



SABER

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JULY/AUGUST, 2012

The President's Corner



To the Troopers and Board of Governors of the 1st Cavalry Division Association, again I just say thanks for allowing me to be your President for the next two years. I have a big pair of boots to fill.

First let me asked all our chapters and subchapters to help Dennis and me to pull the First Team Wagon. Together we can make a difference. If I may be of any assistance to your chapter, please feel free to contact me and I will do what I can to help.

We are already in the first stage of planning for our February meeting of the Board of Governors and also laying the ground work for the 66th Annual Reunion here at the Great Place (Fort Hood, Texas) in 2013. Get your plans in order to join us and have a great time. The Crossed Sabers Chapter looks forward to seeing you all in June 2013.

Thanks to everyone for coming to Portland for our 65th Reunion it was great.

Take Care, God's speed, keep our active duty troopers in your prayers and remember our Association members also in your prayers.

Jerry F. Eller, 808 S. 2nd St., Killeen, TX 76541-7703, (254) 526-6400, <JerryRo4@aol.com>

THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR



Dennis E. Webster
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Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703
(254) 547-6537
FirstCav@1cda.org

I would like to provide information from the Association Headquarters in Copperas Cove, Texas to the members of the Association on a regular basis as space permits in *Saber*.

Our Association was formed on 17 July 1944 to give active duty and veterans a chance to meet and hold periodic reunions. The Association's 65th Reunion went very well. I base this on the number of complaints that I didn't receive during and since the reunion and the number of compliments that I did receive during and after the reunion. I commend the Columbia-Willamette Chapter for their hard work in helping to coordinate and run this reunion. Members that assisted with the reunion were helpful, courteous, professional and we enjoyed working with them.

We list the members of the Association that die in our Taps section of *Saber* and once in a while we run an obituary on a former Division Commander, Sergeant Major or Association officer but never list the spouses passing, except in the unit columns. We lost two ladies recently that had attended our reunions with their husbands and have been a part of our Association family for many years. Judy Brigham died on 12 May. Judy was the much better half of Jim Brigham who served on our Board of Governors for many years and was the President of the 7th U.S. Cavalry Regiment Association. Judy was a very regular attendee at our reunions and she will be missed. Deurice Plumley, wife of CSM (Ret) Basil Plumley, Honorary Sergeant Major of the 7th Cavalry Regiment, passed away on 28 May. She also attended reunions with her husband and I last remember seeing her in Jacksonville in 2008. She was a very gracious lady and a pleasure to talk with. It takes a special lady to put up with a Sergeant Major on a daily basis, even one as great as Basil, and Deurice was just that, a special lady.

The minutes of our General Membership meeting are in this issue of *Saber* and you can read through them to see how we are doing as an Association. I announced during that meeting that Lorinda Davison, who has worked at the Association for the past 35 years, will retire next year after the 66th Reunion. Lorinda has been a fixture here at the office and at one time lived in a part of our building and even got the chance to cut our grass regularly. We haven't had her cutting grass lately but we try to keep her busy anyway and will until she retires. Lorinda came to work here when Bob Litle was the Executive Director, worked with Art Junot during his time in the chair and with me for the past ten years.

Our Association has benefitted over the years by having great Troopers serving

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Horse Detachment by CPT David Jackson



Troopers of the Detachment form a Saber Arch as the newly pronounced Mr. and Mrs. Kabela share a Cavalry kiss.

Hood safe and sound.

June 27th the Detachment travelled to Denison, Texas (located in Grayson County) to perform a demonstration and Color Guard for Reba's Ranch House (Reba McEntire); a non-profit organization that provides lodging for families with Children in care at the Texoma Regional Hospital. The organization paid tribute to two active duty Soldiers for their service and dedication to our nation and was concluded with an HCD demonstration. It was a great trip, made even more special by the presence of a former HCD Commander, Grayson County Judge Drue Bynum.

The Detachment kicked off July with a mounted Color Guard at the Belton Rodeo's Military Appreciation night at the Bell County Expo Center. 12 July saw a leadership transition for the 1st Brigade Combat Team "Iron Horse", followed by the Spring Ho celebration in Lampasas, Texas on 14 July. July 24th was another ceremony on Cooper Field with the "Black Jack" 2nd Brigade Combat Team Change of Command Ceremony, there is nothing like a summertime ceremony at Fort Hood, Texas!

