



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



Greetings Troopers,
It's a great day to
be a Cav Trooper!
Greetings from Central Texas.

I hope this *Saber* finds you healthy and registered for the annual Cav Reunion in New Orleans in July. I've heard from several folks who have registered to include Fred Taylor who will speak at our Purple Heart Breakfast and who I look forward to meeting in person.

We received some sad news that COL (R) James Dingeman passed away on 23 April after 100 years on this earth including serving with distinction in the 12th Cav. COL Dingeman was the Honorary Colonel of the 12th Cavalry Regiment and served as their scribe for this *Saber* for many years. He is survived by his wife, Sylvia, and we send her and their family our condolences. COL (R) Dingeman will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery at a date yet to be announced. If you wish to reach out to his family, please contact the Association Office or myself for an address.

We have also heard of several of our Cav Troopers and their families who are sick or in hospice care. I won't provide their names here for their privacy, however if you are a person of prayer, please add our ailing Cav Troopers to your prayer list. Thank you.



Dennis Webster & Paul Inman

On a more positive note, several of our local Association Members and 1CDA Staff were able to attend a ceremony held by the Copperas Cove Exchange Club to honor our own CSM (R) Dennis Webster for his years (and years!) of military and civic volunteer contributions by placing him in their Book of Golden Deeds. Dennis was introduced at the event by another Cav Legend – CSM (R) Paul Inman – who has known Dennis for many years and did a great job heralding his accomplishments. In true Dennis fashion, he was humble in accepting the recognition and pledged to continue to support

the local community and Fort Hood Soldiers as long as he can. Congratulations to Dennis and special thanks to his wife, Sandra, who has been by his side for 56 years to include on many occasions during this volunteer work. Dennis is in the footprint of the Cav on Fort Hood every week – meeting the new Troopers, attending recognition ceremonies, and mentoring young Noncommissioned Officers. We are very lucky to have him in our ranks, and I am honored to be his friend.

I extend a hearty Thank You to everyone who volunteered to serve on the Board of Governors or as a Foundation Trustee. Glen Vela, our Second Vice President, led a Nominating Committee that produced an excellent slate of members and trustees for your consideration at the reunion. Our Association requires volunteers to remain the most active, financially secure (and BEST) Division Association and I appreciate everyone who steps up to assist, especially those making the commitment to serve on our board/foundation.

This is my last opportunity to encourage each of you to attend the reunion in New Orleans from 8-12 July. It is going to be a great reunion with our banquet planned at the WWII Museum. As you make your plans - please extend an invitation to 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!

If New Orleans is not possible this year, please consider joining us next year (2027) in Columbus, Georgia. A highlight will be the Infantry Museum as well as Fort Benning, a memory-filled post for many of our Vietnam Air Cav Troopers. I hope to see you there.

First Team, Rosey Carter

HORSE DETACHMENT by CPT Megan T. Korpiel, Commander

The Horse Cavalry Detachment (HCD) has been galloping through a busy spring season, actively engaging with the local community through barn tours, mounted demonstrations, and interactive educational visits.

Photo below, Troopers demonstrating weapons skills in Fort Stockton, TX.



A highlight for many local students has been the HCD's popular "Yesterday and Today" presentations. During these school visits, two Troopers stand side-by-side to illustrate the dramatic evolution of the U.S. Army Cavalry. One Trooper dons the traditional uniform of the late 1800s, while the other is outfitted in modern-day Operational Camouflage Pattern (OCP) fatigues. Together, they discuss the rich history of the mounted

Cavalry and contrast the original horseback Troopers with today's modern
Continued to pg. 3

THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

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I cannot talk enough about the Association Calendar. If you want to continue to receive the annual calendar you now are required to have a **calendar subscription**. The cost is \$10 annually. There is a renewal form on page 2 of the *Saber*,

or you can go online to the website under the *Saber* Renewal link. Additionally, Karleen has added it to the annual *Saber* subscription reminder letter.

Now let's talk about the 2026 Reunion in **NEW ORLEANS!!!**

Bus transportation to and from the Museum is at no cost to the passengers. However, you will be required to purchase your own ticket to enter museum. You can do this by going to the WWII Museum New Orleans website <www.nationalww2museum.org>, clicking on the Plan Your Visit link. Easy, right? You can also buy tickets upon your arrival at the museum. The Ladies will also have their transportation provided to the New Orleans of Cooking School...just come hungry. Saturday night's Banquet will be at the WWII Museum, and I will have surprise entertainment. If you are on the fence about attending the dinner, rethink your options before July. There won't be many tickets available for purchase after your arrival.

The official transportation app for New Orleans trolleys is the RTA Le Pass app, which lets you plan trips, buy passes, and track streetcars in real time. The Le Pass app, developed by the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority (RTA), allows you to purchase and manage buses, streetcars, and ferry passes directly from your phone. You can pay fares digitally by tapping your pass and showing it to the operator eliminating the need for cash or exact change. The app is available for both iOS and Android devices. If you're planning on riding the streetcar multiple times, we recommend purchasing a Jazzy Pass. One, three, and 31-day unlimited ride "**Jazzy Passes**" are all available for \$3, \$9, and \$55 respectively, and are definitely the most cost-effective way to utilize the bus and streetcars over the course of a day or an entire trip.

Now for some much-needed safety information while you are in New Orleans. **DO NOT** travel without a battle buddy at any time during your stay. If you decide to take in the sites around the hotel, **DO NOT** wear your name badge or your Stetson. Both will make you an obvious target. We want you to come to New Orleans and enjoy yourselves but always remain vigilant of your surroundings. Looking forward to seeing everyone in New Orleans in July.

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ADDRESS 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: _____
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 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
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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: _____
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 1: Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Dates: _____ Tel: (____) _____
 2: Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Dates: _____ Tel: (____) _____

1CDA EVENT CALENDAR

July 8-12, 2026	78 th Annual 1CDA Reunion, New Orleans
Nov 9-11, 2026	17 th Annual Veterans Day, Washington D.C.
Aug 4-8, 2027	79 th Reunion will be in Columbus, GA
2028 Dates TBA	80 th Reunion will be in Killeen, TX

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.

Saber: 5 years for \$75

Calendar Subscription: 2027 Calendar \$10

Association General Fund Donation \$ _____
 In Memory of: _____

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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SABER

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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.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Dear Foundation:

Thank you for enabling me to pursue my dreams! I am writing you personally to express my sincere gratitude to the Foundation of 1st Cavalry to make the Scholarship funds investment in my future. The aid of this scholarship has also been a valued benefit to lift a substantial portion of the financial stress from my family's burden of a higher-level education achievement, especially coming from a single parent home where I am the last of the 4 children to have accomplished a college level education.



I plan to pursue my Grandfathers footsteps as an Alum of Appalachian State. I will be studying Business in Technology as well as Criminal Law through my love of Law. I have researched various avenues in automotive mobility ranging from clean propulsion or through studying manufacturing to further my academics and they seem to fall in the Business or Engineering fields.

In 1965, my Grandfather's Division became engaged in intensified combat training, tactical training, and field training exercises, in addition to special training designed to improve operational readiness. He was moved to Company C of the 8th Engineering Division, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) and was assigned as an Occupational Specialty of Light Wheel Vehicle Mechanic. He served in Vietnam as an Automotive Wheel Tech in the 8th Engineering, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), as part of the First Team advance party that arrived in Nha Trang August 16, 1965. He died by suicide, 58 years later to that notorious date, July 28, 1965. Therefore, as a recipient of this scholarship, I feel my grandfather is still looking out for me through his fellow Soldiers of Vietnam.

This Scholarship not only instills the pride of my Grandfather's service but will aid me in a greater opportunity to pursue my passion while defining my career choice that otherwise I might not have. I cannot thank you enough for easing the financial burden and thus making the dilemma of high tuition rates less stressful on my next journey of a college degree. Thank you again for this generous support in my next journey to pursue my dreams.

Sincerely,
 Samuel Gusler

Consider making a SCHOLARSHIP DONATION to the Foundation to help a student achieve their educational goals. CONSIDER DONATING TODAY

Trooper's Tale



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

Send your stories to Programs@1CDA.org

Lowcountry U.S. Army Vietnam Veteran Honored with Silver Star Medal by Victoria Blair

CHARLESTON, S.C. (WCSC) — CPT Lloyd Ray, Company D, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry, a United States Army Vietnam War Veteran, was awarded a Silver Star Medal, our military's third-highest combat decoration, awarded for heroism and exceptional gallantry in action against an enemy. For Ray, recognition for service comes decades later, but his heroism speaks volumes.



"We were one of the last, very last combat units in Vietnam. And we lived in the jungle. We carried all our supplies and ammunition, water, food," Ray said. On Nov 18, 1971, Ray was leading Company D in Vietnam when everything changed. "Alpha Company started getting some fire where they were operating. And we were alerted to get ready," Ray said.

Moving constantly and facing an enemy they couldn't always see. "Pitch black dark by then. You could not see your hand in front of your face," Ray said.

Ray says they tried to link up with Alpha Company, but what followed was an ambush of enemy fire.



"The noise and then machine gun fire and everybody went down. You had to go down, and we went flat down. We had no real cover. You just had to lay flat," Ray said.

With his men pinned down and out of ammunition, Ray called in artillery. "We were getting shrapnel metal over our head, friendly fire, but we had to do it because they were so close and they had so much firepower we couldn't overcome it otherwise," Ray said.

From evacuating the wounded to holding their ground, they were not defeated. "The adrenaline pumps, and you basically do what you were trained to do," Ray said. For those actions, Ray has been awarded the Silver Star, but ask

him about the honor, and he'll tell you it doesn't belong solely to him.

"I was only one man. We had 119 that deserved this," Ray said. And to those men, his fellow brothers, he has a simple message. "Thank you for doing your job because it allowed me to do my job," Ray said.

Ray was awarded the Silver Star at The Citadel, and now this honor of service will be encapsulated forever, not only for Ray but for all who served and fought for our freedom. "Stays with you. And that's a good thing," Ray said. March 29 was Vietnam Veterans Day, a time to honor those who answered the call to serve.



Feel free to send us your recent 1st Cav related news article written about you! Programs@1CDA.org

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 HHC 1BSTB, 2007-2009
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This column is a collection of stories submitted from 1BSTB Soldiers that served during OIF / OEF.

At 0830 in the morning on 15 September 2007, Task Force Iron Claw (TFIC), while in support of operation clearing Route Raiders, began a rather long day. TFIC did something common for them, they found a command wire. They traced the wire and found one 155mm round IED. At 0950 two more rounds of unknown size were found with an anti-tampering device. At 1040 TFIC found two more IEDs and again found another IED within a plastic jug at 1150. This rather usual day became an unusual day and continued until 1730 that night, with a total of 10 IEDs found and detonated with EOD.

On 12 September 2007, Thunder Company said farewell to 1SG Ricky Linton. 1SG Linton led Thunder Company for nearly three years. He became not only a leader for Thunder, but a mentor, model, and a friend. His service from the company's conception until his transfer to Demon Company, 2-8 Cavalry, was surely missed.

The First Sergeant's role is one that is time honored and rich in custom and tradition. First Sergeants derive their authority from the unit commander. The First Sergeant is responsible for providing sound advice to the commander on a wide range of topics. As a 1SG, your unit will be a direct reflection of your leadership, experience, and dedication, regardless of any other single personality involved. The First Sergeant is on call 24 hours a day 7 days a week and should expect long irregular duty hours. Based on the important responsibilities of the First Sergeant, and the impact of this position on units and personnel, only the most dedicated professional Senior Non-Commissioned Officer is selected for this special duty.

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

HORSE DETACHMENT

Continued from pg. 1

mechanized force of tanks and helicopters.

Beyond local school districts, the HCD recently made a prominent appearance in late March at historic Fort Stockton, Texas. Troopers had the distinct honor of carrying the Colors for the city's annual Living History Days. This year's event held special significance, as it was dedicated to honoring America's 250th birthday.

For those looking to experience the Cavalry's living history firsthand, the HCD welcomes the public to visit them in person. Every Thursday at 1000 hours (weather permitting), the detachment conducts a Mounted Cavalry Demonstration at their stables, located at 69007 Trooper Loop, Fort Hood, TX.

While the detachment no longer maintains a standalone Facebook page, a dedicated webpage will soon be launched on the official 1st Cavalry Division (1CD) website. In the meantime, supporters and community members are encouraged to follow the main 1CD Facebook page for the latest updates on the HCD's mission and upcoming events.

Photo below is the HCD Troopers presenting the Colors at the Fort Stockton, TX parade.



**ARMY
BIRTHDAY**



June 14, 1775

The U.S. Army was founded on June 14, 1775, when the Continental Congress authorized enlistment of riflemen to serve the United Colonies for one year. The 14 June date is when Congress adopted "the American continental army" after reaching a consensus position in The Committee of the Whole.

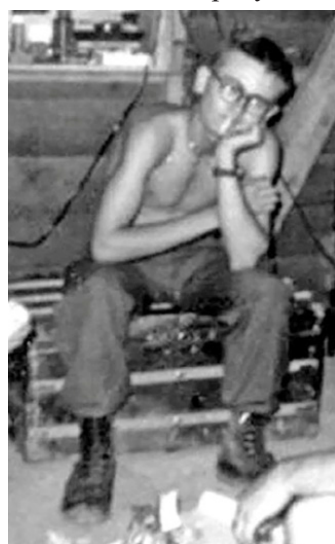
LRRP/Ranger News



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Greetings All! – I wanted to start this column off honoring one of our Brothers who didn't return home, Daniel Mooreland Sheehan. Dan was born on 31 July 1949 in Aurora Colorado. He was KIA on 16 July 1969 and buried in Fairmount Cemetery in Denver Colorado. Daniel was a member of SSgt Stan Lento's Team 4-3, as Rear Scout. The day following their insertion, enemy soldiers detonated a mine in an unmanned ambush site that had been set up the previous day. Soon after Sheehan noticed movement and alerted his TL. At the same time Archie McDaniel, the Teams Medic also noted movement and alerted Lento who began calling in supporting fire while waiting on gunship support. Sheehan spotted a squad of enemy soldiers coming up behind the Team and immediately engaged them. The 2 leading enemy soldiers went down but not before one of their rounds took Sheehan down. As the contact wound down Sheehan was medevac'd to Quan Loi, then Long Binh where he later died because of his wounds. Sheehan was awarded a Silver Star for his actions during that contact. This is a summary of what was a significant contact - the full story can be found in Gregg Jorgenson's book LRRP Company Command. Thanks Gregg!!



Chuck Coffin

Thank you, Chuck Coffin, for sharing your memory of Bu Gia Map, and a special thanks to John LeBrun and Historical Occurrences.

Everything in this story is based on my 30-year-old memories – if there are errors of omission, they are unintentional. We are always the viewpoint character of our memories, so my recollections may differ from others who were there. This was one month before my 23rd birthday.

You can find it on Google Earth. Type in "Bu Gia Map, Vietnam" and watch the app move from wherever you are to Southeast Asia then narrow in on "Bu Gia Map National Park." There's a village there, too. Expand it, get closer to the ground and the terrain. Narrow it down on the mountains, see how rugged the terrain is, how thick the vegetation is. Go northwest from there, towards the border with Cambodia, and there's a place where the border forms a peninsula of Vietnam into Cambodia. There are no roads near there on the Vietnamese side, though you can see one in Cambodia. Which

is why we were there. As near as I recall, that's the place on the border where we were. Somewhere along there, for sure.

March 25th, 1970, give or take a day. My last mission before Recondo School and just over a month before President Nixon ordered US Forces into Cambodia. Some missions fade; some blur into others. But parts of this mission are etched into my memory, never to be forgotten. I can still smell the earth and the rotting vegetation, I can feel the heat, hear the bugs buzzing around me. Rick Arden was the Team Leader; I was the ATL.

We were told we'd be conducting a mission along the Cambodia border "north of Bu Gia Map," a place I'd never heard of. We were supposed to be on the Vietnamese side of the border, but I knew where the exact border location was, shall we say, subject to interpretation, especially in those mountains.

We flew up to a little Fire Support Base, and it scared the hell out of me. It had one strand of concertina wire around it. While I was putting on my camouflage before insertion, using a truck mirror, some Infantry guy came up to me and watched me for a minute.

"You one of them Rangers?" he asked. In my best John Wayne/Gary Cooper/Clint Eastwood imitation I replied "Yep." He considered this for a minute and then said, "Man you crazy! Ain't no way I'd go out there!"

