



SABER

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

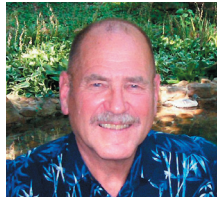


VOLUME 60 NUMBER 1

Website: <http://www.1cda.org>

JANUARY/FEBRUARY, 2012

The President's Corner



Those of us in comfort at home enjoy all the blessings of home, family, friends and basic security. This contrasts sharply with the conditions that confront our brothers and sisters still stationed in far off lands. Those in our own First Team still face danger on a daily basis in Afghanistan and to a lesser degree in Kuwait. This, of course, in addition to the normal hardships, inconvenience, discomfort and just plain miserable conditions and exhaustion so familiar to every soldier in war-fighting mode. As we begin the New Year let us keep our thoughts on them.

The Division Headquarters and 1st Air Cavalry Brigade remain deployed in Afghanistan and the 1st Brigade Combat Team is still in Kuwait but we are happy to know that both the 2nd BCT and 3rd BCT are back home in Texas and almost everyone was there before Christmas.

A present challenge is to help all our recently returned veterans readjust to life at home. Returning from stressful duty in a distant land, where twenty-four-hour days and seven-day weeks collide with each other and meld together without letup is a bit like falling into a different and make-believe world. The stress and constraints are gone. This takes some getting-used-to. During this period of adjustment we should be particularly observant and respectful of the difficulties some of our returning service members may confront. When we are fortunate enough to include these troopers in our lives we must listen to them carefully and offer support if appropriate. We have at long last learned, as a nation, to honor our service members for their sacrifices, quite aside from any personal reservations about what they have been asked to do. That's a very good start. Now we must take care of their needs and see that no returning soldier is left with no place to turn and no one to turn to. As time goes by these veterans will themselves come to appreciate, more and more, their fellow troopers. Out of the service, still on active duty or retired most of them will become active in the community of veterans. We can help them along that path by recognizing their service and sacrifice. We all have a piece of the action in assuring that the traditions of the army and of the great 1st Cavalry Division are nurtured and passed on to this and future generations of warriors.

The Association has two important meetings coming up in 2012. The first occurs when the Association's Board of Governors and the Trustees of both Foundations meet at Fort Hood during the last weekend of February. At this meeting we set the Association budget and conduct all business of the Association and the Foundation and Museum Foundation also conduct business. This group meets twice a year, once in February and again during our Annual Reunion. During the February meetings we will have a social period to visit with the leadership of the First Team and their spouses that are at Fort Hood.

Our Association has had a great number of volunteers step forward and participate in the running of the Association and the Foundations over the years. Contrary to what some of you think, they are not all officers and retired noncommissioned officers, although these groups of people do participate. They are a cross section of our membership from different locations ranging from Oregon to Florida and many other parts of the country. We have Board members that served in World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam War, Gulf War and while serving in peacetime in Japan, Korea and at Fort Hood and from many different units.

If you served in the First Team, you have been groomed for leadership and been prepared to serve and I hope that you will consider serving on our Board of Governors or as a Trustee of one of our Foundations. All you need to do is commit to attending the meetings and submit a copy of orders proving your assignment to the Division and a short biographical sketch about yourself. Our Nominating Committee will try to seek out volunteers but you can contact our Executive Director, Dennis Webster, at the Association offices in Copperas Cove, Texas and submit your name to the Nominating Committee.

I hope to see you at the reunion in Portland, Oregon from 6-10 June.

Lyman C. Duryea, 701 Timberlane Ln., McDaniels, KY, 40152-9724 (270) 257-9960 <LymanDuryea@Yahoo.Com>

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Horse Detachment by CPT David Jackson



(Left to Right) SGT Jesse Hurst, SGT Jonathan Toth, SGT Janessa McGrail, SGT Joshua Reed, SGT Alan Hensley; the Detachment Leatherworkers, prepare to ride in the 123rd Tournament of Roses Parade on January 2nd, 2012.

The Horse Cavalry Detachment welcomed the New Year in Pasadena, California by representing the First Team in the 123rd Annual Tournament of Roses Parade and promoting one of our own Troopers, Janessa McGrail, to the rank of Sergeant! The five mile parade route was lined with thousands of spectators and is a true spectacle to behold. The members of the Detachment, along with SGT Buddy, represented Fort Hood and Central Texas with class, whooping and hollering to the crowds and wishing everyone a Happy New Year. In addition to the parade itself, the HCD got to participate in Equestfest, the equestrian portion of the

Tournament of Roses. The Equestfest features the best equestrian performers from all across America; the Detachment performed a fast-paced mounted Drill & Ceremony demonstration, which was aired on RFD-TV. It was an exhilarating performance in front of a sold-out crowd at the Los Angeles Equestrian Center.

After ringing in 2012 in California, the Detachment traveled to Fort Worth, Texas to participate in the All Western Parade kicking off the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo; a little Texas tradition that's been going on since 1896! February 4th found us in San Antonio, Texas helping celebrate their annual Livestock Show & Rodeo; this parade weaves through its historic downtown areas and features the driving of genuine Texas longhorns.

Look for the HCD at this year's Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo at the end of February and at upcoming ceremonies at Cooper Field. The month of March will find us in Dublin, Texas for the Cowboy Culture Celebration as well as Fort Sam Houston for their Cowboys for Heroes event! We look forward to seeing you on the road at an event or feel free to stop by the barn anytime for a tour or just to say hello.

If you ain't Cav!

DIVISION DOINGS

The Division Headquarters and the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade are still deployed in Afghanistan and all indications are that their time in Afghanistan will be a one-year deployment, which has always been the plan. The 1st Brigade Combat Team remains deployed in Kuwait after leaving Iraq along with the rest of the American forces.

All of the 2nd Brigade and 3rd Brigade are back home and were able to return before their one-year deployment was done. With the exception of a few Troopers all were home prior to Christmas.



As many of you saw on the news, the last unit to leave Iraq was the 3rd Special Troops Battalion of the 3rd BCT "Grey Wolf". The crew members of the last vehicle to leave Iraq pictured with their truck (left to right) are: PFC Anthony Palm of

Tenino, Washington, gunner; SGT James Alaimo of Lake Dallas, Texas, driver; SFC Hilda McNamee of Fort Worth, Texas, truck commander; SPC Vergil Heger of Hilo, Hawaii, crew member; and SPC Brittany Hampton of Killeen, Texas medic. All of these Troopers are assigned to Headquarters Company and were from the Military Police Platoon. The photo was taken by CPT Michael Lovas, 1st BCT, 34th Red Bull Infantry Division on 18 December 2011. The vehicle is a Caiman Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle.

The following articles from the Troopers of the Division Public Affairs Office help to show what is going on in the First Team.

Continued on pg. 5.

ADDRESS CHANGE

Don't Keep it a SECRET, Let us Know About It.
To submit by e-mail, send to membership@1cda.org.
Clip and Mail to 1st Cavalry Division Association
302 N. Main, Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703
Last 4 #'s of your SSN _____ DOB _____
Tel: (____) _____
Rank and Name: _____
New Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Unit: (1) _____ and (2) _____
Date of Assign: (1) _____ and (2) _____
E-Mail: _____
I served with the 1st Cav. Div. in (Circle one or more) Pre-WWII WWII
JAPAN KOREAN WAR KOREA '57-'65 FT BENNING VIETNAM
FT HOOD GULF BOSNIA AFGHANISTAN IRAQ FT BLISS
I DO/DO NOT authorize release of my personal info to Assn. members.
I served with another military unit during a war time period? YES NO

SABER

The newspaper of the 1st Cavalry Division Association
published during each even numbered month at
302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703.
Phone: (254) 547-6537

Deadline for publication is the 1st of each odd numbered month.
e-mail: firstcav@1cda.org
Home Page: <http://www.1cda.org>
EDITOR: Lorinda Davison
ASSISTANT EDITOR: Martha E. Fisher
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Dennis E. Webster

SNOWBIRDS

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

(Circle one) Winter Summer
Rank and Name: _____
LAST 4#s SSN: _____ DOB _____
1: Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Dates: _____ Tel: (____) _____
2: Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Dates: _____ Tel: (____) _____

Calendar of 1st Cavalry Division Association Events 2012

Feb. 24-25 Board of Governors and Trustees Meeting, Fort Hood, Texas
June 6-10 65th Annual Reunion, Portland, Oregon
Nov. 8-11 Veterans Day Gathering, Arlington, VA and Washington, DC
Nov. 11 4th Annual Veterans Day Dinner, Arlington, Virginia

OTHER REUNIONS

B Co., 1-8th CAV, 1969-70 "Pig Iron", 16-18 March 2012. La Quinta Inn, Fort Lauderdale, FL. Contact Dan HOUMES, (954) 489-0864, <Prov227@aol.com>.

D Co., 1-5th Cavalry (1966-67), 9-13 April 2012. Clarion Hotel at the Palace, Branson, MO. Contact Lou Perosi, Jr., PO Box 48, Stroudsburg, PA 18360, (888) 282-2802, <smallstock@verizon.net>.

5th U.S. Cavalry Association, 1-5 May. Ashbury Hotel & Suites, Mobile, AL. Information at <www.5thCav.org/2012ReunionInformation.html>.

15th MED Association, 2-6 May 2012. Marriott Cool Springs, Franklin, TN. Information available at <www.15thMedAssociation.Com/Reunions/2012Reunion/2012Reunion.html> or contact Art JACOBS, <AJacobs@ValkyrieConsultingGroup.com>.

Echo Recon, 1-5th CAV (Vietnam 1969-70), 3-6 May 2012. Greystone Lodge, Gatlinburg, TN. Information at <www.EchoRecon.com/reunion/reunion.html>.

B Co., 2-8th Cavalry (Eager Arms 1967-68), 2-6 May 2012. Crowne Plaza Dulles Airport, Herndon, VA. For more information e-mail <eagerarms@hotmail.com> or visit <www.eagerarms.com>.

Aerial Rocket Artillery Association, 2-20th ARA, 23-27 May 2012. The Benson Hotel, Portland, OR. Information available at <www.AraAssociation.Com/2012_Reunion.html>.

30th Field Artillery Regiment Association (Hard Chargers), 19-24 June 2012. Fort Sill, OK. Contact Bob Waldron, (602) 577-7693, <AzGuy1946@aol.com>, or visit <www.HardChargers.com>.

D Co., 2-8th Cavalry (Airborne), 1965-72, 20-24 June 2012. Denver Marriott Tech Center, Denver, CO. Information on website: <angriskyperassociation.org>. Contact Robin Woo, (916) 488-9354, <rwoo@surewest.net>.

C Co., 2-5th CAV, 20-22 September 2012. Hilton Garden Inn, Columbus, GA. Contact John McCorkle, 707 W. College Ave., Jacksonville, IL 62650, <JohnMcCorkle@frontier.com>.

E Co., 1-5th CAV "Recon Platoon" (Vietnam 1968-69), 28 September - 1 October 2012. Comfort Inn & Suites, Memphis, TN. Information available at <<http://echorecon1-5.com/reunion2012.html>>.

1-9th Cavalry "Bullwhip Squadron", 11-14 October 2012. Shilo Inn & Suites, Killeen, TX. Information available at <www.BullwhipSquadron.org>.

New Members Listing

SP-4 ALIRES, BENNY J. UT A 1-8C 67
MSG (RET) APANA, LIONEL W. HI A 15AVN 6405
E-4 ASHJIANJR., NAZAR H. CA 15ADM 64
MR. BALL, WILLIAM IN 1301 1-ASSOC
SFC BLEVINS, ARTHUR L. NC C 1-12C 6508
SP-4 BLUE, GILBERT E. PA A 229AVN 7105
SGM (RET) BORRELL, SR., WEBER J. LA A 15MED 68
MSG BREWTON, CHRISTOPHER TX E 1-7C 9202



Continued on pg. 3.

ARTICLE SUBMISSION

Manuscripts should be originals or clear copies, either typed or printed double-spaced in near-letter quality printer mode. Word processor submissions are accepted via e-mail or a mailed CD in Microsoft WORD or Word for Windows. Please include a printout. Attach a self-adhesive label with photo information to the back of photos and cutlines for each photo (and where you would like them placed). Include name and address if the photo is to be returned. Please do not send panoramic photos wider than 8.5 in.

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.

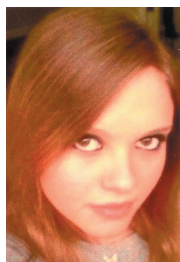
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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, "thank you" notes 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.



Dear Editor,

My name is Sierra Lynne McGuire, granddaughter of CSM Warren E. Adams, (Ret.) and I am honored to tell you that this grant is the foundation upon which I shall build my future. This would not be possible without the sacrifices of the men like my grandfather and their families. I am amazed that with all that they have endured, that upon telling their story to the world, through the book and movie, *We Were Soldiers Once...and Young*, their first thought was to lay a foundation for the education of future generations.

Theirs is a foundation built with honor, duty and sacrifice for country and their fellow man. I am pursuing a degree as a Paramedic and hope that I may build upon their foundation by serving those in my community, in their greatest hour of need.

With warmest regards, Sierra Lynne McGuire

Dear Editor,

Attention all of you young and old lieutenants and captains. Remember Leadership 101, If a man needs a chewing out, do it in private. If a man needs praise, do so with the biggest audience that you can find.

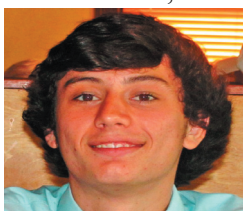
My name is Bruce Thatcher and I was a first lieutenant in Vietnam. I was an FO attached to a rifle company in the 1st Air Cav. I found out three years ago that my Recon Sergeant did not receive the Bronze Star which I thought that he had. It took two and a half years to get it for him but it was well worth it!

To you young guys that are still on active duty I say this. Check with you platoon sergeants and squad leaders if there is anyone deserving a medal for valor or meritorious service. It is very easy to run it up the chain of command while you are still together! It's your duty to your men to make sure that they get their medals.

To you old guys, contact the U.S. Congressman who is in the recipients district and they will help you with all of the forms. Then try to locate all of the chain of command. Time is of the essence as some are passing away. It can be done even if you are missing a few. One of my greatest pleasures of my life was watching Senator Levin pin the Bronze Star on Alvin! It is well worth the effort and it is your duty to do so.

Bruce Thatcher
31313 County Road 687, Bangor, MI 49013-9629, <thatcher@frontier.com>

Dear Editor,



This scholarship means that I am receiving outside support from my grandfather and other soldiers who served in the Vietnam War. The Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division is providing me with this scholarship to not only help with my college expenses but my future career as well. I am very proud of my grandfather for his brave service and extremely thankful for this scholarship which will help to further my education in the Computer

Science Program.
Cody Ainsworth

Dear Editor,

I don't know if you want to publish this or not but it is something that's been on my mind since 1969.

Our company had just about walked halfway through our mission through the bush when we were ambushed by some VC.

Our gunner was SP4 James Brown but we called him J.B.

J.B. had always told me to stay down as low as possible when they call for the gun up front. For some reason he did not stay as low as me when they called the gun up front. I was the assistant gunner and as we headed up front J.B. was hit across the chest about 3 or 4 times. I called for the medic and took over the gun but by the time we cut out an LZ and put him on the chopper, I knew he would not make it. I helped carry him to the LZ and kept holding his hand and telling him he would be OK but I knew by the look on the medic's face he wasn't going to make it. He died just before lift off.

I learned a good lesson that day. He may have died but he also saved my life by what he taught me.

He was a true hero and I want all of the 1st Cav to know that. (He died April 6, 1969).

SGT Bob L'Ecuyer, Co. C. 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry
28 Neale Rd., Royalston, MA 03168-9269, (978) 575-1368

LIFE APPLICATION/SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL BUSINESS STYLE CARDS are available at 200 for \$15.00. No hassle with having to carry legal size sheets of paper (Life Membership Applications) or sub forms. Orders will be sent to printers for printing when 3-4 are accumulated. Please be patient with us. Sample below. (Actual size 3" x 2")



1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
302 N. Main St.
Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703
(254) 547-6537
firstcav@1cda.org



NAME
POSITION IN CHAPTER
UNIT
DATES OF ASSIGNMENT

STREET ADDRESS
CITY, ST, ZIP
E-MAIL:
PHONE:
(000) 000-0000
(000) 000-0000 Cell

Enroll me as a Life Member.....	\$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Renew my subscription.....	\$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
New or Renewal of Associate Membership.....	\$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
D-Trooper.....	\$25.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business Cards	\$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/>

\$10 covers your subscription to *SABER* for one year.
\$25 makes you a D-Troop member plus a one year subscription.
\$50 makes you a D-Troop member plus a one year subscription and you receive a suitable poster. Live the Legend Print
\$100 makes you a D-Troop member plus a one year subscription and you receive a Spirit of the Cav print.
\$500 makes you a Silver Brigade member plus a 10 year subscription.
\$1,000 makes you a Gold Brigade member plus a 20 year subscription.
All D-Troopers receive certificates suitable for framing.
Brigade members receive handsome 1st Cavalry wall plaque.
All donors (\$25 or more) receive mention in the Honor Roll column and may dedicate gifts. D-Troop milestones can be achieved cumulatively. We will keep track of your contributions..
Associate Membership - for those with no service with the 1st Cav. Div.
\$15 one year Associate membership plus a one year subscription.
\$150 Life Associate plus a five year subscription and you receive a framed certificate.

LAST 4 NUMBERS OF SSN _____ DOB _____
Rank _____
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip _____ Phone (____) _____
Dates Assigned (1) _____ (2) _____
I served with 1st Team in Unit (1) _____ and
(2) _____
E-mail _____

I DO / DO NOT Authorize release of my personal information to Association members.
I served with the 1st Cavalry Division in (Circle one or more)
Pre-WWII WWII Japan Korean War Korea '57-'65 Ft Benning Vietnam War
Ft Hood Gulf War Bosnia Afghanistan Iraq Ft Bliss
Have you served with any other military unit during a war time period? YES NO

WANTED

If you served with, know, knew or have information about any of the following, please communicate with the contact listed.
CRESALL, CPT William F. "Wild Bill", D Co., 227th AVN, RVN. Contact James R. Hooper, (719) 635-5549.
DAVIS, PFC John William, D Co., 1-7th CAV. KIA 4 July 1967. Contact his cousin, Steve Davis, 1615 N. North Ave., McHenry, IL 60056, <TinPan2005@aol.com>.
HORTON, Doc, medic with D Co., 1-5th CAV, 1967-68. Contact CPT Beverly C. "John" Read, 831 Ninita St., Santa Fe, NM 87505, <BReadSantaFe@gmail.com>. He saved my life on 31 December 1967 and I want to say thanks.
THOMPSON, SGT Richard D., 5th Cavalry Regiment, WIA on 14 September, RTD 17 September and KIA 24 September 1950. Contact his niece, Laura Warner, 104 Habersham Dr., Flagler Beach, FL 32136, <Laura.Warner@fhmmc.org>.
VOGELSANG, PFC John Kim, A Co., 2-5th CAV, KIA 6 June 1969. Contact his daughter, Kim Vogelsang Gilligan, 120 N. Broadway #21C, Irvington, NY 10533, <KVGilligan@optonline.net>.

New Members listing
Continued from pg. 2.

SP-4 BRIDGES, LARRY V. GA A 5- 7C 7006
CPT BURGOON, MATTHEW W.P. TX C 2STB 1003
SGT BURKETT, JAMES F. MO C 1-12C 6802
SP-4 CHABRIER, OSCAR PR D 2-7C 6905
SGM (RET) COLE, JOHN E. TX C 1-8C 6807
E-5 CRABTREE, JAMES D. AZ 1-9C 66
SPC CRANE, JAMES NV A 1B5TB 0710
SFC (RET) DAWSON, MICHAEL C. TX HHB 1-77FA 6905
SFC DEDRICK, JR., CHARLES J. WA HHC 15SS 6911
E-5 DIAL, EDWARD T. KY A 15MED 6706
SGT FOSTER, DARYLE E. FL B 1-8C 6904
Continued on pg. 4.



CHAPTER NEWS

FLORIDA CHAPTER

The Chapter will be hosting its annual mid-year meeting in Altamonte Springs, Florida from 2-5 February at the Howard Johnson Hotel. A business meeting will be held along with much camaraderie, a dinner and a memorial service.

The Chapter now has a Facebook page and we hope that you take an opportunity to visit us. It is just starting so we need as many friends as we can get. We are listed as the Florida Chapter 1st Cavalry Division Association. Robert D. Johnson,

JAMES J. MASON WEST MICHIGAN CHAPTER

Happy New Year from the Great Lakes State. The Chapter finished another excellent year in service to our Veterans and families of deployed Warriors. This year for Christmas we decided to give a gift to 3 families whose spouses had just deployed. We received the names from the wife of the First Sergeant and mailed off the gift cards right after Thanksgiving. Our December "meeting" again consisted of a Pot Luck dinner and was well received. There was so much food that the "leftovers" were given out to those Troopers at the NCO Club where we meet.

We have another full year of Bingo ahead of us at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. My wife and I delivered almost 200 hand knitted articles to the home in early December. This is a project that she sponsors through her store - Threadbender Yarn Shop. I'm very proud of her for giving back to our veterans. Please visit our web page at <www.jjmwmc1cd.com> to see what we are up to. Bob Anderson, Secretary

LOS ANGELES/ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER



Several Chapter members attended ceremonies at Whittier College to see BG (Ret) Pete Dawkins receive an Honorary Degree. BG Dawkins is a West Point Graduate and the 1958 Heisman Trophy winner and Rhodes Scholar. He graduated top in his class and is a Veteran of the Vietnam War serving as an advisor to the Vietnamese 1st Airborne Battalion. Our Chapter Secretary, Fred Bererson, who is a Professor of Political Science at Whittier presided over the

ceremony. Fred served as an Intelligence officer with the 191st MI Detachment in Vietnam.

In the photo BG Dawkins is on the left and Fred Bergerson is on the right. John Guillory, President

NATIONAL CAPITOL REGION CHAPTER



The NCR Chapter started out 2011 celebrating the 90th Birthday of Bill Richardson and his much younger wife Eva. Bill is a 7th Cav Veteran and one of the Charter members of the Association and served as the Association President.

Chapter members and wounded warriors at the Veterans Day Dinner

Our meetings have had some outstanding guest speakers that covered a great variety of subjects including the Division in World War II and occupation duty in Japan, the organization and function of Forces Command, training

of a Joint Military and Civilian Action Team deployed in Afghanistan, social and economic structure in the US leading up to the Civil War, and a briefing on the proposed education center at the Vietnam Memorial

We continued our Chapter programs of visiting the wounded at Walter Reed and the VA Hospital and sending care packages. We also assisted with the Katz Deli luncheon at Walter Reed and the Stoney Creek Rod and Gun Club range. We assisted in running the Association's Hospitality Suite and with the Veterans Day Dinner. We also attended funerals of 1st Cavalry Division Troopers at Arlington National Cemetery with our most recent funeral being for SSG Joseph Roberts who served in 1-8 CAV in Vietnam. Henry DeMeritte, Secretary

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER

The Chapter participated in the Colorado Springs' Veterans Day parade marching with the UH1M Huey helicopter of COL Bill McPherson perched atop a flatbed truck. COL Bill, who had just returned from a trip to Vietnam, provides the helicopter for all Chapter public events. We had over twenty participants, including all of our Executive Board, one Korean War Veteran, seven Vietnam War Veterans and family members at the parade. There were thousands of people from the area along the parade route.

After the parade the Chapter had a scheduled lunch which included the presentation of a Cavalry Saber to our Treasurer, Dave Enyart for his service to the Chapter.

SHERIDAN'S CAVALRY CHAPTER

2011 was a busy year for our Chapter with regular quarterly meetings, a picnic, the Christmas party, Operation Support Our Troops - America's Rockin' for the Troops this past July with the Gary Sinise "Lt Dan Band" and the display of trust of our fellow troopers in allowing us to host the annual Reunion in 2014, west of Chicago at the Chicago Oak Brook Hills Marriott Resort.

Quite a few members got to attend the annual Chicago Auto Show at McCormick Place this past February due to a donation of tickets received from the Chicagoland Automobile Trade Association. It is always enjoyable to see the new models in one place and time as well as a lot of cars and motorcycles.

Members have been involved in helping homeless vets; rendering honors as many were laid to rest at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery; supporting the Pritzker Military Library; informing the business community about the numerous benefits of hiring veterans through the Chicago Recruiting Battalion's Chicagoland Community Advisory Board; visitations to local VA hospitals at various times and events.

Our Christmas Party had about 45-50 members and guests gathered for an evening of good food, camaraderie and some door prizes.

We will focus this year on retaining existing members and recruiting new ones. This brings new ideas and add more flavor to the organization and cause members to commit their most valuable resource - the time to attend functions and support other veterans, recent and past, so that none feel forgotten. Bruce Peterson, Vice President

61st FA News



Gordon Cress
6562 Windflower Dr.
Carlsbad, CA
92011-2508
(760) 918-0470
Gordon@DLSea.Net



Hi everybody, I hope you all had a great holiday season and start to the New

Year. This issue should be getting to you around Valentine's Day. Hope that all of you remembered this very important holiday! For all of you who didn't remember it, let's just chalk it up to another "Senior Moment" and hope it works.

Our Carlsbad Kiwanis Club gathered up 150 toys, games and stuffed animals and donated them to the local Head Start Program. The little ones (3 & 4 years old) really appreciated them.

From Ted Covington... "I was fortunate to have gone on one of the first Honor Air flights for WWII Vets to DC. It was really great. I see now both "Honor Air" and "Honor Flight" seem to be still active all over the country. Suggest that WWII vets computer-search for both and get info. If needed, a wheel chair will be provided, and you will have a personal attendant, regardless of your condition. I was originally in A Btry, then B, then S-3, 1943-45. in Australia, New Guinea, Admiralties, Leyte, Luzon, Japan. I commanded B Btry on the Flying Column march to Manila and into the Santo Thomas prison camp. I am in the retired reserve and have a million stories. I would like to hear from any WWII vet. My e-mail address is <ted2422@aol.com> and phone number is (863) 683-3544. 'Sta Bueno ! Ted Covington."

And before I forget it completely, I really want to thank all of you who take the time to send me jokes, articles and items of general interest throughout the year. I do appreciate it and try to put as much of it in these articles as I can.

I had six people ask me to send them these *Saber* articles via e-mail and I'll do that in the pdf format.

Got this nice letter from Don Duggleby (A Btry, 1950-51)... "Hi Gordon, wrote to you a while back that I was going to Washington, DC on a Honor Flight. Well, I went on October 19-21. It was awesome. Arrived at Tucson Airport around 0500 and was greeted at the entrance by volunteers. From then on it was all about us. Our group was 27 veterans and 32 guardians. We were given T-shirts, black with the American flag and "World War II Veterans" on the back. The guardians had the same, but theirs were red. They checked our bag, took our picture and gave us a roll and coffee. They led us, as a group, through security and to the gate for our Southwest flight. All of this to the applause and handshaking from everyone in the airport. I never saw such appreciation and support in my life. At all the airports they would load us first and then the rest of the passengers. When we landed they would unload all the other passengers and then we would get off as a group and they'd lead us to the next gate. There again to the same reception. We stayed at the Baltimore Hilton. Banquet that night at the hotel. Thursday morning we left the hotel by bus for DC. Saw the WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Air Force, Iwo Jima, Navy and a few more memorials ending up at Arlington Cemetery for the changing of the guard. Very impressive! I had been back to DC back in the 50s, but never got to the cemetery. All the memorials were impressive, but my impression of the Korean Memorial left me feeling very COLD and I think that's what they wanted. I know my memory of my time in Korea was that it was the coldest winter of my life. Also it was a very long day, about 12 hours getting on and off the bus. Friday morning we went to Fort McHenry and took part in the raising of the colors, then saw the movie of the war that inspired the writing of the Star Spangled Banner. By then it was time to go to the airport for our return flight. They sure took good care of us from beginning to end. Arrived back in Tucson Friday night about 9 PM and there was a reception of about 250 people (men, women and children) there to greet us. I never shook so many hands in my life. The Honor Flight group deserves a lot of credit. The guardians pay for their own expenses, including airfare and hotel and they are the first ones off the bus to get wheelchairs for those who need them. They then have to push those veterans around. It's a lot of work, plus they take care of all the bags at the hotels and airports. As I understand it, they have no paid employees. Believe me, it was one great experience!" Thanks for writing, Don. Glad you got to go and I hope more get that same opportunity. It sounds like a terrific trip. I have a friend who landed on Normandy Beach among the first wave and his family, out here in the San Diego area, is trying to get him on a future flight.

