- July 70. Prior to Jan 70, he served with C Company, 2nd of the 7th Cavalry as a ground medic. The 15th Medical Battalion Association extends congratulations and sincere appreciation to Mike Bodnar for his outstanding long-time service!

Anyone interested in filling the position should contact me at the email or phone number above. The basic Scribe's duties are the submittal of a *Saber* column at the 1st of every odd-numbered month, not to exceed 2000 words and 3-5 photos. Detailed requirements may be requested by email or phone.

2026 is the year to celebrate the 100-Year Anniversary of the 15th Medical Battalion!

The 15th Medical Battalion, as it is known today, was organized at Fort Bliss, Texas, on 1 June 1926, as part of the 1st Cavalry Division, in accordance with General Orders Number 5, War Department, 23 March 1925. It was designated as the 1st Medical Squadron.

For all the details, go to our Web site <15thmedbnassociation.org>; click on the "Informational" Heading; then click on "Unit History."

The 100-year anniversary will be celebrated at our 2026 Reunion!



Photo on the left:
43rd Organization Day Celebration on 1 June 1969. L to R: Mess Steward, SFC William H. Barnville; BN CO and Division Surgeon, LTC Guthrie L. Turner; and HSC CO, CPT Aubrey C. Hall.

2026 Reunion Information

The 2026 15th Med BN Assn Reunion will be at the Hyatt Place Oklahoma City, OK. Wed, 22 April -Sunday, 26 April. Room rates are \$119/night, and if you have a car to park, there's an additional \$16/night. The direct URL for hotel reservations is <<https://shorturl.at/Lewqk>>. Our group reservation code is G-MBAS.

This year, the reunion will be a bit different from previous years, as there is too much to see when you're tied down to a tour. First, both Thursday and Friday afternoons will be open for you to explore Bricktown. Your registration packet will include information on all the places of interest, so you may choose what you'd like to see.

Located in Bricktown, our host hotel provides easy access to the city's top attractions in Oklahoma City. <<https://www.visitokc.com/districts/bricktown/>>. Enjoy spacious rooms, valet parking, on-site dining, an indoor pool, and more. Bricktown is the city's original warehouse and distribution center, turned into an entertainment district. Founded just days after the Land Run of 1889, Bricktown was, and still is, a central hub connecting not only railroads and highways, but local citizens and visitors. This thriving urban district is now home to more than 45 restaurants, bars, and retail shops, along with family-friendly attractions, a diverse array of public art, museums, galleries, and the renowned Bricktown Canal.

Bring your furry friend along to enjoy the exciting sights and sounds of Oklahoma City/Bricktown at our pet-friendly hotel. Please call 405-702-4028 to let us know you'll be bringing your canine companion. Fees are: 1-6 nights: \$100/stay.

Second, on Saturday, a film crew will be present to record oral histories from members who have received the Purple Heart. We will provide a quiet room for interviews and invite all eligible attendees to share their stories to help the American Military Heritage Museum expand its collection of personal accounts and histories of Purple Heart recipients. Your participation will preserve these important memories for future generations.

Just a few of the things to do nearby:

- The streetcar, loops through Bricktown, Automobile Alley and Midtown! There is a stop right outside the hotel door, on the street corner.
- Bricktown Entertainment District, located just one block (an easy walk) there is a ton of stuff to do.
- Oklahoma City Memorial and Museum is within walking distance, it's a memorable experience, unlike any other.
- Boathouse District, which is just a mile away. Surfing, ziplining, whitewater rafting and more, at your fingertips!

The banquet on Saturday evening will be beef short ribs, roasted carrots, red-skinned mashed potatoes, macaroni and cheese, garden salad, and dinner rolls.

In addition to our regular festivities, the 100-year anniversary of the organization of the 15th Medical Battalion (1 June 1926 at Fort Bliss, TX) will be celebrated at the 2026 Reunion!

Transportation from Will Rogers World Airport (OKC) to Hyatt Place Oklahoma

City / Bricktown is approximately 10-15 minutes from the airport, and several convenient transportation options are available.

Rideshare Services: Uber and Lyft operate regularly from the airport. Pickup zones are clearly marked outside baggage claim.

Taxi Services: Airport Express – (405) 681-3311

Checker Cab – (405) 236-5551

Yellow Cab – (405) 232-6161

Reunion registration forms are available on our website, <www.15thmedbnassociation.org> under "Reunion Information." Please check our website regularly for the detailed schedule of events and further updates.

15th Medical Battalion Association 2026 Reunion /100-year Anniversary of the 15th Medical Battalion Celebration, 22-26 April 2026.

Hyatt Place Oklahoma City/ Bricktown, 20 Russell M. Perry Ave, Oklahoma City, OK 73104. Reservations: <<https://shorturl.at/Lewqk>> Group code: G-MBAS. POC: Huey Huether, 830-456-5580 or <medevac2@15thmedbnassociation.org>. Info at <15thmedbnassociation.org>.

Membership in the 15th Medical Battalion Association

Eligible for membership are all personnel formally assigned or attached on orders for at least thirty days to the 15th Medical Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division and/or successor units which served in Vietnam after Stand Down of the 1st and 2nd Brigades of the 1st Cavalry Division in 1971 (Medical Company, 1st Composite Service Support Battalion and Medical Company, 215th Composite Service Battalion (Support)).

You do not have to be a member of the 15th Medical Battalion Association to attend the reunion, but membership is encouraged, and it is free and easy! Just go to <15thmedbnassociation.org>, Under the "Association" heading, click on "Application to Join Us," fill in the blanks and click "Send Application" and you are done! There are no joining fees or annual dues!

Also, if you have access to Facebook, please consider joining our Facebook Group. Just search for "15th Medical Battalion Association" and click on "Join Group." Please consider attending this reunion!

The 2026 Reunion will be the 28th 15th Med Battalion Association reunion and will be the first held in Oklahoma. If you have never attended a 15th Med BN Association reunion, please consider attending this one!

WANTED:

INFO ABOUT SFC LEO KUBAT

Served in Korea from late Aug 1950-summer 1951 with I Co, 3d Bn, 7th Cav Regt. Preparing a memoir for Kubat family and appreciate personal details of him and of operations of I Company or 3d Battalion especially after moving north of Pyongyang in late October 1950, retrograde to the Han River that winter and then advance north of Seoul in spring 1951. Already have considerable information of operations of 7th Cav Regt and 1st Cav Div for that period.

Contact Joe Beben, 775-220-1684, Email <joebeben@gmail.com>.

FERNANDO "NANDO" SALINAS

Sergeant with Charlie Company 2/7 during the Vietnam War, is looking for his battle buddies from 1966-1967. Anyone who wants to say hello can reach him at <[puruenando67@gmail.com](mailto:purenando67@gmail.com)>.

If you have been searching for someone that you served with within 1st Cav, try posting it here.

Submit requests to <Programs@1CDA.org> for the next Saber!



JOIN THE SABER TEAM!

Saber Writer Openings

We are currently seeking dedicated writers to fill several important roles within the *Saber* newspaper. These positions offer a unique opportunity to honor your unit heritage and share your stories with the community.

Available Scribe Positions:

- 9th CAV Scribe
- 15th Med/15th BSB Scribe
- Engineers Scribe
- VA News Updates

Share Your Stories

Consider writing for your Unit Column to help preserve and celebrate the legacy of your unit. If you don't tell your war stories, nobody will know what you did.

For more details or to express your interest in any of the scribe positions, email programs@1CDA.org.

78TH ANNUAL REUNION OF THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION in New Orleans, LA, 8-12 July 2026

The 1st Cavalry Division Association invites you to join the rest of the First Team Family in New Orleans, LA for the 78th Annual Reunion of the 1st Cavalry Division Association from 8-12 July 2026. All Life and Associate Members are welcome to attend this special event. Gold Star Families and Widows of our members are always welcome to attend.

Whether this is your first time in New Orleans or you're a seasoned visitor, the city's invigorating spirit is sure to inspire you to jump in and see and do so much. Discover the spontaneous joy that is the Crescent City's calling card. Subtract a few hours for sleep, multiply your dining pleasure by at least three times a day, and you have the perfect equation for an amazing New Orleans experience. New Orleans a city where history, music, food, and celebration come together like nowhere else in the United States. From the lively sounds of jazz to stunning Creole architecture, mouthwatering cuisine, and world-famous festivals, this city captivates at every turn. Whether you're strolling under the oak trees, savoring beignets, or dancing in a second line parade, there's no place quite like NOLA.

Please register early to assist us in coordinating the best reunion possible. Some events have limited seating available due to the size of available rooms. All members of the Association must register and pay the \$40 Registration Fee except for our Active-Duty Troopers who pay \$20 to register. Family members attending with an Association member, Widows of 1st Cavalry Division Troopers, and Gold Star Family members that attend do not have to pay a registration fee. *The registration fee will no longer be refundable regardless of when a member cancels.*

Online registration opens 1 October 2025; the Reunion registration form will be included in the *Saber* from November '25 through June '26. Those sending in registrations post-marked after 15 May 2026 must pay a late registration fee of \$50.

NOTE: Cancellations are non-refundable after the 15 May 2026 deadline.

TRAVEL

The hotel offers Valet Parking at \$52 a day. I have added a link to the website for additional parking information.

For those who plan to fly, there is a link for airport information on the website. Please keep in mind there is no shuttle available to any hotel in New Orleans. The **taxis rates from New Orleans Airport** are as follows:

- \$36.00 for a ride to the Central Business District (CBD) or French Quarter for up to **two passengers**.
- For **three or more passengers**, the fare is **\$15.00 per person**.
- Taxis are required to accept **credit card payments**.

LODGING

We will be utilizing the Sheraton New Orleans. Reservations can be made through the website link or by calling the reservation desk. Make sure that you identify yourself as attending the 1st Cavalry Division Association Reunion.

Sheraton New Orleans - \$179

(504) 525-2500 Press 1

500 Canal St, New Orleans, LA 70130

Or go to the website and use the reservation link provided on the right-side menu.

RV Parking

- Pelican RV Park New Orleans (504) 708-5359
3716 Downman Rd (approximately 6.1 miles from the Sheraton)
- Three Oaks and a Pine (504) 779-5757
7500 Chef Menteur Hwy (approximately 7.1 miles from the Sheraton)
- Jude Travel Park of New Orleans (504) 241-0632
7400 Chef Menteur Hwy (approximately 7.2 miles from the Sheraton)

UNIQUE NOLA TOURS

Unique NOLA Tours has established a coupon code for our members attending the reunion. The code gets you 20% off any of your tours while in town. No limitations, any tours, any number of people. Use the code: **1CDA25**

They have six tours at various times of day to suit various schedules. The most popular are the Sinister Criminal Intentions, Lewd Spirits (for adults), and a Family Friendly Ghost Tour for all ages.

Here's their daily tour schedule (all times US Central):

- Garden District Tour: 10am
- The Local's Guide to the French Quarter Tour: 10am & 4pm
- Pestilence, Pandemic & Plague Tour: 1pm
- Kid-friendly Ghost Tour: 5pm
- Sinister Criminal Intentions, The Original True Crime Tour: 7pm
- Our Favorite Ghosts Tour: 8pm
- Lewd Spirits Pub Crawl and Ghost Tour: 5pm & 8pm

REUNION EVENT OVERVIEW

You will notice several changes to the reunion schedule. All Unit Luncheons have been moved to Friday. The Memorial (Long Roll Muster) will be held in conjunction with the Legacy Breakfast. Our Trustee and Board meetings will be held in the evening accommodating those members who are unable to attend the reunion.