I looked around at the tiny FSB – I could throw a rock from one end to the other – and at the single strand of concertina wire, thought about one reinforced squad of NVA being able to overrun it in about 5 minutes, and said to him, "Man – YOU the crazy one. NO way I'd stay here!"

I don't remember much about the insertion. Rick is right, this was the one where we were inserted on the side of a very steep hill, something like a 30-degree slope. That's very rugged terrain there. I recall being on the "low" side, being able to step off the Huey skid directly onto the ground, while Rick and the guys on the other side had to jump about 10 feet to the ground. I remember being very scared as we'd recently been told of an insertion made on similar terrain where the pilot over-corrected when the 'high' side guys jumped off and the chopper rocked, decapitating two of the guys on the low side. (Troop of the blues, I think.)

But the insertion went without incident, and the chopper left, leaving us in the silence that was always surprising. We waited out the stillness, wondering if anyone had seen us come in. We made a comms check and moved out. Nothing happened that day and I believe we RON'ed that night and continued to move the next day.

It was early morning of the second day, on top of a hill, – or a mountain – we found the trail. It was a cool morning for Vietnam, only about 85-90 degrees and the trail was a wide one, 6 or 7 feet wide with recent heavy use.

So, we set the ambush. Daisy-chained a bunch of claymores along thirty feet or so, with the one at each end pointing down that trail's direction. I remember Rick looking for a suitable place to hang a grenade or two at head-height and work it into the daisy chain, but the vegetation there was heavy with bamboo, and he didn't find one he could camouflage to his satisfaction.

I had recently come up with the idea or stolen it from someone else of putting a concussion grenade in the center of the kill-zone, the idea being we'd kill everyone in the zone but one and have ourselves a prisoner – and a three-day in-country R&R (I remember Ted Scherk tried for 102 days of R&R after he captured 33 Montagnard men, women and children. The CO threw Ted out of his office).

Usually, we'd set the ambush and wait. Usually, nothing happens, and after a day or so we'd pack up and go somewhere else. So, I was settling in for a long wait and had just started heating water in a canteen cup for my noon meal

using a dab of C-4 for beef and rice, my favorite. The water had just come to a boil, and I was readying the packet when someone whispered sharply, "We got movement." I scrambled quickly and grabbed the clackers for the claymores.... and now I was really frightened.

I have never, ever believed they were NVA. I have always thought they were Chinese. These guys were big, stocky, weighing 160 or 170 lbs. or so. Their skin was much darker than Vietnamese and they seemed much healthier. They were wearing heavy packs, but they were bouncing along, full of energy. They had, we learned later, fresh haircuts. They were muscular. They had to have just left a base camp fresh and rested. And they were happy. They didn't have a care in the world, and they acted like they were on a holiday, or a fun jaunt through the woods. They never suspected there was anyone else around.

Rick grasped his "clackers," and I grabbed mine. "On three" he said. "One... two... Three" and we squeezed the clackers and blew the claymores. I was no longer scared and wasn't for the rest of the day. Too busy, too many things to do.

As always, the noise was tremendous. More so than usual, we were closer to the claymores than we should have been, but the terrain didn't allow us much option. I was partially deaf for a few days (also acquired a hearing problem that persists to this day and continues to worsen but the VA doesn't recognize it). We fired our weapons, threw grenades, and put out fire all along the trail. And received return fire. While lying on my stomach I felt a hot burn on my back near my spine at the level of my shoulders. I had been hit by shrapnel. Not badly, but I still have small scars. I remember PFC Tomlinson also got some shrapnel in his leg. I don't remember if anyone else was hit.

After a while, five minutes? Fifteen? I have no way of knowing when the return fire ceased. We waited, watched, saw no sign of activity. After a bit Rick said, "let's check the kill zone." As ATL I led the way while Rick was talking on the radio.

Rick says that I fell, "like a sack of potatoes." He's right. I hadn't had much martial arts training at that point, but I had learned that the fastest way to hit the ground is not to "throw" yourself, but to relax and utterly collapse, which I did pulling my M-16s trigger as I did. Nothing happened. I must have looked like I'd been killed, without a chance to fire back.

I heard someone shout, "The sonsabitches killed Chuck" and heard the entire team open up hosing down the area, while I frantically worked the charging handle on the M-16 and managed to feed a round into the chamber which was empty. What the hell?

I ran a couple of magazines through, then crawled backwards to where the team was back in our original ambush position or, as I put it in an attempt at humor, I set the world record for crawling backward on one's stomach wearing a 60 lb. rucksack! Once back with the team we put out more fire.

I felt a burning along my right side. I didn't have time to mess with it then but much later I realized that a bullet had passed right along my side burning but never breaking the skin, like a hot iron laid against my side. There's still a faint scar there, though there seems to be a few more rolls of skin now than there was back then.

What had happened to my M-16? Stupidity is what happened. My stupidity. I thought I was smarter than the Army. They issued us 20 round magazines and then told us only to load 18 rounds into them. That's dumb I thought, twenty round magazines should hold 20 rounds, I might need them. No, the Army was right. Loading 20 rounds into the magazine creates so much pressure on the spring, and the rounds are packed so tightly that when the bolt goes forward, it can slip over the top round, chambering... nothing. Which is what had happened. I'd been walking point with no round in my chamber. I've told the story over the years to countless young Troops, as an object lesson. Sometimes the Army has a reason for telling you to do something in a certain way.

We kept firing and receiving return fire, then I spotted muzzle flashes from some thick brush by the trail. I looked carefully at the spot they were coming from and fired three rounds. No more muzzle flashes. No more return fire either. I've always been proud of my rifle shooting. I've won some awards, but that was the most important shot I've made, I think.

After a bit, Rick said, "Let's go check." He turned to me and asked, "You want me to lead?" "No," I said, "I'm ATL and it's my job. You keep talking on the radio and get the birds out here." But I was a bit shaky about it, and I did check to make certain I had a round in the chamber. We got to the kill zone and spread out. With a newbie (whose name I forget – if you read this, my apologies) I went left to the end of the kill zone where there was a body. I told him to look down the trail to make certain there were no reinforcements coming and if I see you watching me instead of the trail I'm going to butt-stroke you. No problem, he agreed vigorously, and his eyes never left the trail. I began stripping the body, searching the pockets. "This one's still alive" I heard someone shout behind me. I turned, drawing the Browning 9mm I carried and saw one of the Chinese sitting up groping for something, a weapon. I was bringing the Browning around when Rick took a step towards him and fired his M-16. The bullet hit the guy above the eyebrows.

I remember being surprised he didn't die like they do in the movies. No dramatic flopping back or being hurled back. Instead, he groaned and slowly leaned back, finally settled on the jungle floor as the last of his energy and his life left him. We finished searching and stripping the bodies. We took the rice packets they were carrying; we knew that somewhere there were guys who could do forensic analysis and tell where the rice had come from. Papers, of course and anything else we could find that could provide intel. Sometime during that period, the Cobras came on station and scoped out the area. "You've got movement 360!" they told Rick and then came down and hovered above us firing rockets and mini guns while turning a 360 over us.

We began to realize we'd stirred up a real hornet's nest; we were surrounded on top of a mountain and there was no place to go. No way could we make it back to our insertion point and there was no PZ anywhere near us that we knew of. The trees were too thick and too tall to allow anything to get near us. These were mountain hardwood trees. One of the Huey pilots came on the air, "Move 200 meters northwest" he told Rick, so we headed in that direction. Did we take one of the bodies? I have vague memories that we did, but I'm not sure. The thought being they could do a forensic analysis on the body even though CSI wouldn't come on TV for 35 years. We just discussed it. As we left that area I stepped over the body, Rick had shot a second before I had.

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5th CAV News

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Another wonderful day, is it not, fellow Troopers? In my personal view, each one is since I learned that the next few seconds are never promised! Never guaranteed. This fact is again on my mind this issue because I have a duty to inform any 5th Cav Trooper not already informed that we have lost another.

Brigadier General (RET) James E. Mace has gone on to Fiddlers Green! At the time I arrived in country (Vietnam) in the fall of 1968, a younger, CPT Mace was in command of A Co 2nd Battalion, 5th U.S. Cavalry. In December that year, while in command of A Company, he, and his men, with the presence of two other companies were in a three-day fight near Dong Xoai, Vietnam. Three-day fights involving large numbers of people will present themselves in retrospect, with a fair amount of what we refer to as "the fog of war." One thing is certain. Then CPT Mace conducted himself in a manor that got him decorated with a Distinguished Service Cross. I personally know some men who were there, and they all agree they are proud to have served with him.

GEN Mace graduated from The Citadel in 1963. He was Jump Qualified and was a Ranger. He reported to Ft. Benning, Georgia in 1985, where he authored Field Manual 7-85 (*Ranger Unit Operations and Training*). He subsequently commanded the 1st Infantry Training Brigade, becoming the first commander of the Ranger Training Brigade. In 1988 he became the Assistant Division Commander for the 6th Infantry Division (Light) in Alaska. He completed his active military career as Chief of Staff, 4th U.S. Army, at Ft. Sheridan, Illinois, retiring in 1991.

He was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame in 2007. His decorations include the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and Army Commendation Medal.

He became Commandant at The Citadel in 1997, leading the institution through its transition to a co-ed military college. He held the position for eight years, becoming the longest serving Commandant of the Citadel. In a 2005 resolution,

Congress recognized its vital role in guiding positive change at the institution.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Dr. Anne J. Mace, his children, Elizabeth Anne Mace MsGrath, Mary Frances Mace, U.S. Congresswoman Nancy Ruth Mace, and COL James Emory Mace Jr., MD. He is also survived by 11 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

Every generation of Soldiers that see combat, has, in everyone, times that leave extremely deep marks on the soul. In collecting this material, I came face to face with yet another such incident. Friends helping me with this were burdened with again going through times they would rather have forgotten. The deployment was long, and operations took place every day so that few people had only one or two such days. In years' time, if not cut short by wounds or other events, such events were not uncommon. To know so many people who worked through a deployment like that and came back to function every day as if nothing had happened, I count myself highly fortunate. My heart goes out to the men and women of each new generation facing the task of keeping the country safe. They cannot know everything ever faced by people before them, and as the proverbial "stuff" hits the fan, it is universal to believe no one could ever understand. Many do. And I sent at least one, back through some uncomfortable time. I am aware that the descriptor "uncomfortable" is very inadequate and I apologize.

The history of our unit always puts me in awe, whenever faced with chapters like the one that forged my friends and then CPT Mace. I tend to get, shall we say "contemplative" for some time, when I realize that if those who went before had any way to see, would make them as proud of the unit as we are when reflecting on those who went before. This proud and productive Division, adapting new missions and training as required, in my mind stands unique. I am thankful every day that I was allowed to be a part of it all!

By the time this goes on to press we will be coming up on another Division Reunion. I will be involved with the National Convention for the Military Order of the Purple Heart at the same time and will be unable to be with the Division this year. I encourage all to go, if possible, particularly if you have not previously been to one. Unbelievably, these are among the best ways to take some of the sharp edges off deployment acquired "wrinkles" if you will.

God bless you all!

Contact the scribe to share your 5th Cav stories!

**If you were ever a part of 5th CAV, join their Association <5thCav.org>
 SUPPORT YOUR UNIT LEGACY!**

WANTED:

HAVE YOU BEEN SEARCHING FOR YOUR LONG LOST BATTLE BUDDY?

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!

KIA PFC RODNEY DOUGLAS PICKETT B/1-12CAV, 24MAY67

Dear 1st Cavalry Division Association Team,

My name is Josh Pickett. I'm writing as the nephew of PFC Rodney Douglas Pickett, who served with B Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) during the Vietnam War. Rodney was Killed in Action on May 24, 1967, in Binh Dinh Province during Operation Pershing. He was only 19 years old, just a few days shy of his 20th birthday.

Our family has always been deeply proud of his service and sacrifice, but over the years we have known very little about the circumstances surrounding the patrol or incident in which he lost his life. Recently I began researching his service in hopes of learning more about the unit he served with and the men who may have known him. I'm reaching out to see if your association might have any records, newsletters, reunion rosters, or members who served in B Company, 1/12 Cavalry in 1967—particularly around May of that year.

If anyone remembers Rodney, served in his platoon, or has knowledge of the patrol or incident on May 24, 1967, I would be incredibly grateful to hear from them. Even small memories or stories about B Company during that time would mean a great deal to our family. Thank you for the work you do preserving the history and brotherhood of the First Team. It means a lot to families like ours.

With gratitude and respect, Josh Pickett <joshpickett@pm.me>

CW4 DAVID ALAN BURNS, 7Cav 1972-1975

Hi, I'm trying to help my grandpa, David Alan Burns, reconnect with anyone who served with him in Vietnam. He was a Huey pilot and he mentioned serving with the 101st Airborne (Screaming Eagles), the 1st Cavalry Division, and something with the 7th (possibly 7th Cav).

He doesn't talk about his service often, but when he does, he lights up. You can tell he still has a real passion for aviation and those days flying the Huey. I'd love to surprise him by finding someone who knew him or served alongside him.

Lucas Burns <Ranger.LAB558@hotmail.com>

EDWARD CLARK GASPAR

Hello! I am looking for some help learning about my birth father's Army service. He left before I was born, and my mother never told me much.

His name was Edward Clark Gaspar and I know he enlisted in 1959 and was discharged in 1971. I'm asking you, because to the right, you will find the only photo I've ever seen of him. There is some writing on the MP brassard, but I can't make it out. Any help would be appreciated.

FYI, I didn't find this pic until last year. I unknowingly enlisted as an MP in 1984.

Scott Thompson, 781-789-4241, I prefer to texts or email <scottmthompson@verizon.net>.



SGT FRANCIS EDWARD LINNABARY, 1-5CAV, 1968-69

Looking for information on my father-in-law. He served in Vietnam from 68-69 with 1-5 CAV. His name was SGT Linnabary; he was INF and had his CIB. I know little else and I am hoping to find some folks he served with.

Richard Brassard <rickbrassard@gmail.com>

FSB GRUNT, 14APRIL 1972

Looking for five grunts who joined me on an ambush outside FSB Grunt the night of April 14, 1972, and crews of the Night Hawk and Cobra who supported us that night.

Bob McConnell, 970-846-4907, <Scrapironbob68@gmail.com>

LEE ERNEST GREGG, 15 MED

Looking to reconnect with my old friend. Lee was in Med Co, 15th Medical Battalion, (Support), 3rd Bde (Sep), 1st Cav Div (AM); Location/Time: APO SF 96490, Vietnam War era.

Please provide any contact information,
 Rufus Thompson, 410-805-8963



12th CAV News



Thomas W. Kjos
tomwkjos03@gmail.com
www.12thCav.com



In considering my second column for the 12th Cavalry, I decided I want to tell more stories about the people and places of the Cavalry. These are the stories that add color and depth to the “battle stories” that are more often told.

Here are the stories of two chaplains who served the 1st Battalion in Vietnam, Billy Lord 1965-1966, and Philip Lucid 1966-1968.

BILLY LORD, PASTOR AND LEADER IN BATTLE



Billy Lord grew up in New Iberia, Louisiana, enlisted in the Army, and after airborne school, was assigned to the 11th Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, where he met Bettye Sue Ellis at church in nearby Clarksville, Tennessee. The Division rotated to Germany in January 1956. A year later Bettye flew to Germany to marry Billy in Augsburg on January 4, 1957. Son Patrick was born in October.

After he was honorably discharged, the young family welcomed a daughter, Darlene in Nashville, Tennessee, before Billy attended New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (where son William was born), graduating in 1963. Billy was ordained

a Southern Baptist minister and was pastor of the Arkadelphia Baptist Church in Bailey, Mississippi, before returning to US Army Active-Duty as a Chaplain in 1964.

Billy Lord arrived in Vietnam as the Chaplain of the 1-12th Cavalry in September 1965. It was the first of his three Vietnam tours-of-duty. Having served at Benning in the 11th Air Assault (Test), the predecessor of the 1st Cavalry's 1st Brigade units, he was already known to those with whom he would serve in Vietnam, they would learn a great deal more.

After less than a month in “construction duties,” chopping weeds and putting together Quonset huts on Camp Radcliff near An Khe in the Central Highlands, on 10 October 1966 the 1st Brigade, including the 1-12th, in Operation Shiny Bayonet, first combat, air assaulted into the Soui Ca Valley to engage the 2nd VC Regiment.

As the battalion's advanced toward the objective, A Co, in the center, began taking casualties. Its commander went to assist a wounded Trooper, and began carrying him to the rear, leaving the company in some confusion.