The Department of Defense recently announced that the remains of SFC Charles A. Roy, A Btry., 61st Field Artillery had been recovered and identified and were being returned to his family with full military honors. His family held a Memorial Service for him in Blue Springs, Missouri on 17 January. Roy was from Henderson, Kentucky.

On 5 November 1950 Roy was reported missing in action after A Battery was overrun by Chinese forces near Pakchon, North Korea. In August 1953, several returned U.S. prisoners of war reported that Roy had been captured by Chinese forces and died in April 1951 from malnutrition and lack of medical care while in the prisoner of war camp known as "Camp 5", near the border of China and North Korea.

In 1954, communist forces returned the remains of more than 3,000 U.S. servicemen who had died in POW camps and on the battlefield in what was called "Operation Glory." The technology at the time was not able to identify his remains and the remains of many of the other men.

In 2009, the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) re-examined Roy's records and determined that due to technological advances the remains could be exhumed and identified. Scientists from JPAC used forensic identification tools and circumstantial evidence along with radiograph records to identify his remains.

Today more than 7,900 Americans remain unaccounted for from the Korean War. It is good that our nation continues to search and identify these men that died serving their country so many years ago. We can only hope that one day all will be identified and returned to their families like SFC Charles A. Roy.

Take care, 'Sta Bueno and keep those cards, letters, phone calls and e-mails coming!

Year. This issue should be getting to you around Valentine's Day. Hope that all of you remembered this very important holiday! For all of you who didn't remember it, let's just chalk it up to another "Senior Moment" and hope it works.

Back in mid-November I was amazed to get a phone message from Danny Dulchinos, the shortstop from the 1955 DivArty baseball team. Danny lives in back in Massachusetts and has been coaching baseball for 50 years at Chicopee High School. Its only been 56 years since I've heard from him. Evidently he found my contact information on the Internet and just called to say hello. I contacted Dick Mazzocca, the catcher on that same team, and he got me Danny's phone number. Dick was also on the Red Raider football team and has attended their recent reunions.

In mid-November Ted Covington called. It's always nice to hear from Ted. Anyway, Ted had evidently experienced one of those "Senior Moments" and forgotten to renew his *Saber* subscription. He has done so now, but missed the last issue. Fortunately I had an extra copy handy and was able to mail it off to him. Ted's 91 now (actually closer to 92 as he explained), but stays healthy and active. He's still playing tennis with some guys a few years younger. They do make some concessions to his age and allow him two bounces. He tells me it really doesn't help all that much as by the time he decides whether to hit it after the first or second bounce it's too late to do either. At least his sense of humor is still with him! Thanks for the call, Ted. Wish you many more years of tennis and good health. Ted called again in mid-December just to say thanks for putting that picture done by his friend in last month's *Saber* article. It did turn out pretty well. We had a nice long chat and discussed the upcoming Branson reunion, the Honor Flights, etc. and wished each other a Merry Christmas.

Got this message from Laurie Heagy (Art Moser's daughter on 11/22)... "To all, my dad just received a message from Mrs. Wells that Jim lost his battle with cancer on Sunday, November 20th. She thanked everyone for the cards and letters that have been sent. I don't think that I have a complete list of emails so if any of you could forward this email to the group, my Dad would appreciate that. Thanks, Laurie (Arthur Moser's daughter)." Our condolences to Juanita and the family. I did forward the message out to everyone on my email list.

Ol' John Hasselmeier dropped me an e-mail asking how old my picture at the top of the column is. I had to admit that it's about five years old now. I told him if I can find a better and later photo I'll send it in, but not to hold his breath over it. One thing I've noticed is that the older we get the harder it is to find a flattering picture.

This from Dick Weakley... "Gordon, On October 6th I took off driving east on 50 Highway, first stopping in Holley, Colorado and visited with a old friend that I had worked with on the Santa Fe Railroad. He is 10 years younger than me but is having health problems. Driving on to Enid, Oklahoma on Monday morning visited with Ralph Bozarth, old buddy from the 61st, B Battery. Went to lunch and had a wonderful visit. As you may not know, Ralph has bone cancer and is taken treatment of some kind, has hot flashes at times. Stopped in King Fisher, Oklahoma and visited graves of my nephew and niece and their mother. Driving on to Blanchard and spent the night with Oren Sloan and his wife Sue. Had a wonderful time visiting with them. Oren is recovering from heart surgery and Sue is going blind. Went on to Eufaula, Oklahoma and visited with Jack and Louise Stidham. Had a great visit with the both them. Jack gets around in his electric cart. Went out for supper and Jack drove his cart into their van and away we went. The next morning Louise fixed a big breakfast. Driving all the way home I did a lot of thinking. All my visits with my old Army buddies I complained about my health problems and the doctors we have in Pueblo. I never knew how lucky I was, I have no problems compared to these old friends. I pray for them ever night. If anyone of you find time, please send card or note to your buddies, phone calls are even better. Let them know that you are thinking of them. Tomorrow may be too late. God Bless you. Dick Weakley." Dick is right on with that message to call or write your old friends while they're still here.

The day after Thanksgiving my wife and I took the two-hour drive to Palm Springs and spent a week there just relaxing. Had some nice dinners and we entertained the daughter and granddaughter for two days, too. They had a beautiful swimming pool that they must have kept it heated to at least 80 degrees. It was great to swim in and then do the real relaxing in the really hot spa.

Our chapter of the Military Officers Association of America provided the I Marine Expeditionary Force (Camp Pendleton, CA) Family Readiness Office with \$1000 worth of Wal-Mart gift cards. The cards were distributed to the families of deployed Marines. They were much appreciated, especially in those hectic days just before Christmas.

On Sunday, December 3rd I joined several other members of the Gold Wing motorcycle club and we rode in the San Marcos Christmas Parade. We had four Gold Wings in the group and had a great time riding along with the floats, marching bands, etc.

We received a very nice Christmas card from Pat & Bill Stewart. Appreciate you thinking of me, Bill. Later got this... "Pat & I just returned from a trip to Branson to finalize our 2012 reunion. The Camden House is a fine place to stay overlooking the Tangier Shopping Mall. It also has a fine dining place just up the hill (The Chicken Place). After all everything in Branson is either up the hill or down the hill from where you are. As per usual, any of the 61st Younguns are welcome to join us at the reunion. Just let me know and I will send you the forms to sign up. Telephone (812) 894-2802 or e-mail <wesps@aol.com>.

New Members Listing

Continued from pg. 3.

CSM GANDY, JAMES TX 2-12C 1111
LTC GARDUNIA, CRAIG R. AL E 2-7C 9307
GILLIGAN, KIM VOGELSANG NY 1299 1-ASSOC
CPL GREGORY, WAYNE MAY KY A 3-32AR 8705

2LT GRIMES, STONEY R. TX 1-8C 1011
E-4 GULDEN, HANS C. CA B 1-9C 6908
E-4 GUTIERREZ, WILLIAM F. PA B 1-8C 65
SGT HAGER, JR., THOMAS B. TN D1-8C 6707
SSG HALL, DAVID L. WA 22MP 0911
E-4 HARPER, JR., ALBERT FL 1-5C 6707
SFC HULL, DAVID C. NV C 229AVN 6803
SGT JELLEY, JOHN A. FL A 229AVN 7006

CPT JORDAN, THOMAS J. NY 8ENG 6311
MAJ (RET) KEYROUZE, ED NY 1-ASSOC
E-5 KLOTZ, JOHN L. IN C 1-8C 69
LTC (R) LANE, C. DENNIS AZ A 228AVN 6809
SGT LEINEN, TROY TX B 27BSB 0704
MR. LENTH, BRADLEY A. IA 1-ASSOC
E-4 LOGAN, JOHN CA A 1-12C 6705
Continued on pg. 6.

5th CAV News



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The year 2011 finished up with a flourish and once again the 5th Cav had a pivotal role



Welcome Home Cav Troopers, as each unit returned they were welcomed by the public which included many family members and well-wishers.

watch many of the homecoming ceremonies live from Cooper Field at Fort Hood.



C Co., 2-5 Cav 1967-68, sixteen members of the company gathered for a reunion in 2008. Two of those members would pass away within a year.

reassigned or separated at the end of their service days. In the future they will begin to hold reunions. I hope theirs are as successful as the reunions I have been fortunate to attend. At least they may not have as hard a time finding each other as the Vietnam vets have had. Its got to make a difference coming home as a unit rather than individually with a handshake and a promise to "stay in touch" with your best buddy.

I know that in many cases, a combat veteran only wants to "put it all behind me". And in that frame of mind many of those "stay in touch" promises didn't hold up after the wheels of the Freedom Bird touched down in the States. Just about the only thing on that GI's mind was getting home as fast as he could. The years began to slip away and before you know it, you wonder "what ever happened to old what's-his-name". Hmmm. What was his name? What did he look like?

I venture to say that most Vietnam vets returned home, tried to blend back into society, had productive work of some kind and when retirement time came, those memories of the days when "we were young" and invincible, began to return to your mind.

In this day of the internet, it has become increasingly easy to locate someone, almost anywhere in the world. The World Wide Web has become a valuable tool for the individual sleuths who start trying to find "old what's-his-name".

Various ways of using the internet have been tried, but it usually boils down to one or two people teaming up with an old roster and start searching for each name on the list. I know that James "Tree" Machin used that method to find

Division Doings

Continued from pg. 1.

Ironhorse Changes Tack by SGT John Couffer, 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait – Over the past five months, Soldiers of the 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division took on the responsibility of securing Iraq's roadways running south to Kuwait, aiding in the successful withdrawal of over 30,000 troops and millions of dollars worth of equipment. With one historic moment complete, their mission continues.

After the Soldiers of the Ironhorse Brigade closed the chapter on Operation New Dawn, they write the next chapter as they adjust to their new location and work to strengthen the U.S. partnership with Kuwait and other regional allies.

Prior to the arrival of the Ironhorse's command and main body of troops, an advanced party of critical personnel were sent a month early to scout and aid in the Brigade's transition from Iraq to Kuwait.

SFC Michael Platasa, an intelligence noncommissioned officer assigned to the Ironhorse brigade and one of the Soldiers in the advanced party, explained that he and the other Soldiers of the advanced party set to work by making contacts with the camp's command team and other local units in order to allocate space for the brigade and its subordinate units.

Over a five- to six-week period, tents were given to the Ironhorse Brigade, providing enough living quarters and offices to sustain it and its battalions, according to Platasa. He also said that the work spaces for the brigade and its battalions are centrally located, which serves to increase the unit's efficiency.

Despite the hard work that Platasa and others accomplished, Soldiers who hadn't moved south yet weren't quite sure what to expect when moving to Kuwait.

"My concept [prior to getting to Kuwait] was that we would have tents, cots

in world history, being among the final U.S. units to depart Iraqi soil in December. Troopers of the 2nd and 3rd Brigade Combat Teams have returned to the States while elements of the 1st BCT are still deployed in Kuwait and may serve out the remainder of their deployment in Kuwait.

If you kept up with the division on [Facebook](#), you had the opportunity to

I thought about all those homecomings and having seen one live at Fort Hood and the most recent ones on the internet, I reflected on what a far cry they were from those homecomings that took place over 40 years ago.

I hope those soldiers who are coming home these days don't lose touch with each other. Many will remain in the 1st Cavalry Division while others will be



3d platoon, C Co. 2-5 Cav, photo taken in Oct. '67. Many have been found in the past few years, most have not. This was my first command, and I miss them all. To my knowledge, all those in the photo survived Vietnam, many are in the 2008 group shot.

members of Charlie Company 2-5 Cav and Judy Kuchenbaker is working on finding members of Bravo Company 2-5 Cav. Both are doing a great job and their unit rosters are filling up with the names of former members of the unit.

Other units are using different methods and are meeting with some success.

I don't guess there is a one-size-fits-all solution to finding these old soldiers, but I know in the Cav the efforts are widely varied and most are meeting with some success but some end up with an obituary of a trooper not found in time.

Here is a list of 2012 unit reunions and meetings on my list so far:

February 25: Meeting of 1st Cav Association Board of Governors, Fort Hood; **February 9-12:** B Troop, 3-5 Cav Reunion. Panama City Beach, FL, <www.3-5cav-blackknights.org/BtroopNews.html>; **March 3:** Vietnam Veterans Homecoming Celebration, Charlotte Motor Speedway, Charlotte, NC; **April: 9-13:** Delta Company, 1-5 Cav reunion, 1966-68; Branson, MO. Contact Louis Perosi, <smallstock@verizon.net> or call (888) 282-2802 Ext. 19. This group currently has 42 members located and trying to find more; **April: 27-29:** Delta Troop, 3-5 Cav Reunion, Austwell, GA, Contact Bill King at (678) 945-9969 or <kim.e.king@us.army.mil> ; **May: 1-5:** 5th U.S. Cavalry Association, 16th Annual Reunion, Mobile, AL. Details at <www.5thcav.org>; **May: 3-6:** Echo Recon 1-5 Cav reunion, Gatlinburg, TN, details at <www.echorecon.com>; **May: 18-21:** Bravo Company, 2-5 Cav reunion 1968-69; Santa Fe NM, contact Jim Kenny, <jkenny1943@yahoo.com> or call (302) 423-1372; **June: 6-10:** 65th Annual 1st Cavalry Division Association, Portland, Oregon. Details at <www.1cda.org/65thReunion.htm>; **Tentatively 3rd weekend of August:** C Troop 3-5 Cav, Gulfport/Biloxi, Mississippi <www.3-5cav-blackknights.org/CtroopNews.html>; **September: 13-16:** Bravo Company, 2-5 Cav, All years welcome, Branson, Missouri. Contact Frank Wevers at (417) 231-4556; **September: 20-22:** Charlie Company, 2-5 Cav., all years welcome, Columbus, Georgia, contact John McCorkle, <johnmccorkle@frontier.com> or (217) 473-1904. The registration page is open as of Dec. 31, 2011 at: <<http://sites.google.com/site/charlie25reunionlocator/home>>.

In the past couple of months I've received a number of death notices for other former 5th Cav troopers and the only two that haven't been listed in Taps are Jack "Doc" Devane, A Company, 2-5 CAV, 1st Platoon, 1968-69 who died on 25 September and Gerald Barbee, B Company, 2-5 CAV, 1970 who died on 20 October. Dennis Henzi who was in the 1st Platoon of C 2-5 CAV in 1966-67 is in this issue of Taps and died on 4 October.



BG James Mapp

I recently learned that BG (Ret) James H. Mapp, who commanded the 1-5th Cavalry in Vietnam from January to June 1967 died on 26 November at the age of 82. He also served as the Division's G-3 (Operations) in 1966 and retired from the First Team in 1980 after serving as one of the Assistant Division Commanders in 1979-80. The Distinguished Service Cross for gallantry during the Korean War, the Silver Star, Purple Heart and CIB are among the many awards and decorations he earned in his over 29 year Army career. He was also a qualified aviator and Senior Parachutist. He is survived by his wife, Ann, sons, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. I had heard of him when I was in Vietnam but never met him.

and cold showers," said PFC David Arriba, a geospatial engineer assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Troop of the Ironhorse Brigade.

Arriba said the transition from Iraq to Kuwait was not as difficult as he thought it was going to be, and was surprised by what he found.

"What surprised me were the bunks, the wall lockers and the three drawer chests," Arriba commented after arriving in Kuwait and seeing the sleeping tents.

Arriba explained that the close location of his office, the dining facility and other amenities are a good thing for his morale.

"You don't really have to travel too far to get anywhere specific," Arriba said.

A Morale, Welfare and Recreation center, two base gyms, an education center and popular restaurants like Subway are a few examples of what is available for Soldiers that can help relieve stress during the transition process.

"To aid in my adjustment, I try to get involved in the things they have going on," said SPC Kettisha Howard, a paralegal specialist assigned to the 115th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division. "It's really a morale booster to know that there is a concert over at the MWR stage and that I can get something to eat while I am there. They have salsa night and hip-hop night, and it makes it easier to adjust while being here in Kuwait."

Howard went on to explain that having things like restaurants, gyms and other amenities will make deployment a little easier. She compared it to being at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California rather than a foreign country.

Although some elements of the Ironhorse Brigade may still be adjusting to its new location, the brigade looks forward to its new mission which comprises of joint training and military-to-military operations and cooperation with Kuwait **Continued on pg. 8.**

12th CAV News



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0001 Hey Sailor, new in town? I hope your Christmas and New Years was everything you wished and you had your fill of family and friends. I received two

items from the Crossed Sabers supply shed this year and I was well pleased. My November-December *Saber* arrived in the post on December 29th (no calendar yet visible), so once again I am an issue and a half behind on my readings. Your cards, letters and e-mails still get first class attention and are read and responded to immediately.

0124 12th Cavalry - < www.greenbaypressgazette.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2011112200325> Green Bay Press Gazette, Green Bay, Wisconsin, 'Glimpses of the Past', December 19, 2011, 95 Years Ago - 1916. "» Sergeant Peter Christiansen, 12th U.S. Cavalry and a brother of Hans Christiansen, died from injuries received while on duty along the Mexican border." "» General Pershing and his forces were chasing Villa's bandits in Mexico." We remember our early 12th Cavalry Trooper fallen while in the Nation's service, may he have continued eternal peace and rest in Fiddlers Green.

0324 1-12 Cavalry - Camp Virginia, Kuwait. December 6, 2011. "It hit SPC-Tyson "Doc" Nettles about an hour after we crossed the border. "Hey, we're not in Iraq anymore," he shouted, high-fiving SPC Brandon Oldfather, the gunner in one of 2nd Platoon, Bravo Company, 1-12 Cavalry Regiment's MRAPS. The journey had begun in the dead of night, leaving Camp Delta in Basra in three separate convoys of five to six vehicles each. Eighty-four soldiers were on their way home - we reached the border at 2:20 in the morning, where soldiers were allowed to take off their body armor for the last time. In the trailing MRAP of the convoy, SFC Larry Green, senior enlisted soldier of the platoon, exclaimed, "It feels good to be out of Iraq, finally." He should know. Over the last eight and half years of war, he has spent more time in Iraq than in the U.S. At Camp Virginia everything gets dismantled and put in large containers for shipping back to the U.S. Unused ammunition is handed in. Equipment in the MRAPS - radios, medevac litters, coolers - are all taken out. Soldiers hand in their weapons. Sol-



Lucy Caballero of Austin, Texas showcases her shirt worn to her husband's return to Fort Hood.

di-ers will spend a few days here sleeping, hitting the gym, and finding wireless for their laptops so they can video chat with their families back home. Tired of eating in the regular dining facility? On base there is a McDonald's, a Subway and a Starbucks. This company of 130 soldiers hopes to be home at Fort Hood, Texas by the middle of the month, where waiting family members will greet them with tears, screams of joy and long-overdue hugs." <http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/politics/2011/12/jubilant-and-

taking-off-body-armor-as-troops-exit-iraq/?fb_ref=.Tt6DCFbxC6Y.like&fb_source=home_multiline> <Facebook>

0524 2-12 Cavalry - "7 Dec 2011 Dear Family Member(s) of the Thunder Horse Battalion, allow me to introduce myself. My name is LTC Monte' L. Rone and today I assumed command of the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment at Fort Hood, Texas. It is an honor to serve in America's First Team, the 1st Cavalry Division alongside your Trooper as the commander of this extremely fit, well led, well trained and disciplined battalion. My family and I look forward to enjoying our time in the battalion and being part of the Fort Hood and Central Texas community. The 2-12th Cavalry Regiment enjoys a rich heritage, and its reputation will remain associated with excellence! You can be very proud that your Trooper is part of an outstanding team of teams who embody our Army Values and are "Always Ready" for the task regardless of the environment or its complexity. As the commander of the Thunder Horse Battalion, I serve alongside the Battalion's senior noncommissioned officer, CSM James Gandy. Together we will continue to inspire excellence across the formation and prepare the unit for the rigors of combat. Once again, let me thank each of you personally for all the love and support you give your Trooper everyday. Rest assured that your Trooper is and will remain trained and equipped to the highest standards in the U.S. Army. We consider every Thunder Horse Trooper and their families the most precious resource entrusted to our care. Thank you for being such an important member of our team! Sincerely, CSM James T. Gandy and LTC Monte' L. Rone" <Facebook>

0724 Best Photos - Dec 12, 2011 Getty Images' most memorable photos from the Iraq War. Two images of the 12th Cavalry were chosen by Getty, to wit "Feb16: PFC Devin Franey of Oakland, New Jersey of the 2-12 Cavalry Regiment of the 1st Cavalry Division smokes a cigarette at Combat Outpost Casino before a mission February 16, 2007 in the Gazaliyah neighborhood of Baghdad, Iraq." "Feb 08: (12 of 24) U.S. Army SSG Alvin Green, of Mobile, Alabama, from the 1st Cavalry Division, Charlie Company 2-12, stands over a suspected insurgent that was shot earlier and tracked by his blood trail February 8, 2007 in the Gazaliyah neighborhood of Baghdad, Iraq. U.S. and Iraq troops were on patrol when they encountered a group of suspected Shia insurgents in the predominantly Sunni neighborhood. After the suspected insurgents began to run, the soldiers opened fire. The troops followed a blood trail through three houses before encountering the suspected insurgent hiding under a bed, removed him from the house, treated him for his leg wound and transported him for further medical attention." WARNING: I would consider some of the pictures chosen to be both of a graphic and violent content, so choose for yourself whether to view. <http://news.nationalpost.com/2011/12/12/most-memorable-images/>

0924 Taps - SP-4 David Matthew Kinch, C 1-12 Cavalry, of Gladwin Michigan, born April 7, 1945 passed October 2, 2009. Trooper Kinch was WIA in June of 1968 and survived, injuries to his leg and with his hearing troubled him for the remainder of his life; eventually he lost his hearing. He was buried in Great Lakes National Cemetery. <Alan and Tweek VanDan, findagrave.com> Sergeant Richard David Hanzel, age 64, C 2-12 Cav 1969-70 died December 6th of esophageal cancer. "He was an infantry Squad Leader Sgt. E-5 with the 1st Air Cav. He was an excellent leader. He had a wonderful sense of humor. He was a close friend, he will be greatly missed." "I will remember him as a strong leader of young men when leadership meant everything. He served his country with great honor and humanness." "He was a damn good Trooper. The Army could have used more squad leaders like him. Rest in Peace my Cav Brother." <John Bailey and legacy.com> We salute our fallen and bid them farewell.

1124 Noted - "Members of the Regiment have the chance to train with and learn from a black belt in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu three times a week at the Kieschnick Physical Fitness Center. What could be a costly venture off post is provided to the Fort Hood community for free." <forthoodsentinel.com> "SPC David Duque, Company E, Forward Support Element, 1-12th Cavalry Regiment became a U.S. citizen in a ceremony at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Nov. 9." <thepinkflamingoblog.com> "He was "nervous at first" about the ceremony. But, he said, becoming a U.S. citizen is a major step forward. "It's something I've needed to do for awhile," Duque, who came from Cuba at age 7, said. "This has given me a real feeling of accomplishment." <military.com>

1324 Dining Facilities Thanksgiving - "For many single soldiers and families, dining facilities offered an alternative to a day of cooking. SGT Michelle McMenamin, 2-12th Cavalry Regiment, oversaw many of the food sculptures. McMenamin said the dining hall served more than 1,200 meals. She helped prepare a 2-foot tall chocolate helicopter with working rotor and an ice sculpture of the 1st Cavalry's emblem." "CPT Robert Cowart, 2-12th Cavalry Regiment, 4th BCT, 1st Cavalry Division, ate with his mother, Mary Cowart. She had driven down from Holdenville, Oklahoma, to have Thanksgiving with her son for the first time in 16 years." <kdhnews.com>

1524 Veteran - "Gerald W. Dolloff, B 1-12 Cavalry, 1966, was named the 2011 Springfield Veteran of the Year by the Springfield (MA) Veterans Activities Committee. Jerry has been working to support deployed soldiers, their families and fellow veterans since the first Gulf War, been involved with the Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall project, took over the veteran's committee at the Elks lodge, and fielded a crew of volunteers to place flags on the graves at Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Agawam." <masslive.com>

1724 Reunions - It is never too early in the year to plan and execute your glorious arrival to the blare of jubilant drums, fifes and trumpets to the 65th Annual Reunion of the Division Association, 6-10 June, 2012, Portland, Oregon. To plan is to do - not to plan is failure. The 12th Cavalry Regiment contingent awaits you there, along with all your friends and buds from years past, and from tomorrow. Really now, what are you waiting for; according to some the Maya say the world will end in 2012 and you will not have attended? The Branson Reunion is still a go until we hear otherwise (if you like middle America) along with all types and genders elsewhere, all you need do is search them out, make your plans and attend. You will never be younger or better looking.

1924 Real? - <www.thedailychappaqua.com/news/supposed-army-general-pow-exposed> 12-21-11 "US Army General and POW Fermijon Marrero, who was honored by the City of New Rochelle and United Veterans Memorial and Patriotic Association during Veterans Day services, is accused of lying about his rank and status as a prisoner of war. Marrero claimed that he was a prisoner of war from December 15, 1966, until May, 1968 and that he escaped to Laos and met up with the 12th Cavalry. (However) Pentagon officials with the Department of Defense confirmed that no one with the last name Marrero was a prisoner of war during the Vietnam War, nor was the 12th Cavalry ever in Laos during that conflict. A Department of Defense website, which lists all those missing in action or taken prisoner in the Vietnam War, does not show anyone with the last name Marrero." A tip of the 'Howser Hat' to Trooper William Page! His personal web page is <http://www.cipher100.net/p6.htm>

2124 Quoted without context - <www.chattanooga.com/articles/article_216307.asp> 11-29-11 "Which triggered a memory of a story my oldest brothers once related to me about an experience that left a profound effect on him while serving his first tour of duty in Vietnam and a brief encounter with General Westmoreland. His experience, in his own words: "When I first went to Viet Nam, I was assigned to B Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division. Our base camp was in An Khe, South Viet Nam. During the latter part of December 1965, our entire division went on Operation White Horse, which was one of the largest military operations in the Central Highlands in Bong Song Viet Nam. The native Vietnamese people in that area had not seen an American since possibly when American Advisors were over there when the French was there. Well to make a long story short, in January 1966, my unit came under heavy attack from the North Vietnamese Regular Army. Those (North Vietnamese) knew how to fight a battle. Although my unit suffered heavy casualties, who were killed in or wounded in action. But our unit out fought the North Vietnamese unit, by inflicting heavy casualties. We fought so well until General Westmoreland, who was the top American military commander in South Vietnam, personally came out to our field location to view the damages we had inflicted on the North Vietnamese unit. He went around to greet and shake the hands of some of the soldiers in our unit. I was one of the soldiers. I put my hand out to shake his hand and (he) passed me by as though I was not standing there. And I said to myself (Screw HIM). True story."

2324 Only 11 months of interminable political rhetoric, huff-n-puff, posturing and campaigning so enjoy it while you may! "A sophisticated rhetorician, inebriated with the exuberance of his own verbosity, and gifted with an egotistical imagination that can at all times command an interminable and inconsistent series of arguments to malign an opponent and to glorify himself." - Benjamin Disraeli "Write if you get work!"

New Members Listing
Continued from pg. 4.

SGT McBRIDE, RAYMOND DEAN NV HHC2-12C 6609

SPC McCALL, DUSTIN ALLEN OK C6-9C 0806
SGM MOORE, LINSLEY R. GA A 2-7C 7110
CPT MORRILL, BENJAMIN B. MA C1-8C 5601
E-4 PAREN, ANTHONY FL 3-7C 88

CWO POTVIN, JOSEPH M. MI A 227AVN 6712
SSG POWELL, JOE ELL NC E 2-5C 6906
MAJ RICH, KENNETH CO A DSTB 0712
Continued on pg. 20.

7th CAV News



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Happy New Year to one and all, 2011 is now firmly in our rear view mirror

and Valentines Day is a mere 2 weeks away. As usual, I slept through the festivities of watching the ball drop in Times Square. I find that as I get older that particular event doesn't mean as much as it once did. The New Year arrives whether I watch the ball drop or not.