The Association will be providing our guests with transportation to the WWII Museum on 8 July (1200-1800) and 9 July (0900-1600) at no cost. Reduced tickets can be purchased at the museum for entry. The National WWII Museum tells the story of the American experience in *the war that changed the world*—why it was fought, how it was won, and what it means today—so that all generations will understand the price of freedom and be inspired by what they learn. The museum currently sits on six acres with seven separate buildings which house artifacts, exhibits, and multimedia experiences. For more information about the museum please use the link provided to the right.

The Ladies' Luncheon will be held somewhere special. You will be transported to the New Orleans School of Cooking. You will enjoy a cooking demonstration of local and authentic New Orleans cuisine, an opportunity to devour the delicious food that was prepared and receive take-home recipe cards.

As usual, we will have all other planned events at the resort: Legacy Breakfast

(Long Roll Muster), Unit Lunches, Purple Heart Breakfast, Association Banquet, Group Breakfasts. We will have meetings of the Chapter Presidents, Foundation Trustees, the Board of Governors, and our General Membership meeting. During our General Membership meeting on Saturday morning, we will hold elections for the Association and Foundation.

Seating for all events is open except for the Reunion Banquet on Saturday night. If you are attending the banquet, you must get your tickets **marked with a table number** at the Banquet Seating table when picking up your registration packet. If you want to sit with specific people, we recommend that you all go to the Banquet Seating table together with your tickets available. Do not wait until the last minute or we may not be able to meet your needs.

Cavalry casual attire is appropriate for all reunion events. Wear what you feel comfortable wearing; a coat and tie, your uniform (if it still fits), casual clothing with an open collar, jeans, or shorts. We want you to attend and are not overly concerned about what you wear, so long as it is not indecent! The Association will provide a Reunion Hospitality Room in the hotel for you to gather and enjoy yourself. Drinks (beer and wine) in the Reunion Room are free, but we ask that you generously donate to help us pay for this room. The Reunion Room will open daily at 0900 with the bar opening at 1200 hours. The Crossed Sabers Gift Shop will set up a store in the hotel to sell all kinds of Cav-tastic First Team merchandise including shirts, hats, Stetsons, pins, decals, and other items too numerous to mention.

THE BEST PART OF THE REUNION:

The best part of any reunion is the people that attend. The 1st Cavalry Division Association Reunion brings in Troopers from every era of the First Team's history. Troopers that rode horses, fought in the Pacific with MacArthur, occupied Japan, fought in Korea, or stood watch on the DMZ will spend time with the Sky Troopers of Vietnam and the Troopers from Operation Desert Storm, Fort Hood, Bosnia, and the latest combat Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan. The equipment and terrain might be different, but the common bond of serving with America's First Team binds us together. Saddle up and ride into New Orleans in 2026!

Scooter & Wheelchair Rentals Available at Mobility City 504-420-6685

[<https://neworleansla.mobilitycity.com/rentals>](https://neworleansla.mobilitycity.com/rentals)

REUNION T-SHIRT PRE ORDER FORM

page 19

OFFICIAL NOTICE

ELECTION OF OFFICERS – REUNION 2026

The By Laws of the Association provide that the Officers and members of the Board of Governors shall be elected by the General Membership at the General Membership meeting conducted during the Annual Reunion. Further, the President may appoint a Nominating Committee to nominate candidates for office and that other nominations may be made by Life members from the floor at the General Membership meeting. The Resolutions of the Trust Agreement of the Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division Association require the election to the Board of Trustees for positions coming vacant each year shall occur at the Annual Reunion. Candidates for all offices must be Life members of the Association.

The President has appointed a nominating committee to recommend Life members of the Association for election or re-election to fill the terms of office for the following positions that become vacant as of 11 July 2026:

3rd Vice President
2 Foundation Trustees
10 Board Members

Any Life member of the Association, including an incumbent, who wishes to be considered by the nominating committee for one of these positions, should forward a letter to the **Chairman, 2025 Nominating Committee, 302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703**, requesting consideration for nomination to the specific office.

The Nominating Committee must receive all requests no later than 15 April 2026 to assure sufficient time for processing and full consideration.

Requests must be accompanied by appropriate documentation that includes proof of service with the 1st Cavalry Division (e.g., a DD214 or equivalent) and a biographical sketch. The biographical sketch needs to outline the applicant's full name and provide ranks, dates of service and units assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division.

Additionally, it needs to provide the dates and positions for any offices held at National or Chapter level in the Association and similar information for any other Veteran's organizations the applicant belongs to. Any instances of special support for Association programs should also be included if applicable.

The election will be held during the General Membership meeting at the 78th Annual Reunion of the Association on Saturday, 11 July 2026 in New Orleans, LA.

Nominations from the floor will be accepted. A Life member making such nomination will be expected to provide the information outlined above on the nominee and in addition provide assurance that the nominee is either present at the General Membership meeting or has agreed to accept nomination to the specified office.

REQUEST FOR REUNION SILENT AUCTION BASKET FUNDRAISER

- We are asking for ALL Regiments, Unit Associations, and Chapters to donate an item or basket, minimum value of \$50, to the silent auction to raise funds for our Active-Duty Scholarship Fund.
- Donations from individuals are welcome as well!



78th ANNUAL 1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION REUNION, JULY 8-12, 2026, in NEW ORLEANS
is open to all members of the 1st Cavalry Division Association

WEDNESDAY JULY 8

0900-1800 Registration Open
0900-1800 Gift Shop Open
0900-2400 Reunion Room Open
1200-1800 WWII Museum
Buy Tickets at Venue

THURSDAY JULY 9

0900-1700 Registration Open
0900-1700 Gift Shop Open
0900-2400 Reunion Room Open
0900-1600 WWII Museum
Buy Tickets at Venue
1900-2200 President's Reception* (Cash Bar)

FRIDAY JULY 10

0730-0900 Legacy Breakfast* & Long Roll Muster
0900-1800 Registration Desk Open
0900-1800 Gift Shop Open
0900-2400 Reunion Room Open
1130-1500 Ladies' Luncheon*
1200-1400 Unit Luncheons*
1500-1600 Chapter President's Meeting
1600-1700 Foundation Meeting
1700-1900 Board of Governors Meeting

MAIL TO:

1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION REUNION, 302 N. MAIN, COPPERAS COVE, TX 76522-1703

The 78th Annual 1CDA Reunion is at the Sheraton New Orleans, 500 Canal St., (504) 525-2500 (press 1), July 8-12, 2026 in New Orleans, LA. Registration fee is required for Lifetime and Associate Members, not guests. Fee includes info packet with name tag(s), booklet and pin.

****REFUNDS: Cancellations must be received by 5:00pm May 15, 2026, in our office (254-547-6537) for a refund.****

****Cancellations are non-refundable after the May 15, 2026 deadline. Registration fee is non-refundable.****

Are you a member of 1CDA? Yes No
Is this your first reunion? Yes No

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Nickname: _____

Unit (s) #1: _____

Year (s) #1: _____

Unit (s) #2: _____

Year (s) #2: _____

Guests/Spouse/Other: (For nametag purposes)

#1: _____

#2: _____

#3: _____

#4: _____

#5: _____

#6: _____

***Next of Kin Name & Phone Number:**

Method of Payment: (circle one)

Credit Card Check: # _____

CC #: _____

Exp Date: _____

CVV#: _____

Signature: _____

SATURDAY JULY 11

0730-0900 Purple Heart Breakfast*
0900-1500 Registration Desk Open
0900-1600 Gift Shop Open
0900-2400 Reunion Room Open
1000-1200 General Membership Meeting
1430-1530 Veterans Briefing
1745-1845 Cocktails (Cash Bar)
1900-2230 Association Banquet*

SUNDAY JULY 12

0700-0830 Group Breakfast*
0700-0900 LRRP/Ranger Breakfast*

Quantity	Price	Total
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THURSDAY JULY 9

- President's Reception/Mixer
Cash Bar, Buffet

FRIDAY JULY 10

- Legacy Breakfast
- Ladies' Luncheon
- Unit Lunch (Circle your unit)

5C 7C 8C 9C 12C ENG

AVN ARTY HQ LRRP

SATURDAY JULY 11

- Purple Heart Breakfast
- Association Banquet (Circle your unit)

5C 7C 8C 9C 12C ENG

AVN ARTY HQ LRRP

SUNDAY JULY 12

- Group Breakfast
- LRRP Breakfast

Registration Fee BEFORE May 15, 2026:
(Members only, not guests)

1 \$ 40.00 \$ _____

Late Registration Fee AFTER May 15, 2026: _____ \$ 50.00 \$ _____

Active Duty w/ID Registration Fee _____ \$ 20.00 \$ _____

Reunion Donation _____ Donation \$ _____

Saber Newspaper Renewal (\$20 per year or \$75 for 5 years) _____ \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

*Tickets are required for entry / Registration & Gift Shop are CLOSED each day from 12-1pm for lunch.

CHAPTER NEWS UPDATES

We invite all of our Chapter Presidents, VPs or POC's to contribute any photos, news, or updates about your Chapter, to be **posted here in the Saber!** We would love to hear updates from all of our Chapters spread across the United States. **WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO USE THIS PLATFORM TO SHARE YOUR BULLETINS.**

Submission deadline to appear in the next Saber is **Monday, March 2, 2026.**
Please send to Memberships@1CDA.org

COLUMBIA WILLAMETTE CHAPTER

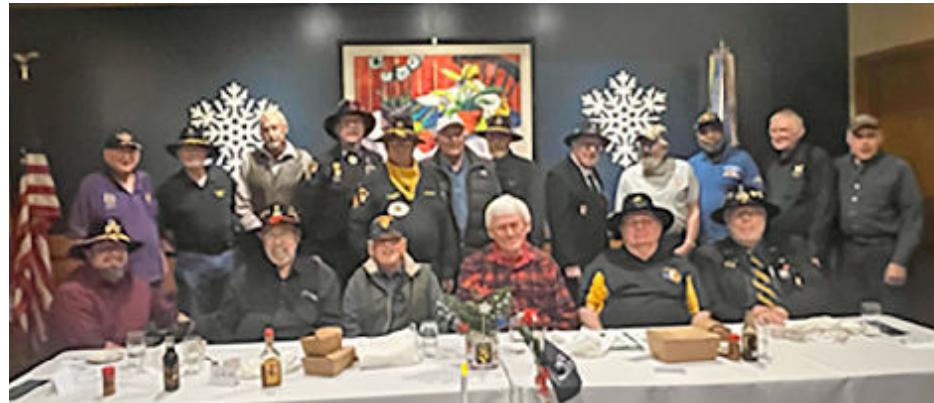


The photo above is our Kettle Moraine Chapter attendees at our holiday party in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

From left: Andrew Sabin, Mike Kopaczewski (chaplain), Shawn Rivers, Emmett Hicks, Jerry Nelson (secretary), Loren LeGault (incoming chapter president), John Andrews, Archie Molina, Paul Petersen, Mike Lorber (vice president), Robert Richter (treasurer), Julius Mianecki, Ken Tulnyak, and Fred Douglass (outgoing president).