CPT John Gergulis, commanding D Co, on higher ground on Alpha's right, describes the moment, “That's when A Co started to fall apart. We observed the A Co Commander running to the rear with a Trooper on his back. I could see Battalion Chaplain Billy Lord trying to organize A Co.” Acting quickly and with determination, Chaplain Lord rallied A Co. He then treated wounded Troopers, spiritually and medically, carrying some out of danger under fire. Then, realizing the company medic had been wounded and left behind, ran back through intense enemy fire to rescue the medic.

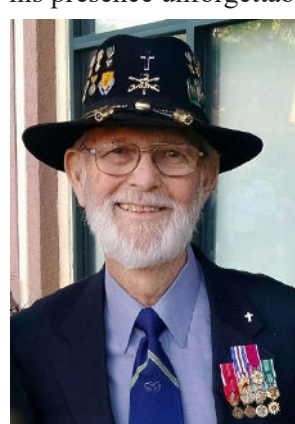
Two days later, on 12 October 1965. Chaplain Lord again rescued Troopers; this time members of B Co, 1-12th. R.O. Martin, a Private that day in the first of four Vietnam tours, remembers, “We were in a terrible situation. We had been in heck of a fire fight, and several squad members were wounded. I was down to two rounds left. The VC were trying to find us and finish us. Meyer, Smith, Chambley, and SGT Marshall were seriously wounded.

We realized our position was untenable. It was getting dark. I heard movement in the brush and thought ‘Oh no, not another assault.’ But who should appear but Chaplain Lord, leading a team to evacuate us. I was never so glad to see someone in my life.” (Robert Martin was awarded a Silver Star for his actions, and later, three Purple Hearts for wounds.)

Chaplain Lord ministered to his flock even as he soldiered with them. “This moment, Dad baptizing a fellow Soldier in the Ia Drang River in 1966, speaks volumes of Dad's love for God and Soldiers. Imagine with me how this man's life was transformed because Dad helped him, all be it in a combat zone, publicly proclaim his faith in Jesus,” wrote Son-in-Law Michael Weiss about this photo (right).



Billy Lord earned deep admiration from the Soldiers he served with. As a chaplain, he was unarmed by definition yet repeatedly went forward under fire to reach the wounded. He gave last rites, calmed the dying, and helped evacuate the injured. He was willing to return to danger after reaching safety as he had when he rescued the wounded A Co medic. For that, and for actions with B Co two days later, CPT Billy Lord was awarded the Silver Star. That combination of spiritual care and physical courage made his presence unforgettable to those who witnessed it.



COL Lord retired in 1984, after more than 20 years of service, then served his fellow Veterans as he had his Soldiers, including as the 12th Regiment Association Chaplain. COL Billy R. Lord, Master Parachutist, recipient of the Silver Star, Bronze Star and Air Medal, passed away October 15, 2021, aged 86.

In moments of fear and confusion, Chaplain Lord brought a sense of calm, purpose, and humanity. Men who might never have thought much about religion found strength in his presence, because was willing to risk everything simply to stand beside them. His actions embodied selflessness at the highest level, placing the lives and dignity of others above his own safety and that is why he remains a powerful example of moral courage in war. (Bob March, D/1-12 Cavalry historian, contributed to this story.)

PHILIP LUCID, THE GHOST OF THE BATTLEFIELD

Father Philip Lucid, SJ, born in Everett, Washington, graduated from Seattle Prep in 1940, where he starred in three sports, then attended Seattle University, and become a Jesuit novitiate in 1942. Ordained in 1955, he taught theology at Gonzaga University and joined the Jesuit's Mission Band in 1959. His affinity for Soldiers was clear even then, with missions for Soldiers in Alaska and in 1964 a six-month missions to Soldiers of the Seventh Army in West Germany,

By 1965 he decided he wanted to minister to Soldiers fighting in Vietnam and applied to the United States Army for appointment as a chaplain. Unfortunately, the maximum age to enter the Army Chaplaincy was 39, and Father Philip turned 43 in May. After being turned down, he turned to Senator Henry “Scoop” Jackson, who convinced the Army that they would be well-rewarded to extend the Father an age waiver. Scoop was right.

CPT Lucid was sworn in for a term of four years, on January 7, 1966. “I am indebted to Senator Jackson,” Father Lucid said, referring to his help with the age waiver. After completing the Army's Chaplain Basic in late March, CPT Lucid was assigned to Brooke Army Medical Center.

CPT Lucid arrived in Vietnam in late in 1966, and was assigned as Chaplain of the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry. In February 1967 the Cav's 1st Brigade moved to LZ English in Binh Dinh Province in preparation for Operation Pershing. It was there that Larry Larson, a young grunt mortarman and Phil Lucid began a friendship that would last their tours and be renewed in the next century. “I was walking past this small round tent, it had a sign ‘Chaplain 1/12,’ and an older man sitting in front. ‘Would you like a beer, Soldier,’ he asked? Of course I would, dah, it's Vietnam, it's hot, and we're on a pretty secure base. So, he fished into a cooler and handed me a beer. Here I am chatting with this Captain, I was probably still a PFC, but he's down-to-earth and we discover we are both from Everett, Washington. After that we'd occasionally run across each other in the field, me with A Company, and Chaplain Lucid visiting the battalion's companies.”



Chaplains Tent

From the start of his Vietnam tour, Philip Lucid saw his place as being in the field with the Troopers of the 1st Cavalry, wherever they were, in the valleys and mountains of the Central Highlands, up in Dak To, and near the coast in an AO they called simply “Bong Son.” It seemed throughout the battalion that he was with them so often after and sometimes before enemy contact, that they would begin worrying when he showed up.

In December of 1967 the 1st Brigade returned from reinforcing the 4th Infantry Division and the 173rd Airborne Brigade in a dust-up near Dak To. Philip Lucid had extended and was starting another tour. B Co of 1st Battalion, 60th Infantry (Mech), commanded by CPT Richard Guthrie, was attached to 1-12th Cavalry and became heavily engaged on 10 December north of LZ English in Truong Lam.

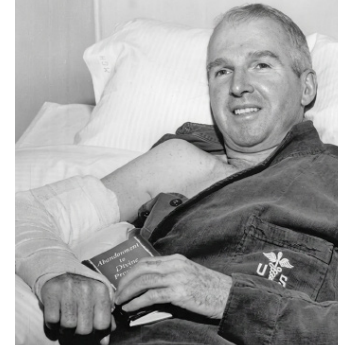
“For a second, I catch sight of an unarmed stranger in an American uniform moving calmly among my Troops. As he bends tenderly over a wounded man to take his hand, I wonder where in hell he came from,” wrote Guthrie later. With the company in contact, he could then investigate. After air strikes Bravo was able to break contact and set up a perimeter. The company had lost over 30 wounded and killed, a third of its field strength.

Doing his rounds, CPT Guthrie came across a stranger chatting quietly with two men by their track. He realized this was the unknown figure he'd seen moving through the afternoon's carnage. That ‘apparition on the battlefield’ was Father Lucid.

Philip Lucid was awarded a Silver Star “for exceptionally valorous action during the period 7 to 11 December 1967, during a combat near Dai Dong, and later Truong Lam. The Division moved north into I Corps in mid-January to counter the NVA build-up near the DMZ and around the Marine's Khe Sanh Combat Base.

Not long after that move, it was Tet '68. The big one. Gerry Gudinas, A Co, remembers, “I was with him on February 2, 1968, during the Tet Offensive. Father Lucid risked his life several times that day giving the last rites and helping to load the wounded on medevac, all while under fire. It was just the beginning.

According to Larry Larson, another tough day came on February 16, when Alpha's third platoon was heavily engaged and separated from the rest of the company. There was Philip Lucid. Again. Moving forward under intense enemy fire to reach the wounded. Helping administer first aid. Helping carry the wounded to safety. And after all those times over more than a year that he had exposed to hostile enemy fire, he was wounded, the bullet going through his upper arm, and then traveling through his forearm.



CPT Lucid in hospital



Ft Bragg Ceremony

For his heroism that day, Father Lucid earned his second Silver Star. He was evacuated to Japan, and then to Madigan Army Medical Center at Fort Lewis. Later in 1968, he was presented with that second Silver Star at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Following his release from active duty in 1970, Father Lucid enrolled in the school of law at Syracuse University where he earned his law degree in 1973. After law school he worked in the federal court system in Seattle for over 30 years. Larry Larson was able to visit him during his stay at Madigan Army Medical Center in 1968 and again in Spokane before he passed away.

Philip Lucid died in 2012 “An officer and gentleman, priest and lawyer, teacher and friend; a man of God whose bravery, compassion, smile, wit, and gracious manner won the love and admiration of all who knew him.”

Continued to pg. 19

7th CAV News



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Greetings, Garryowen Troopers, and welcome to the May/June issue of 7th Cav News. As the seasons shift from cold, grey winter into a warmer and brighter spring, we are reminded that nature isn't the only place where change is underway. Our 7th Cav Association, its readership, its leadership, and the broader family of the 1st Cavalry Division Association, is experiencing its own changing of the guard. These transitions are not sudden, nor are they unexpected, but they are becoming more visible and more consequential with each passing year.

For decades, our Vietnam Veterans formed the backbone of both organizations. They filled the reunions, kept the stories alive, and carried the weight of preserving both the Regiment's and the Division's legacy. Their commitment built the foundation on which today's Association stands. Many of them joined when the memories of An Khe, Hue, and the A Shau were still fresh, when the bonds of service were as strong as the tracks and rotors that carried them through the war. They sustained this Association through sheer dedication, ensuring that the history, traditions, and spirit of the Cavalry would never fade.

But time, as it always does, continues its steady march. Our Vietnam generation is aging, and the reality is that fewer of those Troopers are able to participate as actively as they once did. Their voices remain strong, but their numbers are diminishing. This is not a loss of relevance—far from it. It is simply the inevitable passing of responsibility from one generation of warriors to the next.

Stepping forward now are the Veterans of the Gulf War and the Global War on Terror. These Troopers, many of whom grew up hearing stories of the Ia Drang, LZ XRay, and the long ride of the Division from Horse Cavalry to Air Cavalry, are now taking their place in the formation. They bring with them their own experiences: the desert winds of Kuwait and Iraq, the mountains of Afghanistan, the multiple deployments, the difficult mission, and the same unwavering commitment to each other that has defined the Cavalry since 1861.

Their service was different in geography and technology, but not in spirit. They, too, know what it means to answer the call, to carry the Colors, to endure the pain, and to uphold the legacy of the 7th Cavalry and the 1st Cavalry Division. And now, they are shouldering the leadership and responsibility of sustaining the Association for the decades ahead. This is as it should be.

Every generation of Troopers has added a new chapter to the story. The handoff from one era to the next is how the Cav endures. The mission, preserving history, supporting Troopers and families, and maintaining the bonds of service, remains unchanged. What changes are the men and women who carry the guidon.

As we move deeper into 2026, I encourage all members, Vietnam, Gulf War, and GWOT alike, to stay engaged, stay connected, and stay proud of the lineage you represent. Both the 7th Cav and 1st Cavalry's history is long, but its future is still being written. And every Trooper, from every era, has an important place in that story. Garryowen! Karl and Boz

John Going's book, *Five Irishmen, Five Brothers, Five Veterinary Surgeons*, chronicles the remarkable lives of five veterinary surgeons and offers an immersive look at their journeys and the evolution of veterinary medicine. This book serves as both a tribute and an educational resource, as it reveals the struggles and triumphs faced by these dedicated professionals.

All five sons of James Going, Esq., M.D., of County Tipperary, Ireland, studied to become veterinary surgeons in the latter half of the 19th century. The lives of each of these energetic and entrepreneurial brothers provide a unique window into the evolution of the veterinary medical profession during this rapidly changing period in history when cities were growing, contagious animal diseases were emerging, and the United States was rapidly moving westward.



Comanche - The only survivor of Custer's Last Stand

James established a lucrative practice in New York City, enlightened sports men as Veterinary Editor of *The Spirit of the Times*, taught students, and marketed a line of "worm destroyer" patent medicine products for horses. In contrast, three of the other brothers, William, John, and Samuel, joined the Army, each making significant contributions to the U.S. Cavalry in the Western states, controlling a glanders epidemic, caring for Comanche (the only survivor of Custer's Last Stand), and championing better pay and recognition of the status of military veterinarians. Frederick, the fifth brother, chose a slightly different career path with the Royal Horse Artillery during the British Raj in India and at the same time became a winning jockey.

Meticulously researched by William's great grandson, John E. Going, the

stories of these unique Irish brothers tell a fascinating and one-of-a-kind story in American and veterinary history.

I would like to send out a Garryowen Happy Birthday and best wishes to **SGM (Ret) Jimmy Frank Capshaw** who turned 95 on 05 May 2026. The Sergeant Major did two tours in Vietnam with The Cav, 1967-1968 and 1970-1972. Top Capshaw and his wife, Kitty, have been married for 63 years now and Kitty reports that, as you might expect, they are dealing with a number of health issues, but are soldiering on.

Never one to slow down, much less quit, Jimmy is still sharp as a tack and fondly remembers his time with the Cav. Kitty and Jimmy are taking care of each other, are very happy, and are still living in the same small Alabama town the SGM grew up in. Garryowen! SGM (RET) Jimmy Frank Capshaw. Happy Birthday! And, as always, Hello Kitty!

On Smoking Weed by Jack (Boz) Parente

Re: Echo/Recon Company, 1/7th Cavalry, 1st Air Cavalry Div (AM)
Bien Hoa Province, South Vietnam, 0600 / 17Mar69 / Hill 54/LZ Strike
Lat. 11.037599 – Long. 106.879506 / Grid YankeeTango.058206

I remember carrying our dead brothers back from the observation post, wrapping them in green GI ponchos to keep their body parts together, bringing them to the top of the hill to lie with the other dead men, and having to go through all of their personal stuff. I found a big bag of primo smoke in my buddy Bernie's blood-soaked shirt pocket. Bernie always had good weed. I had been too afraid to smoke with him unless we were in the rear with the gear, but 'Nam had turned Bernie into a weed zombie and he was stoned all the time. I didn't want my best friend to get busted after he was dead so I wiped off the blood and stuffed the weed and his cob pipe into my pocket.

We went through everything, collecting 1st Cav wallets and photo albums and plastic bags of letters from home, and pictures of girlfriends, Zippo lighters, wristwatches, glasses, wedding rings, cameras, Saint Christopher medals. We took it all and tried to clean off the blood before we packed it into their rucks and backlogged it to Phouc Vinh where our company clerk would ship the personal things to the next of kin.

I remember those vicious black ants, "Death Ants" someone called them, crawling all over our dead brothers' faces, into their eyes and ears and noses. I remember smoking a lot of Bernie's weed to make the nightmare stop, but it wouldn't stop, so I smoked more weed. It got worse.

I remember stumbling through the smoking rubble completely stoned, in shock, blinded by tears, yelling out names, searching for people who were no longer there. I remember sitting on the blood-soaked top of that Godforsaken hill talking with our dead brothers until the dust-off choppers came and took them away forever.

I remember feeling both very guilty and very thankful it wasn't me lying on the cold metal floor of that Huey wrapped up in a green poncho, but now, seeing my own future laid out before me, I began to understand that I would never leave Vietnam alive. That was when I gave up all hope. Living through the battle of Hill 54 was nothing but dumb-ass luck. Sooner or later the law of averages would catch up and my luck would run out. Vietnam would kill me. If it didn't happen tonight, it would happen tomorrow.

I learned that accepting death cancels all fear, and I began to understand the true meaning of what we all said over and over, "*It don't mean nothin'.*" Eventually, I came to accept being killed in combat as my unavoidable fate. Eventually, it just didn't seem to matter that much. After that, I never smoked weed when we were in the bush. Just that one time.

From John Guillory, Secretary of our 7th US Cavalry Association.

Just wanted all you Association members to know there will be an election for the officer position of 7th Cavalry Association President at the July 2026, ICDA Reunion in New Orleans. The three-year term of our current President, Michael Campbell, will conclude at the close of the 2026 reunion, and Michael is not seeking reelection. So, if you are interested in leading this fabulous organization as its President, for a three-year term in office, please submit your name and contact info to me. Text, email or write to John Guillory, 951-283-7458, 780 Mandevilla Way, Corona, CA 92879.

We are repeating this from our last issue. It seems that no one has come forward to self-nominate for the office of president. As was mentioned earlier in this article, this is an opportunity for the next generation to begin to mold the 7th US Cavalry Association into what best fits the new and future generations of Troopers. Please consider nominating yourself, or another member, for the position of president. If you wish to nominate another member, make sure you have his approval first.