I finished reading another book on Custer titled *The Last Stand* and I was quite impressed by the depth of the research that the author - Nathaniel Phillbrick has done. The bibliography alone contained several hundred references and the notes to each chapter were filled with other interesting tidbits. The maps were exceptional as well. For those who have visited those hallowed grounds, this book gives additional insight and helps to fill in some of the blanks. If you're into that battle, this book would be a welcome addition to your library. I spent several hours watching a "Twilight Zone" marathon on New Years Day and interestingly there was an episode titled, *The 7th is Made up of Phantoms*. A Montana National Guard Troop was performing maneuvers around the Little Bighorn and somehow a Stuart Recon Vehicle dismounted crew got involved in the battle. They of course were killed and strangely, as only Rod Sterling could, those 3 names appeared on the Monument to the fallen. The next episode involved a B-25 called King 9 which had crash landed after suffering battle damage. My father flew B-25's so I thought that was intriguing as well. I wonder if that episode was developed as a result of the B-24 Liberator "Lady Be Good" found in the Libyan Desert some 18 years after she went down after missing her checkpoint at Benghazi in 1943. Two more books well worth the read: GEN (Ret) Hugh Shelton's memoir *Without Hesitation* speaks to his career up to and including his Chairmanship of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The background and interactions between the military and the civilian leadership are fascinating. He referenced another book called *Dereliction Of Duty* by H.R. McMaster which details the undercurrents of the early years of the Vietnam War. McMaster pulls no punches in how the LBJ White House was run and the seemingly inability of the JCS to deal with McNamara. Bob Arbatetti tells us that the documentary called *The Fog of War* speaks to several issues as well, including the Cuban Missile Crisis. I have that DVD in my library but as yet haven't broken the seal.

PFC Melbourne "Leroy" Rogers, 7th U.S. Cavalry-Japan/Korea/Japan 8 October '51 till 4 March '53 sends us the following: 22 Dec. '51: Having said before I don't remember anything from the time I left my last, cold, wet, stinking, rat infested, bunker, having been relieved by the 3rd Infantry, until we were on a ship sailing in the Yellow Sea around the southern tip of the little peninsula, called South Korea, until we got to the Sea of Japan. From there we landed at the harbor of Muroran, Japan. I remember disembarking and getting on a truck, probably a six by and heading for Camp Crawford not many miles from Sapporo, Japan. I remember the first sight of Camp Crawford, with brick barracks as plain as yesterday! I don't remember the last bath I had or if we took showers in any kind of order but I do know we were all eager to get clean once more! Bunk beds, clean sheets and wool blankets were a luxury. I had a lower bunk—probably would have fallen off the top. Christmas Eve night I was scheduled for one-hour guard duty - for security reasons I was told. Anyhow the snow was falling in huge Hokkaido size flakes. The base loud speakers were playing familiar Christmas carols, so it was a short hour, even in the cold. When my time was up and I was properly relieved on guard, I went straight to the base chapel, where a Japanese choir was singing Christmas carols—one stanza in English and then in Japanese. I thought this was really neat. I have also said many times that 1952 was one of the most carefree years of my life—once I got out of George Company, a rifle company, and transferred to Service Company in mid March, 1952, where I spent the last year behind a type writer. Sure we had to get up early and do PT {physical training} and run 3 miles every Friday but knowing I had another year to serve before ETS even being married I was never home sick till I started home from Pusan, Japan in January, 1953 via Sasebo. None of us guys will ever know why we left Hokkaido, Japan on December 12 and went to Pusan. All I remember there was goofing off and walking one-hour guard duty at night. Let me digress here: I was at my post and the moon was full. When I saw this 2LT approaching me, I never challenged him! When he asked my name and why I didn't challenge him, he asked if I wanted to leave Korea alive! I told him I had already left the front lines once and could see his gold bar 20 paces! I never saluted him and wonder to this day why he didn't court martial me. As you by now noticed, I do ramble a lot and the 80-year-old mind is not the same but it sure makes me enjoy the warmth of the home we built in 1966, when our two sons were only 2 years old and the baby 4 months. Dug footing March 1 and moved in on April 28! We sold our other house under a GI loan and had to give possession, so the builders got the job done. We hope all of you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, healthy New Year. Thanks Leroy for a glimpse back 60 years.

The Garryowen Pipes and Drums held their first reunion in Orlando, Florida on Veterans Day. This small group of men have one thing in common, in that they were former members of the "Garryowen Pipes & Drums" with the 3rd Reconnaissance Squadron of the 7th United States Cavalry and served in Schweinfurt Germany. We all arrived from various parts of America, just as we had so many years ago. From California, to New York, from Utah to Texas and Florida, they all answered the Reunion call. These were the same men who years ago acted as Goodwill Ambassadors for America, the 7th Cavalry and the 3rd Squadron. They represented their country at everything from the Cub Scout Parades at Post Housing to the Berlin Volksfest, where they performed before over 500,000 people. On November 12th at 5pm we assembled as "Garryowen" was playing in the background by Piper Jeff Evans. We all stood as the Colors were presented and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Next the group honored those who had passed. Special note was made of our fallen Comrade, SGT Terrance Allen, KIA May 6, 1968 in Thua Thein South Vietnam and the Pipers played. Then special recognition for other members who served in Vietnam, like William J Guffey and Gerald Scmaltz, all were given a much belated, "Welcome Home Men and Thank You." After dinner

James Savage addressed the men. Jim is the web master of the US 7th Cavalry Association web site. Then the organizers of the reunion raffled off three original works of art donated by professional artist "Gerald LaPole". Jerry was also one of the first members of the 1963 Band when it was formed in Schweinfurt. His contribution and that of James Savage and the organizers of the reunion are immeasurable. Organizers of the reunion were Jeff Evans, Thomas Hoppough and Curtis Silverest. Without their efforts and that of all former members, the reunion wouldn't have happened. Then it was scrapbook and memory time as the men looked at pictures from the past and recalled how life was as a member of the "Garryowen Pipes & Drums". If you just listened and looked around the room, you could tell by the smiles and the laughter that the years were melting away. It was a great night, at the right time of life for these men who served their country in a unique way. Old friends reunited and new friends were made. Because of the years and age, they do not know if they will ever see each other again, as it is with any unit. The bond lasts forever as long as one person remembers. They were young once again, if only for a few hours. "Garryowen" my friends, it was an honor to serve with you and an honor to be with you again. This report was sent by Curtis R Silverest via Jim Savage.

Gordon Severson, L 3-7 with service in Korea reports that he was elected President at their reunion in Gatlinburg, Tennessee September 6-10, 2011. "Another great reunion is now history. It was wonderful seeing so many of you in Gatlinburg at Reunion 2011. I hope those who didn't make it will try for next year in Reno, Nevada. We voted to hold the 2012 reunion in Reno which won out over Billings, Montana. It was also voted that the 2013 reunion will be in the central part of the U.S. with the specific location to be decided at Reunion 2012. "We received a warm welcome from Gatlinburg Mayor Mike Werner and news coverage by the local Mountain Press and Knoxville News Sentinel. Thanks to local trooper Leroy Rogers (G Co) for TV and press coverage arrangements. "I welcome our other new officers elected in Gatlinburg; Vice President Gene Gray (G Co), Tipton, Iowa and Board members, Ray DiCaprio (A Co), Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Rudy Lommerse (HM-B Co), LaSalle, Michigan. Other officers were carried over. Thanks go to Past President Erwin Williams (K Co) for a job well done as Nominating Chairman. I especially want to thank Richard Mitchell (C Co), our Secretary and Newsletter Editor, for his outstanding and ongoing work in making the annual reunion arrangements along with Treasurer Jack Cauley (K Co). I would also like to recognize troopers Jack and Richard with accolades for their continuing service as key officers. I arrived in Korea and turned 21 the first week of March, 1951. I was assigned to L Co, 7th Cav on the front line near Seoul, starting as an ammo bearer and radio operator, then Squad Leader and 3rd Platoon Sgt; from Pvt to SFC. I left for Japan with the 7th Cav in December when we were relieved by the 45th Infantry Division. I retired as a Captain in March, 1990 with 26 years active and reserve service. My wife, Aud and I went on a 50th Anniversary Revisit Korea tour in October 2001. I am still working part-time as a bailiff with the Alaska Court System in the Anchorage Courthouse." Space constraints limited quite a bit of Gordon's military experience including his enlistment at age 15. Gordon also wrote that a group of Cav Troopers are working to get an Association Chapter started in Alaska. Garryowen, Gordon for this report.

From Karl Haartz and Charlie Baker: Our annual 5-7 Association dinner in DC was beyond our expectations. One hundred fifty Veterans, wives and relatives gathered in Washington, DC for the annual laying of a wreath at The Wall. This turnout was almost double that of previous years, and Veterans Day is becoming a significant reunion event for the 5th Battalion, 7th U.S. Cavalry. The Holiday Inn Hotel in Crystal City was the gathering place, and a banquet on the evening prior to Veterans Day kicked off the affair. Karl Haartz, our Vice President, presided in his inimitable fashion. As usual, LTG (Ret) Jim Vaught, accompanied by his wonderful wife, Florence, was the senior man present. It was noteworthy that COL Jody Petery and COL Cliff Wheeler were there, both recent commanders of 5-7 Cavalry in Iraq. Everyone else was a distinguished guest. The evening began with a few words from Karl as our President Gen (Ret) Edmonds was unable to attend as he had a mild stroke a few days prior. He did have surgery but thankfully was only in the hospital 2 days. At last check he was walking 1½ miles a day and recovering quickly. He wanted to attend but the doctors said no flying. The high point of this mini-reunion was the premier showing of Norman Lloyd's latest documentary film, *Fallen: But Not Forgotten*. This stirring documentary related the battalion's air-assault through heavy anti-aircraft fire into the infamous A Shau Valley on 19 April 1968, and the subsequent events that led up to the award of the Medal of Honor to Michael Sprayberry for his incredible courage and leadership on the night of 25-26 April. Lloyd's work masterfully captures the aftermath of war, and the impact on families and fellow soldiers who live with the irretrievable loss of sons not recovered. *Fallen: But Not Forgotten* is a fifty minute DVD, and is a must see for veterans of the 1st Cav Division in Vietnam. With a contribution of at least \$10.00 to cover production and shipping costs, a copy, or copies, can be obtained from the Commitment and Sacrifice Foundation at PO Box 6167, Napa Valley, CA 94581. The web site is <www.candsfoundation.org>. Next we had a Lakota Sioux, "Centering Ceremony," in which all participated. This was done by two Lakota Sioux from the Rosebud Veterans Council, Rosebud, South Dakota. They were Cornell "Jack" Menard (D 1968) and Francis Whitebird, a combat medic in Vietnam. At the end of the ceremony they presented Mike Sprayberry and Bill Litvjak with an Eagle feather with which they can start their own War Bonnet. Everyone met at The Wall on the morning of Veterans Day, starting with photographs, and ending with the ceremonies. Our wreath was carried by Rodney Henning, D Co. 66-67; Greg Holloway, A Co. 68; and William Dieker, HHC 68-69. Joe Galloway gave one of the greatest addresses to date, in which he talked about the need for political leaders to know much more about war before they wage it. Joe's speech was the best I have ever heard on Veterans Day and made us forget that the steel chairs were freezing our butts off. Here is the link to his speech and it has been transcribed to our web site, <www.cav57.org>, <www.c-span.org/Events/Vietnam-Veterans-Memorial-Ceremony/10737425464>. If you fast forward to minute 23 you can hear Barry McCaffrey's intro of Joe. We have already signed a contract with the hotel to return in November, 2012, at the same \$99 per night price. Thanks to both Charlie and Karl for this report and I'm glad to hear that the General is

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8th CAV News



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Hi again,
It is a strange thing that during this recent holiday season

while the majority of us are joyfully celebrating the present, many of us also are also haunted by difficult and vivid memories of events that happened so very long ago. Such is often the fate of the warrior. The sights, sounds, and emotions from battles and tragedies impressed upon us in our youth perdure even as we enter old age; they often affect us even more intensely during these times of heightened merriment. The long past death of battle buddies affects some with what might be called “survivor guilt,” or “PTSD,” or just “old man’s melancholy” as the fog of war gives way to heightened images, some based in fact and some in memories faulted by details imagined or conflated.

What brought this to my mind were several e-mails I received over the past few days from men with whom I served in the 2-8th Cav in Vietnam. Particularly disturbing to me personally was the story of Charlie Company, 2-8th, the unit to which I was first assigned when I arrived in country the summer of 1967. December and Christmas marks a painful series of events remembered acutely by its members who were with the Company in December-January, '67-'68. The Company was involved in what was one of the larger battles in the Division AO in 1967, The Second Battle of Tam Quan. Also involved were other companies of the 2-8th, the 1-8th, 1-12th Cavalries, and 1-50th Infantry. A fuller description of this battle can be read at <<http://eagerarms.com/battleoftamquan.html>>. Charlie Company sustained a number of casualties in an ambush during the initial phase of the battle including the loss of its Company Commander, CPT Tom Flatley, and many others in his command group. CPT Mike Berdey replaced him in command. A few weeks later, the Company was selected to attend the Bob Hope Christmas show to boost morale a bit. Fate was to strike again. While enroute to the show, one of the CH-47’s carrying the company crashed killing several troopers including the newly assigned commander, the XO, 1LT Tom Van Zandt, and severely injuring many. Skip Saylor, one of the platoon leaders at the time, recently wrote about arriving at the show in an e-mail to Neal Teague, one of the injured survivors of that crash: “The solemnness deepened as Company C (-) made its way to front row seats for the Bob Hope Show only to find a distraught cast forced to delay the opening act. The cast was terribly shaken up by the crash having been informed of the casualties. I could see several of the women crying heavily in the wings of the stage. It was a gloomy blanket that settled on the audience and silence prevailed among the thousands of troops waiting for the show to begin. True to the standard of show business, the show went on. The luck of the draw has always echoed in my head as to how I missed being on that chopper. I had moved from weapons platoon to first platoon just after the 7 December ambush. CPT Berdey divided the company among the choppers. I remember first platoon boarding the one on the left. SFC Corley, the weapons platoon sergeant, found me and described what had happened. He was forward near the side door but was knocked unconscious on impact for a few seconds, but after coming to, fearing fire, he quickly scrambled those who could walk out of the chopper. At that point he had no idea regarding casualties but knew there were several. I never found anyone who actually witnessed the aftermath. I picked up a few tidbits of information once we returned to the LZ. I hope you are doing well. One way I have managed to deal with [these] anniversary dates is recalling the action the day before, local time. Knowing that time-wise, locally, it has yet to happen, I push my mind to Vietnam time making it all seem distant. Tomorrow, I will focus on the action that has already passed by 13 hours, Southeast Asia time. This seems to work well for me. I avoid a lot of the pain but remember those who were involved.” Fate was to strike this Company again, all too soon. CPT Berdey was replaced by CPT Charles Wilcox; he was also to be killed less than two weeks later by a booby-trap grenade and his RTO severely wounded as the company entered a cordoned village on a narrow

path. Christmas is a difficult time for some, but for many members of Charlie Company, 2-8th Cavalry it is particularly poignant every year given the impact of these events on the unit and its morale. Some who survived that helicopter crash on December 26, 1967 have written wishing to get in contact with others who survived it. If you were one and wish to connect with others, please write to me and I will forward your name on to them.

I continue to hear from some of our Korea Veterans. Again, it strikes me how so many memories are tied to holidays. John R. Krull writes from Three Rivers, Michigan: “About the action near Sokkogae Korea on November 21-22, 1951 for which LT (later COL) James L. Stone was awarded the Medal of Honor. To this day many 8th Cav Regiment people who were there don’t know that Hill 255, out-posted by the 8th Cavalry in November and December, 1951 is the same hill to later gain fame as “Pork Chop Hill”. Much terrible fighting occurred there until the very end of the conflict. Anyone who served in the 8th Cav should know that they were there first. LT Stone and the 3rd Platoon of Fox Company put up the most valiant fight possible before being overrun. LT Stone and five others, all wounded, were taken prisoner, and all six survived the prison camps. The record would show that there were 40 KIA and 2 others, wounded, who survived. At daybreak on November 22, 1951 (Thanksgiving Day), a relief force led by LT Charles Carlton and his 1st Platoon of George Company, 8th Cav proceeded out to the hill. They were all completely horrified by the carnage of dead and dying from both sides. The Chinese had withdrawn and allowed the 1st Platoon to use the day to observe and clean up. The platoon medic, with whom I talked several years ago, spoke of truck-loads of bodies. I was a rifleman in the 1st platoon of George Company and will always remember what we saw, especially every November, when Thanksgiving Day rolls around again.”

Holidays and memories – are a special time, indeed a difficult time, for our warriors and heroes.

On a personal note: one of the great privileges in my life has been the opportunity to have had three company commands over the years. The first, following my first tour in Vietnam, was most memorable in many ways. I was assigned as CO of A-19-5, USATCA, at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Much of the success of that first command can be attributed to my first sergeant, James D. Costley. Top was one in a million. He was a story teller *par excellence*. As we sat around the glowing pot-bellied stove in the orderly room on cold winter days, he would toss in a couple more pieces of coal, pour a cup of coffee from the pot atop the stove, and regale us with stories of characters with whom he had served over his very long career: names like “Dipper-lip Johnson,” “Coal-bin Harry,” colorfully described them and their antics. No matter the problems that arose in the company, Top was unflappable. He brought a wealth of experience, an easy going manner, and a tremendous sense for doing what was right in every circumstance. Top cared deeply about his soldiers, and went out of his way to insure that they were cared for properly. A soldier’s soldier, and thoughtful disciplinarian, Top made parts of even the most difficult days pleasurable. He died recently. His daughter writes: “Don has moved on to That Big Parade Ground In the Sky. He passed away on November 11th of all days! I’m sure that if he had any choice in the matter, this would be it! After all, he’s the greatest Veteran I know! As you know, he was living in Fort Worth since my mom’s passing to be closer to my sisters and brother. Just this past year we had him moved from a retirement home to assisted living. He put up a good fight and always maintained his sense of humor right up until the end. Naturally, we will all miss him, but I like to think of him spending this Christmas, and all of eternity with the love of his life, Carla, and with Greg, and all of their friends who passed before him. They are happier now more than ever! Let this serve as a reminder to us all to make the most of each day, to live every day to the fullest, and to “Choose Happy!”

In a frame, next to his bed, was a poem titled *Just a Common Soldier* clipped from a newspaper. The poem, about an old soldier that had died, seems right for Top. I’ll share it with you if you contact me but *Saber* doesn’t publish poems, but will publish the last line from it. “Our country is in mourning ‘cause a soldier passed away.”

I miss you still, even after all these years, Top! Rest in Peace!

Unfortunately I’m now out of space for this 1st column of 2012, which represents my 71st report to you.

Please make your hotel reservation for Portland, Oregon and send in your registration form to the 1st Cavalry Division Association for the reunion. We want to have a large turnout of 7th Cavalry Troopers at this reunion.

Garryowen from Michigan.

7th Cav News

Continued from pg. 7.

recovering nicely. The 5-7 does a magnificent job during Veterans Day festivities at The Wall as well as attending many of the Changes of Command for the active duty squadron. The next reunion of the 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry Veterans will be in San Antonio, Texas in the third week of July of 2012.

Division Doings

Continued from pg. 5.

and other regional allies.

“It’s a great opportunity for us to partner with other host nations in this region. There is a lot for us to learn from them,” said CPT Micah Chapman, an infantry officer who works in the brigade’s plans shop. “I think anytime we share each other’s ideas is a great opportunity to advance both nations.”

Chapman explained that prior to the invasion of Iraq, regional operations and cooperation with allied nations and Kuwait was of great importance, and was ongoing throughout the war.

He said that the Ironhorse Brigade, because it is one of the largest units in Kuwait, now has a chance to spearhead partnered cooperative training events with Kuwait and other host nations that haven’t been able to take place as frequently in the last few years.

Chapman also explained that when the brigade exhibits its abilities to Kuwait and other regional allies while they train, some nations may be encouraged to change or consider different ways of doing things. He said that by doing so, the Ironhorse Brigade can potentially lay the groundwork for future units to perhaps partner with other host nations down the road.

The long-term goal of the Ironhorse’s current mission in the region is that eventually these nations won’t need to partner with the U.S. because they will be trained and proficient enough to not need external aid, Chapman said.

“We have a great opportunity to expand the potential of what this program is, and set up any future units that come behind us for greater success,” Chapman concluded.

2-20th FA Gives Max Effort by SSG Kyle Richardson, 41st Fires Brigade, PAO

FORT HOOD, Texas—A long forgotten part in history has made its way back to Fort Hood by way of the Soldiers from Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 20th Field

Artillery Regiment, 41st Fires Brigade.

Thirty-eight Soldiers dug deep within themselves to honor their predecessors as the Renegade Soldiers completed a 25-mile ruck march coined the Blue Max Challenge.

The Blue Max originates from the informal name from an award given for valor, Pour le Merite, during World War I.

“We named the challenge ‘Blue Max’ because we wanted something that would emulate the bravery of those who have come and gone before us,” said CPT Christopher Burton, commander for Battery A, 2-20th FA. “I wanted to do something challenging, something that would push our Soldiers but not break our Soldiers. The Blue Max was perfect because it’s a name that is synonymous with personal courage. Unfortunately, it [Blue Max] faded away after Vietnam.”

Burton said that he wanted to revive the name and give his Soldiers a sense of pride in the unit.

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CPT Burton and SPC Knight lead the way during the Blue Max Challenge.

9th CAV News



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The following is taken from a 1-9 Cavalry Combat Operations After Action Report dated 8

January 1969 for Operation JEB STUART III from 17 May 1968 – 2 November 1968.

Mission: Conduct reconnaissance in general support of elements of 1st Cavalry Division in operation Jeb Stuart III.

Concept of Operations: The 1-9 Cav was in general support of the Division during the entire operation. The exception to this was the placing of D Troop under the operational control of the 2d Brigade for the major portion of the operation. The Air Cavalry Troops supported each Brigade with general reconnaissance and conducted other reconnaissance on a mission type basis. D Troop conducted dismounted ground reconnaissance in conjunction with elements of 3-5 Armored Cavalry Squadron as well as mounted operations in support of 2d Brigade throughout Jeb Stuart III. Also during the operation, A Troop was tasked with general support of the Marines 1st Marine Division and the 3d Marine Division on several occasions and B Troop was in general support of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) during an operation in the A Shau Valley.

Execution: The first significant action the 1-9 encountered during Jeb Stuart II occurred shortly after a rocket attack on Camp Evans destroyed the ASP. B Troop's aero rifle platoon and D Troop were inserted vicinity of LZ Long. As some of the elements were being inserted, they came under intense automatic weapons fire from an unknown sized enemy force. Results of the encounter were 6 friendly KIA, 6 friendly WIA, 1 UH-1H shot down with enemy casualties unknown. B Troop gunships, ARA, tube artillery and airstrikes were called into the area. The enemy broke contact and friendly troops were extracted with no further casualties. This action seemed to initiate extensive operations in this area by the 3d Brigade throughout Jeb Stuart III.

In the month of May, all Air Cavalry Troops concentrated on reconnaissance of Base Areas 101 and 114. The "Street Without Joy" area received heavy emphasis as D Troop was inserted into the area vicinity of YD 4851 and conducted operations there from 23-25 May. A D-4 bulldozer was also employed to destroy the bunker complexes uncovered. Results of this operation were 1 arms cache uncovered, 5 tons of rice captured, 2 NVA KIA and several detainees.

During the month of June, Jeb Stuart III continued and 1-9 elements continued with extensive air and ground reconnaissance. During the month, A Troop worked with 1st Brigade in conducting reconnaissance of the northern portion of the AO and Base Area 101. On 8 June, A Troop Blues (Aero-rifle Platoon)

were inserted at YD 289476 and found 11 75MM recoilless rifle rounds and 5 inches of documents; both were evacuated. B Troop conducted several very successful operations with RF's and PF's during the month of June. Several enemy KIA were accounted for in these operations which were mainly centered around combined operations with the RF/PF and B Troop Blues. On 18 June, LZ Evans received a rocket attack from the mountain range just south of the LZ. B Troop responded immediately, pinpointed the enemy rocket launching positions and directed elements of the 3d Brigade into the area. C Troop conducted several night ambushes during the month. These ambushes were instrumental in helping the 1st Cavalry Division in denying the NVA the rice which was being harvested at the time.

D Troop conducted several search and clear operations during June while conducting ambushes during the hours of darkness. It was during June that D Troop initially came under the operational control of the 3-5. On 27 June, D Troop while working with elements of 3-5 vicinity of YD 403633 engaged and killed 1 NVA. This engagement initiated what resulted in contact with the 814th NVA Battalion. During the action, D Troop and several companies of the First Team closed a cordon of the area of contact while Air Cavalry elements of B and C Troops screened the flanks of the contact area. Upon completion of the action, a body count revealed that D Troop had accounted for 61 NVA KIA, 37 inches of documents captured, 31 individual and 8 crew served weapons captured.

We'll continue with information from this report in the next issue.

The Troopers of all three Squadrons of the 9th Cavalry Regiment, 1-9, 4-9, and 6-9 Cavalry are all back at Fort Hood with the final Troopers returning just before Christmas.

The command team of the 1-9th Cavalry changed in a ceremony conducted on Cooper Field at Fort Hood on 7 December. LTC John M. Cushing who had commanded the Squadron throughout their most recent deployment in Iraq relinquished command to LTC Jose Polanco. The senior NCO in the Squadron, CSM Duane A. Detweiler passed his duties on to CSM Roger L. Heinze. CSM Detweiler will be retiring from the Army within the next few months and LTC Cushing will be staying with the Division and be on the Division Staff. Welcome to the the new command team.

The Troopers of the 4-9th CAV and 6-9th CAV are getting used to duty in the states and spending time with families. Training and preparation for upcoming missions will begin soon. Welcome Home!

Sadly, a Trooper of 4-9 CAV who had returned from Iraq late last year died on 29 December. SPC Michael H. Bailey, D Co., (FSC), 4-9th Cavalry died from a gunshot wound suffered several days earlier. The incident is under investigation. Bailey had served with the unit since 2010.

I need input for this column or it may not run in every issue. Please contact me with stories or information concerning your time with the 9th Cavalry.

MEDAL OF HONOR - SGT WILLIAM D. PORT



Rank and organization: Sergeant (then PFC), U.S. Army, Company C, 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 1st Air Cavalry Division.

Place and date: Que Son Valley, Heip Duc Province, Republic of Vietnam, 12 January 1968.

Entered service at: Harrisburg, PA.

Born: 13 October 1941, Petersburg, PA.

Citation

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. SGT Port distinguished himself while serving as a rifleman with Company C, which was conducting combat operations against an enemy force in the Que Son Valley. As SGT Port's platoon was moving to cut off a reported movement of enemy soldiers, the platoon came under heavy fire from an entrenched enemy force. The platoon was forced to withdraw due to the intensity and ferocity of the fire. Although wounded in the hand as the withdrawal began, SGT Port, with complete disregard for his safety, ran through the heavy fire to assist a wounded comrade back to the safety of the platoon perimeter. As the enemy forces assaulted in the perimeter, SGT Port and 3 comrades were in position behind an embankment when an enemy grenade landed in their midst. SGT Port, realizing the danger to his fellow soldiers, shouted the warning, "Grenade," and unhesitatingly hurled himself towards the grenade to shield his comrades from the explosion. Through his exemplary courage and devotion he saved the lives of his fellow soldiers and gave the members of his platoon the inspiration needed to hold their position. SGT Port's selfless concern for his comrades, at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty are in keeping with the highest tradition of the military service and reflect great credit on himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army.



Continued on pg. 9.
Letters to the Editor
Continued from pg. 2.



Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my gratitude for the Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division Association scholarship grant. Your funds have allowed me to pay for the San Jose State University instructional and facility fees as well as health services. Because of your Association, I have been able to focus on my schoolwork and dedicate my extra time on a new internship instead of a job. This past semester I volunteered as an Energy Efficiency Intern at a local company,

Wattzon, where I submitted original articles for their website and helped conduct internet research for rebates. I had worked the previous two years as Marketing Coordinator at a software company, so I value this ongoing position as a necessary transitional stepping stone into the environmental sphere of work.

Your funds helped me to complete my first semester of graduate school and I can proudly say that I came out with two A+ and one A...the highest grades I've yet achieved in school!

A sincere thank you,

OFFICIAL NOTICE

ELECTION OF OFFICERS – REUNION 2012

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

The President has appointed a nominating committee to recommend Life members of the Association for election or re-election to fill the terms of office for the following positions that become vacant as of 9 June 2012:

1st Vice President,
2nd Vice President
3rd Vice President

Ten Places on the Board of Governors
Two Trustees of the Foundation

Two Trustees of the Museum Foundation

Any Life member of the Association, including an incumbent, who wishes to be considered by the nominating committee for one of these positions should forward a letter to the Chairman, 2012 Nominating Committee, 302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703, requesting consideration for nomination to the specific office. The Nominating Committee must receive all requests no later than 11 May 2012 to assure sufficient time for processing and full consideration. Requests must be accompanied by appropriate documentation that includes proof of service with the 1st Cavalry Division (e.g., a DD214 or equivalent) and a biographical sketch. The biographical sketch needs to outline the applicant's full name and provide ranks, dates of service and units assigned to in the 1st Cavalry Division. Additionally, it needs to provide the dates and positions for any offices held at National or Chapter level in the Association and similar information for any other veteran's organization the applicant belongs to. Any instances of special support for Association programs should also be included if applicable.