The chapter meets quarterly on the second Saturday of the month at the **Bunker Restaurant** in Waterford, Wisconsin. The next meeting is **March 10, 2026.**

Mike Lorber



Our December Banquet was again held at the Sayler's Old Country Kitchen with 48 attendees and was enjoyed by all. Veterans from the 1st Cav, 25th ID, 101st ABD, representatives of the Fisher House, and guests had a great meal and fellowship. We had the pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence, and a benediction to start the meeting. Jim Jonhson MC's the meeting and conducted the Missing Man Table. Michael Carter introduced the Fisher House speakers who described their mission of service to Veterans. Fisher House provides temporary housing for Veterans needing medical treatments in the wider Portland-Vancouver area. Michael reported the Pass-the-hat collected \$1201 for the Fisher House. Our next monthly meeting will be **February 12**; we meet on the **second Thursday of every month**. Please join us at an upcoming gathering. Secretary Steven Kernek 971-645-6073

FLORIDA FIRST COAST CHAPTER



We had a joint visit with the Ormond Beach VVA group, meeting half-way in St. Augustine FL and some were Cav Vets who met their foxhole buddies for the first time.

Our VP, Sam Berninger, has been recognized as having never missed 66 meetings. Others have come close but only one has a 5-star rating.

We received a recognition from the American Legion Auxiliary for our support of their breast cancer awareness programs.

Now, for 2026, if you live in a zip code that starts 32xxx, just respond to this Chapter Letter and we'll save a seat for you. And the chow is better than C rats, MRE's or whatever bag they are serving now.

KETTLE MORAINE CHAPTER



The Kettle Moraine Chapter of the 1st Cavalry Division Association of S.E. Wisconsin bestowed upon Racine County Veterans Service Officer, Shawn Rivers, honorary chapter membership for services rendered to the chapter at the Pritchard Park Veterans Memorial in Racine, Wisconsin in 2023 and 2024.

Photo on the left is of our Honorary chapter member, Shawn Rivers on the left and presenting the honorary member plaque is Mike Lorber, chapter vice president, is on the right.



Our meetings are open to all service members regardless of branch, division or unit assignment. We welcome spouses, relatives, friends and interested parties. There are no dues or charges to attend. Coffee and a buffet lunch will be served. Donations to the chapter are always welcome.

To be added to our meeting distribution list, send an email to <rbbartlett01@gmail.com> or call Robin Bartlett, Chapter President at 201-856-7530. Please join us to greet old friends and make new ones.

ATTENTION CHAPTER OFFICERS/POCs:

- If you have a change in your leadership, you are required to inform 1CDA HQ. This is important for decimation of information.
- Plan to attend the Chapter Presidents Meeting **Friday, July 10, 3-4 pm** at the 78th Reunion. If you hold a position in your chapter, it is highly recommended you attend.
- Come gather new ideas for your Chapter!
- ALSO don't forget to bring your **Chapter Silent Auction Donation** benefitting the Active Duty Scholarship

HAVE YOUR CHAPTER NEWS UPDATES POSTED HERE!

CHAPTER INDEX

COLUMBIA-WILLAMETTE

Pres: Terry Low
16560 S Harding Rd.
Oregon City, OR 97045-9679
(503) 210-5558
Email: tangolina2505@comcast.net
Website: www.Hood2Hood1stCav.webs.com

Meets 1200 2nd Thurs of each month at the Elmer's Restaurant, 10001 NE Sandy Blvd, Portland, OR. No meeting in Dec.

CONNECTICUT

Pres: Keith Moyer
48 Boretz Rd.
Colchester, CT 06415-1009
(860) 885-4330
Email: kpmoyerco@hotmail.com
Facebook: CTCAV

We meet quarterly. Email me for info. All new & prospective members welcome.

CROSSED SABERS

Pres: Tim Hodge
(254) 718-4533
Email: Tim@allaboutinsurance.com
Facebook: 1st Cavalry Division Association Crossed Saber Chapter

General membership meetings Mar & Oct.
Stable Calls: 4th Thurs of each month, 6pm, except Nov, Dec and the month of the Association Reunion. Stable Calls at various locations in Central TX area.

FLORIDA'S FIRST COAST

Pres: Jesse Crimm
4445 Silverwood Ln
Jacksonville, FL 32207-6241
(904) 534-8899
Email: thecrimms@gmail.com

Meets at noon on 3rd Tues of every month. Locations alternate between westside & southside Jacksonville. Call 904-534-8899 to be notified & placed on mailing list.

FLORIDA TROOP E
"BLACK HAT"

Pres: Juan Kellogg
607 SE 47th St., Apt. 7
Cape Coral, FL 33904-5506
Email: juankellogg@embarqmail.com
Website: www.seahog.org/cav/index.html

Meets 4th Sat each month from Sept.-May 1:00 pm at Mission BBQ, 12984 S. Cleveland Ave, Fort Myers, FL 33907

FORT KNOX AREA

Pres: Thomas Ken O'Barr
12210 Valley Dr.
Louisville, KY 40026-9501
(502) 228-8032
Email: ko42@bellsouth.net
POC: Robert W. Griffin
64 Tabor Lane
Elizabethtown, KY 42701-6158
(270) 737-5908
Email: lyngriffxx@windstream.net
Facebook: 1st Cavalry Div Fort Knox Area Chapter

Meets 3rd Sat of the month at 11am at Camp Knox Masonic Lodge #919, 1158 N. Dixie Hwy, Radcliff, KY.

JAMES H. UNRUH
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA

Pres: Michael T. Mazzaro
Cenpenn Chapter. 1CDA
P.O. Box 10033
Lancaster, PA 17605
(717) 389-1000

Email: cenpenn1cda@gmail.com
Meets 1800 2nd Tues of each month, except Nov, Dec, and Jan at Lititz VFW Post 1463, 14 N. Spruce St., Lititz, PA 17543

KETTLE MORaine

Pres: Fred Douglas
2742 E. Main St, Lot 5
East Troy, WI 53120-1379
(262) 379-9930
Email: FDouglas@centurytel.net
POC: Michael Lorber
4819 Longwood Dr., Mt. Pleasant, WI 53403-9769
(262) 554-8310

We meet quarterly on 2nd Sat of Mar, Jun, Sept at 12pm at the Bunker in Waterford, WI. Election of officers are the 2nd Sat of Dec at 12pm at Meyers Restaurant in Greenfield, WI.

LOS ANGELES/
ORANGE COUNTY

Pres: John Guillory
780 Mandevilla Way
Corona, CA 92879-8251
(951) 283-7458
Email: manhunter6869@yahoo.com
Vice Pres: Scott Alexander
5310 Silver Canyon Road A
Yorba Linda, CA 92887
Email: salexander48@hotmail.com

Meets quarterly (Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct) 0900 on 3rd Sat of month at American Legion Post 132, 143 S Lemon St., Orange, CA 92866

LRRP/RANGER of the 1st Cav
Division during the Vietnam War

Pres: Doug Matze
9623 Springhouse Dr.
Chesterfield, VA 23832-9304
(804) 790-1955
Email: Doug.Matze@lycos.com
Website: www.lrrprangers.com

Full chapter meeting during Reunions.

NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY

Pres: Robin B. Bartlett
63 Burlington St.
Norwood, NJ 07648-1515
(201) 856-7530
Email: RBBartlett01@gmail.com
Facebook: New York New Jersey Cavalry

Instagram: NYNJCAvalry

Meets quarterly at Elk Lodge 25 Cedar St, Ridgefield Park, NJ, 10am-1:30pm. Free coffee & buffet lunch. Send email to be added to mailing list for updates on upcoming meetings.

NORTH CAROLINA
TARHEEL

Pres: Johnny Parker
10915 Tradition View Dr.
Charlotte, NC 28269-1411
(704) 517-5445
Email: shagon19@gmail.com
Contact for Membership: Don Gibson
803 McDonald Church Road
Rockingham, NC 28379-8529
(910) 417-9104
Email: dtbjgibson@gmail.com

Meets 2nd Sat of Mar, Jun, Sept & Dec.

SHERIDAN'S CAVALRY
(Greater Chicago Area)

Pres: Rich Hildenbrand
(630) 665-8183
Email: rich.hildenbrand@outlook.com
Temp POC: Donna Paganowski
6043 W. 59th St
Chicago, IL 60638-3553
(312) 401-0548
Email: dnnpcnwsk9@gmail.com
Facebook: Sheridan's Chapter 1st Cavalry Division

2025 meeting dates are March 8, May 10, August 9 (picnic), October 11, and December 6 (Christmas party). All Meetings and events held at Roselle American Legion Post #1084, 344 East Maple Ave., Roselle, IL 60172.

WALTER H. WESTMAN
NORTHLAND

Pres: James D. Wright
12781 Able St. NE
Blaine, MN 55434-3261
(763) 757-7140
Email: 1stCav-MN@comcast.net
Facebook: Walter H Westman-Northland Chapter 1st Cavalry Division Association

We meet quarterly, locations change each time to different areas of the state. Call for updated information.

WILLIAM A. RICHARDSON
NATIONAL CAPITOL REGION

Pres: Linda Jantzen
3913 Ridge Road
Annandale, VA 22003
(210) 849-9036
Email: signalinda88@gmail.com
Facebook: 1st Cavalry Division Nat'l Capitol Region

Meets 3rd Sat in Jan-May off Jun-Aug. Meets again Sept-Dec. Nov meeting held in conjunction with 1CDA Veterans Day gathering.



Send us YOUR Chapter photo, so it can appear in the next issue!

CROSSED SABERS GIFT SHOP located at 1CDA HQ



Scan the QR code to view the Online Catalog or type shop.1CDA.org into your web browser.

302 N. Main St Copperas Cove, TX 76544

254-532-2075

1stCavGiftShop@gmail.com

HOURS:

MON - FRI
9 am - 4 pm

Stetson Services Available!

Reshaping, Brim Trimming & Crown Sizing

Get all your Cav-Tastic souvenirs here!

Books, Challenge Coins, Clothing, Crafts, Flags, Hats, Jewelry, License Plates, Medals, Military Brass, Patches, Pins, Stetson & Accessories, Ties, Unit Stickers & Much More!

The Crossed Sabers Gift Shop is a Non-Profit Organization. Net income is distributed to the Association for the Scholarship Program and to the Soldier Travel Fund, which allows active duty Soldiers of the Division to attend away Reunions as guests of the Association.

We accept telephone orders with payment by MASTERCARD, VISA, DISCOVER or AMERICAN EXPRESS or you can order online at shop.1CDA.org using your credit card.

Printed Catalogs Are Available for \$5.00!

Make your check payable to 1st Cavalry Division Association and mail to: 302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703.

Crossed Sabers Gift Shop

20% OFF COUPON

Telephone Orders Only

Mention coupon code **063026** to receive your discount.

1 per person

Expires: June 30, 2026

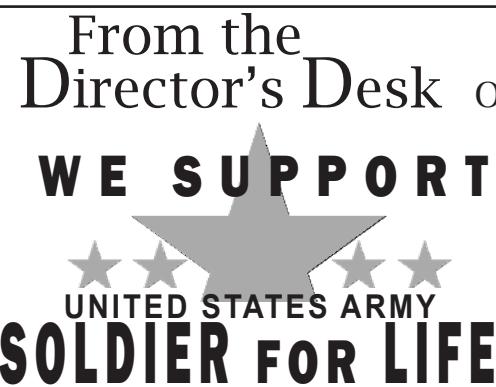
Excludes Stetsons, Consignment & Reunion items

GOT CAVALRY HISTORICAL QUESTIONS?