July witnessed a very special occasion at the Horse Cavalry Detachment; the joining in Holy matrimony of two of our Troopers. SGT Christopher Kabela and SGT Janessa McGrail tied the knot at the barn, the place where they met. It was a lovely sunset service and was conducted in true Cavalry style with the bride wearing her riding boots and spurs with her wedding dress!

August 4th the Detachment will be in New Orleans, Louisiana for the Bi-Centennial Military Parade; Louisiana is paying homage to the military's important role in its history with this celebration and has invited the HCD to help them commemorate this event. As always we appreciate everyone's support at these events and are always glad to be a part of these proud traditions.

As always, find us on Facebook at Horse Cavalry Detachment or stop by the barn to visit!

DIVISION DOINGS



MG Daniel Allyn

Numerous changes have occurred at Fort Hood including a Division Change of Command where MG Daniel B. Allyn turned over command of the First Team to MG Anthony R. Ierardi on 14 June. MG Ierardi previously served with the First Team as the commander for the 1-7th Cavalry and the Division G-3 from 1998-2001.

On 5 July the First Team bid farewell to CSM Isiaa Vimoto and BG Jim Richardson. CSM Vimoto joins LTG Allyn at XVIII Airborne Corps at



MG Anthony R. Ierardi

Fort Bragg and BG Richardson moves to III Corps at Fort Hood to be the Deputy Division Commander. BG Laura Richardson was welcomed on 5 July as the Assistant Division Commander Support, replacing her husband, Jim in that position. BG Laura Richardson is the first female to serve as an Assistant Division Commander in Army history. She has commanded an aviation battalion in combat and just left command of the U.S. Army Operational Test Command at Fort Hood.

All of the Division's Troopers are now home with the exception of the some members of the 1-21st FA that are in Afghanistan. The last flight of returning Troopers from the 1st Brigade Combat Team came in just after midnight on 6 July marking the end of their one-year deployment. The entire brigade, 1-7 CAV, 2-5 CAV, 2-8 CAV, 1-82 FA, 115 BSB, 1 BSTB and the Brigade HQ then uncased their colors on Cooper Field. The entire 1BCT, minus 2-5 CAV, changed command on 12 July. Changes of Command were also conducted in the 2nd BCT, 3rd BCT

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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

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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

November 8-11 - Veterans Day Gathering, Arlington, Virginia and Washington, DC

November 11 - 4th Annual Veterans Day Dinner, Arlington, Virginia

2013

June 5-9 66th Annual Reunion, Killeen, Texas

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Red Lion Hotel, Portland, Oregon
9 June 2012**

The meeting of the membership of the 1st Cavalry Division Association was called to order by the President at 0900 hours with a quorum present.

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting and then led the members present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. He asked Executive Director, Dennis Webster, to do the invocation.

The minutes of the 2011 meeting of the membership of the 1st Cavalry Division Association held in Killeen, Texas on 11 June 2011 were approved as written. Minutes were published in the July/August 2011 SABER and posted on the bulletin board at the reunion for the past three days.

The President asked the Secretary to present the Nominating Committee Report to the membership. He read the names nominated for office as recommended by the Nominating Committee:

1st Vice President: James B. Stokely; 2nd Vice President: Scott B. Smith; 3rd Vice President: Allen O. Norris; Foundation Trustees: Charles M. Kinney and Ron L. Killingsworth; Museum Foundation Trustee: Paul M. Inman and Scott L. Sjule; Board of Governors: Frank L. Alverson, Robert Arbasetti, Clifford R. Boxley, Terry D. Combs, Melford W. Gunderson, Richard Hernandez, Klaus W. Lachmann, Roger May, William A. Richardson and Donald R. Smolinski.

The President opened the floor for nominations. In the absence of nominations from the floor, nominations were closed and the recommended slate was approved by acclamation.