The election will be held during the Reunion at the General Membership meeting conducted on Saturday, 9 June 2012 in Portland, Oregon. Nominations from the floor will be accepted. A Life member making a nomination from the floor will be required to provide the information outlined above on the nominee and additionally provide assurance that the nominee is either present at the General Membership meeting or has agreed to accept nomination to the specified office.

Attend a reunion, it's good therapy!
65th Annual Reunion of the 1st Cavalry Division Association
6-10 June 2012 in Portland, Oregon

30th FA News



"HARD CHARGERS"
Daniel P. Gillotti
4204 Berkeley Dr.
Sheffield Village, OH 44054
(440) 934-1750
FirstCav68@Roadrunner.com
www.HardChargers.Com



Happy New Year to all of our 1st Cav Troopers!
Hard Charger 2012 Reunion: Our 2012 reunion will be held at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, on

19-22 June, and we have already begun working on those plans. Our 2nd VP, Bob Waldron, is heading-up the reunion activities for this one. The reunion packets will be going into the mail after the first of the year. Please make those reunion plans now before you forget, and don't forget to mark these dates on your 2012 calendar. We have 50 rooms reserved with Fort Sill Lodging for the 19th thru the 22nd of June, 2012. The room rate is \$65 + tax per night. Christa Castrillo has given us a mix of different room types including handicap accessible rooms, single rooms, and some two-room suites. Please call either the main number (580) 442-5000 or the Reservation Clerk at (580) 442-6240 and use the reservation code (30th Reunion). For more information about the reunion, please contact Bob Waldron by calling (602) 577-7693, or by e-mail at: <AZguy1946@AOL.Com>.

30th FA Regimental Room: Our 30th FA Regimental Room (1SG Thomas J. Vernor Auditorium) in Snow Hall, at Fort Sill was completely renovated along with the whole East Wing. We've reorganized our displays in the room and we are in the process of adding for display cases. We are also looking for a Model 1906, 4.7" Gun that our Regiment was armed with in 1918. If anyone has seen one of these anywhere, please let me know.

E-mails: I received this story from our Membership Chairman, Woody Alexander, LTC(R), whom commanded B/1-30FA, '69-'70. Woody wrote, "Christmas was observed with turkey dinners and eggnog (but no booze.) at FSB Judy. I ate Christmas Dinner with Paul Pedrotti and Terry Barcellos. At midnight, the guys fired hand-held flares that were red and green and lit up the night sky. Kathryn had sent me a small Christmas tree that I put in my bunker at Song Be. We had a chaplain come out later that week a conducted a service in a howitzer pit, with my cannoneers perched on the ammunition bunkers circling the gun. The Chaplain's Assistant played a portable pump organ and we sang some carols. On my other firebase, which was located at a Special Forces camp on the Cambodian border, we had a visit from an Air America C-7 Caribou with its radar bulb nose painted red. The plane landed on the dirt road, taxied to our position and lowered its rear door. Three American girls dressed in Santa's Helper skimpy dresses set up table at the back gate of the plane, and we filed by to get a greeting, a half-pint of vanilla ice cream, and a red ditty bag of shaving gear and toothbrushes packed by churches in the US. I was startled to open my drawstring goody bag and find that mine came from the First Baptist Church in Sulphur Springs. That was my grandmother's church in



CPT Woody Alexander, 1969-70

which I was baptized at age 12 and which had a stained glass window dedicated to my grandfather. Needless to say, the coincidence was startling and that little bag let me know I was not alone."

Hard Charger History: On 4 September '69, B/1-30th FA was attacked at LZ BUTTONS and several Hard Chargers exposed themselves to enemy fire to repel the attacking enemy force. For example, SGT Harold L. Watters led some of his men forward into the face of enemy small arms fire, RPGs, and mortar fire to the point of heaviest enemy contact. There he laid down a heavy base of rifle fire and directed his men to follow his lead. They soon stopped the enemy attack and the defensive perimeter was secured. For his valiant efforts on 4 September, SGT Watters was awarded an Army Commendation Medal w/"V" Device.

Also during September '69, A/1-30th FA sustained two additional KIAs including PFC Frederick H. Barrett and SGT Charles R. Moore who were killed during yet another NVA ground attack accompanied by mortars and rockets. Additionally, other Batteries within the Hard Charger Battalion incurred 18 WIAs during the month of September '69, including LTC Jack G. Callaway. He had just been flown into LZ Jaime by his pilot, WO1 Vincent P. Lee, on 6 September, when they were caught in a mortar attack. LTC Callaway was wounded in his lower leg and ankle by fragments from a mortar round. He was quickly flown by WO1 Lee to the 45th Surgical Hospital for treatment, and returned later for duty.

It must also be noted that during the 7-month period from 23 February to 30 September '69, the Hard Charger Battalion suffered 25 KIAs and more than 150 WIAs. The hardest hit was A/1-30th FA who suffered 23 KIAs and more than 100 WIAs during that period. {Note: Some people still believe to this very day that the Field Artillery stayed in some "safe" rear area in Vietnam. Post Script, the 1st Cav DIVARTY Operations report & Lessons Learned (ORLL) for 1 August to 30 October '69 indicates that 157 Troopers from the 1st Cav DIVARTY earned 157 Purple Heart Medals. The Hard Chargers earned 45% of that number (71 Purple Hearts during that three-month period). Hopefully by now, the myth that the Field Artillery stayed in some "magically safe rear area" should be completely dispelled. If there was ever such a place for the Field Artillery in Vietnam, you can bet your ass that the Hard Chargers were never "invited" to visit there. That place must have been reserved strictly for the Palace Guards.}

End of Mission: Okay Hard Chargers, I'm still looking for your stories, pictures, and copies of all your orders. This is Hard Charger 9G, EOM ~ Out.



B/1-30 FA on LZ Sharon '68, Troopers Reynolds, Perez, Emily, Poston, Brown, Hunt and Simpson.



Texans of B/1-30th FA on FSB Judy Christmas Day 1969.

THE HICCUP - Health Care Information Committee Report



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No doubt some readers will already have heard the sad story of Stanley Gibson. I'll hit some of the highlights of his gruesome story in hopes both that it'll encourage those who

need help for PTSD to get that help and that it will encourage those of us with comrades who clearly need help to assist them in getting that help. All of us understand that there are cracks in the VA health care system and that we can't allow our comrades to fall victim to those flaws. The following is from the story in the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*.

"Mr. Gibson was a 43-year-old Gulf War veteran living in Las Vegas, Nevada. His anxiety actually started a few days after the fierce battles in Iraq in 1991. Assigned to an infantry regiment, he along with many others was given the duty of 'cleaning up' the hundreds of scorched corpses and carbonized bodies that remained along the Iraq's Highway 80. Mr. Gibson once described his work as placing the remains in body bags, trucking them to undisclosed locations, burning them, and covering them with dirt. He described his nightmares and flashbacks, saying 'You know what it's like seeing and smelling a dead woman and a dead child melted together?'"

"At some point the VA diagnosed him both with adenoid cancer (for which he was operated on five times and which left his jaw disfigured) and with PTSD (which was determined to have rendered him unfit for employment and rated a 100% disability). Fairly recently, when his condition was reviewed, the Reno Regional VA Office and the VA's Southern Nevada Healthcare System disagreed on whether he was fit for employment. During the course of this disagreement, the VA's Reno Office reduced Mr. Gibson's disability rating to 80%. In addition to this blow, Mr. Gibson experienced difficulty getting an appointment with a VA doctor to renew his PTSD medication. His medications ran out in early December 2011. When pressed by the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, VA officials offered a rather convoluted and unconvincing explanation of why Mr. Gibson ran out of his meds and why it was his fault, not theirs.

"In any event, Mr. Gibson, frightened and confused and off his PTSD medications, was reported in mid-December as behaving erratically. He was in his car, driving slowly back and forth on a side street near his home. He was apparently totally confused and very slowly patrolling the street, looking for his home. Upon getting this report, police rallied in force to the scene. The unarmed and confused Mr. Gibson refused to stop his car, get out and talk with the police officers at the scene. After stopping him by hemming in his car with police cruisers, police surrounded his car on foot and, for about thirty minutes, attempted to reason with the panicked man. At his point, with a police lieutenant present, one of Las Vegas's finest, using an AR-15 (the civilian version of our old friend, the M-16), fired seven rounds at the unarmed man through the auto's rear window...killing Mr. Gibson on the spot.

"Stanley LaVon Gibson was buried on December 23rd, with full military honors, at the Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Boulder City, Nevada. "The Southern Nevada VA people estimate that, since 2005, the number of reported and diagnosed PTSD cases has increased five-fold...while their staff available to treat PTSD has increased by a factor of only two. Notwithstanding this sad situation, which may well exist across the VA health care system, it's important for veterans to go to the VA to seek help. By doing so, the veteran will help him- or herself, and the VA will accumulate more accurate statistics and then, hopefully, staff itself properly."

Stanley LaVon Gibson. Terrible story, terrible ending. Let's not let this happen to any fellow Troopers!

Division Doings Continued from pg. 8.

At the 20-mile marker, the Soldiers stopped to commemorate the event and donned the newly earned Blue Max tabs. After the Soldiers received their tabs, they took a few minutes to rest their feet, then the Renegade Soldiers walked the last five miles. At the end of the 25-mile challenge, the unit conducted a three-day field exercise.

Although the participating Soldiers were honored to earn their Blue Max tabs, the actual tab is not authorized for wear on the Army Combat Uniform.

"No, the Soldiers are not allowed to wear the tabs on the outside of their ACUs, but that just goes to show the character, personal courage, and motivation of our Soldiers," said 1SG Antwone Reese, first sergeant for A Btry., 2-20th FA. "Our Soldiers jumped at the opportunity to do this. Our Soldiers learn about the Blue Max and Pour le Merite when studying our unit history for our promotion boards, but now, they get a chance to be a part of the unit's history."

As the Soldiers put one foot in front of the other, walking across North Fort Hood, they fought hard to block out the physical pains of the trip. Even though

the group motivated each other, some needed extra motivation. "I'm honored to have carried the extra weight of the guidon," said SPC Troy Knight, a fires direction specialist for the Btry. A. "Carrying the guidon was worth the burden. Some of the Soldiers needed to see the guidon up front to finish. I'm proud to say that I started in the front, I finished in the front, and I held the guidon up high for all to see."

While the Renegade Soldiers take some necessary time to recover from the blisters, knee and back pain, they may get a chance to repeat the challenge. Blue Max Challenge 2 is slated for the second week of January 2012.

Soldier Gets Back to 'Old' Routine Following Deployment by SGT Justin Naylor, 2nd BCT, PAO

FORT HOOD, Texas— As SGT Quentin Johnson hugged four of his children, the weariness from long months spent deployed seemed to melt away. He had been waiting for what seemed like forever for this moment, and when it was over, he finally felt like he was home.

Continued on pg. 14.

27th ORD/MNT/MSB/BSB News



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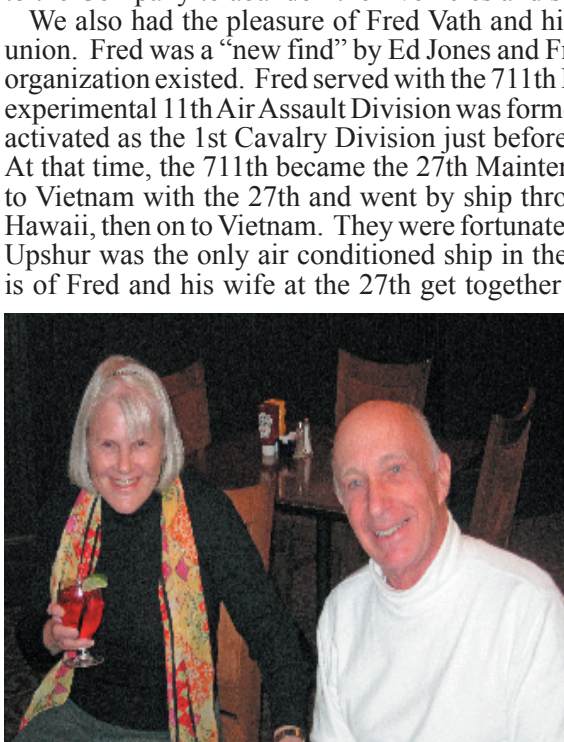
What a wonderful mini-reunion we had in Arlington, Virginia on November 11 and 12! We had twenty folks from the 27th show up including family and friends. Most people took advantage of being in the Washington, DC area to visit the sites to include the Vietnam Wall ceremony where Joe Galloway spoke, the Korean War Memorial, the WWII Memorial, and other national sites on the Mall. It was a cold and very windy day, but most folks braved the elements and took in lots of sites with lots of walking. Cliff Baker in his Korean War uniform was a major draw. Cliff served in the 27th Ordnance Company in Japan in the late 1940's, and then rejoined them in Korea in 1950. Numerous people took his picture, or asked to have their picture taken with him. Cliff was only too happy to oblige! He also was interviewed by Ukrainian television. Yes, you read that right - Ukrainian TV. They wanted to follow him around for another couple of days but he declined the honor. Picture number one is Cliff in his uniform with all the proper insignia and even the Ordnance braid on his hat. Cliff was accompanied by his daughter, her husband, and their son, Rydal. Picture number two is of Cliff and his son-in-law and daughter, David and Teresa Griffith. We were most honored to have Cliff and his family join us for this reunion.



Speaking of veterans of the 27th Ordnance Company, Ed Jones received a letter from a veteran of that Company. The letter noted that he was with the 27th Ordnance Company at Camp Drake in Japan from March 1948 until June 1950 when he transferred to an Infantry unit and then on to Korea. He remembers several folks from the 27th Ordnance Company to include Cliff Baker, Ellerbrook Kohler, Bob Coan, Bob Adcock, Bob Furnish, 1SG Fulda, LT Reiger, and CPT Martinez. He reads *SABER* but did not sign his name to the letter! The letter is postmarked Peoria, Illinois. So when you read this would you please get in touch with Ed and tell us your name and address! Thank you.

I had a chance to speak to Cliff about where he was when he rejoined the 27th Ordnance Company in Korea in October 1950, and what happened when the Chinese entered the war. Cliff said the 27th Ordnance was in Pyongyang, North Korea when he rejoined them. He remembers General MacArthur coming to a site near them and giving a big speech about a "Recon in Force" going up to the border, and then they would be back in Japan by Christmas. The 27th continued to move north until the Company was near Unsan, about 80 miles south of the Chinese border. One afternoon they noticed a large number of vehicles moving south on the main supply route (MSR) going past their position. Someone went up to the Company CP to ask what was going on. They called "higher" and were told they were suppose to have moved out heading south at 0700 that morning. Unfortunately they had not been notified. The 27th Ordnance Company packed up as quickly as possible, stacked everything that could not be moved into a big pile, and then tried to merge into the heavy traffic stream moving south. Before the last elements left, they set fire to everything that could not be moved. While moving south, the trucks began to run out of fuel. Cliff and two others were dispatched to try to find fuel. They ended up having to go all the way to Inchon (near Seoul) to get gas and oil, and made it back just before the order was given to the Company to abandon their vehicles and start marching!

We also had the pleasure of Fred Vath and his wife Bonnie attending the reunion. Fred was a "new find" by Ed Jones and Fred was most pleased to find our organization existed. Fred served with the 711th Maintenance Battalion when the experimental 11th Air Assault Division was formed at Fort Benning, and then was activated as the 1st Cavalry Division just before deploying to Vietnam in 1965. At that time, the 711th became the 27th Maintenance Battalion. Fred deployed to Vietnam with the 27th and went by ship through the Panama Canal, then to Hawaii, then on to Vietnam. They were fortunate as it was summer and the USNS Upshur was the only air conditioned ship in the convoy. Picture number three is of Fred and his wife at the 27th get together in the bar at the Crowne Plaza prior to the CAV dinner. Fred had good memories of LTC Skaggs, who was the battalion commander at the time. Fred served in Hq and Main Support Company as the shop officer in Vietnam until October 1966. That was a busy time. In early November we heard from Bonnie that Fred was in the hospital after coming down with pneumonia. I am happy to report that Fred is now home after spending five days in the hospital. You can't keep a good man down!



We were also joined by several other Vietnam veterans to include Ed Jones who served primarily in the S2/3 shop from 1968 until 1970, Ron Stokes who

served as the S2/3 and then shop officer in B Detachment during the period 1968-69, and Jack Robak who was Ed's replacement as S2/3 clerk and served from 1970 to 1971 in the battalion headquarters. Picture number four is of Ed and Jack at our pre-dinner get-together. We were all commenting about how good it was when your replacement showed up!



Also from the Vietnam era were Jim Donahue (1968-70) and his friend Art Rine, from upstate New York, who served with the 25th Infantry Division in Vietnam in 1968-69, and was with the 1-27th Wolfhounds. Picture number five is of Jim and Art who were obviously having a good time.



Another member of the 25th Infantry Division also joined us, coming with Ed Jones from the Chicago area. That was John Mateyack who served with D Battery, 3-13 Artillery in 1970. Last but not least from the Vietnam era was the guy I replaced as battalion XO (even though he left for his assignment in Hawaii before I arrived in Vietnam), Rolly Koreski who served from 1967 until 1968. He was accompanied by his long time friend Jean, who recently recovered from cancer treatments. Picture number six is of Jean and Rolly, taken at the Veterans Day Dinner on November 11.



Joining us at the Veterans Day Dinner was Larry Harmon and his wife, Nina. Larry has been a faithful attendee at many of our functions and served in Korea with the 27th Maintenance Battalion in the 1963-65 timeframe. We also had two recent battalion commanders joins us, Terry Beynon who commanded the battalion at Fort Hood from 1999 until 2001, including a deployment to Bosnia, and Dave Whitaker and his wife, Karen. Dave commanded the battalion at Fort Bliss when the 27th Brigade Support Battalion was formed, and then deployed with them to Iraq in 2008-2009. I am at my limit on pictures for this column so I will include pictures of Ron, Larry, Terry, Dave, and Karen, as well as others not included here, in the next edition!

Thanks once again to Ed's persistence, we have several new contacts. The first is Bill Hannah who took over from Sid La Dow as CO of D Detachment in Tay Ninh and served in Vietnam in 1969-70. Bill now lives in Monterey, California and we hope to have more info on him in the next edition. A second new contact is Arnie Poop, who, although an Ordnance type, was in Vietnam with the 1-8th CAV for six months, and then with the 27th for the second part of his tour (1968-69). Two other folks who were with the 27th Maintenance Battalion during the 1968-69 timeframe that Ed was able to reach were Ron Overholt who now lives in Arizona, and Ron Hart who retired from the Army in 1982. Another person from that time period (1968-69) who contacted us is Jerry McGinnes who commanded Hq and Main Support Company. Jerry now spends summers in Hayden, Idaho and winters in Sun City, Arizona. Great to hear from you Jerry and we look forward to getting more info and pictures from you also! Finally we heard from Stu Ritter who lives in Denver, Colorado and served as a small arms repairman in Company A, the 27th Ordnance Battalion in Korea from 1959 to 1960. Stu just recently joined the 1st CAV Association and found our column in *SABER*. Welcome aboard Stu!

I also had an e-mail from Bill Galbraith. Bill commanded the 27th Brigade Support Battalion at Fort Hood and during a good part of the recent deployment to Iraq. He was then asked to become the G4 of the 1st CAV Division and deploy with them to Afghanistan, where he is now stationed. Bill was just notified that he has been selected "below the zone" for promotion to Colonel. That is a most significant honor and our sincere congratulations to Bill and his family!

Nelson Cardona has returned to duty with the Reunion Team after being in Puerto Rico, following the death of his Mother, and taking care of her affairs. Unfortunately, he hurt his shoulder pretty bad while there and may need shoulder surgery. We wish him well on going through that, and for a speedy recovery. Having had rotor cuff surgery on both shoulders, I have a pretty good idea of how painful and long the recovery can be! Hang tough, Nelson.

I just recently received an e-mail from Jo Ann Skinner. As we have noted in previous *SABERs*, Tom, who commanded B detachment in Vietnam in the 1969-70 era, had been diagnosed with two brain tumors. Despite the efforts of his doctors, his outlook does not look good and, as of mid-December, Jo Ann reported they are giving him only two to four more weeks to live. Our prayers and thoughts go out to Tom and Jo Ann.

I would like to finish this column by extending our thanks to Dennis Webster of the 1st Cavalry Division Association, and the troopers of the National Capital Region, 1st Cavalry Division Association Chapter who did an outstanding job putting on the Veterans Day Dinner, and taking care of arranging for this reunion. A great job was done by all and most appreciated by those of us from the 27th. We look forward to seeing all of you again next year!

Take care and remember - we always need your e-mails, cards, letters, pictures, and stories!

**65th ANNUAL REUNION JUNE 6-10, 2012 - PORTLAND, OREGON
Ft. Hood to Mt. Hood!**

The Troopers of the 1st Cavalry Division Association will meet in Portland, Oregon to celebrate our 65th Annual Reunion. Don't miss this great event.

LODGING

The Red Lion Hotel on the River will serve as Reunion Headquarters for the 65th Reunion and all of our regularly scheduled events will occur here. The hotel is located at 909 N Hayden Island Drive, Portland, OR 97217. For reservations call toll-free (800) 733-5466 or local (503) 283-4466 and make sure that you identify yourself as part of the 1st Cav Division Association to obtain our special rate of \$109 per night plus tax (12.5%). Rates are for single and double occupancy, additional fees apply for larger groups in rooms. Suites are \$139 per night. Parking is free. The hotel provides an airport shuttle for those who are flying into Portland. Additional information on the hotel and what it offers is available on our web page at <www.lcda.org/65th_Reunion.htm>.

The Red Lion is located on the Columbia River and is only about 15 minutes from the Portland International Airport. The hotel has 320 recently renovated guest rooms, including 24 suites, featuring private balconies, some with river, pool and tennis court views. All rooms offer free high-speed wireless Internet access, 32" LCD televisions, refrigerators, microwaves, coffee makers, in-room safes and phones. The hotel is pet friendly hotel and 100% non-smoking. Shenanigans Restaurant, Lounge and Café offer a wide variety of all the northwest has to offer serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. Tuxedo Charlie's Lounge serves creative libations 7-days a week. There are additional restaurants and fast food venues within walking distance of the hotel.

Our overflow-hotel for the reunion is the Oxford Suites located just across the parking lot from the Red Lion. The Oxford Suites Portland - Jantzen Beach has numerous types of suites and we have blocked several Standard King, Executive King and Standard Double Queen Suites at a special rate of \$85 per night plus tax. Other types of suites are available at their regular rates. The Oxford Suites offer a complimentary full hot breakfast buffet. All of the regular amenities are offered in these large rooms and includes complimentary high-speed internet. Contact the hotel for airport shuttle service (some fees may apply). Call (800) 548-7848 or (503) 283-3030 for reservations at the Oxford Suites Portland.

Jantzen Beach RV Park is located at 1503 N. Hayden Island Drive and is about 1/2 mile from the Red Lion Hotel. Information and rates are available on their web page <www.jantzenbeachrv.com/>. They have Woodall's highest 4W rating and are also AAA and GoodSam rated. Free Wi-Fi and cable, water and sewer, with 20, 30 and 50 amp hook-ups.

REUNION EVENT OVERVIEW

The Columbia-Willamette Chapter welcomes each of you to Portland for the 65th Annual Reunion of the 1st Cavalry Division Association.

As usual, this reunion will include a Welcoming Mixer for adults and a Children's Poolside Mixer on Thursday; Gold Star Family Breakfast, Ladies Tea, War Era Lunches and Sweetheart Dance on Friday; Unit Lunches and our Annual Association Banquet on Saturday; and Group Breakfasts and Memorial Service on Sunday. The Chapter has set up a special tour of Fort Vancouver and Vancouver Barracks (\$15 per person) on Friday afternoon with a shuttle bus running every 20 minutes from the hotel to the fort. Fort Vancouver was built by the Hudson Bay fur trading company and was in operation from 1824-1860 and has reenactors recreating life as it was in the fur trading days. Additional details on this are available on the web page. We will have meetings of the Chapter Presidents and the Foundation and Museum Foundation Trustees on Thursday, the Board of Governors on Friday and our General Membership meeting on Saturday morning where elections for officers of the Association will be held.

The Gold Star Family Member Breakfast is becoming a major event and we want everyone that is in contact with the families of our fallen Troopers to invite them to attend. There is never a registration fee for our Gold Star families and the Association will pay for their breakfast at this event.

The Sweetheart Dance raises funds to support the Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division Association. Proceeds help fund scholarships for the children of Troopers that were killed in action or were totally and permanently disabled.

The Reunion Banquet will mark the end of the term for our current President, Lyman C. "Chan" Duryea and see the gavel passed to Jerry F. Eller who will serve as our President for the next two years. The Commanding General of the First Team is scheduled to provide a "State of the Division Address".

If you have not been able to attend one of our Memorial Services and hear the "Long Roll Muster", please plan on attending this one. This is a very special way to honor those that gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

Seating for all events is open with the exception of 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 prior to Saturday noon. If you want to sit with specific people, we recommend that you all go to the Banquet Seating table together with your tickets available. Don't wait until the last minute or we may not be able to accommodate your needs.

Cavalry casual attire is appropriate for all reunion events. We are always questioned about attire for the banquet. Wear what you feel comfortable wearing; a coat and tie, your uniform (if it still fits), casual clothing with open collar or jeans. We want you to attend and aren't overly concerned with what you wear, as long as it isn't indecent!

The Association provides a Reunion Room in the Red Lion during the reunion for you to gather together and enjoy yourself. Drinks in the Reunion Room are free but we ask that you generously donate to help us pay for this room.

The Crossed Sabers Chapter Souvenir Shop will set up a gift shop in the Red Lion close to the Reunion Room to sell all kinds of First Team merchandise including shirts, hats, Stetsons, pins, decals and other items. Pre-order your reunion T-shirt and we'll have it at Portland waiting on you. A form to fill out and mail in to the Souveir Shop is located on page 14 of this issue.

TRANSPORTATION

Air Travel - Portland International Airport (PDX) is located 15 minutes (9-12 miles) from our hotels. It is a major metropolitan airport with service currently provided by: Alaska Airlines, American Airlines, Continental Airlines, Delta Airlines, Frontier Airlines, Hawaiian Airlines, Horizon Air, JetBlue, Sea Port Airlines, Southwest Airlines, United Airlines, US Airways, and Air Canada.

Train Travel - Amtrak's Coast Starlight stops at downtown's Union Station on its run between Los Angeles and Seattle; the Empire Builder connects Portland with Spokane, Minneapolis, and Chicago; and the Cascades runs from Eugene

through Portland to Seattle and Vancouver <www.amtrak.com>.

Automobile - The Red Lion Hotel is located off of Interstate 5 at exit 307.

TOURS

In addition to the Fort Vancouver Tour set up by the Columbia-Willamette Chapter, they have also coordinated for two (2) additional tours run by Carol Breck Destination Management Services on Wednesday, 6 June and Thursday, 7 June. **Registrations for the tours must be received prior to 7 May 2012.** Sign up in advance, the tours will not be available for purchase at the reunion.

The **Scenic Gorge Tour** will travel by restroom equipped motorcoach along the Old Columbia River Gorge Highway with its commanding views, compelling vistas, rock pinnacles, and enchanting waterfalls with lunch at Multnomah Falls. After lunch, the tour continues to Bonneville Dam and fish hatchery. View fish migrating through underwater fishways, and learn about the Dam's operations, navigational history and fish migration through the numerous educational exhibits and shop in the gift shop. Cost for this tour is \$50 per person.

The **Evergreen Aviation Museum Adventure Tour** is also by restroom equipped motorcoach through the fertile Willamette Valley countryside and includes a box lunch. The Evergreen Museum is home to the Spruce Goose, Howard Hughes "Flying Boat" and a diverse collection of over 40 aircraft that celebrate the lives, innovators, pilots and veterans who courageously pioneered flight in these remarkable machines. Cost for this tour is \$55 per person.


More detailed information on these tours is available on our web page at <www.lcda.org/65th_Reunion.htm>. Children must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. For special accessibility needs, dietary considerations and additional information, call Carole Breck Destination Management: (503) 699-9841, or E-mail <cbreckdm@aol.com>.