Did you know we have a 1CDA Historian?

Reach out to Dennis Webster with any questions, or information regarding 1st Cavalry Division history!

Dennis.Webster7@gmail.com or 254-220-2164



The mission statement for *Soldier for Life* is to connect Army, governmental, and community efforts to build relationships that facilitate successful reintegration of our retiring Soldiers, Veterans, and their Families in order to keep them Army Strong and instill their values, ethos, and leadership within communities.

Soldiers start strong, serve strong, reintegrate strong, and ultimately remain strong as Army ambassadors to their communities. The 1st Cavalry Division Association (1CDA) and its members will help to ensure Veterans connect to resources and their communities as they make the important transition from Active, Reserve, Guard or become civilian leaders. The 1CDA stands ready to help prepare those Soldiers to thrive as civilians and Veterans.

Why is this important to the Association?

The *Soldier for Life* concept helps Veterans 'bridge the gap' from the service through reintegration into their communities. The 1CDA has 25 chapters across the US to help facilitate veterans during their reintegration and beyond. It is here that their Army Story becomes a legacy that perpetuates the proud traditions of the 1st Cavalry Division. "Once Cav, Always Cav.... First Team."

IF YOU'RE VISITING FORT HOOD

If you're visiting Fort Hood, be sure to visit the 1st Cavalry Division Headquarters (Bldg. 28000). They have a free 1st Cavalry Division Walking History Tour. The tour is outdoors. It starts at the south entrance of Heritage Hall (1st Cav HQ) and walks around Cooper Field. Open to the public. If you want to watch from the comforts of your home, check out this link:

<<https://youtu.be/zE5npJiKpUo>>

You can also still visit the Horse Cavalry Detachment for a barn tour, they do their weekly Cav Demonstration on Thursdays, 10am at the stables, but call to verify 254-287-2229. They are located behind the National Mounted Warfare Museum, which is now open!

National Mounted Warfare Museum hours are Tuesday thru Saturday from 10am-5pm, 254-286-5684. No visitor pass is required for The Detachment nor the Museum, as they are not on post.

COMMEMORATE A FALLEN COMRADE

with our **Brick & Paver Campaign**
Buy a brick to be engraved & placed by
Heritage Hall at Division Headquarters

1CDA BULLETINS:

As of January 2026

- **PCI Oral History Book Update:**

The president sent out letters anticipating shipment in Spring 2026. Contact them with questions or refunds. 1-800-982-1590 or by email at PCIservice@publishingconcepts.com.

- Calendar Subscription required to stay on the calendar mailing list, 2027 Calendar \$10
- Associate Memberships are increased to \$20
- \$10 charge for each calendar requested

The next *Saber* newspaper is the **March / April 2026** edition.

Deadline for submissions of your stories or photos is

Monday, March 2, 2026.

Please email to Programs@1CDA.org

2026 CALENDAR DONATIONS

Hope everyone is enjoying YOUR new calendar!

Thank you to our following member who has donated \$100 or more towards our 2026 calendar:

SGT BAIER, Kenneth W.	\$101
LTG (RET) BOLGER, Daniel	\$1000
SP-5 BRASHIER, Claude M.	\$100
SGT DEAN, James	\$100
SGT PHILLIPS, James A.	\$100
CW3 (RET) STAATZ, Jerry D.	\$100
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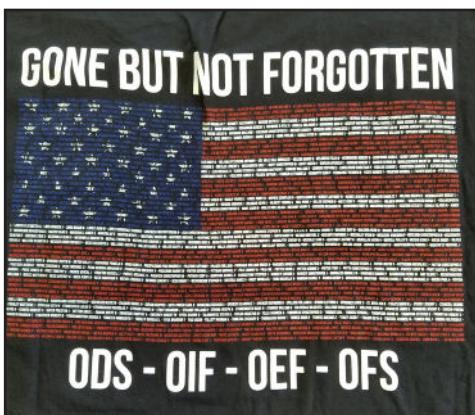
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TROOPER'S TALE**Continued from pg. 3**

The team sat quietly throughout the afternoon. No one moved from his spot on the ground, and no one spoke. Each man scanned the area in front of him. Each man was lost in his own thoughts. I was alert with anticipation of coming action. I had seen the tracks of the North Vietnam Army (NVA) on the trail. There were plenty of them, and they looked fresh. I was eager for an ambush, but I was also wary. I thought about a previous mission in Cambodia that had made me realize that anything was possible in the field. In that instance, we had searched a heavy jungle throughout the day without finding a trace of the enemy before stopping for an overnight halt.

While we rested in the stillness of triple canopy jungle, a large truck started up and began idling just yards from our position. Instantly, we all reacted with bewilderment and surprise. A truck in the middle of a jungle with no roads? Was that possible? What kind of truck? Troop transport? If so, how many men? Supply truck? Were we close to a camp? Was it even a truck? Maybe it was armor. We called a Pink Team, consisting of a Cobra gunship & a Light Observation Helicopter (LOH), to our location for backup and to find the truck and the personnel. When they arrived, the LOH buzzed the treetops, but never spotted the vehicle. The Cobra made repeated strafing runs close to our position in the direction of the truck noise, but the results were unknown as we were extracted after the Cobra had expended its ordinance.

Suddenly, I felt the flush of adrenalin as movement caught my eye. About fifty yards away to my right, I watched in amazement as a column of NVA soldiers streamed out of a draw onto the trail and moved toward our position. Quietly, I whispered to the team, "Here they come," and tried to get as low as I could. Silently, the other Rangers flatten onto the ground.

My heart was pounding as the long line of NVA approached our position. The NVA were heavily armed with AK-47 rifles, heavy machine guns, ammo belts, and B-40 rocket propelled grenade launchers. Some wore the familiar NVA green uniform with pith hat, while others wore black pajama-like pants and shirts. Each man carried a large pack. Some of the soldiers looked very scruffy, even wild, with long hair and dirty uniforms. These were not new recruits. They were veteran troops who had been in the field a long time. Despite their heavy load, the men walked quickly. Several times we heard men speak angrily as if urging the others to move quicker, or maybe it was just someone bitching like all soldiers do about harsh conditions, a forced march, or even the army. Their voices were sharp and abrupt.

For an instant, I thought these guys are just like us. They don't want to be here any more than we do. They were living in the field under miserable conditions for months at a time, being hunted night and day, by air and by land, suffering under the heat and the rain, destined to fight a seemingly endless war against a superior force until they were either maimed or killed. But these were hardened soldiers dedicated to their cause, and they were tough.

Many thoughts flashed through my mind as I watched the enemy in a long column pass by. I tried to comprehend the unreality of my situation. Minutes earlier I was quietly sitting in a jungle. Within seconds, I was suddenly within a few yards of hundreds of enemy soldiers. True, we were camouflaged head to toe and concealed in the jungle, but barely. We were not in a thick, triple canopy jungle. It was more like a shrub brush, vines, and a thinly treed forest. My major concern was that we had some concealment, but no cover. There were no large trees, rocks, bunkers, or even fox holes to protect us. Our entire position was no more than a few yards wide. A long burst from one enemy AK-47 could take us all out. Our only hope was to remain completely silent and invisible. No cover and very little concealment. This was not good.

We were so very, very close to the enemy. I concentrated on remaining absolutely still and controlling what little breath I had. I did not move as I felt ants and other insects crawl over my body. I could not believe that I could be dead within seconds. I wondered about my teammates. There were six of us. If anyone moved, coughed, spoke, or made any kind of sound, we would surely be killed. We were all highly trained, but we were all human, too. I prayed no one would panic and start shooting, and I hoped Abbott wouldn't detonate the claymores because our anti-personnel mines couldn't kill them all. The claymores! What about the claymores!

The claymores had been set up along the trail. If even one NVA saw them, we were doomed. I had provided security on one end of the trail when the mines were set. But because I had been watching the trail, I didn't know exactly how or where they were placed. Were the mines camouflaged properly and hidden from view? Were the electric cord and the connecting detonation cords hidden? In the open area there wasn't much ground cover and the grass was thin and low. When I first got into H Company, I remembered sitting in the barracks in the evenings listening to stories from Veteran LRRPs about gooks who had actually seen improperly hidden claymores before they were detonated. I heard stories of claymores that were set too low and when detonated didn't kill the gooks but just blew their legs off. I heard stories of claymores that didn't go off. I wondered about our claymores, and I was very worried they would be spotted.

The radio was another real concern. Nothing like a squelch break or a crackle of a radio transmission to alert the enemy. What was happening with the commo? Nothing I hoped. Everyone was still and quiet. Every eye was riveted on the battle harden soldiers of the North Vietnamese army moving in front of our position.

But did anyone back at FSB David know what was happening? Was a Pink Team on the way? No, wait. If a Pink Team showed up, what would the NVA do? They wouldn't stand out in the open as a Cobra came diving down on them with mini-guns and rockets blazing. They'd run into the jungle, right where we were. So, don't send the gunships. In fact, I prayed *no* aircraft would fly over which would surely cause the NVA to seek cover. Ironically, we were in the midst of a large enemy force, but we couldn't call for help because it might drive the enemy into our position. We were on our own. Six guys somewhere in Cambodia with hundreds of enemy troops just a few meters away.

After the first column of NVA passed, I knew we were in trouble, but I liked our chances. I tried to focus on my breathing, but within seconds, I was shocked to hear more Vietnamese voices and the soft clatter of troops on the march. Unbelievably, I looked to see another line of NVA emerge along the trail heading to our position. Once again, enemy soldiers shuffled passed us, not in one long, evenly spaced column, but in smaller, platoon sized groups. I felt like I was in a Hollywood movie, but this was real, and there would be no retakes or second

chances.

Eventually, the long enemy columns passed our position. Smith put the radio handset to his ear and quietly alerted fire support base David with a situation report. For stealth purposes, all commo was accomplished with barely audible squelch breaks, except during insertions, extractions, and contact. One squelch break meant "yes," two squelch breaks meant "no." After the mission, during the after-action report, we learned what had transpired on the radio between Darrell Smith and the firebase.

From the operation center at the firebase: "Hard Rider 74, do you have movement?" "Squelch," replied Smith. "Are you in contact?" asked the firebase. "Squelch, squelch," replied Smith. "For every 3 gooks, give me one squelch break," asked the firebase.

Smith repeatedly broke squelch without really counting the number. When he stopped, the relay operator hesitated as if he misunderstood, and then asked, "Understand 40 gooks?" Smith replied with two squelches. "Understand 120 gooks?" asked the firebase incredulously. Smith replied with a squelch. "Yes."

It was way more than 120 gooks, but Smith later said reporting the exact number of enemy was immaterial during those desperate moments. Besides, how do you say, "too many to count" in squelch breaks? He just wanted to alert the firebase of a very large enemy force which was nearly on top of us. Later, if the Rangers survived the mission and made it back to the firebase, the team could give a more accurate description of the enemy troops but now was not the time to hash out details.

Within minutes the Rangers were told that a Pink Team was not immediately available, but artillery was, and they were standing by for a firing mission.

Darrell Smith, the radio man, recalled his experience that night.