So, in the last issue, we gave you some Rules of Combat that they never teach you in basic training, and we promised a few more in this issue. Well, here goes...

A Sergeant in motion outranks a Lieutenant who doesn't know what's going on / Close air support and friendly fire should be easier to tell apart / Everything is air-droppable at least once / If you can see the whites of their eyes, somebody's done something wrong / Friendly fire often isn't / When the going gets tough, the tough call for close air support. / There is no 'overkill.' There is only 'open fire' and 'I need to reload.' / If it ain't broke, it hasn't been issued to the infantry. / After the toss, be the one with the pin, not the one with the grenade. / Incoming fire has the right of way / Intel is almost always wrong.

So ends another edition of the 7th US Cavalry's news column. Now we put the onus on you to help. As you probably said to yourself as you were reading this issue, "Where the hell did they come up with this?" That's because you're not sending your stories, your tributes, your requests for assistance to us so that we can incorporate YOU into the column. In six years of being the scribe, I cannot remember publishing a single story from the younger side of the association – you folks from the Gulf and GWOT. How about some help here! Believe me, everyone is ready for a change!

**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

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With the 1st Cavalry Reunion in New Orleans is just around the corner, I thought I would say a few words about reunions in general. Back in 1996 some 25+ years after I returned from Vietnam I received a letter in the mail from Ed Reagan who also served with D/2-8 in Vietnam. The letter expressed "I was found," a quote from the letter. Quite frankly I was floored when I first read it. Many different thoughts went through my mind. A few days later I received another letter from Mike "Mouse" McGhie a former scribe for the 8th Cavalry *Saber*, President of 8th Cavalry Association and a man I went through AIT with at Fort Polk. We went over on the same plane, were assigned to 1st Cavalry Division, then D/2-8 in different Platoons. We would visit one another when able in the field and mostly back on LZ's.

In Mouses' letter he told me he was hosting the next D/2-8 Reunion in Las Vegas in several months and would really like to see me. I said, "Yes I would be there," however, the closer the reunion got my feet got colder. My wife literally had to practically kick me out the door. Upon arriving in Vegas, I was greeted at the door of the hotel by Mouse and Jim Nix. They made me feel very welcome and along with other men who were at their first reunion, I felt very welcomed by all the brothers. While at the banquet on Saturday evening, Mouse (the host) talked about the site of the next reunion but said to mostly himself "he would like to see the Arch in St. Louis." What could I say, but "Yes." We had the largest crowd to date of around 35 attendees here in St. Louis.

Now fast forward to 2005 and Mouse was hosting the largest Angry Skipper D/2-8 Reunion we had ever had. There were well over 200 attendees of Veterans and their families. At the banquet on that Saturday, General Scholes, one of the Ex-CO's of D/2-8 was the banquet speaker. There wasn't a dry eye in the place including his own as Ed spoke of all that the infantryman goes through during his tour. Sadly, we have lost both Ed and Mouse, but I know the good Lord has a place for old infantrymen.

Now another reunion we have annually and still exists is the Kentucky Kampout (not misspelt). This was started by six men all of whom served with D/2-8 getting together at Billy Lewis's home in the hills of Tennessee. Six of us who served with D/2-8 showed up at that one and literally slept in a tent and in vehicles around a campfire. That reunion still exists today, but after several moves of locations in Kentucky, we met at the grounds owned by the Legion Post that Top Gun Dotson is the new President of.

Now here we are a couple of months away from the 1st Cavalry Division Reunion in New Orleans, and I'm hoping we have a good turnout for that. Having been involved in planning and putting on reunions for D/2-8, I know just what goes into that process and my point is this; Yes, we are not getting any younger and meeting up with and being in the company of all those good men and their families is always a very good time. So, I hope to see a crowd of not only 8th Cavalry men, but a large crowd of Stetson hats in New Orleans.

Just the other day I received a call from another Korean War Veteran **Gilbert Harris** a former Radioman for 13th Signal Battalion called to say hello. Gilbert served in 1950 arriving in July at Camp King in Japan then on to Korea. Good to hear from you Gilbert!

One last thing, on October 15-18, 2026, we will again have the Kentucky Kampout. This year we will be resting at a new location, being The Paris Landing Motel just a mile up the road towards the Lake approximately 1 mile from the AMVETS Hall, which is the location of our Kampfire at AMVETS Property across the street.

As you can plainly see, as I had expressed when first began writing these 8th Cavalry articles for the *Saber*, and anyone reading I am in desperate need of more input to write about. It is very frustrating to have no material and rack your brain to come up with interesting subject matters. When Top Gun Dotson was near the end of his writing for the *Saber*, he expressed the exact same thing personally. I need your input. HELP, please!!!

On another, but sadder subject we lost Sandy Rackley the wife of AI, who we recently lost, too. Sleep in peace you two in the arms of the Lord.

Until next time, safe travels to and from the reunion in New Orleans.

HONOR & COURAGE

Larry Hempfling
 D/2-8 1968-1969

Contact the scribe to share your 8th Cav stories!

**If you were ever a part of thCAV, join their Association <www.8Cavalry.com>
 SUPPORT YOUR UNIT LEGACY!**

1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

17th ANNUAL WASHINGTON D.C. VETERANS DAY FESTIVITIES

VETERANS DAY RECEPTION

The 1st Cavalry Division Association in conjunction with the William A. Richardson National Capitol Region Chapter will sponsor a Hospitality Suite and small gift shop from **9-11 NOVEMBER** and will host the **17th Annual First Team Veterans Day Reception** which will be held on **WEDNESDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2026, 1830 hours**.

For accountability, please submit the order form along with your money to the 1st Cavalry Division Association, 302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703.

- Full payment must be received no later than **31 October 2026**.
- We can accept all credit cards – ensure that your card number and expiration dates are written correctly and legibly.
- Provide your name, address, unit you served with and the name(s) of your guests with your payment.
- If you wish to attend the parade, please let us know. Dara will send in the application for the group.

On **11 November**, wreaths will be placed at the World War II, Vietnam, and Korean War Memorials as they are each year on Veterans Day.

1. World War II Memorial Ceremony begins at **0900**
2. Vietnam Memorial Ceremony begins at **1300**
3. Korean War Memorial Ceremony begins at **1500**

Call the hotel and tell them you are with the 1st Cavalry Division Association, **Crowne Plaza Washington National Airport Hotel**, 1480 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Virginia. Call 703-416-1600 to make your reservations.

Join us in D.C. for Veterans Day!



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Wednesday, 11 November 2026

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FIRST TEAM

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**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.



**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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NEW PINS



2024 Kentucky



Lapel Pin
3/4"
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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



I first met Allan MacDonald in 1997 while I was serving as the Command Sergeant Major of the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas. The 1st Cavalry Division Association was conducting its annual reunion at Killeen/Fort Hood, and the Division was providing support in various ways. One of the special people showing up for the reunion was GEN (Ret) Edward "Shy" Meyer who had been the Army Chief of Staff. Protocol had offered him an escort and a vehicle during his attendance at the reunion. GEN Meyer told them, "No, I'm staying with my friends" and that was that.

I'm standing outside the Plaza Hotel, where the reunion is being held, and a military van pulls up, a Soldier exits the vehicle and opens the sliding door and an older gentleman who resembles "Old Bill" exits the van and goes in the hotel. I ask the Soldier, "Who is that?" He replied, "That is SFC Allan MacDonald and I'm his escort for the reunion." I did some checking and found out that Allan had called the 1-5th Cavalry and coordinated to stay in a room in the barracks and for an escort and the battalion set things up.

I've got a retired four-star general who turned down an escort and vehicle, which he was authorized, and a retired SFC with a free room in the barracks, an escort, and a government vehicle who isn't authorized that benefit. What did I do about this situation? Nothing at all. Allan MacDonald was born in 1923 and died on 13 April 2016. This is his story.

Note: The following letter was sent to the Association on 17 December 2012 by SFC (RET) Allan MacDonald. I made a few minor changes, but almost all the writing was done by Allan MacDonald.

My Life in the 1st Cavalry Division by SFC (RET) Allan A. MacDonald, B Troop, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division

We had Kitchen Police where you cleaned dishes, pots, pans, and garbage cans. You had guard mount; mounted and dismounted Saber drill, where you rode between posts that had stuffed bags on top and slashed at the bags. We even had training where one man would be picked up by a mounted Trooper. There were days when we had classes on map reading and compass reading. I remember one cliff at Fort Riley where we charged over and slid down. Well, I'll tell you I saw that very same cliff again on my 70th birthday and I don't believe I would ever try it again! We rode horses almost every day, except Saturday and Sunday. Sometimes on Saturday, they had a mounted parade on the drill field and that was a glorious sight to behold!

After my eight weeks of training, I was transferred to the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Bliss, Texas. That is the post near El Paso, Texas and just across the river from Juarez, Mexico. I reported into Division Headquarters Troop and was assigned duties as a Dog Robber or should I say Colonel's Orderly. I was sent down to the Post Chapel and was introduced to a Colonel Miller; he was the Post Chaplain. He told me I would exercise his horse every day in the morning for at least three hours out in the desert. When I brought him in, I was to groom him down and then clean the Colonel's bridle and saddle. After the horse was well dried, I would put him back in his stall. The Colonel told me in the afternoon that I was to go over to his quarters, which were across the polo field, and see his wife and do whatever she asked. Well, after eating lunch each day, I would go over to his quarters and his wife would ask me to clean the basement, brush and mop the floor and then clean the Colonel's boots and help her with the groceries whenever she went shopping downtown. Well, this was a good job, as it got me out of KP, Guard Duty, Stable Police and a lot of other details. We were only getting paid twenty-one dollars a month then, so the Colonel gave me an extra five dollars which helped out a lot, as we had to pay the Captain a dollar and a half every month for our laundry, our PX coupon books, our theater books and a dollar for the Old Horse Soldier's Home. This job only lasted about seven months as the Colonel and his Missus were transferred to Fort Carson, Colorado and I was transferred to the 5th Cavalry. I was assigned to B Troop and then my duties commenced.

Upon my arrival to the 5th Cavalry, I reported to the First Sergeant, and he told me I would be in the 3rd Platoon under Sergeant Hendry and the Assistant Platoon Sergeant was Sergeant Mackosky. I then went to the Supply Sergeant and he issued me some other equipment that I would need. After seeing him, I went down to the stable and saw the Stable Sergeant. He issued me my first horse with the brand, #122R, and his name was Pine Knot. Pine Knot was a good black horse with a star on his forehead. The next day I had KP duty in the mess hall and did I hate that! We had to set tables with all the plates, coffee cups, bowls, knives, forks and spoons. Then after mess, when everyone had finished eating we had to wash the dishes, pots and pans, and some of us would have to go outside and scrub out the garbage cans. The job I most hated was cleaning out the grease pits! Some days we had Stable Police and there we had to clean out the horse stalls of old hay and manure. We were under the Stable Sergeants' orders there and we had better do a good job or we would have to do it all over again. When the Troop went out for their morning training, we had to put water in all of the troughs and catch the horses that were left in the corrals and put them back in their stalls in the barn before the Troop came back from training.

One day, we were all going into the field and after we arrived at our destination, two other Troopers and I was called up to see the First Sergeant. He told us that we would be the advance party for the whole regiment on the following day and we were to get up at 4:00am. Well, we got up the next morning and the sergeant told us that we were to go to the chicken ranch and wait there till everyone showed up. He gave us a map, a compass and a flashlight and told us what to do. So, the three of us set out. One of us would ride out about 300 yards, shine his flashlight back and the other two would take a reading on him with their compass. Then the second Trooper would ride out past the first Trooper and do the same. The third Trooper would pass the other two Troopers and the process would continue. We were leap frogging so to speak. When we arrived at the place we were supposed to be at, all that we saw was an old ruined foundation of an adobe building. We didn't see any chickens, so we thought that we were at the wrong place. We looked off a ways and saw a windmill. We thought that was it so we rode off



MacDonald Allan on Commanche II

towards it. Upon arriving there, we saw that it was just a lonely old windmill with no chickens to be found. So again, we looked off in the distance and saw a recon vehicle. So once again, we rode off towards the vehicle and when we reached it we asked a Soldier there if he knew where the chicken ranch was. He told us it was back in the very direction where we had been in the first place! Well off we went at a trot and after about a mile we spotted a bunch of horse trailers and a whole lot of horses. When we arrived at the scene, our First Sergeant asked us where we had been. We told him and he was so mad he could spit! Well, we three never were made scouts again!

One thing about our Cavalry horses they knew every bugle call. Once the bugle sounded, their ears stood up heads high and we were off. Cavalry life was a lot tougher than in the Infantry. Your horse always came first. He got everything done for him before you, but it was a lot better than walking! Most days we had mounted drills out in the desert either by squad, platoon or Troop. We had mounted parades either by regiment or even division reviews where the 5th, 7th, 8th and 12th Cavalry participated. The band would play Garryowen, a favorite of General George Armstrong Custer. It seemed the tune was well suited for the horses, as they really looked good.

The days went on like this until 1943 when we were officially dismounted and started training as Infantry. We sure hated to see those old horses go. We really had some rough training from then on. We did road marches where our feet got blisters instead of our rear ends! Bayonet drills every day and map reading until we got word we were being shipped out.

We were then off to Camp Stoneman, California for more training. We climbed up towers and then came down the opposite side on rope ladders. This went on for quite some time till we were trained to go up and down as we loaded onto the ship General George Washington. This ship had just come back from Africa with a load of German Prisoners of War. They had carved their names on the railings of the ship. We sailed for a long time until we reached our destination which we learned was Australia. We unloaded at night and loaded us onto trucks to move to Camp Strathpine. This was between 13-16 miles from the city of Brisbane. When we got to camp, some of the advance party which was the Stable Sergeant, the Blacksmith, some Mess personnel and some clerks from our orderly room told us to get a mattress cover and fill it with some hay which was in the middle of the street to use as a mattress to sleep on. Then they told us that chow had been prepared. Boy that was a welcomed meal!

We began training again doing road marches and trips to New Castle on the coast below Brisbane where we loaded on to small ships and began making beach landings. Boy that was work! We had to unload cargo that came ashore off small boats and load it onto sleds to take inland and then we had to stack it up with ammo in one area and K-rations in another area. Load and unload every day till we were exhausted. This training made us really tough. Next came time to load onto ships to take us to the Admiralty Islands where we made our first contact with the Japanese troops. They were a tough enemy, the Imperial Marines and the Jap Navy. They pulled Banzai charges on us and some of them sang, "Deep in the Heart of Texas!" But we wiped out about 7,000 of those big boys. We were billeted on Koruniat Island after the campaign. It was just off the coast of Los Negros where the airstrip was and every morning we could count all those B-24 bombers on their way to give the Japs some more medicine. At night, or should I say late in the afternoon, we could count them again as they returned. There were always a few missing which had been shot down.

Now we were once again loaded onto large ships and off to Leyte Island in the Philippines. We sailed for many days and when we arrived off the coast of Leyte, I looked out and was amazed at the number of ships that I could see. There were hundreds of Navy cruisers, destroyers and transports as far as the eye could see. The Navy was firing large guns and their airplanes were bombing and strafing the beach with machinegun and rocket fire. We began to climb down the nets into small Higgins Boats, and we circled around till we got the word to move in. When we hit the beach, we moved inland and it was tough. I remember Sergeant McCosky asking me when we were moving in if I had his weapon. I told him that I didn't have it; I had my M-1 rifle in my right hand and an ammo box of .30 caliber ammo for the machinegun. It was bitter fighting on Leyte and we went from the East side to the West side of the island. We fought the Japanese all the way from Lingayen Gulf into Manila, the capital of the Philippines. Rough fighting in Manila as this was our first taste of fighting in a city. Some of my best friends were killed in the University building and also on the way south of Manila. After the campaign came to a close, once again, we were loaded onto ships as we heard of the war ending and we were on our way to Tokyo.

When we arrived off the coast of Japan, we sailed into Tokyo Bay and unloaded near Yokohama. We then went up to Yoyogi Heights and set up camp and began the process of disarming the Japanese. Later during the occupation, I was Stable Sergeant for General Chase at Camp Drake, Japan where I had 47 horses for the enlisted men and dependents to ride. I had 16 horses at another barn for the General and his staff as well as any other officers wishing to ride. In 1949, I was called to see General Chase, and he told me that I was being sent to General Headquarters in Tokyo to be the Stable Sergeant for General MacArthur. I said that I didn't want to leave the 1st Cavalry and he said I would only be there on temporary duty. One of the greatest events in my lifetime was at the French Embassy where I stood directly behind General Douglas MacArthur, carrying his five-star flag while a French General presented him France's highest award. It was a great honor to be at this event. Well, it was good duty but in 1950, when the Korean War started, I was called back to the Cavalry and assigned to the 7th Cavalry. This was my grandfather's old regiment, so I was proud to serve in it. I was wounded in Korea, and they sent me back to the States. This was my last duty with the First Team.