Mail your Tour Registration form with full payment by check or money order to: 1st Cavalry Tour Registration, c/o Carole Breck Destination Management, 47 Eagle Crest Drive, Suite 46, Lake Oswego, OR 97035. (Do not mail tour registration forms to the Association office in Texas). A \$32 fee will be charged for returned checks. An E-mail confirmation will be sent to you once it is determined the minimum participation for your selected tour(s) has been met and at that time your check will be processed. Tour guide will have a list of participants on the day of the tour. (Provide your e-mail address in the space provided on the tour registration form.)

Cancellation: Refunds minus a \$5.00 handling fee will be made only if written notice is received **prior to May 7, 2012**. Individual Tours may be canceled if the minimum per tour guarantee noted in the description for each tour is not met. In this event your money will be refunded in full after the Reunion.

Carole Breck Destination Management reserves the right to alter or amend the itinerary or change the attraction order.

Join us in Portland as we go from **"Ft. Hood to Mt. Hood"**!



Carole Breck Destination Management

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 2012

#1	Time	Tour	Qty	\$/pp
	9:00 am.-	SCENIC	_____	@ US\$50.00 = \$ _____
	4:00 p.m.	GORGE	_____	
		(35 Minimum)		

THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 2012

#2	10:30 a.m.-	EVERGREEN	_____	@ US\$55.00 = \$ _____
	4:00 p.m.	AVIATION	_____	
		MUSEUM	_____	
		(75 minimum)		

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED US\$ _____

Please Complete the following: (PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)

Name _____

Spouse/Guest Name(s) _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Country: _____ Zip Code/Country Code: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

- Payment must accompany registration
- Make Checks or Money Orders Payable US\$ Funds on US Banks to: "Carole Breck Destination Management". Mail to: 1st Cavalry Tour Registration, c/o Carole Breck Destination Management, 47 Eagle Crest Drive, Suite 46, Lake Oswego, OR 97035.

Each Tour Participant is required to read and sign the following waiver prior to participation in all tours.

LIABILITY WAIVER

In consideration of Carole Breck Destination Management's planning and coordination of these tours/activities, I/we do hereby release and discharge forever, and by these presents, do for ourselves, our heirs, executors, administrators and assigns release and discharge forever, Carole Breck Destination Management, their subsidiaries and affiliates, and their officers, directors, agents and employees, from any liability, direct and indirect, and all claims, demands, damages, actions, causes of actions, or suits at law or in equity because of matters, incidents or things done, omitted or suffered to be done by anyone, which may hereafter arise, directly or indirectly, from or out of participation in program tours/activities. I/we also agree not to allow any other individual to participate in my/our place(s) without prior notification to Carole Breck Destination Management.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

(Note: Parent or Legal Guardian must sign for children and note child's name)

65th Annual 1st Cavalry Division Association Reunion

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6

1300-1800 Registration Desk Open
1300-1800 Souvenir Shop Open
1300-2400 Reunion Room Open

THURSDAY, JUNE 7

0900-1800 Registration Desk Open
0900-1800 Souvenir Shop Open
0900-2400 Reunion Room Open
1030-1130 Chapter President's Meeting
1300-1400 Museum Foundation Trustees Meeting
1430-1530 Foundation Trustees Meeting
1700-1900 Welcoming Mixer (Hors d'oeuvres/Open Bar)
1700-1900 Kid's Mixer (Pool Side)

FRIDAY, JUNE 8

0730-0900 Gold Star Family Breakfast
0900-1800 Registration Desk Open
0900-1800 Souvenir Shop Open
0900-2400 Reunion Room Open

FRIDAY, JUNE 8 - Continued

1030-1200 Ladies Tea
1230-1430 War Era Luncheons
1400-1800 Fort Vancouver Tour
1500-1700 Board of Governors Meeting
2000-2400 Sweet Heart Dance (Supports the Scholarship Foundation)

SATURDAY, JUNE 9

0900-1100 General Membership Meeting (Elections)
0900-1200 Registration Desk Open
0900-1700 Souvenir Shop Open
0900-2400 Reunion Room Open
1200-1400 Unit Luncheons
1745-1845 Cocktails (Cash Bar)
1900-2200 Association Banquet

SUNDAY, JUNE 10

0700-0830 Group Breakfast Buffet
0700-0830 LRRP/Ranger Breakfast Buffet
0900-1000 Memorial Service (Long Roll Muster)

1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 65th REUNION - 2012 REGISTRATION FORM

Mail to: 1st Cavalry Division Assn. - Reunion
302 N. Main Street, Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703

I will attend the 1st Cavalry Division Association 65th Annual Reunion at the Red Lion on the River Hotel in Portland, Oregon June 6-10, 2012. Cancellations must be received by 5:00pm Friday, June 1, 2012 in our office (254-547-6537) for a refund. **Seating at all functions is limited.** Hotel cancellations must be done personally with the hotel.

Register early.

YOU MUST BE AN ASSOCIATION MEMBER TO REGISTER. PLEASE PROVIDE ALL THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION.

Are you a member of the 1st Cavalry Division Association? Yes ___ No ___

Please Print Clearly or place a Return Address Label. Don't forget Nickname.

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY, STATE & ZIP _____

NICKNAME _____

GOLD STAR FAMILY MEMBER _____

Telephone # (____) _____

Preferred Unit(s) order (1) _____

(2) _____

Date(s) Served in 1st Cav (1) _____ to _____

(2) _____ to _____

I served at/during (Circle one or more): WWII Japan (Anytime) Korean War Korea 1957-65 Fort Benning Vietnam War Fort Hood Gulf War Bosnia Iraq War Afghanistan Fort Bliss Other _____

I will be accompanied by my spouse or other (Full Name and Nickname) _____

and the following persons, please specify relationship. (Family members only.)
Name _____ Nickname _____ Age (Children) _____

Is this your first 1st Cav Division Association Reunion? ___ Yes ___ No

My e-mail is: _____

I am staying at: Red Lion Inn ___ Oxford Suites ___
Home ___ Local ___ RV ___

Other _____

Please specify where you are staying, as it will help us to find you in the event of an emergency. Thank you!

Registration fee required for **Association members only** (Widows and Gold Star Family members pay no fee) - no fee for family members accompanying Association member. Registration includes: Name Tags (required for admission to Reunion Room and other activities), Official Reunion Program, Reunion Pin and information package.

FUNCTION	NO. OF TICKETS	COST	TOTAL AMOUNT
Registration Fee (Member Only)		\$20.00	\$ _____
Postmarked After May 4, 2012		\$40.00	\$ _____
Active Duty (Must have Active Duty ID Card)		\$10.00	\$ _____

THURSDAY, JUNE 7

Welcoming Mixer _____ \$28.00 ea. \$ _____
Kids Mixer (6 & Over) _____ \$13.00 ea. \$ _____

FRIDAY, JUNE 8

Gold Star Breakfast _____ \$20.00 ea. \$ _____
Ladies Tea _____ \$16.00 ea. \$ _____
War Era Luncheons
World War II Veterans _____ \$28.00 ea. \$ _____
Korean War Veterans _____ \$28.00 ea. \$ _____
Vietnam War Veterans _____ \$28.00 ea. \$ _____
Gulf/Iraq War Veterans _____ \$28.00 ea. \$ _____
Fort Vancouver Tour _____ \$15.00 ea. \$ _____
Sweet Heart Dance _____ \$ 7.50 ea. \$ _____

SATURDAY, JUNE 9

Unit Luncheons _____ \$28.00 ea. \$ _____
I wish to attend lunch with: (Circle one)
5th Cav 7th Cav 8th Cav 9th Cav 12th Cav Artillery
Engineers HQ & Special Troops LRRP/Ranger Silver Wings

Reunion Banquet

Adult _____ \$50.00 ea. \$ _____
Child (12 years and under) _____ \$25.00 ea. \$ _____

I wish to sit at the Reunion Banquet with: (Circle one)

5th Cav 7th Cav 8th Cav 9th Cav 12th Cav Artillery
Engineers HQ & Special Troops LRRP/Ranger Silver Wings

Banquet table seating is assigned during the reunion. **You must take your banquet tickets to the Banquet Seating Table to get your table number assigned. NO ONE will be admitted without a table number on their ticket.** To assist us in organizing the seating, please circle the unit that you wish to sit with at the Banquet.

Please get your table number assigned prior to noon Saturday.

SUNDAY, JUNE 10

Group Breakfast _____ \$25.00 ea. \$ _____
LRRP/Ranger Breakfast _____ \$25.00 ea. \$ _____

And a little extra to help cover expenses? \$ _____

Please renew my SABER Subscription (\$10 per year) \$ _____

New Life Membership (\$10) RANK _____ \$ _____

Last four of SSN _____ DOB _____

Grand Total (Don't forget the Registration Fee) \$ _____

(Circle One)

___ Credit Card VISA or Master Card Only ___ Check ___ Cash

Card Number - Print clearly _____ EXP Date _____

Signature - Credit Card Payment Only _____ Date _____

99th FA News



Jim Miller
819 West Howard St.
Winona, MN 55987-2642
(507) 454-4224
jimarmil@hbc.com



North Korean dictator; the hard drive on my computer died a week before my deadline and I've lost everything on it. Fortunately I have a son who is knowledgeable about computers, not afraid to dig into them like me, and is fairly close. I've heard from computer people that there are two types of people in the world: those whose hard drives have failed and those whose hard drives will fail. I think we've pretty well got things up and running. I've learned a lot from my position of watching and handing people tools to work. That little device holds all that information? That is truly amazing! Anyway, if you've been in e-mail contact with me in the past, please send me an e-mail so that I can copy your e-mail address. Mine is <jimarmil@hbc.com>.

It was exciting and pleasing to be watching the news and see all those 1st Cav Troopers leaving Iraq. The patch was prominent on the news broadcasts. We must not forget those who served there for us, especially those who were wounded and those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Local TV news showed a number of troops coming home in time for Christmas. I think it's good that they showed how much it meant for those GI's to be home with their loved ones, and how difficult it is for troops to be away for this important family time especially in combat situations.

For Veterans Day this year, our VFW post honor guard went to two elementary schools and gave presentations about the flag, Veterans Day, and military funerals. We've been doing this for the last couple of years and we've been pleased at how much interest the young students have in our presentation. I do a lot of the presentation since I spent 30 years in the education business and I'm more comfortable in front of children than some of my buddies. I was surprised when one of the teachers, who I had as a student, came up to me after the presentation as her class lined up to return to the classroom. She pointed out a little girl who had been looking at me, and said, "She wants to know if it's OK if she gives you a hug?" That makes it all worth it.

I talked to John Goodwin recently. John joined the 99th just as we were loading on the LST to go to Pyongyang. He got off a troop ship from the US and was told to report to COL Holmes at the dock. When he was asked if he had any combat gear, John replied that he only had his golf clubs. He was immediately assigned to help supervise the loading. He served as S-2 and liaison pilot for the 99th in Korea. As usually happens, our conversation got around to Unsan. John told me the day before the Chinese attack he had flown north almost as far as the Yalu River and back and didn't see any Chinese troops on the ground. They were completely camouflaged. The troops we faced at Unsan, and for the rest of the conflict, were regular army troops who had taken part in defeating the Chinese Nationalist army of Chiang Kai-shek. I've read some articles about Korea with authors who make the Chinese Communist troops sound like poor inexperienced farmers who came south to help the North Koreans. This is not true and those of us who dealt with them know it for sure. Thanks to John Goodwin for the call and the interesting information.

I had a conversation with Jim Warren my almost neighbor; he's 50 miles away. Jim and I talked about our lives in Japan; he was with Division Artillery Headquarters, in Japan and Korea. Since Jim was in the wire section we probably ran into each other more than once. He has recommended that I read the book: "South to the Naktong, North to the Yalu." It's sort of an official history of the Korean War, and a very large volume, but since it's winter and I'll probably be housebound, I'm giving it a try. In skimming the book looking for 1st Cav info I noticed that the book mentioned that key NCO's had been taken from both the 1st Cav and the 25th Infantry Division and put in the 24th Infantry Division for their ill-fated entry into Korea. This is one of the important actions that weakened our units, but

This article is being written under duress. No I haven't been captured by the newest

is seldom mentioned by other authors. I will report on the book in the next issue of the *Saber*. Thanks for the information, Jim; it's always appreciated.

James Timberlake from Kentucky who served in B Btry in Japan and Korea called. He served in the maintenance section in B Btry. We discussed our stay in Japan and our combat experiences in Korea. Our older vehicles and howitzers was one of the subjects we talked about. I know that most of our equipment was leftovers from World War II; we had sort of hand-me-down stuff. Since I served as a driver in Hqs Btry before joining the wire section, I certainly understood that. As I mentioned before, our conversation turned to Unsan. James told that the Chinese shot one of the drivers of a 2 1/2 ton truck pulling one of the howitzers causing the convoy trying to get out of Unsan to back up, and being maintenance, and being at the rear of the column, they dealt with it by pushing it off the road and disabling the canon by using a thermite grenade. We also talked about the horrific land mine disaster that struck B Btry. I was a close eye witness to that attack and I've always felt that mines and their new counterparts, IED's, were a coward's way of fighting a war. Thanks to James Timberlake for the insight to some of the actions of the 99th in Korea. If you wish to contact James, his phone number is: (606) 922-3393. I'm sure he be glad to hear from some of his old buddies.

Before my computer crashed, I received an e-mail from Ray Nebe's wife telling that Ray had a stroke and is home and recovering. Ray served in B Btry in Japan and Korea. Give Ray a call at (217) 224-6130, or drop him a line at 2500 Northridge, Quincy, IL 62301. I hope Ray is up playing golf by the time this comes out. Good luck, Ray!

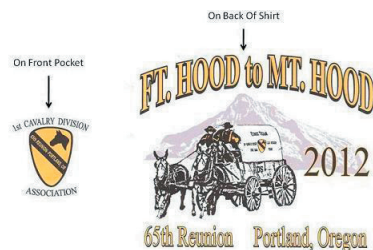
The World War II 99th FA Bn Btry B and C had their annual reunion in Watertown, South Dakota the weekend of September 15-18, 2011. Morris Tweeten from Spring Grove, Minnesota was the only B Btry WW II veteran to attend. Helmer Anderson was the only C Btry WW II veteran to attend. Helmer's daughter Pat Hillard made arrangements for the event assisted by Merlin and Cheryl Anderson. Family members of deceased 99th B and C Btry WW II veterans: Olaf Gussiaas, Sam Fincher, and Delmar Champ also attended. Next year's reunion will be held in Watertown, South Dakota the weekend of September 20-23 hosted by Pat Hillard who can be contacted at (605) 886-3359 or <PRH317@gmail.com>. Thanks to the WW II B and C Btry people for hosting this reunion and for letting us know about it. It is greatly appreciated.

Thank you also to all of you who sent me Christmas cards. Like most guys, I wasn't the Christmas card person at our house so you probably didn't get one from me. However, I will try to get in touch with you sometime during the year. Remember these young Troopers coming home; some of them are going to have a tough time. That combat business gets embedded in your brain and it takes a while to get it out sometimes. Pray for those who are still serving. It isn't over for many of them; they just changed locations. Remember those who have gone on before us and for those of us still here because we are all in this together. CSMO Jim



Headquarters Battery troopers ready for inspection at Camp Bender, Japan.

Pre-order your 65th Annual 1st Cavalry Division Association Reunion T-Shirt Today!



Cut off Date to pre-order is 15 March 2012

Available in sizes Adult S-XL **\$17.95** each
Available in sizes 2XL-3XL **\$19.95** each

Description: 90/10 Gray T-Shsirt w/pocket. Logo on pocket as well as Full-Color imprint on back.

Send form to: Crossed Sabers Souvenir Shop, PO Box 5774, Ft. Hood, TX 76544
Please call (254) 532-2075 to place your order today or order online @ www.crossedsabers-chapter-giftshop.com

To have the merchandise shipped to you, please use the chart to determine rates.

Shipping chart:

1 Shirt @ \$6.00
2-8 Shirts @ \$11.00
9 + Shirts @ \$15.00

Adult Sizes Only
Please indicate quantities below
S _____ M _____
L _____ XL _____
2XL _____ 3XL _____

Please check box if picking up at Reunion

Reunion T-shirts will NOT ship prior to 1 May 12 and you don't pay for shipping if you pick shirts up at the reunion.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____
E-Mail: _____
____ Visa ____ M/C ____ Discover ____ Check Enclosed

Card Number _____
For Visa Card, CVD # _____
Expiration Date (MO/YR) _____

Division Doings Continued from pg. 10.

Having just returned to Fort Hood, Texas, after more than six months deployed with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, in Iraq and Kuwait, Johnson and his family face a new challenge: reintegrating him back into family life.



Four of his children rush to greet SGT Quentin Johnson.

"There is an emotional detachment that happens while you are deployed," said Johnson, who has served on two deployments to the Middle East. "You have to set family and friends aside and focus on just getting the mission done."

"I'm a huge family man, and being away from them for so long was hard," he continued.

For Johnson's wife, Faith, who was responsible for taking care of the family's five children while he was gone, there were a lot of challenges to face during his deployment.

"Whatever you do, it's got to be with all five kids," she said. "You don't have that extra person around to help."

Faith said it took about a month for the fact of their dad being deployed to finally settle in with the children.

"You have to get yourself into different routines; you're the ones doing everything now," she said.

With Johnson home, the family can settle into a more traditional routine, but **Continued on pg. 17.**

CHAPTER INDEX

ALL THE WAY BRIGADE CHAPTER
Pres: Bennett Guthrie
29112 S. 558 Road
Park Hill, OK 74451
(918) 207-2982
E-mail: bennettguthrie47@msn.com
Call or e-mail for meeting info.

BUCKEYE CHAPTER
Pres.: Frank D. Forestiere
Buckeye Chapter, 1st Cav Div Assn.
PO Box 340038
Columbus, OH 43234
(614) 889-2358
E-mail: buckeyechapter1cda@yahoo.com
Meet on 3d Sat. of Mar., June, Sep. and Dec. at VFW Post 1598, 677 E. 11th Ave., Columbus, OH

CENTRAL SAVANNAH RIVER AREA CHAPTER
Pres: John Rangel, Jr.
2665 Teakwood Dr.
Hephzibah, GA 30815
(706) 771-1173
Website: gandata.com/First_Cav.htm
Meets on 2nd Sat of mo., 1400 at Ryans Steak House on Peach Orchard Rd., Augusta, GA (Mar., June, Sept. and Dec.)

COLUMBIA-WILLAMETTE CHAPTER
Pres: Randy Putnam
1004 SE Althaus Dr.
Troutdale, OR 97306-1626
(503) 544-7868
E-mail: WRP@destinywarriors.com
Meets 1830 3rd Wed of odd mos. at the Village Inn, 1621 NE 10th Ave., Portland, OR 97232. No meeting in Dec.

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER
Pres: Keith Moyer
48 Boretz Rd.
Colchester, CT 06415-1009
(860) 537-1716
E-mail: kpmoyerco@hotmail.com
Contact: Keith Morin
84 Dibble Hollow Lane
Windsor Locks, CT 06096-2731
(860) 627-9711
E-mail: nriinc@sbcglobal.net
http://www.conncav.com
Meeting info in newsletter and on web page.

COWBOY STATE CHAPTER
Pres: L. Pete Quinnett
11 Lone Cedar Dr.
Gillette, WY 82716
(307) 682-5354
E-mail: pbquin@vcn.com
POC: George Cook
1400 O'Shannon
Gillette, WY 82716
Meets in July and on the Sat. closest to Sept. 23.

CROSSED SABERS CHAPTER
Pres: Jerry Eller
808 S. 2nd St.
Killeen, TX 76541-7703

FIRST CHAPTER
Pres: Robert H. Wolfe
4756 Haracourt Dr.
El Paso, TX 79924-3047
(915) 755-7944

FLORIDA CHAPTER
Pres: Leo 'Doc' Williams
3098 Golden View Ln.
Orlando, FL 32812
(407) 277-5763
Meets quarterly at different locations around the state.

FLORIDA TROOPA "LAKELAND AREA"
Pres: Walter C. Smith
5090 Ironwood Trail
Bartow, FL 33830
(863) 644-7207
E-mail: tarbucket67@yahoo.com
POC: Verlin Buck Rogers
(863) 858-3559
E-mail: vrogers8@tampabay.rr.com
Meets at 1100 on the 1st Sat. of mo. at L.J.'s Diner & Lounge, 1395 E Main St., Bartow, FL (corner of Main and Hwy 17 South)

FLORIDA TROOP B "BAKER TROOP"
Pres: Bill Franklin
473 Kimberly Dr.
Melbourne, FL 32940
(321) 255-0868
E-mail: swfwfw@aol.com
Contact: Frank Alverson
12468 Boney Rd.
Jacksonville, FL 32226-1983
(904) 757-7009
E-mail: mcalverson@comcast.net
Meets qtrly for dinner at area restaurants in Melbourne, Merritt Island area, usually on Tues. evening.

FLORIDA TROOP C
Pres: Leo 'Doc' Williams
3098 Golden View Ln.
Orlando, FL 32812
(407) 277-5763
Meets 2nd Sat. at 11:00am of ea. mo. at VFW Post 2093, 4444 Edgewater Dr., Orlando.

FLORIDA TROOP E "BLACK HATS"
Pres: W. E. "Stretch" Hungerford
15 Desert Candle Circle
Lehigh Acres, FL 33936
(239) 369-7871
E-mail: wdhung@earthlink.net
Website: http://www.seahog.org/cav/index.html
Meets 4th Sat. ea. mo. from Aug. - May 1:00pm. at the Country Kitchen, 2921 E. Palm Beach Blvd. in Fort Myers.

FLYING HORSEMAN CHAPTER
(Upstate New York Area)
Pres: Thomas R. Randall
209-A Harmon St.
Elmira, NY 14904-1220
(607) 259-9881
Vice-Pres: Charles T. Sullivan
148 Decker Rd.
Lowman, NY 14861-8900
(607) 737-0743
E-mail: firstcavhorse@aol.com
Meets 1st Sunday each month at the Elmira Am. Legion Post #443.

FOLLOW ME CHAPTER
Pres: James R. Lee
3 Marriott Court
Columbus, GA 31907
(706) 568-3732
E-mail: ljam93@bellsouth.net
Meets 1900 4th Tues. ea. mo. Veterans Ctr., 1000 Victory Dr., Columbus, GA.
No meeting in December

FORT KNOX AREA CHAPTER
Pres.: Robert L. Magruder
8012 Boadfern Dr.
Louisville, KY 40291-2304
(502) 239-1522
E-mail: bobmagruder@bellsouth.net
POC: Larry A. Whelan
2103 Winston Ave.
Louisville, KY 40205
(502) 485-1270
E-mail: lawhelan@insightbb.com
http://www.1cda.org/fort_knox.html
Meets 3rd Sat. of mo. at 1100 at the Barker Masonic Lodge, 705 Main St., West Point, KY.

JUMPING MUSTANG CHAPTER 1-8 Cav
Pres: Tom Brett
4216 Wynnwood Dr.
Annandale, VA 22003-3453
(703) 642-1595
E-mail: tombrtphoto@cox.net
POC: James C. Knafel
5510E - 500 South
Columbia City, IN 46725
(260) 244-3864
E-mail: jkknafel@earthlink.net
Website: www.JumpingMustangs.com

KETTLE MORAINE CHAPTER
Pres: Dick Schwarten
W152 S7917 Mystic Dr.
Muskego, WI 53150
(414) 422-8555
E-mail: DickNSue@wi.rr.com
Contact: Harold Bourne
6415 Carolann Dr.
Brown Deer, WI 53223
(414) 255-7829
Meets held at 3 month intervals with a banquet dinner in Dec. when elections are held.

GERALD F. KINSMAN CHAPTER
Pres: Owen Levine
77 Clubhouse Dr.
Leominster, MA 01453
(978) 534-6284
E-mail: sonny01453@comcast.net
Meets yearly.

JAMES J. MASON WEST MICHIGAN CHAPTER
Pres.: Doug Kamphuis
86 Birchwood Ave.
Holland, MI 49423
(616) 392-5074
POC: Bob Anderson
9030 Conservancy Dr. NE
Ada, MI 49301
(616) 682-5446
E-mail: rj.anderson2243@comcast.net
Website: jjmwmc1cd.com
Meets Sept.-June on 3rd Thurs. of mo. at 7pm, at the Grand Valley Armory in Wyoming, MI.

LOS ANGELES/ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER
Pres: John Guillory
780 Mandevilla Way
Corona, CA 92879
(951) 278-3740
E-mail: fishye1@sbcglobal.net
Vice Pres: John Burgner
228 South Hacienda St.
Anaheim, CA 92804
(714) 535-0737
E-mail: jburgner@sbcglobal.net
Meets 0900 on 3rd Sat. of mo. at Brea Veterans Club, 735 S. Brea Blvd., Brea, CA

LRRP/RANGER of the 1st Cav Division during the Vietnam War.
Pres.: Doug Parkinson
PO Box 131
Bayside, CA 95524
(707) 822-8421
E-mail: DPA@Humboldt.com
Website: www.tomah.com/lrrp_ranger/
Full chapter meeting during Reunions

NATIONAL CAPITOL REGION CHAPTER
Pres: Eugene N. Russell
7923 Jansen Dr.
Springfield, VA 22152-2413
(703) 569-2770
POC: Henry DeMeritte
1420 Fisher Ave.
Woodbridge, VA 22191
(703) 494-5507
E-mail: ncr1stcavdivassn@yahoo.com
Website: 1cda.org/national_capitol.htm
3d Sat. of the month Sep.-Oct., Jan.-Jun., 0900 at the American Legion Post 176, 6520 Amherst Ave., Springfield, VA.
Breakfast available prior to start of mtg.

NEVADA CHAPTER
Pres: Ken Gallagher
E-mail: abnrrngm71@hotmail.com
POC: J.H. "Mac" McCracken
225 S. Wallace Dr.
Las Vegas, NV 89107
(702) 595-1253
E-mail: LuckyMac7@cox.net
Meets the first Sat. of the month at 10am at the American Legion Post 8, 733 Veterans Memorial Dr., Las Vegas.

NEWYORK/NEWJERSEY CHAPTER
Pres: Bob Arbasetti
60 River Rd. #E103
Bogota, NJ 07603
(201) 883-0343
E-mail: nynjcavalry@optimum.net
Facebook: New York New Jersey Cavalry
Meets at Elk Lodge at Cedar and Spruce, Ridgefield Park, NJ.

NEW YORK TROOP
Troop Commander: Joe Panzardi
89-59 217th St.
Queens Village, NY 11427
(718) 776-9749
e-mail: aircavny@verizon.net

If you have changes to this listing, contact the Association at (254) 547-6537 or e-mail at <membership@1cda.org>.

NORTH CAROLINA - TARHEEL CHAPTER
Pres: Allen O. Norris
8160 Waterford Dr.
Stanley, NC 28164
(704) 483-8778
E-mail: anorris@infionline.net
Contact for Membership: Don Gibson
803 McDonald Church Road
Rockingham, NC 28379
(910) 895-0747
e-mail: dtbgibson@yahoo.com
Meets 2nd Sat of Mar., Jun, Sept. & Dec.

NORTHWEST CHAPTER
Pres.: Roy Rio
(360) 871-5867
E-mail: allrio@live.com
POC: Ric James
PO Box 1305
Bremerton, WA 98337
(360) 536-1050
E-mail: arejay5353@aol.com
Meets 1200 1st Sat. of even months - contact Roy Rio or Ric James for meeting place.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER
Pres: Robert Stauffacher
18355 Drennan Rd.
Colorado Springs, CO 80928
POC: William Tuedaell
306 Kenwood Cir.
Colorado Springs, CO 80910
(719) 636-3063
E-mail: williamandkristine@comcast.net
Website: 1cda.org/rocky_mountain.htm
Meets 9am 2nd Sat. of mo. at at Retired Enlisted Assn. Chapter 1, 834 Emory Cir., Colorado Springs.

SHERIDAN'S CAVALRY CHAPTER (Greater Chicago Area)
Pres: Mason Holmes
456 Raintree Ct. #2-A
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137-6713
(630) 835-6486 Cell
E-mail: masonholmes2003@yahoo.com
Website: www.sheridansfirstcav.com
Meets at the American Legion Post #1084, 322 E. Maple Ave., Roselle, IL 61072 at 1pm.