"At dusk on our first night, we watched – as I remember- 200-300 bad guys walk swiftly uphill in a long, broken line through a scrubby draw to pass within 10 meters or so of our position. The NVA were extremely close. Too close! We hugged the ground completely motionless. I remember lots of black pajamas, others in green with flop hats and some had pith helmets. They carried AK-47s, magazine fed machine guns, rocket propelled grenades, and a few had rakes and shovels. When we talked later, someone said one of them had a bugle strapped to his pack.

No one got an accurate count because the sheer number of them challenged our primitive Ranger arithmetic. We had to lie absolutely still and completely concealed with our faces and bodies as close to ground as possible. I didn't even want to show the whites of my eyes. It took them many long minutes to walk by us in numerous drawn-out groups. They were talking and coughing and occasionally yelling at each other. I was hoping none of them would stop and pee on us.

After all the groups had passed, we thought some of enemy had halted a couple hundred meters beyond us at the end of the finger of hilltop jungle. We called in artillery (Redleg), on them. Within minutes, 105s howitzers from David began lobbing high explosive rounds into the path of the NVA. The shells exploded in the distance, then seem to get closer. Several rounds landed way too close. Were the coordinates correct? Now, we could hear shouting and movement from the NVA, and we quickly realized some of them were moving into the jungle and back toward us to avoid the incoming artillery. Between the exploding rounds, I finally called in a cease fire."

Within minutes the guns stopped firing and an eerie calm settled over us. The team lay motionless, frozen to the ground, M-16s ready, claymore detonator in hand, silently absorbing what had just happened. We waited for more enemy movement, but the trail was empty and the jungle was silent. Still, we remained in our position, alert for any enemy voices or movement.

Our primary goal on the mission was to find the enemy, and we had exceeded that goal far beyond our wildest imagination as we had watched the North Vietnamese Army pour down the trail in front of us. Only a few yards and a thin veil of leafy vegetation separated us. In an instant, our mindset had gone from offense and possible attack mode to basic survival.

Finally, Abbott and Smith were able to quietly call in a verbal situation report to David. When the higher ups at the firebase grasped how dangerous and vulnerable our position was, they decided to extract us as soon as possible. A Pink Team and Huey lift ship were dispatched, and we were to prepare to move out onto the LZ. Because we had no idea when or if more NVA would be on the trail, our plan was to wait until the choppers were on station, blow the claymores to clear a path ahead of us, and then move across the trail, out into the open area for the quick extraction.

As darkness rapidly closed in, we finally heard the distant sound of the approaching helicopters. When the Huey arrived, we detonated the claymores and moved onto the exposed LZ. As the chopper descended, the Rangers were startled to see a dozen or so lights moving through the nearby jungle. The NVA were all around us, but the pilot bravely touched down, and we quickly clambered onto the floor of the bird.

Every step of the way, from the time we left the jungle, jumped onto the chopper, then lifted off, I was waiting for a hail of AK-47 rounds or B40 grenades to come flying into us. After we scrambled aboard, the pilot nosed the chopper forward, straining to gain altitude to clear the intermittent trees that dotted the ground. Suddenly, we slowed, stopped, and then began to pivot just a few feet above the sloping hillside. What's going on? Was it a mechanical problem? Were we too heavy? Was it the night air? Was the pilot lost? Was the pilot insane? What's going on? We've just gone from one side of the clearing to the other. If the NVA opened up on us, it would be like target practice. Get this thing in the air! Then, the pilot reversed course and reapplied power. For a few tense seconds we skimmed the grass before slowly lifting into the night air. When we cleared the scrub trees and rose far above the jungle, I looked over to Rodriguez who just shook his head in wide-eyed amazement and relief. The team was quiet as we flew back to the firebase.

When we returned to FSB David, Abbott and Rodriguez hurried in to debrief the commanding officers, who were concerned that the firebase would be attacked. Two to three hundred NVA on the move. That's nice to know. Are they heading our way? Let's be ready if it hits the fan.

In retrospect, we realized we were very lucky that the NVA were on the march that day and not in an encampment where we were inserted. If so, they certainly would have had LZ watchers, and we would have been shot off the LZ on insertion. Miraculously, we had arrived a few hours before them, and eventually, we

Continued to pg. 19

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He Turned Down A Trip Home From the Korean War, then Earned the MOH

Story by Jon Guttman

On Oct 28, 1951, 1LT Lloyd Burke was at his unit's command post, looking at the ticket in his hand. His 13-month tour of duty in Korea was ending and two miles to the rear an airplane was waiting to fly him out. He'd soon be reunited with his wife and infant son back in Arkansas. At that very same time, however, his unit, G Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, was trying to advance across the Ch'ongch'on River and assault Chong-dong, but things were not going well.

For the past few days Chinese soldiers dug in on Hill 200 had ground the company's progress to an exhausted halt. The lieutenant visited the 35 remaining Troops of his platoon and recognized in their the "thousand-mile stare" of broken men.

"Scooter" Burke, as his men called him, had no requirement - in fact, no authorization - to push his luck any further, but he picked up some grenades and rejoined his men. Later, he explained, "I couldn't see leaving my guys up there without trying to do some something."

Born in Tichnor, Arkansas, on Sept 29, 1924, Burke dropped out of Henderson State College in 1943 to join the U.S. Army and served as a combat engineer in Italy, rising to sergeant when World War II ended. In 1946, he returned to Henderson State, where he graduated in 1950 as a member of Phi Sigma Epsilon fraternity, Reserve Officers' Training Corps and his school's Distinguished Military Graduate. When he returned to Regular Army service in Korea, he was a commissioned second lieutenant. It was thus, as he was finishing his tour, that he plunged into his most unnecessary -and most distinguished - day of battle.

Calling on his Troops to a renewed effort on the hill, Burke obtained an M1 rifle and a grenade throwing adaptor and led an assault on three key enemy emplacements to what his citation called an "exposed vantage point." There he led an assault on one of the emplacements, taking the center of the bunker and killing three of the enemy. As he charged the third enemy position, Chinese soldiers threw grenades at him, only to see him pick them up and hurl them back.

Inspired by his example, his men overran another position but were then pinned down again. Securing a .30-caliber Browning M1919 machine gun and three boxes of ammunition, Burke dashed over an open knoll, set his weapon up in an advantageous position and killed 75 enemy troops. Although he himself was wounded in the fight, Burke retired only to obtain more ammo and return to his machine gun, with which he and his platoon wiped out two mortars and a machine gun position. Then, cradling the heavy M1919, he joined his men in securing the bunker complex, having killed another 25 Chinese in the process.

Having played an unofficial role in reversing his platoon's fortunes, Burke

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returned home with a Silver Star. On April 11, 1952, however, he was called to Washington to receive an upgrade from President Harry Truman - to the Medal of Honor.

Continuing his Army career, Burke entered his third conflict as commander of 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division in Vietnam - only to see the Viet Cong achieve what the Chinese could not. On July 22, 1965, his helicopter was shot down near Bien Hoa and his injuries put him out of the war. After recovering, he was stationed in Germany and later served as the Army's liaison officer to the U.S. Congress.

In 1978, Burke retired as a colonel with the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross and five Purple Hearts. Lloyd L. Burke died in Hot Springs, Arkansas on June 1, 1999, and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

TROOPER'S TALE

Continued from pg. 18

had left after the main body had moved passed us. The exact number of enemy soldiers we saw was an estimate. Nobody really counted, but estimates from each team member ranged from 200-300. We were amazingly close to them, no more than 10 yards away. We saw a human face on the enemy. We listened as they talked. We saw their expressions as they labored under heavy loads and wartime dangers. It was both a fascinating and terrifying experience.

The following morning, extensive aerial reconnaissance failed to locate the NVA. Because of the pace of their march, the NVA could have been miles from where we had encountered them, and the winding trails could have taken them in any direction. The only trace left was a myriad of boot prints on the trail. However, at 0230 on June 14, 1970, FSB David was attacked by an estimated reinforced company of NVA. In a fierce battle that lasted till nearly dawn, the enemy failed to overrun the base but left twenty-eight dead in and around the perimeter. The Americans suffered thirty-three wounded by mortars, grenades, and small arms fire. It seems very likely that the enemy troops that walked past us that night were part of the assault on FSB David.

Of the Team members of Hard Rider 74: Abbott, Rodriguez, Darrell Smith, Bruchey, and Dennis Smith survived their tour in Nam and returned safely to the U.S. Tragically, a few weeks later, SP4 Carl Laker, and another Ranger, SSG Deverton Cochran, were killed in action when Team 52 were nearly wiped out on a mission in Cambodia close to the same AO where we had encountered the NVA. The bodies of Laker and Cochran were never recovered.

I've often thought about that mission. True, we were very lucky, but we were also pretty good. Each man on that team exemplified the finest qualities of an Army Ranger: skill, courage, and resourcefulness. Each man reacted quickly and performed as trained, even under extreme pressure. Each man trusted his life to his teammates as he lay silently in a nameless patch of jungle in Cambodia. No one made a mistake. No one panicked. Everyone survived to fight another day.

Rangers Lead The Way!



AIR CAV NEWS



LTC (RET) J. Shawn Perry
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Guntersville, Alabama 35976
(254) 458-0428
Stetsonlife1cda@gmail.com



Air Cav News: Honor the Past, Engineer the Future

Greetings from the “perch” here in Albertville, Alabama! As the winter air settles over Sand Mountain Park and Amphitheater, I find myself looking out over our grounds and reflecting on the incredible pace of change within the “First Team.” While my daily “Team 1” here is busy managing the seasonal flow of sports and community events, my thoughts are frequently with the Troopers of the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade.

We often talk about the “history” of Army Aviation, but we must also acknowledge its fluidity. Since the inception of the Air Cavalry in the central highlands of Vietnam, our branch has never been static. As technologies, tactics, and global threats evolve, so must our fighting force. We are currently witnessing a deliberate and necessary pivot as the Army prepares for the complexities of future conflict.

The Lobos and the Changing Guard

The most poignant news from the field involves the recent inactivation ceremonies held at Fort Hood. In mid-December, the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade hosted a ceremony that saw the casing of the colors for the 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment (Lobos), along with the 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment (Pale Horse).

Seeing the Lobo colors cased hits close to home for me. I had the distinct honor of serving as the Executive Officer for 2-227 during two of its most demanding and diverse chapters: the humanitarian response in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and our subsequent combat deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2006.

Whether we were hovering over the flooded streets of the Ninth Ward or navigating the high-threat environments of the Baghdad Belts, the Lobos always embodied the “General Support” ethos with precision and grit. While it is difficult to see those colors cased, the legacy of the unit lives on in the thousands of Troopers who wore the patch and the lives they saved across two decades of continuous operations. Before their inactivation, the current generation of Lobos proved they hadn’t lost their edge, executing rigorous Helocast operations at Belton Lake and refined “Grounded Gunnery” exercises, proving that the Air Cav remains the most versatile asset on the battlefield.

“Transformation in Contact” and the MAS-T Team

The inactivation of these storied units is part of the Army’s broader “Transformation in Contact 2.0” initiative. The 1st Air Cavalry Brigade is not just waiting for the future to arrive; they are building it in real-time.

While the Brigade uncased its colors this past March following a successful rotation in Europe for Operation Atlantic Resolve—logging over 9,000 flight hours—they haven’t slowed down. The highlight of this transformation is the creation of the Modern Adversary Small Tactics (MAS-T) team.