Allan A. MacDonald

15th MED/15th FSB/15th BSB



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The 100-year anniversary of the activation of the 15th Medical Battalion was celebrated at the 2026 15th Med Battalion Association Reunion at Oklahoma City, OK 22-26 April 2026. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend. The following was read by Barry Brown, Past President and incoming Secretary.

100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE ACTIVATION OF THE 15TH MEDICAL BATTALION CELEBRATION

by Terry A. McCarl, Historian, 15th Medical Battalion Association

Good afternoon! Welcome to the 100-year anniversary of the activation of the 15th Medical Battalion Celebration! The actual date will be 1 June 2026, but we are celebrating it today, 25 April 2026, in conjunction with the 2026 Reunion of the 15th Medical Battalion Association in Oklahoma City, OK.

The history of the 15th Medical Battalion began with the 1st Medical Squadron which eventually evolved into the 15th Medical Battalion and later to the 15th Brigade Support Battalion (15th BSB). To the best of my knowledge, no book has been written about this evolution, but the following history was obtained from the 15th BSB through the 1st Cavalry Division Association Historian, CSM (Ret) Dennis Webster.

History of the 15th Support Battalion

The 15th Support Battalion was constituted on 23 March 1925 as the 1st Medical Squadron in the Regular Army and assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division. In June 1926, the unit was organized and activated at Fort Bliss, Texas. The distinctive insignia coat of arms and motto, "Standing By" were adopted in July 1928.

In February 1943, the 1st Cavalry Division was alerted for assignment as a dismounted unit in the Southwest Pacific Theater. In June 1943, the Division departed Fort Bliss for Australia. In February 1944, after six months of training, Task Force Brewer from the 1st Cavalry Division departed for Japanese occupied territory with elements of the 1st Medical Squadron in its formation. The 1st Medical Squadron would engage in combat operations continually until February 1945, when it, as part of a combined arms task force, seized the town of Manila, ending fighting in the Philippines. For its service in the Second World War, the squadron was awarded four campaign streamers and the three Meritorious Unit Commendations.

On 25 March 1949, the 1st Medical Squadron was re-assigned the 15th Medical Battalion. In July 1950, again as part of the 1st Cavalry Division, was ordered to Korea. The North Koreans were 25 miles away when the 1st Cavalry Division swept ashore to execute the first amphibious landing of the Korean War. The division, with the 15th Medical Battalion in its ranks, would fight in seven campaigns over the next 18 months until it redeployed to Japan in January 1952.

In June 1965, the 15th Medical Battalion began its rotation back to the United States. On 3 July 1965, at Fort Benning, GA the colors of the 1st Cavalry Division were moved onto the field. As part of the reorganization, the 11th Medical Battalion, 11th Air Assault DISCOM was re-designated as the 15th Medical Battalion, 1st Cavalry DISCOM.

The 15th Medical Battalion would take on a new role as the United States Army's first Aero Medical Evacuation Battalion. On 12 September 1965, the 15th Medical Battalion accompanied the Division Support Command when it deployed to the Republic of Vietnam.

The battalion headquarters was set up at An Khe, as the companies were assigned to forward areas. Throughout the Division's operations in the mountainous jungles of the central Vietnamese highlands, the personal devotion to duty and bravery of the men of the battalion became written in the history of warfare as examples for all to follow.

On the night of 6 June 1967, B Company distinguished itself when its base came under a heavy mortar attack. Enemy mortars landed in the ammunition storage area, which contained 1,250 tons of explosives. The medical personnel repeatedly evacuated patients and personnel from the area, resulting in no loss of life. The company was awarded the Valorous Unit Citation for its actions.

The 15th Medical Battalion built a hospital in An Khe to support civil action programs which supported the 70,000 people of the An Tuc District in Binh Dinh Province. Thousands of patients were treated and hundreds of babies were delivered in this hospital.

In 1968 the division moved to the III Corps areas and the battalion's headquarters moved to Phuoc Vinh.

The 15th Medical Battalion's participation in Vietnam ended on 29 April 1971, when it, along with the Division Support Command, departed Vietnam for Fort Hood, Texas. For its participation in Vietnam, the battalion would earn thirteen campaign streamers, a Presidential Unit Citation, two Valorous Unit Commendations, and three Meritorious Unit Commendations.

On 1 May 1987, the 15th Medical Battalion was re-designated the 15th Forward Support Battalion. The 15th FSB was truly multifunctional with a supply and transportation company, maintenance company, medical company, and headquarters detachment. In October 1990, the 15th FSB deployed to Southwest Asia as part of the coalition participating in Operation Desert Shield. The battalion provided critical logistical support to the Black Jack Brigade when it launched the first ground strike into Iraq. The battalion provided all logistical support to the brigade for six months until it joined the assembled division on the plain of the Wadi al Batin. In April 1991, the division brought all its Soldiers safely home to Fort Hood, Texas. The battalion earned two campaign streamers and its seventh Meritorious Unit Commendation.

In November 2001, as a response to terrorist attacks on the United States, the battalion conducted a notice deployment as part of Task Force Black Jack to northwestern Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. In January 2004, the battalion deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. For 14 months, the battalion conducted combat service support operations in Baghdad, An Najaf, and Fallujah. In February 2005, the Gamblers returned from Iraq having lost no Troopers.

On 16 August 2005, the battalion was re-designated as the 15th Brigade Support Battalion and assigned as a permanent member of the 2d Black Jack Brigade

Combat Team. In September 2005, the battalion deployed to New Orleans in support of Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. During "Operation Southern Bell" the battalion supported the 2d Brigade out of the Algiers Naval Base providing excellent food, water, supplies, fuel, maintenance support, and medical care.

In October 2006, the battalion deployed again to Baghdad, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, where it again distinguished itself in the streets of Baghdad during 15 months of continuous operations.

In January 2009, the Gamblers deployed to Kirkuk, Iraq in support of the Black Jack Brigade. During its yearlong tour, the Battalion provided seamless sustainment to the Brigade. Additionally, the Battalion fulfilled a non-doctrinal role by providing secured ground escort to the Provincial Reconstruction Team.

In May 2011, the Gamblers deployed in support of the Black Jack Brigade during Operation New Dawn. The Battalion played a critical role in the Brigade's efforts to transition authority of the Salah ad Din and Diyala provinces back to the Government of Iraq. The Battalion redeployed in November 2011 and continues to provide world class logistical support to the Black Jack Brigade.

In 2015 the Gamblers deployed with the rest of the 2d Brigade Combat Team to Korea to serve for nine months protecting South Korea along the DMZ. The battalion deployed to the European Theater to support the Black Jack Brigade and assist in training of allied forces in eight different countries throughout Europe during Operation Atlantic Resolve from December 2019 to September 2020 and Operation Assure, Deter, and Reinforce from December 2022 to October 2023.

Today the most decorated support battalion in the United States Army is standing by to provide unequal combat service support as part of the 2d Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas. (End of "History of the 15th Support Battalion")

The following update added by 1st Cavalry Division Association Historian, Dennis Webster:

The 2d Brigade, which includes the 15th Brigade Support Battalion, cased their Colors on 1 May 2026 and will deploy back to Europe for nine months. Many of the streamers mentioned in the above story are on display here today.

ODE TO 15TH MED BN

by Terry A. McCarl, Historian, 15th Med BN Association

The following is a "War Story" that I wrote several years ago for an intended audience of 1st Cavalry Division Troopers that were served by 15th Med in Vietnam.

Did I mention that I served with 15th Medical Battalion in Vietnam 12/68 - 11/69? I must have. I take a lot of pride in that! I can't say for absolutely certain, but I'm guessing that if you served in the 1st Cavalry Division in Vietnam 1965-1971, you had some contact with the 15th Medical BN.

The ultimate contact would likely have been getting wounded and rescued by one of our brave and skilled Medevac Crews and being transported to one of our 4 clearing stations (medical treatment facilities) for life-saving medical treatment by truly dedicated professional medical personnel.

Estimates are that 99% of patients rescued by Medevac survived- a statistic of which 15th Med BN Veterans are extremely proud!

Your experience with 15th Med BN may have been somewhat less spectacular like maybe you needed your eyeglasses repaired or replaced: maybe you needed a tooth filled or extracted: maybe you contracted malaria or any number of other communicable diseases; or maybe you got a "Dear John" letter from a wife, fiancée, or girlfriend telling you that they were not going to wait for your return from Vietnam; the death or injury of a family member back home or of a buddy in Vietnam and received some compassionate counseling from a 15th Med BN Social Worker or other mental health professional to help you through some hard times. The list of services goes on and on!

All Medevac personnel volunteered for that hazardous duty. Of the 45 15th Medical BN KIA's during the Vietnam War, 35 were Medevac personnel.

We do not have precise records, but estimates are that the number of people who served in the 15th Med BN in Vietnam at 2500. The estimated number in Medevac was 500.

The 15th Med BN Motto was "Standing By!" as they were ready to come to your aid at all times in all circumstances. Medevac's motto was "So That Others May Live."

Always remembering our 1st Cav Troops on duty around the world. FIRST TEAM! STANDING BY! SERVICE, NOT SELF! SO THAT OTHERS MAY LIVE!



Photo is the 15th Med BN Change of Command Ceremony on 23 June 1969. Division Commander MG Elvy B. Roberts pinning medal on incoming CO LTC Joseph W. McNaney. To the right of MG Roberts is outgoing CO LTC Guthrie L. Turner Jr.

Please contact the scribe to share your 15th MED stories!

SUPPORT YOUR UNIT LEGACY!

**If you served with 15th MED,
Join your 15th Med Bn Association**

<www.15thMedBnAssociation.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 **taxi 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>

Download the New Orleans Transportation Trolley App "RTA Le Pass"



Past Presidents and current President on right at Reunion, 2025



Ladies' Luncheon



2025 Reunion Photos

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

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*

MAIL TO:

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

The 78th Annual ICDA 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 ICDA? 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: _____

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

	Quantity	Price	Total
_____	_____	\$ 50.00	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ 60.00	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ 60.00	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ 70.00	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ 60.00	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ 70.00	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ 60.00	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ 60.00	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ 50.00	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ 20.00	\$ _____
_____	_____	Donation	\$ _____
_____	_____	(\$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, June 22, 2026.**
Please send to Memberships@1CDA.org

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

Next Chapter meeting: Tuesday, **July 21, 1:00 pm** at **Hayes Haven Marina**, 59 Railroad Avenue, Chester, CT. 06412. All members, prospective members and guests are invited no matter what branch of service. For further details contact President **Keith Moyer, 860-885-4330** or email [<kpmoyerco@hotmail.com>](mailto:kpmoyerco@hotmail.com).

Photo: L-R: Glen Bentz, Paul Marling, Rich Magner, Jack Kranyak (seated), Tom McBriarty, Keith Moyer, Bob Waz, Tom Uznanski, Stuart Topliff.



FLORIDA'S FIRST COAST CHAPTER



Our own Bob Adkins is something of a mover and a shaker in the Veteran community. The currently popular word for such a person is an "activist." And in this case it is literally true. Not only does he drive up to Jacksonville from Ormond Beach for our monthly meeting, but he also brings a car full of Cav Vets with him. Plus, he is a certified VA counselor and advisor. And that is no small blessing if you think you are due unclaimed benefits.

The Memorial you see here is a visible testimony to Bob's advocating for Vets. (Ten-Hut!!!) In the background is the mighty St. John's River which links all of North Florida from Palatka to Hilliard.

Think of it like this, Bob can link you up with what's due you for your service. But remember, you gotta have some documentation of your own to help out, say a DD214 at minimum.

In the meantime, our officers are Sam Berninger: Vice President, Ray Skipper: Secretary, Johnnie Michael: Sgt at Arms, Lou Urso: Treasurer.

We most recently received a presentation regarding Blue Star Families, a national Veteran assistance group. Notice the word "national."

Get linked up in your location by touching base for information with Catlin Sharp, 845-656-8840.

NY/NJ CHAPTER

The next meeting of the NY/NJ Chapter will be held on **May 9** at the **Elks Lodge** in Ridgefield Park, NJ. Our guest speaker will be LTC Ky Fehlbaum. As a cadet at West Point from '04 -'08, LTC Ky Fehlbaum was a member of the Golden Knights Parachute Team and studied in Lille, France for six months. After commissioning, he became a UH-60 Black Hawk pilot, graduating first in his class at Fort Rucker, AL. Then, from 2010 -11, he was a platoon leader in Central America with 1-228 Aviation, flying medical aid and limited Special Operations Forces support missions. His next assignment was with the 2d Combat Aviation Brigade as an Aviation Intermediate Maintenance Company XO and Garrison HHC Commander in South Korea in 2012, flying VIP transport and DMZ corridor patrol missions. After the Aviation Captains' Career Course, he convinced the Army to move him and his then-wife to Paris, France in 2014, where he pursued a graduate degree in advance of a French language teaching assignment back at West Point. While teaching French, he was also the OIC of the parachute team, performing demonstration jumps at events like the Belmont Stakes and the NYPD-FDNY Annual Softball Game.



LTC Ky Fehlbaum

LTC Fehlbaum left active military service and cross-commissioned into the NY Army National Guard's 42d CAB in 2018 and attended drama school to



become an actor. Originally intending to follow the "weekend warrior" routine until completing 20 years of service, the COVID Pandemic changed his plans. He dropped out of his acting training and helped run New York's COVID Response as the XO of Joint Task Force COVID-North, a 2,000-member task force operating across the entire state. This assignment led to commanding an aviation support company on deployment to Kuwait with the Office of International Security Operations during Operation Inherent Resolve in 2023. Returning home in early 2024, Ky finally got the chance to pursue acting full-time. He has acted in films and shows on Netflix, Amazon Prime, and Apple TV.

The NY/NJ Chapter holds quarterly meetings starting at **10:00 am** at the Elks Lodge in Ridgefield Park, NJ. 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 to attend. Coffee and a buffet lunch is served and a donation to the chapter is requested. Interested persons are encouraged to contact Robin Bartlett, Chapter President to be added to the email list. Send an email to [<rbbartlett01@gmail.com>](mailto:rbbartlett01@gmail.com) or call 201-856-7530. Join us to greet old friends and make new ones.

WILLIAM A. RICHARDSON NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION CHAPTER

The Chapter met April 18, 2026, at American Legion Post 176 in Springfield, Virginia. Chapter member Stephen P. Harbeck told us about the growing use of cryptocurrency in our nation's economy, and how to avoid personal financial risks. Steve was the Recon Platoon sniper, 1-7 Cav, in Vietnam in 1970-71.

After the war he earned his law degree and became a member of the DC and New York Bar. Steve worked for the Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC), becoming its President and CEO in 2003. In this capacity, he dealt with the Lehman Brothers bankruptcy and the Madoff Ponzi Scheme. We greatly appreciate Steve sharing his expertise on cryptocurrency and related matters with the Chapter!

Photo below: Speaker and chapter member Stephen Harbeck, third from right, with fellow members. (photo by Gordon Tillery)



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

CHAPTER INDEX

COLUMBIA-WILLAMETTE

Pres: Terry Low
16560 S Harding Rd.
Oregon City, OR 97045-9679
(503) 210-5558
Email: tangolima2505@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.

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

KETTLE MORAINE

Pres: Fred Douglas
2742 E. Main St, Lot 5
East Troy, WI 53120-1379
(262) 379-9930
Email: FDouglass@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.

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.

SHERIDAN'S CAVALRY

(Greater Chicago Area)
POC: Donna Pacanowski
6043 W. 59th St
Chicago, IL 60638-3553
(312) 401-0548
Email: dnnpenwsk9@gmail.com
Facebook: Sheridan's Chapter 1st Cavalry Division

2026 April 11, August 08 (Picnic), October 10, and December 05 (Christmas Party).

All meetings are held on Saturdays at 1:00pm at the Roselle American Legion Hall, Post #1084, 344 East Maple Ave., Roselle, IL 60172.

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.

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 11 am at Camp Knox Masonic Lodge #919, 1158 N. Dixie Hwy, Radcliff, KY.

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

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.

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.

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.