David A. Lutgen, Chairman of the Finance and Budget Committee, provided a report on the financial status of the Association. He reported that his report covered a one-year period of 31 March 2011 to 31 March 2012 for this report. The assets for the Association were \$1,954,573 and were up \$218,949 for an increase of 12.60 percent. Liabilities for the Association are \$94,133 of which \$72,200 is the liability for unexpired SABER subscriptions. The fund balance, which is assets less liabilities, is \$1,860,440, which is an increase of \$210,148 for the period. Our Market Value investments are valued at \$2,540,508 which is up \$138,689 or 5.80%. Unrealized earnings are the paper profit or the difference between what you paid for the stock and what it would sell on today's market. The unrealized earnings from investments are \$760,891 which is up \$15,685 or 2.10 percent. The Association currently owns \$1,014,044 in high-grade bonds. That is up \$224,261 for the year. The income from those bond holdings is \$51,073 which is up \$7,468 for the year. The Association budget provides for the transfer of \$12,000 to the Foundation this year. The Association financial status remains healthy. The report of the Finance and Budget Committee was approved by the membership.

The Executive Trustee of the Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division Association, Peter Tattersall, provided a report on the Foundation for the period 31 March 2011 to 31 March 2012. The Foundation is made up of two segments the Foundation

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 WORD. 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,,

I am contacting you from a British production company called Blink Films and we are producing a documentary series called the Real Story.

The show is an intelligent and high end documentary series for the Smithsonian Network in the US, Channel Five in the UK and BBC Worldwide, looking at some of the biggest movies in the history of cinema. We explore the real story behind a movie and the making of that movie. The format is a combination of drama reconstruction about the real story (not the movie), forensic-style experiments to explain how elements of the movie worked in real life and documentary interviews explaining what happened in the real life.

This series we are featuring Oliver Stone's Platoon and exploring the war realities of Vietnam presented in the movie.

The movie is very much based on Oliver Stone's personal experience of the war and so we are actively searching for the brave men who may have fought alongside him, to find out the real, personal stories from that time. I believe that Mr. Stone served in Vietnam between April 1967 and November 1968 and spend the latter part of his service in the 1st Cavalry Division. We are looking to get in touch with any men who served in this Division alongside Oliver Stone, or Bill Stone as he was known then, to hear their personal stories of the war.

I would be extremely grateful if you could please pass my request on to members of your association and invite them to share their memories of serving in Vietnam with the 1st Cavalry Division with me.

If the association would like to know any more about the production I would be happy to explain things further, so please do let me know. We are very keen to tell the real stories from the 1st Cavalry Division and any help you can provide for my search is greatly appreciated.



Best wishes, Georgia Braham, Researcher, Blink Films London, The Biscuit Building, 10 Redchurch Street, London, E2 7DD

(Base) and the Ia Drang Scholarship Fund. The base program provides scholarships to the children of those killed in action, totally and permanently disabled and to our active duty Troopers and their family members. The Ia Drang Fund is a completely separate program open to children and grandchildren of a group that fought in specific battles in 1965. The total assets are \$1,127,205 which is down \$40,188 a decrease of 3.40 percent. The Foundation (Base) assets are \$860,771, an increase of \$5,940 or 0.70 percent. The Ia Drang portion of the assets is \$266,435 which is down \$46,128. The Foundation liabilities are \$3,206 which is up \$140. The combined fund balance is \$1,124,000, down \$40,328. The Foundation portion of the fund balance is \$857,565 which is up \$5,800 or 0.70 percent. The Ia Drang portion of the fund balance is \$266,435 which is down \$46,128. The Market Value of the Foundation's investments is \$1,054,099, which is up \$47,655 or 4.70 percent. The Ia Drang Market Value is \$333,850, which is down \$2,329. The Foundation Base had unrealized earnings of \$201,394, an increase of \$47,655. The Ia Drang Fund had unrealized earnings of \$75,675 which is up \$9,379. The Foundation Base has high grade commercial bonds valued at \$333,417 which is up \$18,002 for the year. These bonds produced an income of \$17,374 providing an annual yield of 5.20 percent. The Ia Drang bonds are valued at \$126,692, which is down \$21,526 and produced an income of \$6,214 (4.90 percent). Overall the Foundation is improving but the Ia Drang account is still having problems, primarily because that fund provides scholarship to grandchildren and this has added to the number of people eligible to receive grants. The reductions seen in that account are because we are paying out more in scholarships than is coming in through donations and investments resulting in all earnings being spent and not being reinvested. Each scholarship recipient receives a maximum of \$1,200 per year and that amount has been raised several times in the past. Our goal is to have money available for the children of today's Troopers when their children are eligible to receive grants. The membership accepted the report of the Executive Trustee of the Foundation.