This specialized group, comprised of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) operators and repairers, is moving beyond just flying “off-the-shelf” drones. They are coding, programming, and testing their own UAS products to provide real-time reconnaissance and offensive capabilities directly to the ground commander.

This shift toward “Human-Machine Integrated Formations” means our future pilots won’t just be managing their own aircraft; they will be commanding swarms of autonomous systems that act as the eyes and ears of the division, keeping our Troopers out of the “red zone” while maintaining lethal overmatch.

Future Vertical Lift and the New Tech Frontier

Beyond the brigade, the wider Army Aviation branch is moving at “Cavalry speed” toward modernization. The Future Long-Range Assault Aircraft (FLRAA), specifically the V-280 Valor, continues to hit its developmental milestones. This platform promises to provide our future Troopers with twice the speed and range of the current fleet, fundamentally changing how we look at the battlespace.

Furthermore, we are seeing the rapid integration of “Launched Effects” (LE). These are autonomous systems that can be launched from a Black Hawk or Apache in mid-flight to scout high-risk areas or provide electronic warfare support. In recent demonstrations, the Army showed how these systems will be fielded to divisions by late 2026, creating a “digital shield” for our manned platforms.

To ensure our pilots are ready for this high-tech future, the “Flight School Next” initiative is currently evaluating new single-engine trainers. The goal is a return to “stick and rudder” fundamentals, ensuring our young Warrant Officers have the raw piloting skills necessary to handle the high intensity, contested environments of Large-Scale Combat Operations (LSCO).

Final Thoughts from the Field

As I sit here in North Alabama, often with a half-refurbished pipe in hand or preparing for the next CVMA meeting, I am reminded that “Leadership” is the one constant amidst all this change. Whether it’s the 1ACB Troopers mastering new drone software or the 2-227 Veterans keeping the Lobo legacy alive through the Association, the “First Team” remains the gold standard because of its people.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming reunion in July. Until then, keep the fire hot and the rotors turning.

Clear right!

Shawn

Please contact the scribe to share your
1st Cav Aviation stories here!

DIVISION DOINGS:

Army Changes Course, Decides To Keep Horses At Two Bases

by Nicholas Slayton

The Army previously planned to phase out its Military Working Equid program at five different bases to focus on “warfighting priorities.” The Army is pulling the reins and now plans to keep its military horse programs at two bases that were set to end in 2026.

The Military Working Equid programs will remain active at Fort Riley, Kansas and Fort Hood, Texas, the Army announced on December 30, 2025. In July, the Army decided it was time to say goodbye to horses, donkeys and mules at five bases, in order to “align more resources with warfighting capability and readiness.” The Army said at the time that the end of the animal programs at five bases in 2026 would save the force \$2 million annually, which could be redirected to unspecified “warfighting priorities.”

Since then the Army has changed its mind, in part. “These programs provide unique capabilities and benefits that are difficult to replicate, and their continuation aligns with our broader commitment to readiness and community engagement,” COL James Fuhriman, the assistant deputy for Army health affairs, said in a release.

At the time of its July announcement the Department of Defense had 236 horses, mules and donkeys that were housed on Army bases. Almost all are used largely for ceremonial roles, tied to specific units’ history and heritage. The planned elimination of the MWE program did not include the horses used by the 3rd Infantry Regiment, or “the Old Guard,” operating at Arlington National Cemetery and Joint Base San Antonio.

However the MWE programs are still set to end at Fort Irwin, Fort Huachuca and Fort Sill, as previously announced. Those bases’ commanders are still expected to oversee the donation or transfer of the animals to “vetted owners.”

The Army did not say why leadership decided to keep the programs active at Fort Hood and Fort Riley specifically. However the two bases’ programs are being “formally established as Army programs and serve as a link between the Army and the American people through public demonstrations, educational outreach, and participation in local events.”

The U.S. Army’s history with horses and other equines is long, even stretching into the 21st century. Soldiers used horses well into World War II and Special Forces teams rode horses while fighting alongside the Northern Alliance in the initial invasion of Afghanistan.

Black Jack Brigade Drives Transforming in Contact at NTC Rotation 26-02 Story & photo by 1LT Tyler Williams



SPC Kody Van Dorp prepares an Anduril Ghost X at NTC rotation.

Troopers from the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, known as “Black Jack,” recently concluded National Training Center Rotation 26-02, the Army’s first Transforming in Contact-designated armored brigade combat team rotation. The brigade’s deployment to NTC marked a major step in the Army’s effort to modernize how armored formations fight, sustain, and communicate in future large-scale combat operations.

The TiC initiative transforms brigade combat teams across the Army by reorganizing command structures and consolidating previously separate capabilities into new, multifunctional formations. These units incorporate unmanned systems, modernized crew training, and more efficient maintenance practices to stay at the forefront of speed, lethality, and adaptability while remaining focused on the fight.

Against 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, a near-peer opposing force known as “Black Horse,” Troopers tested the brigade’s new capabilities. Units synchronized fires, movement, and sustainment across dispersed formations and multiple layers of airspace while maintaining tempo under constant pressure.

Key to Black Jack’s success was the integration of division-level assets under the Transforming in Contact initiative. With support from the First Team’s Air Cavalry Brigade and Division Artillery, the brigade expanded its reach, enabling Troopers to sense, maneuver, and strike faster than ever.

Advanced radar helped detect and counter hostile unmanned aerial systems, while loitering munitions and reconnaissance drones combined precision targeting with continuous overwatch. This unity of fires and maneuver is critical for large-scale combat operations.

Passive sensors placed on combat vehicles painted Troopers a clear picture of the airspace while remaining undetectable to enemy systems. These formations also employed unmanned aircraft systems to extend their influence on the battlefield. Troopers used the Anduril Ghost X and Performance Drone Works C100 systems for reconnaissance, Black Widow and Neros Archer FPV systems for short-range surveillance or target acquisition, and the Malloy TRV-150 for resupply operations. Switchblade 600 loitering munitions provided long-range precision fires to prosecute targets behind enemy lines.

“Our Troopers adapted faster than ever,” said CPT Jeffrey Weller, Multifunctional Strike Troop commander. “TiC challenged us to think differently. Integrating our capabilities made us more efficient and effective.” Command and control also evolved under the new framework. Brigade and battalion staffs operated with smaller, faster command posts and digital tools that shortened decision cycles.

Communication between formations evolved with the new Mounted Mission Continued to pg. 21

545th MP Co News

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The 545th MP Company of the 1st Cavalry Division (AIRMOBILE) To the reader community:

I have been asked to author a series of articles about the experiences of

the men of the 545th MP Company of the 1st Cavalry Division (AIRMOBILE). I joined the company in July of 1964, shortly after its inception at Ft. Benning, GA, as the 11th MP Company of the 11th Air Assault Division (TEST). The men still alive in the original company of 1964-1966 are now in their late 70's and early

CONVOY ESCORT ON HIGHWAY 19

— continued from Nov/Dec issue

Since there were no 1st Cav units close by, if one had to spend the night at Pleiku, a body had to make his own feeding/lodging arrangements. The officer in charge of the 504th MP detachment at Pleiku grudgingly gave us permission to sleep in the motor pool tent which was open at the bottom to the cool night winds. Better to sleep inside the wire than somewhere by ourselves.

We had to supply our own C-rations. They were spit and polish, we were dirty and grungy. They in particular did not like our ten-foot masts for our sold state radios. Seems that their electrical service was on concrete posts, which were at times low enough for our masts to strike.

Each time we came through the gate they tried to flag us down to make sure we had the mast bent and tied to the windshield. It seemed to us that our fellow Soldiers at Pleiku were oblivious to the fact that if it had not been for the 1st Cav, Highway 19 would have been under control of the PAVN, and Pleiku would have been surrounded by PAVN and they would have been just like the French in 1954.

If we were running the checkpoint at Pleiku, there were always National Police and off duty ARVN soldiers hanging around. One had to have a ration card to purchase a carton of cigarettes. Since your author did not smoke, your author would sell his ration at cost to the police and Soldiers, it was like money to them.

Experienced rain only one time in the high plains. While at the tea plantation in November, there was a shower one day. The brother of your author was stationed at Pleiku in 1971 during the rainy season. His comment was that if a vehicle got off the pavement, it was stuck in the slick red clay mud. It was the rainy season east of the mountains at An Khe. After crossing through the Mang Yang pass, there would be clear blue skies to Pleiku.

The convoys would drive unescorted west on Highway 19 from Qui Nhon to An Khe, pull off at the 1st Cav base entrance and wait for the MP escort. There were usually two extra tractors, each with a tow bar, pulling a spare tractor. Was not unusual for a loaded tractor to have to be replaced with a spare one.

The MP escort would stay with the disabled vehicles until the swap out was accomplished. Your author was always amazed by the drivers and their attitude toward their weapons, which were mostly M14's. They would be stuck in the straps of the canvas tops of the tractor, the rifles having a good coat of dust/dirt. Not readily accessible in the opinion of your author. The 1st Cav had multi-fuel diesels. A lot of the transportation vehicles were fueled by gasoline.

It took only one return trip by your author to figure out that the escort needed to be at the tail of the convoy. Heading up an empty convoy returning back to Qui Nhon was a scary position. The M151 could not outrun an empty truck on a downgrade. Switched to driving in the tail position and watching empty trailers bounce in some of the curves.

After a few days of escort duties Adcock and your author were split up and assigned some of the newly minted MPs that were sent to replace us short timers. A lot of them were freshly out of high school and not particularly street wise. One, who will remain nameless other than by X, was with your author when we spent the night at Pleiku. X decided to slip off in our M151 and visit a lady of the night, in the process leaving our transportation parked without a guard. X fell in love that night and spent all of his money buying her presents.

The next day X was trying to borrow money from his fellow MP's, namely your author, to buy her more presents. Upon our return to An Khe, your author explained to good old SGT Jim Lee, our squad leader, of the need for a new partner.

Your author was initially very pleased with the new partner, known in this article as Y. Y was prior service and 35 years old. Should have been two red flags. On the first trip out some deficiencies came to light.

Y could not drive a manual transmission, could not operate the radio, and could not read a map. The night was spent at Pleiku and the next day we were to run the checkpoint. Everything was going along just fine until a convoy of deuce and a halves full of Troops from the 1st Brigade of the Cav pulled. They had replaced the 3rd Brigade in the search for PAVN along the Cambodian border and were heading back to the base.

The lead truck had a mounted 50 caliber. Your author stopped the lead vehicle whereupon a young Captain full of his own importance stepped down from the cab demanding to know why they were stopped. Your author patiently explained about the blown bridges and one way traffic at water crossings, and that when the west bound traffic cleared the last obstacle, he would be released to continue his journey.

Well, being airborne, they could take care of themselves, etc. etc. Having been through those crossings several times, your author was of the opinion that a truck load of Soldiers would be in a trap if there was a problem.

The Captain announced that they were going on anyway and climbed back into the lead truck. That was when Y grabbed his M16 and stood at port arms in front of the lead truck. Various scenarios played through the mind of your author, none of them good. How does one explain tire tracks on his partner? A SP4 MP and a PVT MP against a battalion? Your author then said, "Y, step out of the way. If he disobeys us, it is on him!"

The convoy then pulled out. Your author got on the radio to the officer in charge of security on Highway 19 and explained what had just happened. His reply was two words, "STOP THEM." Took a whole lot of weaving in and out of oncoming traffic and working up to the lead vehicle. Flagged the lead vehicle over whereupon the highly irate Captain approached our vehicle.