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



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

Stetson Services Available!
Reshaping, Brim Trimming & Crown Sizing

HOURS:
MON - FRI
9 am - 4 pm

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.*

New Spring Catalogs Are Printed and 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**

From the
Director's Desk Office of ICDA

WE SUPPORT



**UNITED STATES ARMY
 SOLDIER FOR LIFE**

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 (ICDA) 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 ICDA 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 ICDA 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."

The next *Saber* newspaper is the **July / August 2026** edition.
 Deadline for submissions of your stories or photos is **Monday, June 22, 2026.**
 Please email to Programs@1CDA.org

IS YOUR UNIT NOT REPRESENTED IN OUR SABER?

You can change that by sharing your stories with us and become a column writer; a scribe for 1st Cavalry Division Association!

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

Email programs@1CDA.org for details!

DONATION CHECKS

When sending in multiple donations to either Association, Foundation and IaDrang, we ask if you could please do it by writing out separate checks to each entity.
 It will make the banking process smoother since they are all separate bank accounts.

Many Thanks!

VETERAN ASSISTANCE WEBSITES:

National Archives & Records Administration
 <<https://www.archives.gov/>>

Veteran Service Records / 314-801-0800
 <<https://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center>>

U.S. Army Veteran Medals
 <<https://www.veteranmedals.army.mil/>>

Department of Veteran Affairs / 800-342-9647
 <<https://nationalresourcedirectory.gov/>>

Disabled American Veterans / 877-426-2838
 <<https://www.dav.org/>>

Vietnam Wall of Faces
 <www.vvmf.org>

Burial Record Database
 <www.findagrave.com>

Lifeline for Vets / Nat'l Veterans Foundation / 310-642-0255
 <<https://nvf.org/>>

Vet-to-Vet toll-free helpline: 888-777-4443
 Veterans Crisis Line / 800-273-8255
 <<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>>

Sky Hope for Heroes Proudly Flying our Veterans
 <skyhope.org/pals-for-patriots/>

Veteran Flights to Washington DC Memorials
 <www.honorflight.org>

SPECIFICALLY FOR TEXAS VETERANS

Texas Veterans Commission / 254-238-7124
 <www.TVC.texas.gov>

Resource Guide for Texas Veterans / 512-341-4924
 <<https://www.texvet.org/>>

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:

- **Oral History Book Update from PCI:**
 Due to issues with their print vendor, the book is taking longer than anticipated. Tentative ship date is now late summer. 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

1ST CAV VEHICLE MEDALLION

NEW ITEM!!



Metal Cav Patch
for your vehicle or motorcycle
3"x 2"
0.07" thick
with 3M Automotive Grade
Adhesive Back

Embossed Aluminum Medallion

1CDA Cav Medallion Order Form

Full Color Metal Cav Patch, 3"x 2", 0.07" thick,
Embossed Aluminum Medallion
with 3M Automotive Grade Adhesive Back

\$30.00 ea

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Cash Check (payable to 1CDA) Credit Card (Service Charges Apply)

Credit Card # _____

Exp Date: _____ CVV on back: _____

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Signature: _____

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Name: _____

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302 N. Main St.
Copperas Cove, TX 76522

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BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

We are restocked with Tribute & Vietnam Shirts

Both are available in short sleeve & long sleeve!

TRIBUTE SHIRTS

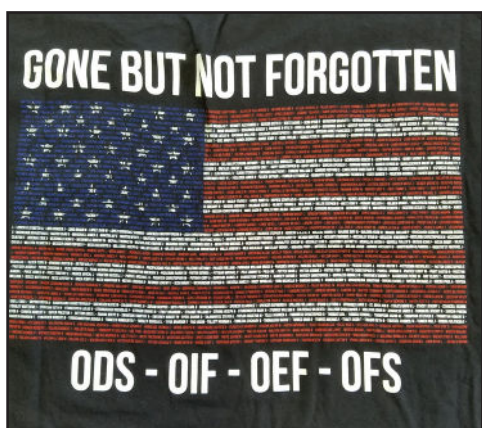
Description: 100% cotton black shirt

Front: white Cav patch on upper left breast

Back: says "GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN" and lists the names of our fallen Troopers from ODS, OIF, OEF, OFS in red, white and blue.



Front



Back Design

1st Cavalry Division Shirts Order Form

Short Sleeve Shirts \$23 each

Long Sleeve Shirts \$26 each

FREE SHIPPING

TRIBUTE SHIRTS (fallen Troopers from ODS, OIF, OEF, OFS)

Description: Black shirt w/white Cav patch

Short Sleeve L XL 2XL 3XL

Long Sleeve M L XL 2XL 3XL

CIRCLE YOUR PREFERRED SIZE

VIETNAM SHIRTS ("Remembering 5,618" Cav Troopers)

Description: Gray shirt w/black Cav patch

Short Sleeve 2XL 3XL

Long Sleeve M L 2XL 3XL

CIRCLE YOUR PREFERRED SIZE

of Shirts: _____ Total Due: _____

Form of Payment:

Cash Check (payable to 1CDA) Credit Card (Service Charges Apply)

Credit Card # _____

Exp Date: _____ CVV on back: _____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

Phone #: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Mail to: 1st Cavalry Division Association
302 N. Main St.
Copperas Cove, TX 76522

SHIPPING & HANDLING IS FREE

VIETNAM SHIRTS

Description: 100% cotton grey shirt

Front: Cav Patch with years 1965-1972 written above, Vietnam written across the Baldric

Back: "Remembering 5,618" with Color image of Memorial Wall & Flag



Front



Back Design

DIVISION DOINGS:

Condor Rebirth Protects Armored Units on the Modern Battlefield

Story by 1LT Tyler Williams, Photo by SPC Julian Winston

FORT HOOD, Texas – The 1st Cavalry Division and industry partners successfully tested integrated sensor and battle tracking systems during exercise Condor Rebirth, March 23-27. The systems are designed to provide a unified view of air and ground threats for commanders at all levels.



The exercise, which incorporated Bradley Fighting Vehicles and dismounted infantry, focused on taking data from distributed sensors integrated into the maneuver formations, feeding that data into AI supported command post systems, which produced a single common operating picture for commanders. This allowed the commanders to identify the threat and react accordingly in real time.

“The biggest problem we tend to have is network integration and being able to share that data across echelons. That’s what we demonstrated in this exercise,” said CW2 Trenton Huntsinger, the air missile integrator for 1st Cavalry Division Artillery, “We’ve taken the opportunity not only to bring sensors and effectors, but also the integration process to make them work.”

As part of the U.S. Army’s broader “Transforming in Contact” initiative, the 1st Cavalry Division is integrating new technology into its formations to maintain a decisive advantage on the modern battlefield.

“Our goal is to create a transparent battlefield, where a Soldier or commander can get a clear, complete picture of what’s happening in real-time,” said COL James Leidenberg, III Armored Corps intelligence officer. “This isn’t just about technology; it’s about giving our Troops the confidence to make the best decisions, making them more effective, and most importantly, keeping them safer. Ultimately, this effort at Fort Hood is setting a new standard for the entire Army.”

This exercise further cements III Corps and 1st Cavalry Division as leaders within the US Army at integrating sensors, networks, and effects to defeat UAS threats at echelon.

Photo caption: CW2 Trenton Huntsinger, the air missile integrator for 1st Cavalry Division Artillery, 1st Cavalry Division, demonstrates the Picogrid Unmanned Aircraft System integration system to COL Nick Dvnoch, the 1st Cavalry Division Artillery commander, during Condor Rebirth on Fort Hood, Texas, 3/24/26.

1st Cavalry Division Tests ‘Golden Shield’ Counter-Drone System

by 1st Cavalry Division PAO, Photo by SPC Julian Winston



FORT HOOD, Texas — The 1st Cavalry Division has completed the latest phase of its counter drone experimentation, a live-fire exercise from April 7-9 testing cUAS systems for its “Golden Shield” counter-drone concept for an armored formation. This significant step in the Division’s Pegasus Charge initiative incorporated autonomous cUAS battlefield effectors for the first time, advancing efforts to protect U.S. forces from the growing threat of small unmanned aerial systems.

Exercise Golden Shield integrated advanced sensors, kinetic and non-kinetic effectors and command-and-control systems to create an autonomous cohesive defense against small UAS. The effort, led by the 1st Cavalry Division in collaboration with Army DEVCOM and industry partners, aims to enhance the protection of armored vehicles and their crews while maneuvering. The system links sensors and weapons on tactical vehicles to automatically detect, track and engage threats, significantly shortening the sensor-to-shooter timeline and reducing cognitive load.

This marked the first live demonstration of an autonomous sensor on one platform detecting and classifying a hostile drone, then transmitting data and an engagement command to an autonomous weapon system on another platform to destroy the drone.

“The future is formation-based layered protection, and this is the start of that,” said Alfred Grein, executive director for Research and Technology Integration for the U.S. Army Capabilities Development Command Ground Vehicle Systems Center. “Some [of the systems] are more mature than others. But understand that’s part of why we do experiments to determine what we think is ready to hand-off to Soldiers in the field environment.”

The Golden Shield system is built on a scalable, open architecture, demonstrating a powerful fusion of capabilities by layering a next-generation command and control system with various sensors, effectors and the Vehicle Protection System Base Kit. This architecture allows the defensive network to grow or shrink based on mission needs and rapidly integrate new technologies. A key achievement of this integration is the acceleration of the kill chain; by automating the detect, track and cue process, the system enables faster, more effective engagements while significantly reducing the cognitive load on Soldiers.

“The intent is to take these systems we tested this week and begin to integrate them within our armored formations’ training,” said MAJ Kevin Correa, 1st Cav-

alry Division’s air and missile defense chief. “In that way, we are able to fully exercise not only the systems, but the tanker’s ability to manage these systems while conducting their normal operations.”

The insights and data gathered from Exercise Golden Shield will inform the Army’s decisions on how to implement this technology into its maneuver formations, supporting the Pegasus Charge and Transforming in Contact initiatives. This exercise represents a significant step forward in the Army’s modernization efforts to ensure Soldiers are equipped with the most advanced technology to maintain overmatch and enhance their lethality and survivability on the battlefield.

Photo caption: Perseus Defense Harpe Missile System rocket is test fired during a 1st Cavalry Division led exercise of Golden Shield on Fort Hood, Texas, 4/7/26. This event is the experimentation and testing phase of Project Golden Shield, where capability providers are testing out new counter-UAS technologies in a field environment for the first time, with the goal of improving their systems with feedback from the Troopers and Soldiers that would be implementing them on the modern battlefield.

1st Cavalry Division Advances Division-Level Combined Arms Transformation for Large-Scale Combat Operations

Story by SGT Tien-Dat Ngo

WASHINGTON — Senior leaders from the 1st Cavalry Division discussed the unit’s ongoing transformation efforts, emphasizing readiness, integration, and modernization during their Army Current Operations Engagement Tour (ACOET) at the Cannon House Office Building, April 14, 2026.

The 1st Cavalry Division is actively reorganizing formations, integrating new technologies, and refining doctrine to ensure it can fight and win in large-scale combat operations. The division applies lessons from recent training and ongoing global conflicts to rapidly adapt how it fights, focusing on long-range fires, data integration, counter-unmanned systems, and sustainment.

The division is currently one of the Army’s largest divisions with 22,000 Soldiers and growing toward 24,000 personnel as it restructures into a fully integrated combined arms formation. Its force includes armored brigade combat teams, a Stryker brigade, division artillery (DIVARTY), and aviation and sustainment units. Leaders emphasized the necessity of training as a complete division, not just as separate brigades, at the ACOET to Congressional leaders.

“We brought the division to the National Training Center because one of the things that we realized is that brigades don’t fight alone,” said MG Thomas M. Feltey, commanding general, 1st Cavalry Division. “We all fight together as a combined arms team. That’s what makes it so special.” COL Jose A. Reyes, commander, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, stated that the transformation is a comprehensive effort spanning doctrine, organization, training, and equipment.

“When you think about the Army’s continuous transformation, it’s not just about spending money on cool things,” Reyes said. “We have been working closely with the Army to upgrade and update our Army’s warfighting doctrine, especially for armored formations, so that we fight the way that we want to fight.”

Division Artillery remains central to the division’s strategy, using long-range precision fires to enable maneuver forces to advance. Feltey explained that the division acts as a decisive enabler for the joint force, using its combat power to secure strategic ground from which its long-range precision fires can support other military branches.

The division is also working to connect its sensors, networks, and command systems to deliver real-time battlefield data to leaders at lower echelons, enabling faster and more informed decisions. “The challenge is, how do we take all this data that all our sensors are gathering and package it up into something usable and then transfer it to the intelligence enterprise?” Reyes asked. “If I can get it there, then I can use it for targeting.”

To counter the widespread use of small, low-cost drones, the division is developing a layered defense. While leaders report that detection capabilities are improving, the ability to defeat these systems remains a challenge.

“What we’re really concerned about also is Group two and Group one threat... very hard to detect and then defeat,” said COL Nicholas H. Dvnoch, the Division Artillery commander. “In the detection space, we found the use of acoustic sensors and passive sensors to be highly effective. The defeat portion is a much harder problem to solve.”

Leaders are experimenting with kinetic solutions to destroy these threats, particularly at close range. One of the most promising systems being tested is a fully automated weapon designed to protect vehicles from an imminent drone attack. “One example is [a system that] uses a tungsten shotgun round where there’s no human that has to be in the loop. It can automatically slow and fire right to defeat at the very last second what’s about to hit a vehicle,” said Dvnoch.

Sustainment in contested environments is another critical component of the transformation. Reyes said his brigade maintained a high state of readiness during its recent National Training Center rotation despite a demanding operational tempo. “We fought consistently with about eighty four percent readiness rate for all of our vehicles,” he said. “We did, we did dip at one point to about sixty six percent, and then we left the National Training Center with ninety percent of our equipment working, which is pretty great.”

The division is adapting its medical support for scenarios where immediate evacuation is not possible. “We don’t think the ‘golden hour’ is going to exist much longer,” Reyes said. “So we’re training our medics for prolonged care so they could treat their wounded longer and keep them alive longer.”

While unmanned systems are being integrated across the force, leaders noted their limitations during fast-paced offensive operations.

“There’s certainly value in it and we learned the limitations of that and some of our current UAS systems is that they can’t keep up with the tempo of an armored brigade,” Reyes said. “When we’re on the offense and we want to attack, and we want to keep the enemy on their heels, it’s harder to utilize them in that way.”

Leaders stressed that these transformation efforts are urgent and ongoing, driven by observations of the modern battlefield. “This is a now problem, right? It’s not what we’re going to do in ten years,” Feltey said. “We need to innovate now. The battlefield is changing faster than ever.”

Reyes affirmed that every aspect of the transformation is focused on a single goal: ensuring the division is ready to deploy and fight at a moment’s notice.

Continued to pg. 21

SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

1CDA supports four scholarships for qualified applicants:

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Soldier has to be a member of 1CDA & assigned to 1CD. This grant is offered to the Soldier and spouse.

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100% Offered to the child/children of 1CDA members with a 100% disability rating, that were assigned to 1CD.

KIA To be used by child/children of Troopers killed in action while assigned to 1CD.

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All scholarships of the 1CDA are tax-exempt charitable organizations described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and all donations are tax deductible.

TAPS:

We were notified of the following deaths:

- BURKHART**, Trooper Joseph R., 302 Recon, 1945. 25 March 2026.
- DINGEMAN**, COL (RET) James W., HHC, 2-12 CAV, 1968. 23 April 2026. (1CDA Advisory Council)
- KIRKLEY**, SSG Edward V., A Co, 1-9 CAV & 15th ADM, 1969-70. 18 February 2026.
- KOMICH**, CW4 (RET) Lee C., B Co, 229 AVN, 1965-66 & B Co, 228 AVN, 1968-69. March 22, 2026.
- KORESKE**, COL (RET) Rolland A., HHC, 27th ORD, 1959; HHC, 27th MNT, 1967-68. 16 April 2026.
- LABOY**, SGM (RET) Miguel A., HHC, 13th SIG, 1990. 22 April 2026.
- MACE**, BG (RET) James A., A Co, 2-5 CAV, 1968-69. 14 April 2026. (Distinguished Service Cross Recipient)
- MCKAY**, COL James C., HSC, 15th Medical BN, 1968-69. 26 December 2025.
- PIEHL**, SSG Gerald L., A Co, 1-5 CAV, 1968; HHC, 15th ADM, 1969. 11 February 2026.
- RAISOVICH**, SPC Andrew, 545th MP, 1962. 10 April 2026.
- SHINE**, 1LT Bill L., C Co, 1-12 CAV, 1970-71. 12 January 2026.
- SWIFT**, MAJ (RET) John B., HHC, 1-7 CAV & 17th AVN, 1965-66. 20 January 2026.