SOUTHEASTERN COLORADO CHAPTER
Pres: Clifford Boxley
24 Paseo St.
Lamar, CO 81052
(719) 336-7385
E-mail: crboxley@hotmail.com
POC: John Campos
1308 Lewis Ave.
La Junta, CO 81052-3024
(719) 384-0379
Website: www.firstcavalry.net
Meets 1st Sat. of ea. mo. at 10am at the Holiday Inn in LaJunta, CO..

WALTER H. WESTMAN NORTHLAND CHAPTER
Pres: Donald A. Delsing
3697 Gresham Ave. N.
Oakdale, MN 55182
(651) 770-5422
E-mail: dandmdelsing@aol.com
POC: James D. Wright
12781 Able St. NE
Blaine, MN 55434
(763) 757-7140
E-mail: 1stCav-MN@comcast.net
Meets quarterly at different locations. Call or write for information.



Ken White
3834 Inverness Road
Fairfax, VA 22033
(703) 352-1468
KenWhite68@yahoo.com

I hope that all of you had a wonderful and joyous holiday season, and I wish you a very happy, healthy, and prosperous 2012.



Joe Galloway at Veterans Day Observance at The Wall

The weather in Washington, DC for Veterans Day 2011 was sunny and dry, and for the most part, pleasant. That, plus the fact that Veterans Day fell on a Friday, resulted in a larger than usual crowd for the annual Veterans Day observance at The Wall on the National Mall. Jan Scruggs, founder and president of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, the group that co-sponsors the annual observance with the National Park Service, noted in his introductory remarks that groundbreaking for the underground education center to be built next to The Wall is scheduled for 2012. The center will place faces and stories with the names etched in The Wall. Planned exhibits include a "Wall of Faces," featuring photos of those lost in Vietnam and a gallery of the more than 100,000 items left in tribute at the memorial since 1982. Construction of the center will cost \$85 million, all to be raised through private donations. General Barry R. McCaffrey USA (Ret), who was a company commander in the 7th Cav in Vietnam in 1968, is leading the fund raising effort.

The hard copy program distributed to the crowd at the beginning of the observance listing the day's speakers included a number of photos of those who died in Vietnam with letters that had been left at The Wall for them over the years. Three of the photos were of members of the 1st Cavalry Division. They were: Robert A. Tillquist, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry (Panel 3E, Row 20); Walter B. Tully, Jr., 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry (Panel 30W, Row 17) and John K. Vogelsang, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry (Panel 23W, Row 94).

The day's keynote address was delivered by Joe Galloway, co-author of the book *We Were Soldiers Once ... and Young*. Galloway served four tours in Vietnam and was the only civilian awarded the Bronze Star with valor during the war by the U.S. Army. He went on to cover numerous other combat operations during his career, including Desert Shield/Storm, where he was described as "The finest combat correspondent of our generation" by General H. Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of coalition forces there.

I'm happy to report that our unit was well represented at the observance by Terry G. Smith, Springfield, Virginia (1970-71) and Jim Wright, Poquoson, Virginia (1967). I didn't have the chance to talk with either Terry or Jim but I did see that they had signed the guest register at the 1st Cav hospitality suite at the Crown Plaza Hotel.

On a different note, an article recently appeared in *The Washington Post* newspaper about those freeze-dried, vacuum-packed gourmet delights that we all came to know and love in Vietnam, the LRRP ration, known in more recent years as the Meal Ready to Eat (MRE). In response to wide scale criticism of the rations from soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Army has been hard at work in their research laboratories located just outside Boston in Natick, Massachusetts in efforts to not only improve the taste of them but also to transform them into energy-enhancing delights. The answer apparently is 'caffeinated meat.' The meat used in the rations will contain the equivalent of a cup of coffee's worth of caffeine and will be laced with the same dietary supplements used by marathon runners, such as omega 3 and maltodextrin, to ensure that everyone gets that full 'up-and-at-it' boost. All the Army really had to do to satisfy the critics was to ask us how to improve them. We figured that out a long time ago - Tabasco sauce. There wasn't a LRRP ration made by the Army that couldn't be made edible with enough Tabasco sauce. You'd simply heat some water in your canteen cup using C4 from a Claymore mine, pour the water into the clear-plastic pouch with the ration, add half a bottle of Tabasco sauce, stir thoroughly, and you were ready-to-go. My favorite LRRP rations were Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, Chili con Carne, and Chicken with Rice and Fish Eyes - without the fish eyes. The new MREs, including what are called First Strike Rations - a lightweight, less than 3,000 calorie turbo-charged version of the MRE designed for Special Operations forces, will be introduced

Continued on pg. 18.



Hank Llewellyn
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Pottstown, PA 19464
(484) 948-9451
SilverWingsoftheCav@
Verizon.Net



Hello once again fellow Sky Troopers. Let's launch this month's issue with the Wings mail sortie. I don't know about you, but the sight of those big red mail bags being thrown off of a Huey, over four and a half decades ago, would cause this writer to stop in his tracks and head toward the operations bunker to eagerly await mail call. I still get that feeling thanks to you and this Silver Wings column. I do have a couple of communications to share.

The first snail mail letter comes from Jim Stapleton, C/229th, of Des Moines, Washington. Jim writes, "Just a short message to get the word out that sky trooper, Ken Howell has passed away from cancer on 23 November, 2011. He was a crew chief with Delta Company (guns), 229th. We met at Fort Eustis and hit it off from the start. Me, an east coast guy from New Haven, Connecticut and a west coast guy, Kenny, from Selma, California. Ken leaves a wife, Mary, several children and grandchildren. The last time I actually saw him was when he crashed into a rice paddy in Phan Thiet, RVN in 1967. We were supporting the 2-7th and I crewed a "slick" with Charlie Company. Ken borrowed a monkey harness from me a few days prior to his crash. I believe his ship took a round in the tail rotor box because everything locked up and threw him out of the bird where he hung onto his outside pod throughout auto-rotation. Almost forty years later, thanks to your column, we hooked up again by e-mail and phone calls. I told him I still wanted my monkey harness back and we laughed until I cried. Please get the word out as he had many friends that loved his contagious laugh. Ken's legacy, never had a bad word to say about anyone." Jim, consider the word out. I did forward this notice to many via e-mail prior to this SABER issue. Thanks for the "heads up".

A package containing photos and a letter arrived from Marvin Ross of 4432 Lee Ave., Sanford, NC 27332. Marv wrote, "Enclosed are the photos as I promised. They are from the village of An Khe, Camp Radcliff and Bong Son. I also have pictures of LZ English before, during and after the ammo dump explosion of June, 1967. In 1991, former 1st Air Cav commander, General John Tolson was the guest speaker at the Memorial Day dedication of the North Carolina Vietnam Veterans Park. Over 1,600 from North Carolina were killed or missing during the war. I'm enclosing pictures of him landing at the park, in a Huey of course. He died later in December of that year. If you (readers) could help me. I would like to have photos of LZ Uplift, Two Bits and Hammond. In November and December of 1966, I was in Pleiku, on Titty mountain near the 4th Infantry base camp. We were near Hwy 14. South of us was the tea plantation and LZ Oasis. I would love to have pictures of the area". Thanks much for the photos Marvin. They are a welcome addition to my growing collection. If any of our "Wings" readers have photos of the area Marvin requests, and are willing to share, please forward them to Marvin's address above. Both he and I would be grateful. Marvin, next time I'm passing by the Fort Bragg area I'll ring your door bell for sure. Thanks again.

I received a note from John Brennan, Vietnam vet and author of *U.S. Army Helicopter Names In Vietnam* from Hellgate Press. This is the first of two in-country themed books. The first one lists all of the named Army helos in Vietnam. The next one (Fall 2012), *U.S. Army Helicopter Nose Art In Vietnam*, will feature 300 beautiful color nose art photos, together with 400 anecdotes from Army helo veterans. They are a tandem set that go hand-in-hand and complement each other. The listed price is \$31.95, however, you may obtain a signed copy for \$29.95, shipping included, by sending a check or money order to: John Brennan, 17355 Via Annette, San Lorenzo, CA 94580." John contacted the Silver Wings site some time ago asking the readers for helicopter nose art photos. I'm sure you will find some of your contributions in the book.

I received an e-mail from Gary Decoteau, 480 Morning Sun Drive, Nampa, ID, 83686, SP-5, HHC, 15th TC, 1st Air Cavalry '67-'68. Gary shared, "I served with HHC, 15th TC as Chaplains Assistant. I saw the photo submitted by Jon Rice of "Boom Boom 6" and wanted to thank you for publishing the photo and Jon's comments. I have similar photos of "Boom Boom 6" and other choppers.

While at An Khe I worked for Fr. Daniels who was assigned to the 15th TC. It was a challenge to keep up with him as he was on the go supporting and caring for the troopers throughout the 1st Cav AO. Before leaving An Khe Chaplain Fr. Daniels and Chaplain Fr Conroy, of the 228th, planned and organized a mission to supply the Leprosarium near Qui Nhon with food, medical supplies and help. It has been a long time ago but I remember a lot of troopers getting involved with the mission. A couple of "Hooks" from the 228th and "Hueys" from the 15th TC were used to transport supplies and personnel to the Leprosarium. The nuns and medical personnel running the Leprosarium were very appreciative of the support from the 1st Cav.

I am not sure if you have contact with Jon Rice but I would like to get in touch with him since we were in the same Company." Gary, thanks for writing. I was unable to locate John's information. John, if you're reading this, contact Gary or me.

This e-note arrived from Dan McGill, <danmcgill@aol.com>, formerly of HHC, Warrior Brigade. "Hank, Wanted to share with you and Silver Wings readers that a famous Warrior Brigade soldier is again "transitioning". LTC (R) Houston Killgore recently sold his world class Precision Tune business in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Houston was the Brigade S-3 and XO in the early '90's at Fort Hood and during Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He was a great combat leader and unmatched wheel vehicle and helicopter maintenance wizard. He used his leadership skills, maintenance wizardry, and legendary work ethic to build a world class business and even found time to ride a mountain bike. Knowing Houston, he's hard at work deciding on his next challenge." Dan, thanks for the update on LTC Killgore. I'm sure whatever his endeavors are at this moment, they are "World Class", after all, he was a Warrior Brigade leader.

Veterans Day in DC and Arlington, Virginia was a pleasant experience once again. No agenda, just sharing time with troopers I served with and their wives; seeing some old friends and making new ones. I also promised my wife, Susan,

that we would stop at DC Cupcake in Georgetown while in town. Sue is a fan of their show. We lucked out finding a parking spot, shortly after opening, just across the street from the corner store. There was a line formed on the sidewalk leading to the store entrance. The place was already filled to capacity. When 2 or 3 people would exit, another 2 or 3 could enter. I don't know if it is the celebrity or the recipe or a combination of both, but I never stood in line before to buy expensive cupcakes. However, they were good and Sue was thrilled.



Sue at DC Cupcakes.

Fred and Marge Robins, Dennis and Christine Dineen, Sue and I teamed up to take the Metro from the Hotel AO to Arlington National Cemetery for the memorial service.

I really think trying to figure out how to extract a ticket for our route from the automated dispensing machine took longer than the actual Metro ride. Unbeknownst to us, the president was scheduled to speak. For security reasons we were confined to a bus on the ANC grounds awaiting his arrival. For 25 minutes we sat until his motorcade came by. The delay prohibited our entrance into the amphitheater as it was now filled. So, off we marched toward Constitution Avenue for the annual Veterans Day Observance. The event started at 1 p.m. with Master of Ceremonies, Jan Scruggs, founder and president of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. The Keynote Address was given by our own Joe Galloway. It's always nice to reunite with so many in DC during Veterans Day. It is said that Memorial Day is to remember our dead and Veterans Day is for those who survived to remember and reunite. We who did stand proud and together at the "Wall". Charlie Swensen and Joe Panzardi, as always, a great time. Shirley and Ron Haase, wish we could have talked a little longer.



Marge Robins (L) and Sue Llewellyn (R) with 1st Cav Honor Guard

Julie Kink, sorry I missed seeing you and Mike Sprayberry as with so many others that I was looking forward to chatting with. The folks at VFW Post 3150, your hospitality, as always, is unsurpassed. They just love us Cav troopers. Jim DeSalvo, Sue says "thank you" for the personal Arlington National Cemetery tour. For those who were unable to attend, perhaps next year.



Susan Clotfelter-Jimison (L) and Julie Kink (R) at the "WALL"

If you're a Vietnam vet and happen to be in the North Carolina AO next month (March) you may want to check this out.

The USO of North Carolina and Charlotte Motor Speedway, with support from the North Carolina Association of Broadcasters, will honor their service with an incredible Vietnam Veterans Homecoming Celebration on March 31 for the military members and their friends and families. To honor those who served and the military members who returned from combat, the USO of North Carolina is holding a long, overdue homecoming celebration. Hosted by the USO of North Carolina and Charlotte Motor Speedway, the Vietnam Veterans Homecoming Celebration 2012 is set to be an unforgettable experience featuring live entertainment, displays and demonstrations, military salutes, and much more!

Veteran Service Organizations will be on-site to assist veterans. Please bring your DD Form 214 so they can help, if needed. Reserve your free ticket to the motor speedway now at (800) 455-3267, then come late March, load up the old RV and set a heading for NC. The event starts at 9 am.

With that, I'll bring this Silver Wings sortie to an end. If you have something to share or an event that you'd like to bring to our attention, by all means contact this writer. This isn't a Vietnam aviation column. It's designed to share information and personal thoughts from Sky Troopers past and present. On occasion I hear from "Pink" Martin, a WWII birddog pilot from our campaign in the Philippines, who, by my research is our Senior "Wings" member. I'd like to hear more from today's "Warriors". As a current or past Aviation Battalion or Regt. of the Cav trooper, you are part of the fraternity. This includes pilots, crews and support personnel. This is to include but not limited to the: 11th Aviation Group, the 227th, 228th, and 229th Aviation Battalions; 11th Aviation Company, 17th Aviation Company (Fixed Wing), 478th Aviation Company, 2-20th Artillery, Battery E-82th Artillery, 1-9th Cavalry, 15th Service Company, 15th Transportation Battalion, 27th Maintenance Battalion, 110th Aviation Company, 131st Aviation Company, 132nd Aviation Company, 133rd Aviation Company, 194th Aviation Company, 202nd Aviation Company, Co. A 4th Aviation Battalion, Co. A 5th Aviation Battalion, Aviation Company, 6th Special Forces Group, Aviation Company, 7th Special Forces Group and all today's 1st Air Cavalry Brigade units.

So, until next time...."Clear right!"

15th MED/15th BSB



Mike Bodnar
 13010 N. Lakeforest Dr.
 Sun City, AZ 85351-3250
 (623) 972-4395
 MBodnar27@Juno.Com
 http://15thMedAssociation.Com

I got an e-mail from Al Joy who served with the 15th MED at An Khe from January, 1966 to August, 1967. He writes, "I was never involved in anything heroic, but I have a number of stories, mostly humorous, a few horrific I would be glad to share with you. I've 'held on' to these stories for almost fifty years with the intentions on passing them on someday. I guess today is the day. I'm sixty-five years old and have no intention of getting into the writing business so you might as well benefit from them." We'll see what Al has, which may be inspiring for others to reminisce.

When asked about his background info he replied, "A Company, 15th MED Battalion (Airborne). My first tour was mostly spent as one of the catch all troopers. Drove for the First Sergeant and got to participate in a lot of interesting duties. Because I was a SP-4 I wasn't the low man on the totem pole, but I got to participate in most of the crap jobs that needed doing as the supervisor. I spent weeks on the perimeter watching for an enemy that we couldn't see, and for the most part wasn't ever there. My field time was acquired during my first tour while on 'loan' to various infantry units (I even did a couple of weeks with the 7th Cav). As my time with the unit increased, I was given more medical duties and eventually ended up in the triage tent. When I was in the triage tent, I was definitely the low man on the totem pole. As an E-5, I was just there to learn and finish up.

"When my second tour began, I was a seasoned Medic. A 10-week medical degree from Fort Sam, a year's infantry experience with the 506th Infantry

TAPS

We have been notified of the death of the following First Team Veterans:

LAST NAME, RANK, First Name, Unit, Date. Date of Death
ALLEN, CWO Albert E., HHC, 1CD, 1942-45. 31 July 2011.
ANDERSON, PFC Donald J. Jr., HHC, 1-12th CAV, 1967-68. 16 April 2011.
ANFINSON, SFC (R) Duane O., HHC, 1-77th CAV, 1965-66. 28 July 2011.
ARNOLD, SFC (R) Jesse A., A Trp., 12th CAV, 1940-45. 24 December 2011.
BILLUPS, CPL James E., C Co., 1-5th CAV, 1951-52. 15 May 2011.
BURKHART, CPL Homer C., A Co., 1-7th CAV, 1951-52. 9 March 2011.
CASSIDY, 1LT Joseph P., 99th FA, 1951-52. 19 September 2011.
CHESKI, CPL Theodore J., HQ, 7th CAV, 1951, HQ, 1CD, 1952. 24 November 2012.
CRIBBS, LTC (R) Jerome H., 8th CAV, 1941-45. 5 March 2011.
FOSTER, SSG Francis W., HQ 2-5th CAV, 1948-51. 22 February 2011.
FOSTER, CW3 Jerry G., B Co., 227th AVN, 1968-69. 1 July 2011.
FRIX, MG (R) Robert S., 3rd BDE AVN PLT, 1968. HHC, 5-7th CAV, 1968-69, HHC, 1CD, 1986-87. 15 December 2011.
FUNDERBURG, PFC Lee, B Trp., 8th CAV, 1936-39. 1 September 2011.
GEORGE, PFC Constantine D., MP PLT, 1946-47. 26 November 2011.
GIBSON, CPL Loral A., K Co., 3-5th CAV, 1951-52. 15 April 2011.
GOINS, SGT Carl B., C Trp., 1-7th CAV, 1940-45. 21 December 2011.
HAINES, GEN (R) Ralph E., 8th CAV, 1940. 23 November 2011.
HALL, SGT William Z., D Co., 1-7th CAV, 1965-66. 23 December 2011.
HANZEL, SGT Richard C, C Co., 2-12th CAV, 1969-70. 4 December 2011.
HAYNES, CPL Delmar E., 13th SIG, 1952-53. 18 August 2011.
HENION, CPL Robert R., A Trp., 5th CAV, 1940-45. 15 December 2011.
HENZI, SGT Dennis P., C Co., 2-5th CAV, 1966-67. 4 October 2011.
HIERHOLZER, CW3 Anthony G., HHC, 11th AVN, RVN. 27 October 2011.
HODGES, SP-4 Jerry L., HHC, 1-5th CAV, 1968-69. 2 January 2012.
HOWELL, SP-4 Kenneth R., D Co., 229th AVN, 1966-67. 23 November 2011.
MAPP, BG (R) James H., HHC, 1CD 1966; HHC, 1-5th CAV, 1967; HHC, 1CD, 1979-80. 26 November 2011.
MCDONALD, SP-4 Richard W., B Co., 525th SIG, 1970. 18 August 2011.
MORDICA, LTC (R) James J., HHT, 2-8th CAV, 1947-48. 26 June 2011.
NAVRATIL, E-5 Gary, C Co., 1-5th CAV, 1967-68. 1 February 2011.
NICKEL, SGT David L., D Co., 2-5th CAV, 1968-69. 28 May 2011.
O'DONNELL, TSG Robert B., SVC Trp., 7th CAV, 1944-45. 9 February 2011.
PALLAI, 1SG (R) Eugene W., HHC, 2-7th CAV & 8th ENG, 1965-66. 10 July 2011.
PERKINS, 1LT (R) Orville D., F Trp., 2-7th CAV, 1940-45. 10 December 2011.
POLLARD, MSG (R) Joe L., B Co., 1-12th CAV, 1965-66. 30 November 2011.
POLLI, CPT George J., HHC, 2-7th CAV, 1966-67. 29 March 2011.
REGAN, MSG Thomas C., A Trp., 1-5th CAV, 1947-48. 8 January 2012.
RHODES, SFC (R) Lewis H., F Co., 2-5th CAV, Korean War. 18 March 2011.
RUNYAN, MAJ Robert B., A Co., 229th AVN, 1967. 6 January 2012.
RUSHING, SGT Robert, A Btry., 2-20th ARA, 1967-68. 5 December 2011.
SPRY, COL (R) Alfred Earle, HHC, 3rd BDE, 1967/HHC, 1CD 1968; HHC, 1CD 1970/HHC, 1-7th CAV, 1971. 10 January 2012.
STRATTON, SSG James N., HHC, 1-21st FA, 1970-71. 31 December 2011.
TIMBS, SGT Johnie L., C Co., 1-5th CAV, 1951-52. 19 July 2011.
WALL, TSG John J. "Jack", E Trp., 8th CAV, Japan. 11 January 2012.
WALTHERS, PFC Richard L. Sr., G Co., 2-7th CAV, 1950-51. 30 September 2011.
WHITEHEAD, LTC (R) John B., HHC, 229th AVN and F Trp., 1-9th CAV, 1972. 10 August 2011.
WILLIAMSON, SGT Barry L., 8th ENG, 1965-66. 30 November 2011.

ACTIVE DUTY TAPS

We have been notified of the death of the following active duty Troopers in the United States that were not combat related:

BAILEY, SPC Michael H., D Co., (FSC), 4-9th CAV, 2010-11. 29 December 2011.
McDANIEL, PFC Kenneth, HHC, 3-8th CAV, 2010-12. 1 January 2012.

stateside and a year of genuine boots on combat experience with the 15th MED. Most of '67 was spent working in the field hospitals in the forward areas. My tour of 'excitement' had ended with my first year and most of my remaining time was spent actually working as a Medic. I'll send you a few stories of my most memorable moments in the next few weeks, but be forewarned that my two tours of Nam wouldn't make a decent chapter for a Rambo movie."

CPT Jamie Culbreath <jamie.culbreath@us.army.mil> of Fort Hood, Texas, comments: "I currently serve as the Charlie Company Medical Commander. I took command in August, 2011 to present and would like to send out a 'Thank You' to my predecessors throughout history. Nothing would be possible without your dedication and sacrifice. I am proud to be carrying the lineage that so many of you have built. Thank You! Jamie Culbreath, CPT, MS Commander C Co., 15th BSB, 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division "Shamans...To Hell and Back"

Edward Dial <edrosdl@insightbb.com> from Louisville, Kentucky signed in the Guestbook, "Co. A 15th MED Battalion. June, 1967 to June, 1968. Did a lot of growing up in that year."

Derek Bull Boeve <deboeve@att.net> Havana, Florida, writes, "I just wanted to thank those of you who flew into FSB J [sounds like Jamie] as well as many other times to extract us wounded. You didn't let those green .51 cal tracers stop you from pulling us out at daybreak. After all these years thank you brave sons of @#%\$!....Derek Bull, Boeve, A 2-7 Cold Steel 3rd Platoon, 2nd squad, bunker 18. Firebase J [sounds like Jamie] 3/29/1970 Garryowen."

Always remembering our 1st Cav troops on duty around the world; over and out.

FIRST TEAM! Garryowen SO THAT OTHERS MAY LIVE

Division Doings

Continued from pg. 14.

their making sure to give him plenty of time to readjust.

"It can be overwhelming for him," said Faith. "You can forget the routine, and I don't want him or myself to get frustrated, but he always wants to help out."

Faith said that from her experience from her husband's last deployment it took a few weeks to fully integrate him back into the regular family activities.

"I'm just going to spend as much time as I can with them now that I'm home. The kids won't leave my side," joked Johnson.

Johnson advised other Soldiers going through the same reintegration process to try and relax and enjoy being with their families.

"Don't expect everything to just go straight back to normal as soon as you get home," he said. "It takes time for everyone to adjust, but don't worry, it will happen sooner than you think."

Johnson also advised Soldiers to pay attention during their reintegration briefs and listen to the advice the councilors give them about successfully getting back into a regular routine with their families.

"During a deployment, things can change," said Johnson. "Be patient with yourself and your family and just give everyone the time and space they need until things get back to normal."

Soldiers looking for help or contact information for reintegration services on Fort Hood can find information on the post website at <www.hood.army.mil>.

"Long Knife" Troops Keep Skills Sharp by SGT Jennifer Taylor, 4th BCT, PAO

FT. HOOD, Texas -- Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, ruck marched out to the Black Gap range complex in order to conduct rifle marksmanship training, here January 11-12.

The unit, which returned from a year long deployment to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn last September, was focusing on returning to the basics in a training regimen geared toward continuously preparing the unit for any future challenges or missions.

SSG Tomas Acosta, the range noncommissioned officer in charge from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-7 Cav., said that Basic Rifle Marksmanship is always the primary tool in any training. Acosta stated that Soldiers need to be solid on the basics so they can move on to more comprehensive training. BRM plays the important role of providing a foundation upon which other training is based.

In addition to BRM, Soldiers trained to fire while wearing their Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical masks and at night.

"We want to make them more confident that they can still engage the enemy at night," said Acosta.

Instilling confidence is a big part of returning to the basics. 1LT Ian Morris, the range officer in charge from HHC, 2-7 Cav., said the goal of the range was to "build [the Soldiers'] confidence in their ability to do basic soldier tasks and in their equipment and NCOs who are training them."

Not only were the Soldiers training on their weapons, but while waiting to fire, they trained on radio communications tasks. It all leads back to basic soldier skills, Acosta said.

Even though the combined arms battalion recently returned from a deployment, improving Soldiers' basic skills remains important. 1LT Drew Markus, the assistant range OIC from HHC, 2-7 Cav., said that while the unit was in Iraq, "we were working on another army's skills instead of focusing on our own."

In addition, the style of conflict is changing, so BRM becomes an integral part of future training. "The Army is going back to the high intensity conflict fight. We're back to troops in the woodline," said Markus.

The troopers of the Ghost Battalion are focusing on a variety of tactical tasks over the next several months as they prepare to meet whatever future challenges they may be given to defend our nation.

Continued on pg. 21.



PFC Robert Archambeau, a scout with HHC 2-7, adjusts the front sight post on his M-4 rifle during the zeroing portion of basic rifle marksmanship training.

20th and 79th Artillery Regiment News



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First order of business is to wish everyone a blessed and peaceful New Year. Next, I must report the deaths of two aviators: one a member of ARA and the other a brave and competent aviator friend of Blue Max.

The 1st Cavalry Division Association notified us of the death of SGT Robert Rushing, 63, of Victoria, Texas on December 5, 2011. He was born on May 19, 1948 in Houston, Texas. A life time member of the ARA Association, he served in A/2-20th for two tours in 1967-69, when we were Armed Falcon and then Blue Max. Afterwards, he worked as an engineer for the Southern Pacific and Union Pacific Railroad, retiring in 2008 after 40 years. His wife, Gloria Torres and three daughters, Amy Pragana, Annette Wooden and Monique Lynch survive him. He was buried with full military honors at Houston National Cemetery.

LTC (Ret) John Berrien Whitehead, III, age 69, died in Columbus, Georgia on Wednesday, August 10, 2011. He was born on April 28, 1942 in Douglas, Georgia. He went to Vietnam in 1968-69 with the OH-6A NETT Team where I first met him. He returned for a second tour in 1971-72 where he flew with A Troop 7-1st Cav and D Co., 229th Avn Bn and F Troop 1-9th Cav of the 3rd Brigade (Separate), 1st Cav Division. During this tour, he received the Distinguished Service Cross for his daring rescue of three (3) US Advisors and four (4) ARVN soldiers from TF 72 during the Battle of An Loc on April 8, 1972, in a single lift while flying his OH-6A. This made for a total of nine (9) people on a four-passenger helicopter. Other awards include the Silver Star, DFC, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. His wife, Anne Whitehead, two daughters, Courtney Hudson and Caroline Whitehead and three sons, Mike, Jeff and David Whitehead, survive him. Burial, with full military honors, was held at Arlington National Cemetery. To quote Mike Sloniker, "He will remain a legend to those of us who flew in the III Corps area during the Easter Offensive of 1972."

Four previous *Saber* articles stirred up a lot of personal interest. My e-mail and telephone have been busy with more messages about those missions.

After the article in May/June *Saber* on the ARA participation in the Bong Son Operation, I received an e-mail from Henry Dunn of Albany, Georgia, who was the first Lieutenant Aerial Observer flying in an L-19 Birddog who requested the ARA support for the engagement. He was interested in the article since he was directly involved in the immediate action. I responded with a request for him to write a narrative of that action and any other actions, from his perspective. On July 9, 2011, Henry Dunn provided his observations and I include them now to continue our coverage of ARA's actions in 1966.

"I had spent 14 months with the 11th Air Assault Division at Benning (2-42 Arty -Little John Rocket) before being assigned to 1-21 Arty and attached to A/2-7, 1st Cav and sent to Vietnam. To say I was inexperienced in my new position as a Forward Observer with an infantry company was an understatement. I understood the air assault concept unlike most of the grunts coming from the 2nd Division.