Your author never said a word, just handed the radio mike to him. There was a long conversation between the officer over the security and the Captain. We parted ways and resumed our checkpoint duties.

BONG SON

In the meantime, after the losses in the Ia Drang Battle, the 3rd Brigade was rebuilding. The next major operation for the 3rd Brigade was around Bong Son, a town north of Qui Nhon on Highway 1, the North/South coastal highway. This operation began in January 1966. The movement was by vehicle via Highway 19 to Qui Nhon, then north on Highway 1.

The MP group crossed the river on the bridge at Bong Son and set up on the north side. Your author had to use a mattock to dig a foxhole. Had not rained for a while and the ground was like concrete. Then the rains came with water standing everywhere. One of the duties for the MP's was to guard the bridge. Don't know how effective one MP with no communications device would be in case an attempt to destroy the bridge was made.

One 1st Cav group entered a village while some enemy soldiers were showing off to the villagers with some M16's that had been captured in the Ia Drang battle. Three of them were in the care of your author. Two of the three had a fired case stuck in the chamber. Could have happened in the battle or could have happened after being captured. No way to tell.

A couple of U.S. Soldiers were arrested for rape of a local woman. They had come back into the unit laughing about their exploits.

I WISH I KNEW THEN WHAT I KNOW NOW

One day while strip searching detainees, your author came across a man whose scrotum was about six inches long and a couple of inches in diameter. Not being that well versed in tropical diseases, the thought was this poor fellow has elephantiasis of his right testicle. He was treating it rather gently. Years later your author realized that he must have had a hernia that let a loop of his bowel drop down into his scrotum. At that time I might have been able to get some medical care for him.

IS IT ALREADY TIME TO GO HOME?

One day in February some of us received word that we were being replaced. Since the replacements will arrive weaponless, hand your rifles over to them, go to the dirt landing strip on the hill south of Bong Son that overlooks a graveyard. There a Caribou (De Haviland twin turboprop) will pick you up and carry you back to the base at An Khe.

The four leaving were the late Delmar Egan, Bob Stamey, Johnny Thompson, and your author.

Please contact the scribe to share your 545th MP stories here!

DIVISION DOINGS

Continued from pg. 20

Control-System. Replacing the old Joint Battle Command-Platform, MMC-S provided faster updates, clearer graphics, and consistent connectivity among crews. Along with the portable Tactical Assault Kit loaded onto phones and laptops, crews fought with improved situational awareness and synchronization of joint forces.

"This rotation wasn't just about validating drones and loitering munitions in a heavy force—it was about rewriting the rules for armored maneuver in a world where the battlefield is transparent and lethal" said COL Jose Reyes, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team "Black Jack" commander. "The battlefields of Ukraine showed us the problem; this rotation proved we now own the solution: heavy armor, supported by suppressing and finishing fires, maneuvering fast, hitting hard and dominating the fight."

As NTC 26-02 concluded, 2nd ABCT consolidated lessons learned for dissemination across the 1st Cavalry Division and the Army's modernization enterprise. These insights will inform future training rotations and ongoing efforts to transform armored formations into agile, innovative teams.

This rotation represented the first application of Transforming in Contact concepts within an armored brigade combat team at a combat training center. Findings from the exercise will guide future force design and modernization of similar units across the Army.

"America's First Team is this Sergeant's First Choice" Story by PFC Michelle Lessard-Terry

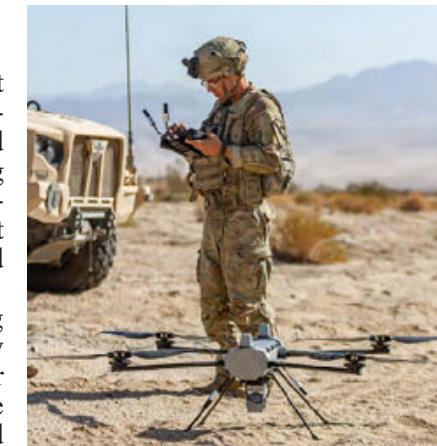
FORT HOOD, Texas — SGT Hannah Rodgers didn't always know exactly where her Army career would lead, but after nearly three and a half years in uniform, she knows one thing for certain: she's exactly where she wants to be.

Rodgers, a 25U signal operations support specialist assigned to Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, recently received a promotion to sergeant. In that role, she maintains and troubleshoots computer systems, radios and Mounted Mission Command Software, which are computer networks that keep Troopers connected in the field. Her promotion to sergeant empowers her to be the type of leader that she admires.

"I really like my MOS. I really like this battalion," Rodgers said. "I have good leaders who inspire me every day, and I really love being able to help others when it comes to communications."

Rodgers said her decision to join the Army was rooted in a desire to serve her country and follow in her father's footsteps as a Soldier. She was also drawn to the opportunity to travel and learn new skills.

Earlier this year, Rodgers reenlisted for five more years to remain with the 1st Cavalry Division, calling her battalion "home." "I want to stay because I really love my battalion! This battalion is home. I came here as a private first



SGT Caleb Eidlebach electronic maint tech plans a PDW C1000 flight at NTC

Continued to pg. 22

DIVISION DOINGS**Continued from pg. 21**

class, and I just really love the leadership here" Rodgers said. "If I could, I'd stay here forever."

Her decision to reenlist with the 1st Cavalry Division for five more years was influenced by its reputation for excellence, strong sense of belonging, teamwork, and leadership. The division has an honorable history of courageous, innovative, and successful operations, attracting Troopers like Rodgers, who want to be part of the division of choice.

Since enlisting, Rodgers has reached several milestones she considers defining moments in her career, earning the title of non-commissioned officer and completing the cavalry spur ride, a demanding test of physical and mental endurance. "I feel like I worked hard toward it," she said. She had been wanting to earn her spurs "for a hot minute," and earning them is something she's very proud of.

A spur ride is a grueling, multi-day U.S. Army tradition that tests Troopers' physical/mental toughness, leadership, and cavalry skills through ruck marches, land navigation, weapons tasks, and historical knowledge. If they pass and complete all of the tests and challenges, they earn silver spurs, symbolizing entry into the elite "Order of the Spur." Rodgers demonstrated her mastery of basic Trooper skills while also excelling in her more technical occupation.

Rodgers also played a key role supporting the Army's 250th birthday celebration in Washington, D.C., where she was the only communications representative from her battalion. She helped manage communications for the division and assisted with transporting personnel during the event. Despite the hard work, she said that she had fun and loved the experience.

While she enjoys the tactical side of her job, Rodgers said the most frustrating part is when equipment issues prevent her from helping Troopers as quickly as she'd like.

"I think the most challenging thing about my job is not being able to help people when I want to help them. Maybe it's just a cable or something that's uncontrollable," she said.

Rodgers said that sometimes she needs to troubleshoot what's wrong, and it can be difficult to help, especially if she has tried everything.

When things get tough, she credits her leadership—including SGM Ryan Beutner, 1SG Blake Allen, and her previous first sergeant, MSG Travis Gerdes—with shaping her growth as a Trooper and non-commissioned officer. She's taken to heart the advice they have given her, such as not becoming stressed over things that she can't control. "They push me to be better than I was the day before," she said. "And I really appreciate that about them."

As a newly promoted NCO, Rodgers believes listening, empathy, and understanding are essential leadership qualities. "You should be able to understand your Troopers. You should know who your Troopers are and listen to them, because you don't know your Troopers if you don't listen to them," she said. "Just be there for your Troopers."

She says that her leaders inspire her to move up the ranks and lead by example. Her leaders show the formation how to be effective Troopers, good leaders, and kind people.

"I plan to stay in the Army as long as I can," she said. "Hopefully I can run an S6 shop one day and be the NCOIC. I'd love to be more proficient in my job than I am today. And to continue being a better Trooper in the future." Looking ahead, Rodgers hopes to continue advancing, refine her technical expertise, and one day serve as a communications shop NCO in charge.

Now's the Time for Army To Revitalize Cavalry Force by COL Thomas Balish, U.S. Army retired

The decline of the U.S. Army's Cavalry force did not occur in one sweeping decision. Rather, it was a slow, incremental process shaped by two decades of institutional drift, doctrinal confusion and well-

intended but ultimately harmful organizational change. It began in the early 2000s as the Army rapidly restructured to meet the demands of the global war on terror.

A critical moment came in 2003, when Army leadership chose to eliminate all Air Cavalry Troops from division and regimental formations. This disbanded the Army's only true air/ground reconnaissance units—formations that had long combined rotary-wing aircraft and ground scouts into integrated teams capable of deep reconnaissance, screen-and-guard missions and mobile security operations. These air-ground teams represented a doctrinally unique and strategically irreplaceable capability.

As the Army implemented the modular brigade combat team concept, traditional division cavalry squadrons were replaced by reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition (RSTA) squadrons. These new battalion-sized units were doctrinally ill-suited for the reconnaissance and security tasks their predecessors had conducted. Designed for flexibility and counterinsurgency support, RSTA squadrons in Iraq and Afghanistan quickly were absorbed into the general-purpose force pool, frequently tasked with area security and route clearance rather than true reconnaissance.

The loss of the OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopter further widened the gap. Air-ground coordination once executed in real time between manned rotary assets and ground elements was replaced by limited unmanned aircraft system (UAS) support from Shadow and Raven platforms. These unmanned systems lacked the survivability, range and human-machine teaming dynamics that characterized traditional cavalry reconnaissance. The merger of infantry and armor schools in the Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning, Georgia, is a contributor to the slow erosion of cavalry's doctrinal clarity, institutional relevance and strategic value.

OPERATIONAL BLIND SPOT

Today, the Army faces a critical and expanding reconnaissance gap. The inactivation of all air and light Cavalry squadrons has stripped divisions and corps of flexible, echeloned reconnaissance capabilities. The only cavalry units remaining



SGT Hannah Rodgers of C/2-12 Cav

are embedded in armored brigade combat teams, where their roles have narrowed to close-in security and flank protection.

The decision to halt MQ-1C Gray Eagle procurement has further reduced the Army's capacity for long-range sensing. Gray Eagle was the only division-level UAS capable of operating 200–300 kilometers forward in contested electromagnetic environments. Without it, the Army lacks an organic aerial RSTA platform with endurance, resilience and joint synchronization.

In its place, the Army has emphasized tactical UAS proliferation across company and battalion levels. But real-world evidence—particularly from Ukraine—indicates small drones are vulnerable. Reports show up to 90% attrition within days due to jamming, directed energy, malfunctions, operator inexperience and kinetic strikes. These systems, while valuable in permissive environments, cannot substitute for survivable, networked reconnaissance platforms.

Even if these drones were made more durable, the Army's logistics structure is not designed to sustain the massive throughput of batteries, replacement parts and software updates required to keep swarms of expendable UASs combat-effective for extended periods. The idea that additive manufacturing or decentralized field repairs can meaningfully offset this logistical burden remains speculative at best. Moreover, even if the Army can overcome the aforementioned challenges, the Army tactical network lacks the bandwidth and resilience needed to support data and connectivity demands of large-scale distributed UAS operations.

The Army has lost its ability to conduct coordinated, multidomain reconnaissance operations at tempo and depth. Without dedicated, well-trained reconnaissance forces operating at echelon, the Army risks relying on reactive targeting and late-stage situational awareness—a recipe for strategic surprise and tactical overmatch.