ACTIVE-DUTY TAPS:

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

OTHER REUNIONS:

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>

12th Cav Regiment Association Reunion, 15-20 September 2026. Branson Hillside Resort (Formerly Welk), MO. Contact Fred Wilson 740-331-1814.

D/2-8 Cav Kentucky Kampout, 15-18 October 2026. Paris Landing Motel, KY. Contact Larry Hempfling 314-229-7701.

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

LRRP RANGERS NEWS

Continued from pg. 4

We got to the location the pilot directed us to and looked around. We were in thick bamboo stalks rising 10 or 12 feet in the air and wondering what was going to happen next. A helicopter couldn't land in the bamboo, why had he directed us here? Then the pilot did one of the bravest things I've seen using his helicopter blades like a weed-whacker, he lowered his Huey into the bamboo cutting it down. Even today, I'm astonished. Pilots can be such picky guys when they have Foreign Object Damage. I've seen pilots refuse to land on a chopper pad if there was a scrap of paper on it, but this guy was cutting his way into the bamboo, splinters, leaf stems flying everywhere.

When he had carved a hole in the bamboo thick enough for us to reach the skid, we started handing up our equipment, the captured equipment, the dead body(?) and finally each other as the door gunner and the crew chief frantically pulled us up. When we were all aboard the pilot tried to lift us out. But the helicopter wouldn't rise out of the leafy bowl it had cut. Thinner mountain-top air, 6 Rangers and a dead body plus the crew and an older model Huey, it just didn't have the lift. And the Cobras told us the movement was getting closer. We started tossing things out to lighten us. Our packs were recovered a few days later when someone went in on a Jungle Penetrator along with the equipment we'd taken off the bodies. Finally, the helicopter began to rise slowly, as it pulled itself up above the lip of the bamboo bowl we were in and finally down the mountainside. It still didn't have the lift to get us out of there, so it was building up speed "sliding" down the side of the mountain. As we were "sliding" down the mountain I could see sparkles through the greenery. They were pretty, like a Christmas display. It took me a few seconds to realize that they were muzzle flashes of people shooting at us. We truly had been surrounded and if not for the Cobra and Huey pilots we would have had a tough time indeed. When we got back, Rick and I put the pilot in for a DFC but never heard if anything came of it. A month later American forces went into this area in Cambodia to wipe out those sanctuaries.

Until Next time Brothers – RLTW.....See you at the reunion.

**PLEASE CONTACT PETE DENCKER TO
SHARE YOUR
LRRP RANGER STORIES!**

12 CAV NEWS

Continued from pg. 6

NEWS, EVENTS, AND A "WANTED"

COL James Dingeman, former 2-12th Commander (Vietnam 1968-69), passed away on April 23, 2026, at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Jim, a Veteran of the Korean and Vietnam Wars, retired with the rank of Colonel in 1978.

As long as his health permitted, he was involved with the 12th Cavalry Association and was appointed its Honorary Colonel. Our condolences to his wife, Sylvia, and the rest of the Dingeman family. Rest in Peace, Sir.



COL Dingeman



Robert A. Makley writes: "I came across this Japanese note that had a Soldier's signature and rank with Philippines written on it." He found this apparently matching entry on the 12 Cav Association web site: SGT Tompkins, Donne A. KIA 3/27/45 12CR, and asks, "Can you verify this?" The Association's website's listing of the Division's KIA's is drawn from official records. Further search found Donne A. Tompkins in a "Find a Grave" entry that confirms

the Association's entry. Verified.

A more personal inquiry comes from Josh Pickett, the nephew of PFC Rodney Douglas Pickett, who served with B Co, 1-12th Cavalry, in Vietnam. Rodney was killed in action on May 24, 1967. Josh asks, "If anyone remembers Rodney, or has knowledge of the unit's on May 24, 1967, I would be incredibly grateful to hear from them." (Full text in the Saber's "Wanted" section on page 5.) Doug Warden, C Company, our Honorary Sergeant Major has contacted Veterans of B Company. Here is Josh's email: <joshpickett@pm.me>

We are told the 12th Regiment Association Reunion will be held at the Branson (MO) Hillside Resort (former Welk), September 15-20, 2026. No further information was available before our publication deadline. Information: Fred Wilson at (740) 331-1814.

**Contact Tom Kjos 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!

AIR CAV NEWS



LTC (RET) J. Shawn Perry

191 Scenic Bluff Drive
Guntersville, Alabama 35976
(254) 458-0428
Stetsonlife1cda@gmail.com



First Team Up, Sky Troopers! Hello, Friends! Spring has arrived in full force across the Cavalry world, and the Troopers of the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade and the broader 1st Cavalry Division have been anything but idle. From cutting-edge counter-drone live-fires to Capitol Hill briefings on the Division's transformation, the First Team continues to charge forward with the same warrior spirit we all knew when we wore the patch. Pull up a chair, pour something cold, and let's catch up on what your Division has been up to.

Riding the Shield: Project Golden Shield Lights Up Fort Hood

The most operationally significant aviation-related event of the spring was an exercise every Air Cav Veteran would recognize as a genuine glimpse into the future of aerial threat defense. From April 7 through 9, the 1st Cavalry Division completed the latest phase of its counter-drone experimentation — a live-fire exercise testing counter-UAS systems under its "Golden Shield" concept for an armored formation. This exercise, part of the Division's broader Pegasus Charge initiative, broke new ground in ways that matter for aviation operations.

Exercise Golden Shield marked the first live demonstration of an autonomous sensor on one platform detecting and classifying a hostile drone, then transmitting targeting data and an engagement command to an autonomous weapon system on a separate platform to destroy the drone. Machine-to-machine. Sensor to shooter. The exercise integrated sensors, weapons, and command systems to build a layered defense network capable of detecting, tracking, and engaging aerial threats faster and with less burden on Soldiers.

Among the systems demonstrated was the Perseus Defense Harpe micro-missile, which achieved radar-cued multi-launch and fully active guidance intercepts during the exercise — fielded by a startup that went from signing an Army agreement to live-fire demonstration in roughly three months. MAJ Kevin Correa, the Division's air and missile defense chief, captured the next step clearly: "The intent is to take these systems we tested this week and begin to integrate them within our armored formations' training." The First Team isn't waiting for tomorrow's threats — they are preparing to defeat them today.

Looking Back: The 1st Air Cav in Afghanistan Spring Operations, OEF 2011–2012

As we celebrate the First Team's legacy, it is worth pausing to honor what the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade accomplished over the mountains and valleys of Afghanistan. In the summer of 2011, the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade deployed to Afghanistan to take over responsibility for aviation operations in Region-

al Commands North and West, relieving the 4th Combat Aviation Brigade. By spring 2012, Air Cav aviators were flying around the clock across one of the most demanding operational environments in the world.

The 1st Air Cavalry Brigade conducted full-spectrum aviation operations across Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, providing coalition ground forces with medevac, air assault, attack, and reconnaissance support. Spring in northern and western Afghanistan was no gentle season — mountain passes frozen shut in winter became passable, insurgent activity surged, and operational tempo surged with it. Air Cav crews flew through all of it without flinching.

Those crews — Apache gunship pilots, Black Hawk air assault aviators, Chinook heavy-lift crews, and the maintainers and crew chiefs who kept them airborne — upheld a tradition stretching back to the Ia Drang Valley. They flew in harm's way so that ground Troopers could maneuver, survive, and accomplish the mission. We honor their service every time we pin on the First Team patch.

The Sky's Next Chapter: Army Aviation Technology on the Horizon

The future of Army aviation is being written right now. The Army is continuing investment in the Future Long-Range Assault Aircraft — a medium-sized assault and utility aircraft designed to deliver improvements in speed, range, agility, endurance, and sustainability compared to current Black Hawk helicopters.

Army leadership has testified that the force needs FLRAA to fly twice as far and twice as fast as previous rotorcraft — a capability considered essential for operations against peer and near-peer adversaries with advanced air defenses. The first FLRAA prototype flight is planned for 2026, with low-rate initial production to follow in 2028 and initial fielding targeted for 2030.

Alongside FLRAA, the Army is accelerating investment in unmanned systems — pushing reconnaissance and high-risk missions to uncrewed platforms that extend the force's reach while reducing risk to aviators. For those of us who flew Cobras, Hueys, Apaches, and Black Hawks over jungles, deserts, and city streets, the trajectory is clear: the First Team's Air Cav will be faster, more lethal, more survivable, and networked with unmanned systems that multiply combat power. The spirit of the Air Cav — aggressive, adaptive, always forward — carries right into that future.

Y'all, the Association's annual reunion is coming up in July in New Orleans, and I look forward to seeing each of you there. Whether you're a Vietnam era Sky Trooper, a DS, OIF or OEF Veteran, or a family member carrying on a loved one's legacy — come ready to share a story, raise a glass, and remember why the First Team endures. See you in the Crescent City!

Until then, keep your rotors turning and your spurs sharp. First Team! Air Cav! Clear Right! — Shawn

NEW MEMBERS:

PV2 ADAMO, NICHOLAS MN 1-9C
PFC AGABA, JOHN WA 1-15BSB
2LT ARROYO, EDUARDO TX 2-8C
PFC ASH, JOSHUA TX 3-8C
PFC AUTON, DYLAN LEE NC 2-7C
E-3 BARGER, ZACHERY CA 4-9C
PFC BATIZ, NOBERTO FL 1-5C
PV2 BENTLEY, LUKE ANDREW TX B 1-115BSB
E-3 BOYD, JACOB GERALD CA 1-584CEC
PV2 BUGBEE, LUCAS ALLEN NH 1-7C
PV2 BURGOS, SKYLAR WA 2-12C
SSG CAPPS, BRANDON TX HHC 1ACB
PV2 CARDEN, WILLIAM WI 3-3CR
1SG CASAREZ, JOSJEPH TX B 4-9C
PV2 CASTILLO, JUAN GA 2-12C
PFC CHAVEZ, FERNANDEZ VALERIA CA HHC 2-5C
CW2 CISNEROS, LAMBERTO TX A 1-227ACB
CSM CLEMENS, MICHAEL MI HHC 1-9C
SSG CORDROMP, LOUIE TX HHC 1ABCT
SGT CORELLA, BERNARD L. SR CA A 5-7C
SFC CORONA, DAVID TX 1-8ENG
SGT CORPUZ, FRANCIS DERICK CA A 4-2ABCT
SSG CORTEZ, RICHARDO TX 8ENG
SSG DAVILLA, KYLE TX HHC 1CD
SSG DAVIS, LOGAN P TX 2-5C
E-4 DE HAAH, JOZEF S. TX 3CR
SP-5 DELGADO, MARK NM 1-15ADMIN
LTC DOLBERRY, FRANK A. III TX HQ 1-9C
2LT ELMORE, LEYTON TX 1CD
2LT EPHRAIM, RAYMOND TX 1-115BSB
PFC ESCOBAR, JUAN JACOBO LLANO TX DIVARTY
PFC EVANS, KATHERINE TX 1-1CD
E-5 FARBER, STEVEN AZ 1-8C
E-4 FOX, JOHN AZ B 2-5C
SPC FREVELE, THOMAS PA C 8ENG
E-1 GARDNER, DENTON A. TX 4-9C
PFC GERLINK, MIKAGLI KS A 1-82FA
PFC GONZALEZ, EJIEL TX C 1-82FA
PFC GOODWIN, MIKELL TX 1BCT
PFC GREEN, DONNAKE TX 1-1ABCT
SGT GREEN, KAMEN TX B 1-5C
PV2 GREGORY, BRAYDEN H. TX B 1-82FA
E-5 HANSEN, KURT WI HHC 1-5C
PV2 HAPNER, NATHAN TX 1-9C
SSG HARDEN ANGELA TX D 3ABCT
MRS. HARE, CAROLYN PA 1470 ASSOC
PFC HAYWORD, TAZION TX 1-1BCT
2LT HECKMAN, ALEXANDER TX 1-3ABCT
2LT HEFFRON, JOSEPH MD 1-8C
PV2 HENDRIKSON, ADAM WI HHT 2-5C
SPC INNOCENT, AARON FL 1-1CD
SGT JEREMIAH, ANDREA VA 1-1CD

SPC JOSEY, JOHNATHAN TX 2-12C
1LT KASS, KYLE TX 1-ABCT
SP-4 KEEFAUVER, CHRISTOPHER OR 1-215BSB
2LT KENNEDY, ROBERT J. III TX 1-1CD
PFC LANCTOT, GABRIEL B. MN DIVARTY
MR. LeGAULT, LOREN WI 1469 ASSOC
PFC LEWELLIN, EASTON MN A 1-8ENG
SSG LINDLEY, WYATT TX 1-5C
WO1 LOPEZ, ANDREW TX DIVARTY
PVT LOVELACE, KOTEI VA 3ABCT
PV2 LOYO-SANCHEZ, ERICK CA HHT 3-3BDE
WO1 MACK, KENNETH TX 1-1ACB
MSG MARTINEZ, MARTIN TX 1-82FA
LTC MAURO, ROBERT G NY A 1-7C
SGT MAYOTTE, JACE TX 3CR
SSG MC BRIDE, CHARLES TX K TRP 3CR
PV2 MC CLINTOCK, THOMAS TX 2-12C
CPT MC CULLOUGH, STEPHEN T. TX HHC 1-115BSB
SSG MELVIN, DONOVAN KS HHT 4-9C
PFC MOLINA, ARCHILLES TX 2BDE
CPT MYATT, AMIRA TX HHC 1-15BSB
E-2 O'MALLEY, CHRISTIAN KS 3CR
PV2 OSBORNE, KIERA TX 1-9C
SFC PALACIOS, SIXTO TX 545MP
LTC PECK, TRAVIS G. TX HHC 1-1CD
PV2 PERALTA, DANIEL CA A 1-82FA
PFC PHANTHADETH, GURINA TX 1-656ADA
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WELCOME TO THE 1CDA TEAM!

545th MP Co News

Lawrence Gardner Ketron

232 New Beason Well Rd
Kingsport, TN 37660
(423) 967-8226
LGKetron@earthlink.net



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 80's and wanted their stories documented while they could still remember them.

THE DEATH OF BOB DEAN, BY BOB DEAN

In the last issue, Larry Ketron told of the night that the VC mortared our compound. I, too, have a story from that night, but I was so mad I hardly noticed the shells.

In the spring of 1965, I was acquainted with an individual that I had met at the DIVARTY chapel. Call him Leo X. Leo was an only child and his mother was quite concerned that he would fall in with the "wrong type." As such, he asked me to meet his parents when they visited him in April. Unfortunately, his father died in June.

I had the previous shift at the stockade before Larry and Jerry. Near the end of my shift, the phone rang. It was Chaplain Charles Nichols (one of the finest persons I ever met). He asked me where I was and I told him. He said no, he meant was I still on earth? Huh? It seemed that Leo's mother sent a Christmas card to the chaplain's family. In it she wrote that she "was saddened to hear of the death of Bob Dean. Now I could finish the conversation with Mr X from last spring."

Just after I got back to the company area, the mortars hit. I was so mad that I didn't seek cover. Instead, I went to Leo's tent and pulled him outside and let him have it. He denied telling her that but where else would she get it. I was so glad that she didn't have my home address and that being military the Chaplain's family knew to check rumors. When I finally calmed down, I thought just maybe I ought to take cover.

WORDS FROM YOUR AUTHOR

Please accept my apologies for the brevity of the article in this issue. Your author has had to deal recently with a lung cancer issue. That issue precluded corrective measures for cataracts on both eyes. Extremely difficult to see the computer screen. Almost blind in the right eye, poor vision in the left. Took over an hour to type the preceding article. Stay tuned for the next issue!

I received this from CSM (RET) Dallas Mills. He was an original member of the 11thMP/545thMP in 1965-1966.

Lost Weapon by CSM (RET) Dallas Mills

This is a story within a story. The events in this story occurred when four of us were assigned two squads of ARVN (Army of Viet Nam soldiers) Soldiers to set up a checkpoint a few miles northwest of Pleiku to check traffic travelling through that area for weapons or marijuana that was getting into the south by truckloads. This area was also believed to have Viet Nam enemy troops working in the area.

Our set up was not tactically sound but was at the intersection of the main road and a well-worn foot trail that was used by residents of a nearby village. Our intel was that residents of that village would carry out bags of marijuana to the main road and sell to truckers, would move it south and sell it to our Troops.