I had never seen the ARA up close and personal until 11/14/65 in LZ Falcon just a few miles from LZ X-Ray. The 2-20th was using that LZ to support X-Ray if needed and they were. I walked over to the choppers sitting on the ground and had a long look and talked with some of the crews. I was totally intrigued with these gunships.

While in LZ X-Ray and LZ Albany the next few days I called in artillery and left the air support to the guys hanging around LTC Moore at the termite mound. At the time I was just getting comfortable with adjusting fire delivered by the 105's without being able to see the target (unlike sitting on a hill at Fort Sill.)

I had very little contact with the ARA Batteries until Bong Son, when I had the duty of being the aerial observer from the 1-21Arty for the 3rd Brigade. I then had the authority to contact any fire support I needed and adjust it to the target. I used 105's, 155's, 8 inch, naval support, air support (mainly F-4's and A1-E's) and ARA.

In no particular order I will mention some of my encounters with the 2-20th. I understand from Chip Parker (Pilot in Hqs Btry 2-20th who flew with the Battalion CO) that C battery supported the 3rd Brigade, so that is who I dealt with the most. MAJ Bartholomew was my main contact and seemed to be available the most for my fire missions. I have always assumed it was his gunship firing, but I'm sure as the C Battery Commander, he directed the fire some of the time.

One mission in particular was on 2/12/66 when I was flying in an L-19 Birddog up the valley from the Crow's Foot (some called it Eagle's Claw). It was an area where several tributaries flowing out of the mountains formed what looked like a bird's foot. I had just finished a fire mission on the enemy entrenched on the eastern side of the valley, when I received fire from the opposite side. When I called for a fire mission, the ARA helicopters were already in position to deliver their ordnance on the target. Once the target was eliminated, MAJ Bartholomew went down and hovered while one of his crewmembers got out on the skid and picked up the anti-aircraft gun still in the foxhole, which I was told was the first 12.7 mm captured by the Division. This event was well covered in the write-up for the citation awarded. The flying during the fire mission was absolutely

amazing to watch from the air.

There was another situation on or about 1/29/66 where a company of the 1-7th Cav was pinned down outside a village west of Bong Son near the mountain range. I was in communication with LT Ken Gilmore (FO) and he was having me adjust fire on the village. He had requested white phosphorous (WP-Willie Peter) trying to give him and the company cover to enable their successful withdrawal out of the line of fire. At one point during the afternoon, we had artillery coming from the east, A1-E's strafing from the north and the ARA firing from the south. The stranded company was northeast of the village and taking heavy fire. This was the first time I had coordinated fire from three different elements firing on the same location. The ARA and the A1-E's performed like they had been doing this all their lives. They were literally firing in opposite directions at the same location. My L-19 ran low on fuel and I had to turn the whole thing over to a replacement AO before the battle was over. Not sure exactly what occurred after I left, but it was one of my most exhilarating experiences of my tour of duty.

Flying over the plains of Bong Son in an L-19, I received a frantic call from Rick Rescorla. He and his 3-man recon team had been dropped off with the mission of locating the enemy. He had located a large force and they were being chased. Since they were moving quickly across the area, I called the ARA and they fired over and behind the recon team and into the enemy stopping them in their tracks. Then one of the ARA helicopters went down and picked them up and moved them to safety. They were always available for any unusual operation when other options would take too much time.

I was in the area of the Crow's Foot and a command helicopter had been forced to land on one of the islands in the middle of the river flowing through the valley. The ARA responded to my call and flew cover for the downed ship until help could arrive.

Another time I was in an H-13 helicopter over the Crow's Foot when we spotted an enemy soldier dug under the bank of one of the islands. Artillery would have been very hard to adjust onto his position. There happened to be, as usual, ARA in the vicinity. As he attacked the position, the enemy soldier jumped out of his hole and began running directly away from the flight of the helicopter. Not a very good idea! It was one of the most awesome things I had ever seen. Again ARA was available!

One time I had enemy in the open and was trying to adjust artillery fire on them. They kept changing directions and my adjustment would be off line. I was in an L-19 and having a tough time keeping up with them from the air. Obviously, some ARA had heard me and showed up to take over the pursuit. I left it with them as they could handle the situation without my services and we were running low on fuel. Again, ARA was available as you can see.

I think I have about exhausted my stories, but you can see why I have always had so much respect for these men and their machines. When I think of the lack of technology they had in '65-'66 in these helicopters, my respect of these men increases immensely. I did not mention MAJ Roger Bartholomew's name much, but he was a major part of these stories. I have no proof that any of these events happened, but since there is probably no one left to refute them, they must be true.

MAJ Bart overheard my battalion release me from duty as I was headed back to Bong Son the middle of March '66. He radioed my call sign "Bronco 11 mike" and told me to have a good life and that he had enjoyed doing business with me. Awesome again! He has a deep place in my hallowed memories. I respectfully submit this brief to the men of ARA."

I thank you Henry for your observations and your service. I have just learned that Henry Dunn and our Association President, Jesse Hobby, were graduates in the class of 1959 from Albany High School, Albany, Georgia. Just goes to show just how small our world really is. Please read page 236 of LTG Hal Moore's book.

On December 12, 2011, I received a call from Francisco De Ramirez, who was a SP-4 with the 2-8 Cav in 1965. He had just read the article about the action at Plei Me and LZ X-Ray. Specifically, the part written by CWO Bob Roth who mentioned flying all night firing rockets by using flashlights on the ground as reference points. He said that his unit commander had them place the red lens in their flashlights and line up to form an arrow pointing towards the enemy and enabling the gunships to fire on the targets. He mentioned that this was only the second time he had spoken of that action. The first was with Joseph Galloway at the Christmas party for the 160th Night Stalkers of Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, Georgia on December 9, 2011. FDR, as he is called by his friends (asked by many if he is related to the former President!), is very proud of his service and has been thinking of recording his time in Vietnam. I encouraged him to continue his pursuit of writing his history for his children so they can have a record. He continues to work as a manager for an apartment complex and lives with his wife, Guadalupe, of 52 years in Savannah. Thank you, "FDR," for your information and may you find closure while writing your memoirs.

Our next reunion will be in Portland, Oregon on May 23-27, 2012, at the Benson Hotel. Herb and Cindy Hirst are our sponsors/hosts and have planned a great and festive program for us. Information for the reunion may be found on the Aerial Rocket Artillery Association web site <www.araassociation.com>. Additional information will also be published in subsequent editions of the *Straphanger Georgiazette*, as it becomes available. Please, mark your calendars and let us meet again in Portland, Oregon.

LRRP News

Continued from pg. 15.

to the troops in the field sometime in late 2012 or 2013.

The 20th Annual Wreaths Across America event was held at Arlington National Cemetery on December 10, 2011. An estimated 100,000 pine wreaths with simple red bows were placed at the white headstones of our nation's fallen military there. The event included formal wreath-laying at the grave of President John F. Kennedy, the Tomb of the Unknowns, and at the original mast of the U.S.S. Maine, a legendary battleship sunk in 1898. (Note, the mast of the U.S.S. Maine was removed from the ship in 1905 shortly before the ship was taken out to sea and sunk with military honors. The mast was then installed above a memorial in Arlington National Cemetery in honor of those who lost their lives when the ship sank in Havana, Cuba, Harbor in 1898. This sinking of the ship was the

event that triggered the Spanish-American War.) Larry Curtis, our unit's 6th past president, Indianapolis, Indiana (1967-1968) and members of his family were among the more than 15,000 volunteers who placed the wreaths at the graves at Arlington. Larry's son and daughter-in-law mentioned that this was something they had wanted to do for sometime as a way of helping to lift the spirits during the Christmas season of those who have lost family members and friends in the nation's wars.

The wreath-laying event coincided with 740 other wreath-laying ceremonies coordinated by Wreaths Across America at locations across the country, including 25 locations overseas. The total number of holiday wreaths placed was estimated to be 325,000. They will remain in place through the New Year and will be collected on January 28, 2012.

RANGERS LEAD THE WAY

82nd FA News



"Can and Will"
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ing for CPT Bill Potts who was a Battalion FDO with I-30th FA in March-June '68. We suspect he was transferred to another unit, possibly to take command of a Btry in a DS Battalion, or possibly transferred to DIVARTY. I know he was in the CPT's Field Artillery Career Course at Fort Sill in late '69 to early '70. Please contact me with any info.



Wanted: We are still looking for CPT Bill Potts who was a Battalion FDO with I-30th FA in March-June '68. We suspect he was transferred to another unit, possibly to take command of a Btry in a DS Battalion, or possibly transferred to DIVARTY. I know he was in the CPT's Field Artillery Career Course at Fort Sill in late '69 to early '70. Please contact me with any info.

E Btry 82nd FA Vietnam: I received a couple of e-mails from Bill Thomason, "I received a photo as one of those normal pieces of e-mail that one gets every day. I thought it was a particularly patriotic photo so I decided to send it to all of my Echo Battery, 82nd Arty, 1st Air Cavalry Division, Vietnam Combat Veterans. Much to my surprise I got a very emotional reply back from one of them. His name is Keith Haller. Keith was a Specialist Five, Crew Chief on Huey 550 in Vietnam. He was in Vietnam from June 1968 to July 1969. Keith experienced a lot of action while he was there. Attached is a photograph of Keith and his bird." His second e-mail follows, "The photo provided by Tony Romero who was a Door Gunner in Echo Battery, 82nd Artillery. As indicated in the picture, it is Christmas 1968 and at that time the Battery was located at Camp Evans. Isn't it amazing how we can adapt to our environment and just like this picture, even in combat we can celebrate those special occasions in our life. Pictured are SP5 Paul W Herring, SP5 Paul Tober and SP5 Tony Romero. The other two soldiers are unknown in the photograph. Paul Herring was a Crew Chief on Huey #949 in Echo Battery and currently resides in Garland, Texas and is an Attorney there. SP5 Paul Tober was a Crew Chief/Door Gunner and was Killed in Action on 23 February '69 by a rocket that hit and exploded in his hooch. This happened in Quan Loi, Vietnam. He was TDY to Co D, 1-9th Cav. SP5 Paul Tober



82nd FA News: Happy New Year. May God bless all of our 82nd FA Regiment Troopers and bring them, and all of our 1st Cav Troopers safely home.

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was from Tigerton, Wisconsin. Tony Romero was a Door Gunner on Huey's and LOH's during his tour in Vietnam. He currently resides in Denver, Colorado and is retired. Photo provided by Tony Romero. Article assembled and submitted to Dan Gillotti by Bill Thomason.

3-82nd FA: 3-82 Field Artillery recently returned home from completing their deployment from Operation New Dawn. The Red Dragon Battalion was one of the last units out of northern Iraq and the last unit to leave Joint Base Balad in Salah ad Din Province. Before leaving, the Red Dragons worked tirelessly to advise, train, and assist Iraqi Security Forces, Government of Iraq Officials, and local leaders in the surrounding area. Throughout the deployment the Battalion was able to foster great relationships with their Iraqi counterparts leading to a seamless transition of the base from United States Forces to Iraqi control.



3-82nd FA leaving Baghdad enroute to Kuwait.

These relationships not only helped during base transition but these partnerships disrupted enemy activity and improved security in southern Salah ad Din. Although Joint Base Balad was one of the largest military bases in Iraq, known for a high volume of enemy indirect fire attacks, the Red Dragons were able to significantly reduce the number of attacks and stop all attacks weeks before retrograding to Kuwait. 3-82 FA's contributions in the southern Salah ad Din area set the conditions for both lasting security and a strategic partnership for years to come. Upon



LTC Cook and CSM Soto uncase the 3-82 FA Colors at Fort Hood.

the completion of the Joint Base Balad transition to Iraqi control, the Red Dragons then conducted a four day tactical road march to Camp Virginia located in Kuwait. Hundreds of Soldiers participated in the ground assault convoy traveling through various major cities and military bases in Iraq. Through the Red Dragons discipline and precise actions no significant incident occurred and all Soldiers arrived safely to Kuwait. The Red Dragon Battalion successfully completed its mission and arrived at Fort Hood on the afternoon of November 24th giving all Soldiers and family members something more to make it a special Thanksgiving holiday. Article submitted by CPT Cyle C. Adair.

Maybe someone will send me a few pictures (hint-hint), and a really good story about their daring escapades on the field of battle! Keep those e-mails, cards, letters, and photos flowing my way.

Can and Will ~ Sir!

2nd BATTALION, 19th FIELD ARTILLERY HISTORY



Distinctive Unit Insignia of the 19th Field Artillery

The 19th Artillery was constituted on June 3, 1916, in the Regular Army as the 19th Field Artillery. It was organized June 1, 1917, at Camp Wilson, Texas. On December 12, 1917, the regiment was assigned to the 5th Division (later 5th Infantry Division). The unit was inactivated on September 6, 1921, at Camp Bragg, North Carolina.

The 19th Field Artillery was activated October 5, 1939, at Fort Knox, Kentucky. It was reorganized and redesignated October 1, 1940, as the 19th Field Artillery Battalion.

The battalion was redesignated on October 15, 1957, as the 2nd Howitzer Battalion, 19th Field Artillery, and activated and assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division in Korea (concurrently organic elements were constituted and activated). On September 1, 1963, the unit was redesignated 2nd Battalion, 19th Artillery. The battalion was transferred (less personnel and equipment) from Korea to Fort Benning, Georgia, on July 1, 1965, and reorganized as part of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). The unit was formed at Fort Benning from personnel and equipment of the 6th Battalion, 81st Field Artillery that was part of the 11th Air Assault Division (Test).

The 19th Artillery participated in the campaigns of St. Mihiel and Lorraine (1918) in World War I, and Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, and Central Europe in World War II.

The battalion earned the Presidential Unit Citation, along with the rest of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), for the Pleiku Campaign in 1965. A 13-man detachment earned the Presidential Unit Citation (First Oak Leaf Cluster) for actions in October 1966. Battery B earned a Presidential Unit Citation for its actions on LZ BIRD in December 1966.

The battalion arrived in Vietnam (Qui Nhon Harbor) aboard the USNS Geiger on September 19, 1965. The 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 19th Field Artillery, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) was the only Field Artillery unit that was Airborne and Airmobile and was part of the 1st Brigade, which was the only Airborne Brigade in the 1st Cavalry Division.

Initially the battalion's batteries were placed in the vicinity of the division's Camp Radcliff base camp at An Khe and their first missions were harassment and interdiction fires and fires at suspected Viet Cong locations.

The 2-19th received a warning order in late October, 1965 to be prepared to move to the vicinity of Pleiku near the Cambodian border. The battalion provided artillery fires during the Pleiku Campaign for which the 1st Cavalry Division was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. The battles at Pleiku provided the batteries of the battalion with valuable combat experience. Lessons such as the importance of sling loading ammunition and equipment, rather than loading it

internally, had been learned and would be put into effective use in the future.

In 1966, the battalion participated in Operations LINCOLN, CRAZY HORSE, NATHAN HALE, THAYER I and THAYER II. In December 1966 while at LZ Bird, B Battery earned more honor for the battalion in heavy fighting involving small arms and "beehive" rounds. Several of the Troopers were awarded decorations for valor and the Battery was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation along with other units at LZ Bird.

During 1967, the battalion continued to support 1st Brigade operations throughout the II Corps area, primarily in the division's longest action, Operation PERSHING which lasted almost a year. This operation aimed at clearing the Bong Son Plains and the An Lao Valley near the Vietnamese coast of the enemy. The battalion fired its 5000,000th round in Vietnam in September, 1967. Major battles fought by the 1st Brigade during 1967 included the first Battle of Tuy Au on 18-19 February, the first Battle of Tam Quan from 19 to 21 March and the second Battle of Tam Quan from 6 to 20 December 1967.

Early in 1968, the battalion continued the mission in the An Lao Valley and Bong Son Plain region but in late January the division moved to the I Corps Tactical Zone. Between 18 and 31 January the battalion made eight moves, fired 1,470 missions and 27,812 rounds.

Throughout this period, the city of Quang Tri was threatened by five NVA regiments. Three of the regiments tried to take the city in succession but the combination of 1st Brigade infantry and the battalion's howitzers crushed their efforts. In April and May the battalion provided artillery fire as the division's elements entered the A Shau Valley which had long been an enemy sanctuary.

In October and November, 1968 the division and the battalion left the northernmost provinces of Vietnam for the III Corps Tactical Zone and the mission of interdicting the enemy's infiltration routes that led from Cambodia towards Saigon. The battalion's new home was Tay Ninh.

In March, 1968 the battalion fired its one millionth round in Vietnam. Within a few months of arriving in the III Corps area the battalion had already established 16 firebases and the battalions Fire Direction Center (FDC) had moved five times and the battalion headquarters three times. Major battles fought during 1968 were the Battle of Quang Tri from 31 January to 6 February and the Battle of Gia Dang III from 27 to 30 May. During 1968 the battalion participated in Operations JEB STUART, DELAWARE/LAM SON 216, JEB STUART III and TOAN THANG II.

On March 21, 1969, C Battery was on LZ White when NVA sappers hit the base. Using direct fire Charlie Battery fought off the attackers. On May 6 the NVA hit LZ Carolyn where A Battery mowed down the enemy with 800 rounds of direct fire. It was B Battery's turn on May 12 when the enemy attacked LZ Jamie. The enemy using Bangalore torpedoes to penetrate the perimeter wire. The battalion's batteries proved invaluable in other ground attacks in 1969, **Continued on pg. 23.**

ENGINEER NNews



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Of All People In All Places:
There I was minding my own business on a history tour of the Low Country of South Carolina. My wife had wandered off on her own agenda then hurriedly found

me and snagged my arm. "I found a 1st Cavalry guy and he was there the same time as you" she exclaimed as she drug me forward. Now for those of you not familiar with the Low Country, let me explain that more than a geographic map marking between the ocean sand hills and the piedmont clay hills, the Low Country of South Carolina is a state of mind. It is the place where the Gullah language still falls softly upon the ears. It is the place that Hugo nearly destroyed, where cotton still grows in rejuvenated soil, where you can fish, golf and dance the shag in the same day, where corn on the cob, shrimp, red potatoes and crayfish meet in the same pot and where genteel Charleston should be the capital of the known universe. Well there he was, Joe Cross looking none the worse for wear forty years after graduating with me from Wofford College. Joe had been a mortar toting grunt converted to legal clerk with the 1-5 CAV during 1969 to 1970. Yes, we knew all the same places, Phouc Vinh, Tay Ninh and numbers of LZs whose names were forgotten in the mobility of air operations but all essentially the same in concept; push up a berm, string wire, place aiming stakes, blow down trees then repeat the process again in another grid square. Joe and I called roll on Jerry Josey, Don Cake, Pete Pillar and Jack Kaplan all of whom served our country when called upon. As a side note, Jack is still on active duty, full bird type with age wavers, in SOCOM out of McDill AFB. His dress uniform probably sags to the left side but he would never boast about that or any of his unknown-to-us accomplishments. We sleep safely in our beds thanks to Jack and others like him. Now back to Joe Cross where this story began. Joe stays in contact with his former lieutenant and mentor, Emil Ash. Ash lives in Olean, New York. Joe also communicates with Al Capuano. All three were 1-5 CAV but have achieved guest appearance status in the Engineer section. Joe remains true to South Carolina and can be found in the Cross, South Carolina white pages if you still get a phone book. Otherwise, just wait till deer hunting season, head down to Berkeley County and look for Joe on his plantation. Bring your .308 for best deer take downs in one shot.

Another Yankee: A string of e-mails brought me into contact with Al Capuano mentioned above in the Joe Cross story. Al lives in Murray Hill, New Jersey and turns out to be something of a writer sending five pages of Nam memories. Here is one of his contributions entitled *The Professor*. Just prior to Andy going to the rear, me Andy and Big John had another wild experience together. Again it happened at night on LP. We recently had been assigned a new guy. Joe was a real nice guy and well liked by us. He looked, talked and had the manners of a professor. He in fact was a teacher. Of course, he was nicknamed the professor. In any case, our squad was on LP duty. It was raining and we set up our claymore mines and trip flares along a trail. Guard shifts were established. During the night on the professor's first watch, he continually would wake us saying he heard movement. However, we heard no movement of human beings moving about. Later during the professor's second watch, we were sleeping when suddenly there are explosions and trip flares popping. No warning what so ever. We thought we were being overrun. We ran through the jungle back to the main position. Later the guys in the main position said they actually saw the jungle open up as we were running for our lives. What had happened was the professor heard movement again and blew the ambush. Since there was no gunfire, the officers thought we screwed up and were mad. The officers threatened Andy if we did not go out again. No way in hell were we going back out after that experience. We made a deal with the guys in the bunkers in the main position that we would go out only about 20 yards or so in front of their position. Just before daylight we returned to the main position as if we were returning from a much further out LP. The officers and our group now went out to search the ambush area. They were still angry until we got to the ambush site. There were 10-13 NVA soldiers in a straight line right in front of our position all blown to bits by the claymore mines. I remember I was kneeling next to a small tree. There were red and white string materials, not unlike Christmas tinsel, hanging from the tree. I touched it and realized it was human flesh. Suddenly we were heroes and higher up officers were choppered in to view the bodies. Remember not one shot was fired. From one of the bodies I obtained an NVA medal. The medal has a picture of a soldier on a tank. The tank has the words US on it. Later I talked to a Kit Carson Scout and he said the medal was given for killing a lot of Americans. About a month later, the professor was assigned to the rear headquarters. Later I met with him in the rear area and he told me our group was put in for the Army Commendation Medal with V device. Much later I did receive this medal. Joe is now the librarian at South Carolina University School of Law. I know this because a few years ago I received a phone call from him. He said he always remembered the young kid from New Jersey with the big pack. He looked me up from tax records. If he hadn't blown the ambush when he did, this journal may have never been written.

And Another Yankee: No sooner did Al Capuano send his recollections than Emil Ash jumped onto the *SABER* bandwagon. "Go figure" as they say up there. Ash was as green as lieutenants get when he was first in country beginning in 1968. As soon as in country processing was done at Tay Ninh, Al was sent out to the Cambodian border at some grid square named Kattoum. Then it was into the bush for a quick four week hike to enjoy the scenery. Al recalls that SGT Casey was a good leader for his squad. ISG Harding had a habit of sleeping with grenades to always be ready not to mention setting a good example. Mike Meccurrio, from Buffalo, New York, was Al's radio operator. Thank heavens they were both skinny because on one occasion they both had to take cover from

sniper fire behind the same tree. CPT Greiner was in command but returned stateside because of wounds. One night the medic swore he saw that he saw the NVA in the trees with green flashlights. It turns out that the lights were fireflies and using morphine influenced the medic's opinion. Al signs off for now but promises to return. 1-5 he's yours to continue the story.

Finally an Engineer. Just when the infantry was about to overrun this column, Lorenzo Chavez from Oxnard, California found his way home. Lorenzo states "I served with 1st Cav from '66/'67 assigned to A Company, 8th Engineer, 1st Brigade Airborne. I was also at LZ English at the start of '67. I was there when the LZ's ammo dump went up from a short flare round from the 5 Cav mortars. I pulled wounded troops out of the landing strip drains as they made their way from the 15 Med field hospital. Being a combat engineer was always double duty for our troops. We did all the same details as the grunts plus going forward to disarm the booby traps. We got the guys out of the old French mine fields. My all time personal favorite was going down holes in search of gooks. My ISG was Totura and the Battalion SGM was Ruth. MAJ Brammal was the Battalion 6. For the love of thought I cannot remember my lieutenant's name as our interaction with him was maybe twice at best. However I do remember my Platoon Sergeant, PSG Papie Baldwin (11th Air Assault), SGT Cousart (11th Air Assault), Billie Morton (82nd Airborne), John Hood (101 Airborne), JJ Johnson and my best friend, Daniel Shelly (Leg) may God Bless. I had a laughable moment while assigned to the 2-8 Cav on demo work. We got into a shot em up with a long range sniper in a small vill on the China Sea. The prelude to this event was that half my platoon was cleaning weapons while the rest were kept wired tight. That's when the sniper decided to use us for target practice. It was about this time that Shelly decided to move forward of the perimeters maybe to take a leak I cannot remember why but there he was out in the open. You must realize that the perimeter consisted of 20 guys around a bunch of downed coconut trees with sand foxholes that kept filling up as you tried to get in and out. Now, back to Shelly. He had his M16 cracked open for cleaning when the shots poured in to our positions Shelly did not seem to care about the incomings. Hell no, he had lost the bolt of his M16 in the sand so he stayed out in front of the positions looking for the bolt while we fired around his body. He was in the line of fire but never did he get down as he was royally pissed. He did manage to find the bolt clean it and help return fire. Great to say we had no casualties that day. Talking about dumb things, this one is hard to swallow even now as I remember it. Again Shell and I were blowing up bunkers and tunnels when we ran out of blasting caps. My box was empty and so was his, we were at out last tunnel so we did the next best thing by making a rock, paper, scissors type of decision. Since I was the senior blast man and won, I decided that we would use a frag as our cap. We talked about it for a few minutes then it was game on. We figured as only 19 year olds do. We would place the frag on top of the C-4 and pull the pin. We would crawl out of the tunnel, run about 20 ft and dive into the creek before the blast. We were in the low crawl position inside the tunnel and had to crawl superfast, stand up, run like hell and jump into the creek. We made it but we did not account for the falling debris. What a thumping by the falling clods! We had charged about 20# of C-4. Just plan dumb. As an afterthought you can reach Shelly at Penn State University. He is a professor of Vietnam History.

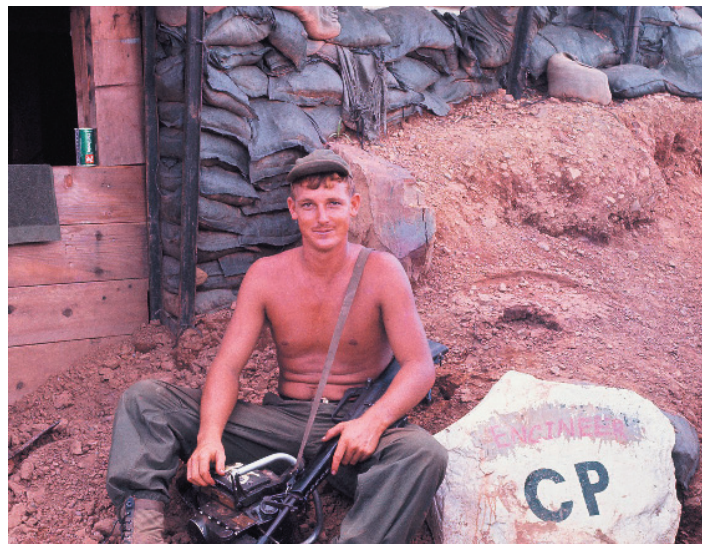


McNally not so happy times.

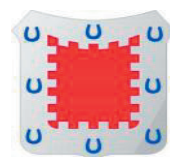


McNally happier times.

Do you know or remember me? If so, contact this writer at once.



Unknown but not forgotten -- Alabama.



New Members

Continued from pg. 6.

E-4 RICHARD, KEITH KYLE TX CSC2-7C 7208
PFC SCHWARTZ, HAROLD NV HC2-19FA 5709
E-5 SHEKEY, RICHARD F. IA HHC 1-8C 7011
LTC SIDES, DON TX HHBN 1104
SP-5 SIGMON, TERRY J. NC HHC 1CDH 66
SP-4 SLEAD, NORMAN E. IL B 1-9C

SSG SLIMP, DANIEL LA A 2-7C 64
SGT STRAYER, CHARLES A. IL A 1-8C 6919
SP-5 SUCHY, ROBERT E. OH HHC 1CDH 6912
SSG SWALES, GARRY L. WA HHC 2-8C 8810
SGT TABERS, III, ROBERT B. MO 2-7C 0809
CPT TISDALE, BASIL D. AL A 1-9C 6506
LTC VALLECILLO, GONZALO A. VA HHC 1CDH 1107

SFC VOCCIA, SALVATORE A. NJ B3-112FA 04
MR. WESTENBERGER, WAYNE ROBERT WI A 1-8C 6703
COL (R) WHITTLE, WILLIAM A. FL B2-8C 6701

Thanks for joining the
1st Cavalry Division Association

545th MP COMPANY



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Org



Greetings Fellow 545th MPs and Happy New Year!

The old year is behind us and we have a brand new year to look forward to with hope and anticipation. Hopefully, you all had a great Christmas and New Year holiday and are looking forward to the New Year as I am. Our Christmas Care Package program was a great success as we had only one deployed 545th MP that I had no address for and no return packages for the remainder so far.