A NEW CAVALRY MODEL

If the Army is to regain its edge in reconnaissance and security operations, it must reimagine the Cavalry not as a legacy force but as a future enabling formation. This means developing a modernized, modular cavalry ecosystem centered around manned-unmanned teaming, distributed sensor networks and survivable combat platforms. At the core of this concept is a Light Assault Tank Ecosystem (LAT-E)—a family of light, air-transportable, networked armored vehicles designed for reconnaissance, mobile security and kill-chain integration. **It also should incorporate these five core imperatives.**

Rebuild Air-Ground Reconnaissance Security Teams. Create scalable formations at division and corps levels that integrate an air cavalry-manned airframe, medium-lift UAS and ground scouts into unified air-ground reconnaissance teams. These must be trained, manned and equipped to fight for information in contested airspace and cluttered terrain.

Establish a light Cavalry Troop for infantry brigade combat teams. Infantry brigades must not be forced to choose between maneuver and awareness. A light Cavalry Troop equipped with LAT-E vehicles, loitering munitions and counter-UAS packages will provide brigade combat teams with a dedicated, survivable reconnaissance force that can deploy with or ahead of maneuver elements.

Enable reconnaissance/security at echelon. Corps and divisions require formations trained in deep sensing, deception and target development. These cannot be substituted by joint intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance handoffs or contractor-operated sensors.

Train to fight for information. Reconnaissance must be viewed as a combined-arms fight. Training should incorporate electronic warfare, obscuration, decoys, deception and kinetic disruption of enemy reconnaissance assets.

Modernize doctrine and institutional culture. Reconnaissance and security must be re-elevated as decisive operations. Field Manual 3-98: *Reconnaissance and Security Operations*, must be revised, professional military education curriculum overhauled and leader development programs realigned to restore an institutional appreciation for the reconnaissance fight.

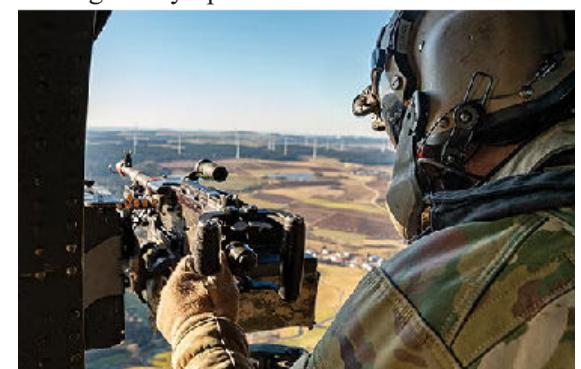
Adapt regionally to tailor cavalry for theater-specific roles. One size will not fit all. Cavalry formations must be regionally optimized.

In the European theater, future conflict will be defined by maneuver warfare at scale, long-range precision fires, drone-enabled deep sensing and anti-armor saturation. Cavalry formations operating in this battlespace must endure high-intensity, high-lethality engagements while maneuvering across hundreds of kilometers. European-focused cavalry units must integrate the LAT-E as a maneuverable collection and targeting platform—complemented by heavier, survivable vehicles capable of gun tube-to-gun tube engagements. These formations act as multidomain hubs, linking sensing assets to long-range precision shooters, enabling deep targeting at the corps and theater levels. They must operate with resilience against electronic warfare, loitering munitions and armored counterattack while supporting long-range fires and denying enemy reconnaissance. Survivability, deep sensing and high-volume data fusion are central to their role in defending NATO's eastern flank.

The Indo-Pacific region presents a different challenge. Here, the decisive terrain is dispersed across archipelagos, with operations shaped by maritime access, air mobility and contested logistics. Heavy cavalry formations are neither agile nor deployable in this environment.

Cavalry units in the Pacific must be lightweight, amphibious-capable and air-deployable via C-130 or rotary-wing lift, emphasizing strategic mobility over armor. LAT-E variants for the Pacific should be optimized for expeditionary reconnaissance, drone coordination and long-range passive sensors. These forces must maneuver across island chains, establish sensor nodes, integrate with joint naval intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance platforms, and support antiship and coastal strike operations. Rather than massed formations, Pacific cavalry must operate as distributed kill-web nodes, conducting rapid reconnaissance in force, terrain denial and integrated fires in support of joint force commanders.

Continued to pg. 23



IACB Soldier operates a .50-caliber machine gun during an exercise in Germany. Photo by SGT Jacob Nunnenkamp

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We appreciate your generosity, we could not do it without our members!



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CPT HALL, Sanci
CPT HETRICK, Douglas

\$100 SGT HEWUSE, Vance & Carol
\$100 IHO my Battle Buddies killed Nov 22, 1967 Vietnam,
2nd Plt, D Com, 2/7 1CD: Lester Griffin, John A.
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As of January 5, 2026

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DIVISION DOINGS

Continued from pg. 22

In desert and arid theaters—such as the Middle East and parts of North Africa—the operational imperative centers on endurance, surveillance and wide-area maneuver. Cavalry units here must operate across vast, open terrain under harsh environmental conditions with the ability to persist and protect supply lines in semi permissive or irregular threat environments.

BLEND OF CAPABILITIES

A cavalry tailored to this theater should blend mobility, modular protection and electronic warfare capabilities. LAT-E variants would provide a reconnaissance foundation supported by uncrewed systems and loitering intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance assets to extend reach without overburdening the force. Key mission sets include persistent overwatch, route security, base defense integration and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance in support of precision strikes. These formations must be sustained light and climate-resilient, using hybrid-electric propulsion and modular support packages to maintain operational tempo without a large logistical footprint.

The reconnaissance gap in today's Army is real—and widening. The dismantling of air/ground cavalry formations, erosion of institutional expertise and overreliance on fragile drone-based systems have left the Army blind in domains where adversaries dominate. From Ukraine to the Red Sea to Taiwan, real-world lessons are clear: reconnaissance cannot be improvised, and situational awareness cannot be delegated to unprotected sensors or algorithmic guesswork.

The Army must act decisively to restore the cavalry's role in reconnaissance and security operations—not as a relic of the past, but as a critical enabler of multidomain dominance. This means investing in modern, theater-specific cavalry formations tailored to Europe, the Indo-Pacific and the Middle East, integrating manned-unmanned teams and electromagnetic maneuver and rebuilding the culture, doctrine and structure necessary to fight for information.

This is not a call for nostalgia—it is a call for adaptation. Because if we wait until we need the Cavalry again, it will be too late.

COL Thomas Balish, U.S. Army retired, served 27 years, commanding 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, from 2000-2002. He retired in 2008 as assistant program manager-Maneuver, U.S. Army Office of the Program Manager-Saudi Arabian National Guard. He then worked for 10 years as an Army civilian. He now is president of LH6-Services LLC.



ARMY SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

Scholarship Opportunity

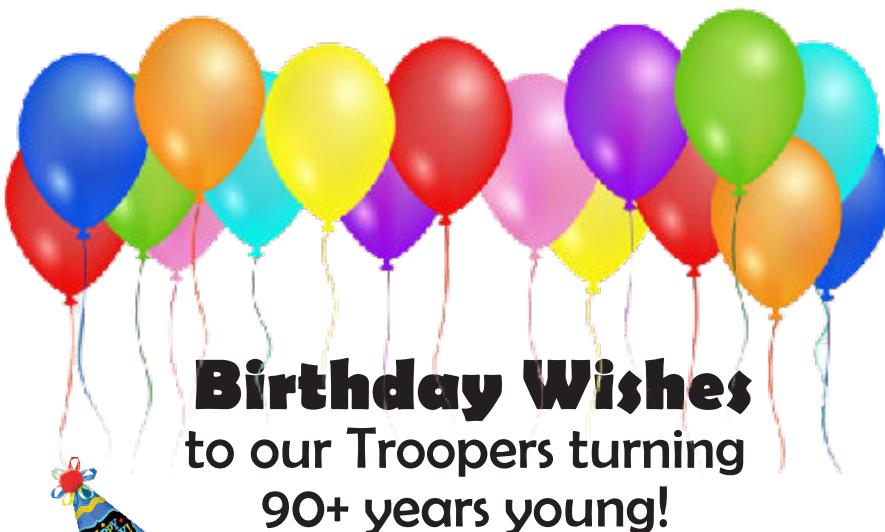
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- Be sons or daughters of former U.S. Army members who received an honorable discharge or medical discharge, or who were killed while serving in the U.S. Army.
- Be high school seniors, high school graduates, or registered as undergraduate students at an accredited college or post high school vocational/technical institution.

Check out the website for further details:

<https://armyscholarshipfoundation.org/scholarships/>



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turned 95 1/02/2026

THEODORE COGUT
turned 98 on 1/03/2026

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RICHARD JOHNSON
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MAURICE EDMONDS
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CHARLES KELLER JR.
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JOHN CARTWRIGHT
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1ST CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION**

Executive Director

302 N. Main St. Copperas Cove, TX 76522
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The new cards are NOT available for Associate Members, the new cards are only available for our Life Time Members.

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1st Cavalry Division Association is a non-political, non-profit 501(c)19 fraternity for Soldiers and Veterans currently serving or have served in 1st Cavalry Division.

The Association is a group of Soldiers and former Soldiers from Private to 4-star Generals who share a bond of service with the FIRST TEAM who are dedicated to supporting the Division and each other.

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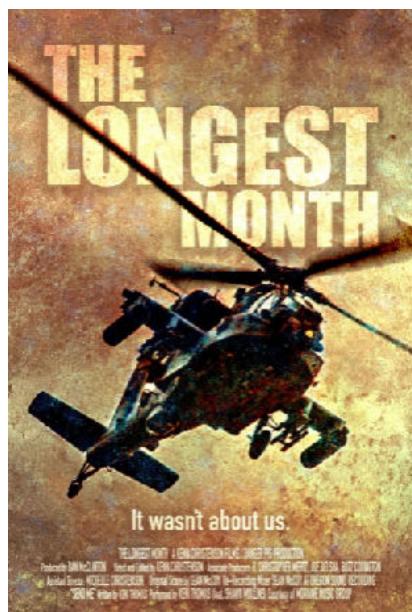
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AWARD WINNING DOCUMENTARY: *THE LONGEST MONTH*

*Four hard-hitting stories from the deadliest period in U.S. Army Aviation since Vietnam.
Actual footage from the events and interviews of the Soldiers who were there,
bring these intense and touching stories of courage and sacrifice to life.*



"The Longest Month" is a documentary film dedicated to telling the story of the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade Soldiers that participated in the events during "The Surge" in OIF 06-08.

Some of these interviews took place at the 1CDA Headquarters in 2019.

The Longest Month is an unscripted documentary, covering events that took place in Iraq during February of 2007 at the beginning of what is commonly known as "The Surge."

This documentary examines the actions undertaken by members of the **1st and 4th Battalions, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry**

Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, as described by the Soldiers involved in these events. More helicopters were shot down in Iraq during this time period than any time since the Vietnam War.

The Longest Month chronicles four events that exemplify the challenges faced by these individuals to not only complete their missions but survive the unprecedented 15-month deployment.

Produced by: Dan McClinton and Directed and Edited by: Kenn Christenson

If you wish to read the story behind this documentary:

<<https://www.hollywoodintoto.com/longest-month-movie-us-veterans/>>

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