There was also a local unit of ARVN troops stationed either in that village or nearby; they would come close to us but never associate with us. I didn't have a warm and fuzzy about that and asked our interpreter to talk to them and see what their purpose was. After talking to one, he just shrugged and said, They were just "goofing" off. That did not make me feel any better.

The main road curved to the west about a quarter of a mile from us and traffic could not be identified until it came out of the curve, which was another concern. But about a hundred yards up the aforementioned trail was an old shack that resembled the one that school children wait on to catch their bus. It was very old and looked like it may have been used as an outpost (OP) when the French was there. So, the four of us took turns manning that post during day-light hours.

One mid-morning Paul Dalton was manning the post and felt a need for a few moments of privacy and left his .45 Cal pistol in the shack and went into the nearby woods for some relief and when he came back his weapon was missing. That got the hair up on the back of all our necks and we got the interpreter to question all our ARVN soldiers if they observed anyone in that area and one said that he did see a local ARVN soldier go in there but didn't stay but a moment.

While we were going in circles trying to figure out what to do without getting Paul in trouble, (which would have surely happened if our leaders heard about it), four or five civilians from the nearby village came down the foot trail and the light bulb came on. I instructed our interpreter to send them back to the village with the message that if our weapon did not show up within the hour we would call in helicopters and wipe their village out! They retreated back to the village and within about thirty minutes the Ole Boy returned with our weapon.

He couldn't leave well enough alone and started waving a piece of paper around at Paul Dalton. So I went up to the shack and he had a piece of paper with Vietnamese writing on it and was attempting to get one of us to sign it. I instructed Paul to sign George Washington's name on the paper and get the weapon back. Paul took the paper and started signing it as I walked out and started back down the hill and I heard the ARVN soldier scream at the top of his voice. When I turned around, I saw the shack and the ARVN going over the hill. Paul had turned the shack over with him in it. I kept walking and the shack actually busted into a couple of pieces, but the ARVN was able to get out and run off.

Of course, I was at least going to do some "butt chewing" when we got back to the road, but Paul walked up to me and said, "Please SGT Mills don't kill me, I have learned a lesson that I will never forget." I didn't kill him, he was a great Soldier, and I was fortunate to have him in my squad. We all had a refresher that day!

DIVISION DOINGS

Continued from pg. 18

1st Cavalry Division Soldiers Will Get the Army's Newest Tank and Infantry Combat Vehicle First by Patty Nieberg



The Soldiers will get prototypes of the new tank and fighting vehicle in the fall. The unit plans to bring them to the National Training Center next Spring.

Soldiers in the 1st Cavalry Division will soon get their hands on the latest versions of the Army's Abrams tank and the first prototypes of the infantry combat vehicle.

Soldiers with the division's 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team at Fort Hood, Texas, will begin training with prototypes of the new XM30 Mechanized Infantry Combat Vehicle and M1E3 Abrams tank this fall. After a few months of familiarization training, Soldiers will put the two new vehicles through their paces, according to the division commander, with a rotation at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California, in Spring 2027.

The new models of the Abrams tank and infantry combat vehicle are "not incremental improvements," but "a major shift forward in terms of technology," MG Thomas Feltey, head of the 1st Cavalry Division, told a group of reporters Thursday.

The XM30 Mechanized Infantry Combat Vehicle program, which will essentially replace the M2 Bradley, has been the infantry's method of transport and fire support for Soldiers on foot since 1981.

The new M1E3 tank, which will keep the Abrams name, will have "enhanced mobility," Feltey said, since it weighs 10 tons less and has a hybrid electric-diesel engine that is 50% more fuel efficient than older systems. He also suggested that Soldiers would be better protected by new digital systems that let them see farther on the battlefield. The tanks reportedly include an onboard artificial intelligence system to help crews detect threats and identify targets.

Both of the new vehicles are also designed to work alongside emerging technologies that require a whole lot more power, since they can "charge all sorts of systems," Feltey said. Finding reliable power sources is a bigger deal in modern warfare, given the energy drain of equipment, like drones.

The 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team is made up of around 3,400 Soldiers. One platoon will test the M1E3 and two platoons will test the two different versions of the XM30.

The 1st Cavalry Division's 1st and 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Teams are part of the Army's Transform in Contact initiative. Under the effort, Army leaders select specific units, like infantry and armor, to test the latest technology within their formations. After running through the unit's training cycles and larger training center rotations with the new tech, participants give feedback so senior leaders in the Army can make changes across the force. In the case of the new Abrams and the infantry fighting vehicle, Soldiers with the 1st Cavalry Division will be the first to offer feedback.

Tanks in 'no man's land'

Feltey said the 1st Cavalry Division is also redesigning formations and strategies to take into account recent battlefield lessons. He cited the Russia-Ukraine war, which has seen a return of a "no man's land" — a stretch of ground separating the front lines of opposing forces. Unlike the deadly, narrow expanses between World War I trenches, the 21st-century version can be up to 15-miles wide. Due to modern visual and detection technologies like drones, crossing this stretch has become a near-death sentence.

"It's not just a no-tank land. It's like a no-anything land. Tanks are vulnerable, but so are infantry. I mean, there's been over a million infantry casualties in the last four years and nobody's saying the infantry are obsolete just yet," Feltey said. "The problem we're trying to solve is, how do we restore mobility to the armored brigade combat teams. How do we stay on the offense? How do we keep our tempo at a fast pace so that we don't give the enemy a chance?"

Photo caption: Prototype of the new M1E3 Abrams tank revealed at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Michigan in January Photo by Task & Purpose Aaron Provost

Lancers Honor Fallen, Carry Legacy Forward at Black Sunday Remembrance story by Heather Ashley

FORT HOOD, Texas — Soldiers and Veterans of 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, gathered April 10 in front of the battalion headquarters to honor eight Soldiers who lost their lives 22 years ago during some of the fiercest fighting of the Iraq War.

The ceremony commemorated the events of April 4, 2004, known as "Black Sunday" when what began as a routine patrol in Sadr City, Iraq, escalated into a deadly ambush and prolonged urban combat.

"Today is a day that is heavy in our hearts," said LTC Moises Jimenez, commander of 2-5 Cav Regt, 1st ABCT, 1st Cav Div. "What began as an ordinary patrol turned into some of the fiercest fighting this division has seen since the Vietnam War." On that day in 2004 and only days into their deployment, the Lancer Battalion was ambushed and lost SGT Eddie Chen, SPC Robert Arsiaga, SPC Israel Garza, SPC Ahmed Cason and SPC Stephen Hiller. Two other 1st Cav Div Soldiers — CPL Forest Jostes and SPC Casey Sheehan, both of 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, then-1st ABCT, 1st Cav Div — were

Continued to pg. 22

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

THE 2027 CALENDAR SUBSCRIPTION CONFUSION

To address some confusion regarding the 2027 and future calendars, the calendar must now be prepaid in order to subscribe and receive it. This is a change from previous years and applies to all subscribers.

DONATION OPPORTUNITIES AND SUBSCRIPTION PROCESS

A Donation Opportunities Form was sent out along with the 2026 Calendar, like the one below, asking members to check the block if you want to subscribe to it. However, it is important to remember that simply checking the box does not complete your subscription; a \$10 fee for the 2027 Calendar is also required.

PAYMENT REQUIREMENT AND DISTRIBUTION LIST

We have seen a lot of boxes checked, indicating you want it, yet a \$10 fee for the 2027 Calendar was not included. If this is your case, you will not be receiving the 2027 Calendar.

If you are in question, please feel free to email us.

- memberships@lca.org (Karleen)
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DIVISION DOINGS

Continued from pg. 21

killed while responding to assist the ambushed Lancer Soldiers. SGT Michael Mitchell, assigned to 2nd Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment, 1st ABCT, 1st Armored Division, was also killed as part of the quick reaction force.

Jimenez and CSM, 2-5 Cav Regt command sergeant major, laid a wreath at the Task Force Lancer memorial, a granite monument engraved with the names of 15 Soldiers who died during the unit's 2004–2005 deployment. Eight of those mark the losses suffered on Black Sunday. "Today is about them," Jimenez said. "Today is about their stories and today is about their sacrifice."

He emphasized that while technology and equipment play a role in combat, it is ultimately the Soldiers who carry the mission forward and support each other. "Black Sunday does not just remind us about the harsh realities of war," he said. "It reminds us about the value of human life."

Among those in attendance was Virgil Chen, brother of SGT Eddie Chen, who traveled with his wife, Alice Chen, from Hawaii to honor Eddie's memory. "He was open-minded, had a kind heart, and was always smiling," Virgil said. "When you would see him, you would never see him with worry. Everything was always good."

Both brothers served in the Army and deployed to Iraq. Virgil recalled believing his younger brother would be part of a peacekeeping mission following early declarations of progress in the conflict. "I was not really thinking he was going into a bad firefight," he said. Virgil knew he had to attend the ceremony and honor his brother and the others killed. "It is important to remember our Fallen," he said.

CSM Juan Pablo Godines, now the operations sergeant major for 1st ABCT, 1st Cav Div, was a private first class when he arrived at the unit months before the deployment. He vividly remembers the events surrounding April 4, 2004.

After arriving in Sadr City, Iraq, under austere conditions, Soldiers initially conducted routine patrols and built relationships with residents. That sense of normalcy quickly vanished, tensions flared and the 2-5 Cav Regt unit was attacked and cut off in an alley. Godines recalled the moment his unit learned of the ambush. "My platoon sergeant gathered us and told us to load every Humvee with as much ammo as we could carry," he said. "He briefed us plainly that this was a movement to contact."

As they pushed into the city, darkness and chaos took hold. "Movement through Sadr City was like running through a gauntlet of fire," he said. Enemy fighters blocked streets and fired from multiple directions, creating a deadly urban battlefield. Despite the intensity, the Soldiers pressed forward to reach their comrades.

Godines would later return home in time to witness the birth of his first child, a milestone he says underscores the sacrifices made by those who did not return. "Many others never got that chance," he said. "I carry them with me every day. That's why I still wear this uniform."

For Veterans like former SGT Justin Bellamy, the ceremony served as a powerful

reminder of the bond shared among those who fought that day. Bellamy, then a sergeant with Comanche Company, 2-5 Cav Regt, 1st ABCT, 1st Cav Div, was one of the Soldiers in the ambush.

"To see Soldiers standing in formation, not just out of duty, but out of respect, that carries real weight," Bellamy said. "Those men we lost aren't just names in history. They were our brothers." He encouraged today's Soldiers to embrace the legacy they inherit as members of the unit.

"You carry the torch now," Bellamy said. "You're part of a unit with real history, built on sacrifice, discipline and brotherhood. Be proud of that."

THIS MEMORIAL DAY

Let's honor what was given.

They put on the uniform.
 They answered the call, knowing the risks.
 They made the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf.
 Beyond what was lost, let's remember all they gave —
 Their service to our country and the legacies they left behind.




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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**for the 78th Annual Reunion of the 1st Cavalry Division Association in New Orleans
July 8-12, 2026**

Normally we have volunteers from the host Chapter in the state where the reunion is being held, to assist with our activities. Unfortunately there is not a Chapter in Louisiana. Therefore, we are asking for volunteers from within our reunion attendees to help make it another successful reunion. Family members are welcome to volunteer as well! Below are the events and times:

REGISTRATION DESK: Hand out packets and tickets.
Wed-Fri: 0900-1200 / 1300-1500 / 1500-1800

SILENT AUCTION MONITOR: Set up tables each morning and secure items at the end of day.
Times: 15 minutes before registration desk opens and closes

1CDA HOSPITALITY ROOM: Police trash from tables, check name badges, ensure things run smoothly.
Wed-Sat: 0900-1400, 1400-1900, 1900-2400

BUS MONITOR DETAILS: Trip to WWII Museum. Track bus boarding & exiting counts.
Wed: 1200-1800 / Thurs: 0900-1600 (Buses will run continuously).

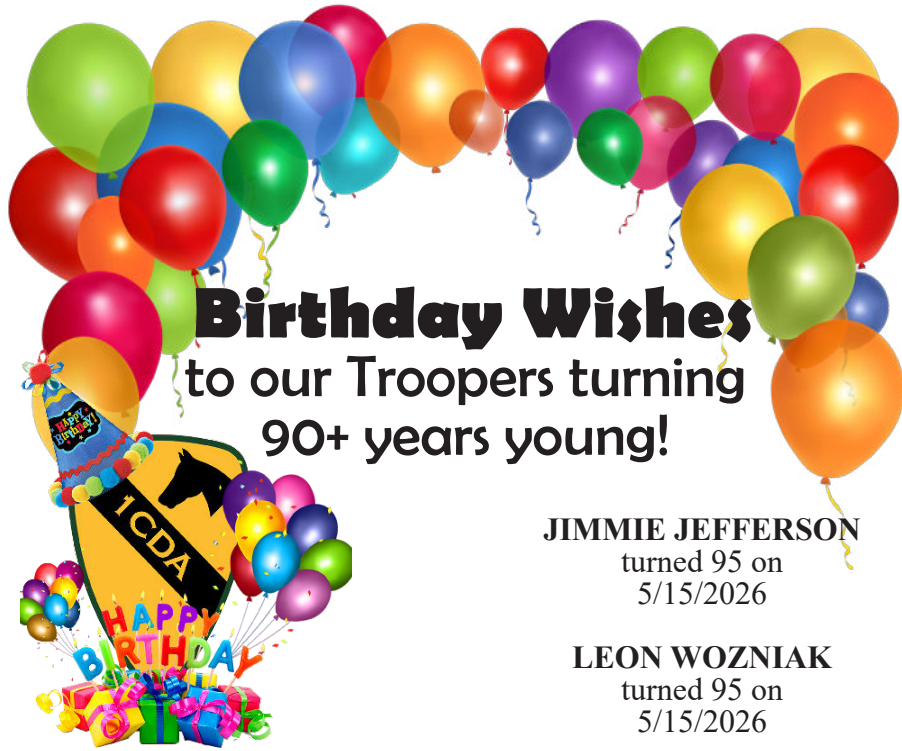
LEGACY BREAKFAST DETAILS: Read Long Roll Muster script for each war.
Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War, OIF/OEF. Fri: 0730-0900

UNIT LUNCHEON DETAILS: Over see lunch & collect tickets to confirm attendees.
Needed for 5Cav, 7Cav, 8Cav, 9Cav, 12Cav, Artillery & Engineers Luncheons.
Fri: 1200-1400

GIFT SHOP DETAILS: Ensure customers do not enter with drinks or bags; assist customers as needed.
Wed-Fri: 0900-1200, 1300-1500, 1500-1800 (3 volunteers needed for each time slot):
Sat: 0900-1200, 1300-1600 (2 volunteers needed for each time slot)

To sign up for your time slot, contact:
1SG (Ret) Dara Wydler, Executive Director, 1st Cavalry Division Association,
Office: 254-547-6537, <firstcav@1cda.org>

Thank you!



Birthday Wishes to our Troopers turning 90+ years young!

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turned 95 on
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BENJAMIN JACKSON
turned 97 on
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turned 91 on
5/04/2026

BRUNO CHIESA
turned 92 on
5/06/2026

JIMMIE JEFFERSON
turned 95 on
5/15/2026

LEON WOZNAK
turned 95 on
5/15/2026

JAMES KUHN
turned 90 on
5/26/2026

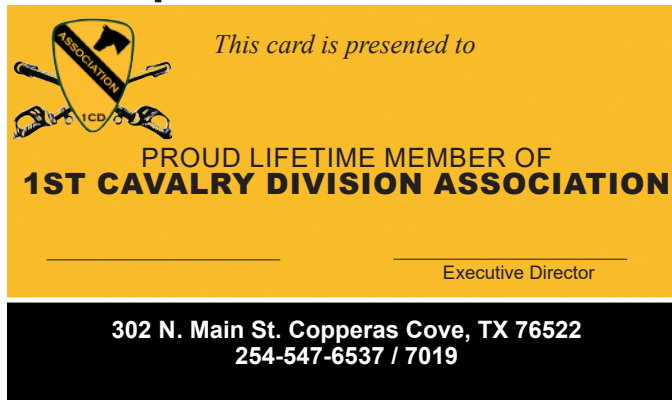
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turned 96 on
5/29/2026

JOHN J. SWEENEY
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6/01/2026

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6/06/2026

TOMMY MOSER
turned 97 on
6/06/2026

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We have revamped the Lifetime Membership cards! If you would like to order one, please fill out the order form below. Due to spacing issues, we are going to type in your name as it appears in our database. There is no space for your rank.

The new cards are NOT available for Associate Members, the new cards are only available for our Life Time Members. On the back of the card it says:

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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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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