1SG Frank (Josh) Solomon of the 545th MP Company currently in Alaska informs me that the 793rd MP Battalion (which the 545th MP Company is a part of) has once again been assigned to another unit. As usual, it seems that all commands want the famed 545th in their unit and so when the 3rd MEB in Alaska was deactivated and the 2nd Engineer Brigade was stood up, the 793rd was assigned to them.



Patch of the 2nd Engineer Brigade.

Once again the 545th MP Company wears a new patch but working with the 2nd Engineer Brigade is not a new event. 2nd Engineer Special Brigade was activated on June 20, 1942, at Camp Edwards, as the 2nd Engineer Amphibian Brigade. The brigade arrived in Australia on April 17, 1943, where it was redesignated an Engineer Special Brigade. It participated in the assault on Leyte



1SG Solomon

on October 20, 1944, and returned to the United States on December 16, 1945. The 2nd ESB was deactivated the following year.

The colors of the 2nd Engineer Brigade were uncased for the first time in 56 years during an activation ceremony, September 21, at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson's Pershing Field.

Army COL Thomas Roth, 2nd Engineer Brigade commander, and CSM James Dickens, 2nd Engineer Brigade command sergeant major, formally ushered in the next chapter of the unit's history with help from MG Raymond Palumbo, commanding general of U.S. Army Alaska.

The guests of honor were Jack Reed, a World War II veteran who served with the brigade's original incarnation, the 2nd Engineer Amphibious Brigade, and Ed Leard III, whose grandfather Edward Leard was killed in action during World War II while serving with the unit.

During his remarks, Palumbo highlighted the brigade's new role.

"The Army has been transforming lately," Palumbo said. "Especially, since 9/11. We had to change. We had to change because the enemy's changed and we had to meet the new challenges that the enemy's presenting us around the world. That's why we had to introduce this engineer brigade into our Army formation, to bring yet another capability that we need on the battlefields."

The engineer brigade is a modular deployable headquarters able to function as a higher headquarters for several subordinate engineer units and could potentially function as a joint headquarters including Army, Navy, Air-Force or Marine components.

"The 2nd Engineer Brigade becomes the sixth of its kind in the Army," Palumbo said. "It's capable of planning and controlling diverse missions associated with assuring mobility, enhancing protection by building things, enabling logistics and developing infrastructure."

I recently received a lot of historical information pertaining to the 545th MP

Division Doings

Continued from pg. 17.



CPT Benson conducts classes.

Task Force Guns Provides Its Soldiers an Opportunity to Succeed by SGT Richard Wrigley, 1st ACB, PAO

FORWARDOPERATINGBASE KUNDUZ, Afghanistan - With the Army downsizing, soldiers are finding it a challenge to remain competitive in their military occupational specialties and stay in the Army.

One of the key factors used to judge whether or not a soldier is allowed to re-enlist is his or her

general technical score which is obtained during the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test taken prior to enlistment.

"During the Presidential Surge, GT score requirements for certain MOSs in the Army were waiverable, but now as we draw down, the Army is only going to keep its best and most qualified soldiers, so many are finding it hard to re-enlist if they came into their job under a waiver," said SSG Justin LeFaire, a native of Chicago, and the career counselor in charge of retaining soldiers for Task Force Guns, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division.

Soldiers with low GT scores are not completely out of luck though. The Army has a program called the Armed Forces Classification Test Improvement Course which is normally offered at any Army education center.

However, the soldiers of TF Guns do not have an education center at their remote location in northern Afghanistan.

This issue was brought to light when one soldier expressed interest in improving his score because he wished to stay in the Army and continue serving his country, said CPT Ian Benson, a native of Oxford, Mississippi, and the company commander for the Headquarters, Headquarters Company, TF Guns, 1st ACB.

"We looked in to sending the soldier to a location out here that had an education center, but the course is over a month long," said Benson. "Mission success is the priority, and we could not afford to take a soldier out of the fight for that long."



SP-3 Dave Barrett on left and Unknown 545th MP on the right in Japan.

Company while it was in Korea just before they deactivated it there and stood it up once again at Fort Benning. We are fortunate to have a member who served with the unit at that time – PFC



Dave Barrett

(now SSG Ret) David D. Barrett and Dave has a great memory and a lot of

historical information

Here are excerpts from some of his E-mails to me – "Yep, when I was 17 and still good looking. The photos with the jeep in them were taken to the side-rear of the Snack Bar at the 7th Cav/Camp Otsu Recreational Area which was on the north shore of Lake Biwa, the largest fresh water lake in Japan. This part of Japan is known to the Japanese as Kansai. Kansai is generally considered to encompass the ancient historical feudal areas where Nara, Kyoto and Osaka are located.

Camp Otsu was located on the shores of Lake Biwa in Shiga-ken (Prefecture) and it was probably one of the most beautiful places I have ever been stationed, be it military, government or as a civilian and I've had some pretty plush assignments over the years. I was also stationed at Camp Nara as a 545th MP Company MPI Investigator for CWO4 Sweberg and the 83rd MPC Detachment. However, as nice as Camp Nara and the surrounding historical area of Nara-ken was Camp Otsu was by far better assignment. Try as I may, I cannot remember the name of partner for the shift/day, the young corporal kneeling down in front of the jeep with me."

"Headquarters for the 1st Cav and Hqs & Hqs Company for the 545th were both physically located at Hardy Barracks in the Akasaka-Roppongi-shi district of Tokyo.

Each one of our Traffic Platoons, the 1st, 2nd and 3rd were further assigned to three totally different geographical locations in Japan, each of them attached to and supporting a different 1st Cav Regiment., the 5th, 7th and 8th Cavalry.

The 545th Headquarters also had a "working" MP element that conducted town patrol within the City of Tokyo itself, and the Police Platoon ran the Eighth Army "Big Eight" Stockade which was located at North Camp Drake just South of Tokyo-to in Saitama-ken. One of the other Traffic Platoons (the 1st or 3rd) may very well have been at Camp Crawford, but Camp Crawford also closed during that era as did Camp Haugen in Hokkaido (which is where the 7th Cav and the 2nd Traffic platoon had been before moving to Camp Otsu) and Camp Schimmelpfennig (phonetic) which was somewhere up in Northern Honshu near Senda-ken.

CPT Handy was our Company Commander in May of '56 when I got there and each platoon had a 1st Lieutenant serving as the Platoon Commander and defacto "detachment" CO. Each Regiment supplied their own officer as the Post Provost Marshal. We were lucky in that Headquarters, 7th Cav just happened to have an MP Lieutenant Colonel on their S-3 Hqs staff and he was our designated part-time PM. Any serious on-site MP operational or personnel stuff that had to get done was always handled jointly by the Platoon Lieutenant and the W4 in MPC. General personnel matters, promotions and transfers were all handled by Headquarters at Hardy Barracks."

Once again – Happy New Year to all and I'll see you once again in the next column.

Benson continued doing his due diligence and became certified to instruct the course after he applied for it and was accepted. Since then, the soldiers in TF Guns have had an unprecedented amount of success improving their GT scores, said LeFaire, who assists Benson in running the class.

"We've had three iterations of soldiers go through this class," said Benson. "Of the 22 tests scores that we've seen so far, the lowest has been a 115, the highest, a 130, and we're maintaining an average of 124."

The real success is what these scores mean for the soldiers, said LeFaire.

"Scoring a 110 or higher in the GT portion of the AFCT opens the doors for soldiers for reclassification actions and also makes assignments available to soldiers that would otherwise be unavailable," said LeFaire. "Also, career wise, a lot more avenues of progression within the military are open to Soldiers with a GT score of 110 or higher," he added.

As one soldier can attest, the benefits of this course are not just higher scores and the ability to stay in the Army.

"I took the course because I had to get a higher GT score if I wanted to stay in the Army," said SPC Nuria Cardona. "Before, I thought, 'I have a language barrier, I can't go any further,' but then I passed the test," she added. "Now I know I can keep going and try to better my career."

Cardona, a native of San Pedro Sula, Honduras, and a supply clerk for Company D, TF Guns, 1st ACB, brought her GT score up from a 95 to 126.

With an improved GT score, Cardona is continuing to expand her educational horizons.

"I'm even taking college courses now that I know I can better myself," she added.

Cardona is a great example of the success of the program due to the difficulties she had to surmount in order to bring up her GT score, said Benson.

English is her second language, and she struggled with the word and paragraph comprehension sections of the material, he added.

Benson said Cardona's hard work and perseverance are the two main factors that helped her ultimately complete the course. In the end though, the success of the course was not just seen in one soldier.

"This class gives soldiers the opportunity to better themselves, and continue their careers in the Army. From a counselor's stand point, I feel this is a win-win," said LeFaire.

"I get to help the soldiers, they get what they want, and the Army gets what it wants," he added.

HQ and Special Troops News



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Greetings from Northwest Louisiana. Hope you all had a wonderful Veteran's Day. I was unable to attend the ceremonies in Washington, DC,

but did attend two ceremonies in Shreveport, Louisiana. My grandson is in the JROTC program at Byrd High School in Shreveport and they put on a wonderful Veteran's Day program honoring all veterans. After the ceremony, Sue and I went to the Veteran's home in Bossier City and visited with the old soldiers living in this new facility. It is a very nice facility, very clean and well decorated with military items. It was a joy to talk with some of the WWII veterans living there. Then Sue and I attend the veteran's memorial service at the veteran's monument on Clyde Fant Parkway in Shreveport. A local JROTC presented the colors, put on a performance of their drill team, and airmen from Barksdale AFB presented the flags of the 50 states. A flyover by a B-52 was certainly interesting and then a highly decorated Vietnam vet, MAJ (Ret) Ronald Chatelain (Distinguished Service Cross) talked about his experiences in Vietnam. Several local restaurants gave free dinners to veterans. The remainder of the day was spent watching war movies on the TV.

Now Christmas and New Year's have come and gone. I trust each of you had a wonderful Christmas and Sue and I wish you all the best in the New Year. Santa was good to me even though I was probably on the "bad" list.



I found this picture of FSBMACE with mountain Chua Chan in the background from the 1971-72 time frame. Someone on the FSB had a couple of monkeys. As I recall, they were mean and liked to bite. We had a dog that we called "Snatch". Where the name came from is another story. She was a great rat catcher. She wandered around the base and would catch rats and bring them into the hooch and drop them at your feet. We all

kept score of the rat kill each month. We set traps for them and also shot them with an old M16 that we had that was not on the property books. Who knows where it came from? We would remove the full metal jacketed bullet from the M16 round, remove all the powder and then stick the end of the bullet in a bar of soap. When you fired it, the primer would shoot the soap for an amazing distance. You could kill rats with the "soap" round. Just like kids, soldiers will always find things to amuse themselves and make "toys" out of anything handy.

John Giampia sent me the following about his assignment with the 1st Cavalry Division. "I was a member of the 37th Infantry Scout Dog Platoon with the 1st Cav in '69 and '70. Our rear area was Bien Hoa army base and our forward area was Phouc Vinh. Our normal mission was to walk point for infantry companies. A mission was 4 days working and then 3 days off to rest the dogs. On the days off, the dogs regularly saw our veterinarian and we did a lot of re-training with the dogs. Normal operations called for us to go in and out on the regular re-supply logs by the Huey choppers."

"My dog was named 'Baron', a German shepherd. He was a big dog weighing about 90 lbs. and was long and lean. If he was stateside and normal weight would probably be about 110 lbs. At the very end of April, 1970, Baron and I were brought to the tarmac in Phouc Vinh to chopper out on a mission. When we got to the tarmac, I immediately saw an abnormal amount of activity, a lot of choppers of all types and a lot of infantry troopers waiting to deploy. It was obvious to me that an operation was beginning somewhere. Our normal operating area was the Cambodian border in the Parrot's beak area interdicting NVA and VC supplies and looking for caches of weapons and food. There is a river that separates Vietnam from Cambodia and the only time I recall crossing it was to wait for an LZ to clear before we went in. On this day, we just crossed the river and kept going. There were, what appeared to me, more than a hundred choppers in the air. I had never seen that many choppers in one operation. Shortly after we crossed the river into Cambodia, I felt our chopper starting to shake like there was heavy wind or something. It turned out to be concussion from 5,000 or 10,000 lb. bombs being dropped that pre-detonated to create LZ's in the very heavy jungle under us. There were huge plumes of dirt that rose into the air from the explosions and hung there for quite a while. We circled around while the flying cranes dropped in heavy land moving equipment, trucks and other stuff to create a fire base. Chinooks were in and out with, I guess, the engineers and whatever else was needed, like concertina wire. By nightfall the base was very secure. There was a mortar squad in place with Quad fifty machineguns on 5 ton trucks, wire in place, sandbags and metal created bunkers on the perimeter and the command area. The whole time not a shot was fired!"

"On day two of our mission, Baron and I went out and walked point for a platoon, clover-leafing the area outside the perimeter without finding anything. It was very difficult moving around due to the debris thrown around by the blasts. It gave the jungle a completely different appearance. Our training told us that normal appearance is when a majority of objects are vertical and horizontal. We were trained to focus on 'normal' and look for things that were not normal. That had all changed with trees and branches everywhere as a result of the bomb damage."

"On day three, Baron and I went on another mission walking point and this time we went in deeper, about a click out I got a scent alert from Baron. We stopped and had some troopers go forward to check it out. They found a large trail about 10-15 feet wide. They called in the coordinates and we were told to return to the base."

"That night around midnight, we got probed with small arms fire, the response was unbelievable. It lasted just a couple of minutes but the firepower was over-

whelming, it stayed quiet the rest of the night!

We logged out of the base and returned to Phouc Vinh, much less stressful than normal when we usually had to leave from holes cut into the jungle to get the choppers in and out. I was still amazed that we invaded Cambodia and were not told a thing prior to the mission, not even on the tarmac. I also knew that this was going to last a while and that we would eventually deal with the NVA defending their positions."

Thanks John for sharing your memories. Hope to hear more from you in the future.

Also hear from Michael Hole who was with the 1st Cav honor guard in 1958-59 in Korea. Michael said, "I served in the 1st Cav Honor Guard from November, '58 until December, '59. I was assigned to the 5th Cav but was placed on TDY to Hq & Hq Company. I was selected at the Repo Depot in Inchon to try out for the Honor Guard and never reported to the 5th. I have a number of pictures of the Honor Guard performing, including one of General Maxwell Taylor trooping the line. When not performing with the Guard I served in the security platoon for the commanding General. After all these years I just received a Korea Defense Medal but was told that veterans from that time frame are not entitled to National Defense or United Nations service although we were required to fly the United Nations Flag. The funny part is that my neighbor received the National Defense Medal for six months service in the reserve and never left California."

Thanks, Michael, for those memories. Mike promised some pictures for future editions.

Frank Smart from Columbia, California, was with the 1st Cav PIO (Public Info Office) from April, 1968-April, 1969. Frank sent me an e-mail in which he said, "Ron, Hope all is well with you. Here are just a few thoughts about the Public Information Office during my time in Nam. I worked for MAJ (later LTC) Fox McCarthy. I was NCOIC of the 2nd Brigade Public Information Office which was at one time called the 42nd P.I Detachment. Once LT Tony Kalbi left we had no officers. One of the people I worked briefly with was Herb Denton. A funny story about Herb. I joined the office at Dong Ha shortly after the Division had broken the siege at Khe Sahn. Herb and I were going somewhere on the Dong Ha post and there was a jeep parked outside our squad tent. Since I was new in country I thought it best for him to drive but he insisted that I drive. Reluctantly I got behind the wheel. Later I found out that this 26-year-old college graduate could not drive. Seems his parents had moved the family to the inner city of New York where they depended on public transportation, so Herb never had to learn to drive. Herb went on to become the first black editor of the Washington Post. How that came about is another PIO story. Another PIO denizen was the son of Washington Post-owner, Kathleen Graham. I cannot remember Graham's first name but he helped break the story about the faulty M-16 breach through his connections with Editor Ben Bradlee. Graham and Denton knew each other and worked together for the Cav PIO and Denton was hired after his stint in the Army. I understand Herb died some time ago. About 9 days after I left Nam a new Public Information Officer came in and took over. That was LTC J. D. Coleman, a legend among us PIO types. J. D. wrote several books including *IncurSION*, about the Cav's 1970 foray into Cambodia. Through MAJ Fox McCarthy I made contact with J. D. back in the 80s and in a conversation one day he asked me if I had any copies of *The Cavalair* from my time there. I did and I sent them to him. It took a 2005 PIO reunion in Kalispell, Montana, for me to get the newspapers back, but thanks to J. D.'s wonderful wife, Madelynn I got them back. I would love to have another PIO reunion before we all get to old to travel. We had a wonderful time with J. D. in 2005. He died several months after our visit. He was a mustang and a one-of-a-kind, brown-shoe Army veteran and a first class leader and Public Information Officer. That's all for now, Ron. Take care. Frank M. Smart, Columbia, California 1st Cav PIO, April, '68-April, '69."

Thanks Frank and hope to hear from you again. Frank would like to hear from anyone in Nam during his time frame. You can contact him at <fsmart@rocketmail.com>

I am still unable to convince any troopers from the Gulf War, Bosnia or from our current active duty troops to send me anything. Some of you troopers take the time to send me some of your war stories. This is a new column and I need "ammo" to keep firing.

That about wraps it up for this time troopers. Keep your heads down and your powder dry. Remember to pray for our troops in combat situations around the world and for our government. Get out and vote every chance you get. My address and e-mail are above so let me hear from you. Sue and I hope to see you in Portland in June.

Join us for the 65th Reunion, 6-10 June, 2012 in Portland, Oregon
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Thank you for supporting the Souvenir Shop and the Troopers of the 1st Cavalry Division Association.

21st FA News



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I am writing at Christmas time. You will be reading this well after the holiday season and I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday season. Here in the north country, we haven't had much snow so far this season and with generally mild temperatures.

According to the weather people we are a foot and a half of snow behind normal so far this season and counting. That's okay with me as every day of this is one less of the alternative!

The 1-21 spent the holiday season in Afghanistan, now well into their deployment. My thoughts and prayers are with them. As many of you know first hand how difficult it is to spend the holiday season away from home and loved ones, especially so in a combat zone. While it's the season for peace and good will toward men, I just hope our warriors are safe. I have not gotten much information about the unit but know that a Purple Heart was awarded to one warrior shortly after they deployed but I have not gotten any other information. The unit finished some comprehensive training and orientation in-country. How different it is today than those years ago when many of us were just thrown in the mix to sink or swim on our own.

Paul Wessman has been in contact. Paul was an enlisted man and served in FDC for six years before attending OCS. From late January 1967 to January 1, 1968 he was with Battery A, 2-19 Artillery. He served as a FO with D Company 1-8 Cavalry until he was wounded in May 1967. After convalescing, he moved to the Battery as assistant XO, then was XO for the remainder of his tour. His second tour in Vietnam began in August 1970 and he was with DIVARTY until December 1970 when he moved to HQ Battery, 1-21. He finished his tour as the artillery liaison officer with 1-7 Cavalry. Paul stated that his time as an enlisted man in FDC really helped him in Vietnam especially when he was a FO.

In a past article I recounted a story from Paul Evans about his watching an A Battery guy interrupting his shaving for a fire mission. Paul couldn't remember the name of the LZ where this occurred. Terry Campbell, A/1-21 (2/70 to 12/70) contacted me and said that he thinks the LZs before and after Silver were Anna and Buzzard. Paul is going to check some of the pictures he took to see if there is any further information and stated he will send some pictures along that I can include in a future article.

I received an e-mail from Bill Thomason. Bill writes: "I was assigned to Echo Battery, 82nd Artillery, 1st Air Cav, July 1969-70. I, along with a couple of other Woodpeckers of our battery, am putting together a roster of personnel assigned to Echo Battery in Vietnam. We received an NCO in our battery to replace departing 1SG Akers in July/August 1969. All I can remember is that his last name was Cousins. I think he was a 1SG E8. I know he was an Artillery NCO and although our Battery was Artillery by name, we were Aviation because of the mission. 1SG Cousins was our First Sergeant for about a month and then transferred to one of the Artillery Batteries at a forward fire support base. For some reason I want to believe that it was the 21st Arty but cannot be sure." If anyone can help Bill with this, you can contact him at <BThomason12400@aol.com>.

Benjamin Michels also contacted me for assistance in finding a comrade. He

2-19th FA History Continued from pg. 19

helping to stop enemy attempts to overrun LZ Becky and LZ Ike.

On March 29, 1970, a battalion of the 272nd NVA Regiment swarmed out of the trees and met stiff resistance from two companies of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry (A and C) and B Battery of the 2nd Battalion, 19th Field Artillery on FSB Jay. The first rounds from the NVA barrage hit the antennae of the command post and FDC effectively cutting off communications. The brigade and division command posts had no knowledge of the attack until the units at FSB Illingworth notified them about the glow of flares and flashes from explosives.

Two days later B Battery located at FSB Illingworth with A and C Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry, one quad .50 caliber gun truck from B 5-2 FA, three 155 howitzers from the 1-30th FA, two 8 inch self propelled howitzers and two 175 Howitzers from the 32nd Field Artillery and six howitzers from B 1-77th FA would be engaged in one of the most intense fights of the war. Since FSB Jay had been overrun two days earlier the base commander scheduled alert exercises every two hours after midnight. Ground Surveillance Radar would contact the 2-19th FA FDC whenever they had contact and they would fire prearranged fires. At 0218 on 1 April a full frontal assault by a battalion of the 272nd NVA Regiment began after a barrage of mortars, rocket grenades, rocket fire and automatic weapons rained down on the fire base. The defense at the fire base prevented penetration of the perimeter and the attack was over by 0500. The successful defense was added by early warnings, prompt responses of an effective prearranged artillery fire plan and the bravery of the troopers manning the Forward Support Base.

The battalion was awarded the Valorous Unit Award, along with the rest of the division, for the fighting in the Fish Hook region of Cambodia in May and June of 1970.

March 26, 1971 officially marked the end of duties for the 1st Cavalry Division in Vietnam with the exception of the 3rd Brigade. The 2nd Battalion, 19th Field Artillery was inactivated at Fort Lewis, Washington on April 2, 1971 and remained inactive until it was reactivated at Fort Hood, Texas on April 24, 1974. The battalion served with the 1st Cavalry Division Artillery at Fort Hood until its inactivation on March 30, 1979.

Information obtained from *The 1st Air Cavalry Division, Vietnam August 1965 to December 1969* and *1st Cavalry Division, A Spur Ride Through the 20th Century*.

Lineage and Honors of the 2nd Battalion, 19th Field Artillery

Lineage of the 2nd Battalion, 19th Field Artillery

Constituted 1 July 1916 in the Regular Army as Battery B, 19th Field Artillery. Organized 1 June 1917 at Camp Wilson, Texas (19th Field) Artillery assigned 12 December 1917 to the 5th Division (later redesignated as the 5th Infantry Division). Inactivate 6 September 1921 at Camp Bragg, North Carolina.

writes: "In 1965 I was levied and assigned to the 6-10th Artillery at Bamberg, Germany as Personnel Sergeant. I made many friends and in 1966 there were many levies every week for artillery personnel to be sent to Vietnam. I also decided to volunteer for Vietnam. I arrived at An Khe on the 5th of July 1966. I was PSNCO of the 227th Aviation Battalion. One afternoon in November '66 I was walking down the road that went around the Golf Course heading for the 15th Admin Company when I saw someone I knew walking toward me. It was SGT Widner from my days in Bamberg. He told me which unit he was assigned to but it has long ago escaped my memory. But I believe it was the 21st. He said his unit was in Happy Valley and living in tents with no amenities. He asked if I had any booze that he could share with his comrades on Thanksgiving. I had a bottle of wine and a half-gallon of rum, which I gladly gave him. I never saw him again and have always wonder if he made it through the conflict..." If anyone has information on SGT Widner, Benjamin would like to hear it. He can be reached at <bbyymichels@yahoo.com>.

In a previous issue I wrote about Lacey Polk C/1-21. Lacey contacted me and shared an interview he had done with the Together We Served initiative. It's quite an interesting piece and can be accessed at their web site: Togetherweserved.com. Lacey states that if anyone is interested in participating there are instructions at the site. Thanks Lacey!

Jesse "Honcho" Ramon, A/1-21, shared an address with me where an individual can get all the service medals they are entitled to that were issued by the US. These are provided at Uncle Sam's expense. The individual must send their DD-214, social security number, service number, any VA claim number, date and place of birth. The address is: US Army Reserve Personnel Center, Attn: PART-PAS-EAW, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63132-5100.

You will receive a letter detailing what you are entitled to in relatively short order but the actual medals take a few months. Replacements are sent for all awards given by the US. While any foreign award will be listed in the letter, the US does not replace those so a person has to purchase any foreign award from a private vendor. I did this a few years ago to get my dad's as he was KIA in World War II and the family didn't have a complete set. It's a great service so when you do your taxes you can take heart that at least some of your hard-earned cash is going to something beneficial and worthwhile. Thanks Honcho...just like when we were in Vietnam...Honcho delivers big time!

This year the Association's annual get together is in Portland, Oregon. A few guys from our local chapter are going. Not sure if I can make it as that time of year is usually very busy here. If any of you attend I hope you send me your impressions and the like for articles.

Since the first installment of how I ended up in the unit, I haven't got anything else. Hopefully with the holidays past some of you will have some time where you can share your story. While you may think your individual story is no big deal, others will be interested. Also these articles depend on you and are for you. Pass along whatever information you want included and I will get it in an article. Without your information there wouldn't be an article. As a guide, my article has to be submitted by the first of every odd numbered month. I usually send it in a week or so early to give the staff some more time and not be part of the deadline rush.

Activated 3 December 1934 at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana.

Reorganized and redesignated 1 October 1940 as Battery B, 19th Field Artillery Battalion. Inactivated 20 September 1946 at Camp Campbell, Kentucky. Activated 15 July 1947 at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Activated 1 March 1951 at Indiantown Gap Military Reservation, Pennsylvania. Inactivated 1 September at Indiantown Gap Military Reservation, Pennsylvania. Activated 25 May 1954 at Augsburg, Germany. Inactivated 1 June 1957 at Fort Ord, California and relieved from assignment to the 5th Infantry Division.

Redesignated 15 October 1957 as Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Howitzer Battalion, 19th Artillery, assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division, and activated in Korea (organic elements concurrently constituted and activated). Redesignated 1 September 1963 as the 2nd Battalion, 19th Artillery. Inactivated 2 April 1971 at Fort Lewis, Washington. Redesignated 1 September 1971 as the 2nd Battalion, 19th Field Artillery. Activated 20 April 1974 at Fort Hood, Texas. Inactivated 30 March 1979 at Fort Hood, Texas.

Honors of the 2nd Battalion, 19th Field Artillery

Campaign Participation Credit

World War I: St. Mihiel, Lorraine 1918.

World War II: Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, Central Europe.

Vietnam: Defense; Counteroffensive; Counteroffensive, Phase II; Counteroffensive, Phase III; Tet Counteroffensive; Counteroffensive, Phase IV; Counteroffensive, Phase V; Counteroffensive, Phase VI; Tet 69/Counteroffensive; Summer-Fall 1969; Winter-Spring 1970; Sanctuary Counteroffensive; Counteroffensive, Phase VII.

Decorations

Presidential Unit Citation — 23 October – 26 November 65, DAGO 40, 67

Valorous Unit Award — 1 May – 29 June 70, DAGO 43, 72

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross w/Palm — 9 August 65 – 19 May 69, DAGO 59, 69; May 69 – February 70, DAGO 11,73, amended DAGO 42, 72; 21 February 70 – 28 February 71, DAGO 42, 72

Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal, FC — 1 January 69 – 1 February 70, DAGO 42, 72

Radar Section, Headquarters & Headquarters Battery

Valorous Unit Award — 6 May 69, DAGO 39, 70

Artillery Liaison Section

Valorous Unit Award — 6 May 69, DAGO 39, 70

Battery A

Valorous Unit Award — 6 May 69, DAGO 39, 70

Battery B

Presidential Unit Citation — 27 December 66, DAGO 7, 70

Detachment of thirteen (13) personnel of the 2d Battalion

Presidential Unit Citation — 23 October 66, DAGO 48, 68; Remarks: Eligible personnel must provide evidence of participation.



HONOR ROLL

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T-3 BUTORYAK, Frank
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SGT GAERTNER, Harold J.
In Memory of SGT Mike WATERS, C Co. company, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, KIA 30 June 1970.
SFC (RET) GARFIELD, Jr., Willie R.
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SGT DURBOROW, James R.
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