The Executive Trustee of the 1st Cavalry Division Association Museum Foundation, W. Terry Maddox, presented a report on the activities of the Museum Foundation. He discussed the Museum of Mounted Warfare Foundation plans to build Museum of Mounted Warfare and Soldier Center. Once funds are raised and the museum is built the current 1st Cavalry Division Museum would be closed and likely torn down. The current vehicle park at the museum would remain but some select vehicles would be moved to the new museum. The timeline for this is planned for construction to begin in 2015 and open in 2019 based on the ability to raise the money needed. The new museum is planned for the area next to the Horse Cavalry Detachment at the main gate of Fort Hood and would not

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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		PHONE:	
CITY, ST, ZIP		(000) 000-0000	
E-MAIL:		(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 Authorize release of information to: No one ___ Other Members only ___
 Other Members and USAA Only ___
 I served with the 1st Cavalry Division in (Circle one or more)
 Pre-WWII WWII Japan Korean War Korea '57-'65 Fort Benning
 Vietnam War Fort Hood Gulf War Bosnia Afghanistan Iraq Fort Bliss
 Have you served with any other military unit during a war time period? YES NO

Minutes of the General Membership Meeting
Continued from pg. 2.

require access to the installation to get to the museum. The Association would like to have membership representation on the planning board of the Mounted Warfare Foundation. Information and updates will be published in subsequent issues of *SABER*. Our current museum is housed in a building that is a temporary building and plans to destroy it were made several years ago. Any new museum will have to be provided to the installation with no debt. This means that funds will need to be obtained before any construction begins. A question on how much of the Division's history would be displayed in the new museum. Our story will be told but likely not in as much detail as we might want but the history of our Division is the history of mounted warfare and we expect to have quite a bit of representation. MG Daniel Allyn, commanding general of the 1st Cavalry Division, interjected that the Division leadership was in support of the plans discussed and encouraged the members to support this program because we were going to lose the ground and building we have. The plan is to use lessons learned from the building of the Airborne and Special Warfare Museum and the Infantry Museum and avoid the problems that each had. The membership accepted the report of the Museum Foundation Executive Trustee.

The Executive Director provided a report to the membership on our relationship with USAA and the credit card they offer our members and the calendar program. As of 29 May 2012, we have received \$52,812 in donations from 2,764 members for the 2012 calendar which includes money from 2011 and 2012. Our expenses for printing and mailing the calendar were \$31,237 which includes postage returns. The 2012 calendar has produced a surplus of \$21,575 that went to support Association programs. We will continue to receive additional funds from this program. We also received 3,341 *SABER* subscriptions or renewals by members from the mailing of the calendar. Our new agreement with USAA to provide credit cards to our members is doing well. He discussed the addition of a choice of credit card designs that are available. USAA reports that our Affinity Program is growing at a rapid pace and is doing better than other similar programs at this stage. We received our \$10,000 initial payment last year and received our first royalty check of \$327 and last week received our second royalty

CHAPTER NEWS

COLUMBIA WILLAMETTE CHAPTER

The members of the Columbia Willamette Chapter wish to thank all of you who attended the 65th Annual 1st Cavalry Division Association reunion in Portland, Oregon this past June. We hope that we lived up to your expectations and that you had a great time on the banks of the Columbia River here in the beautiful Pacific Northwest. The Red Lion Hotel did a marvelous job in handling all of our events and the food and service was outstanding. Dennis Webster and his team had everything well organized and all the events came off without a glitch. The reunion souvenir shop under the leadership of Michelle Wolfe did a booming business throughout the reunion.

We wanted to thank our many volunteers for all their hard work at the reunion and to thank them for making the reunion such a great success; so we held a Reunion Appreciation Picnic at Terry and Yolly Low's house in Estacada, Oregon on July 7th. Chef Chris Lachmann and his assistants did a marvelous job of preparing steaks, burgers and bratwurst for about fifty picnic attendees. Plenty of libations were on hand for all to share. Thank you certificates and gifts were distributed and our reunion fiddler Eileen and her husband were there to again provide the entertainment. The weather was cooperative and it was a wonderful and memorable afternoon for all of us. The consensus among the attendees was that if you are interested in coming back to Portland in the future for another reunion, let us know, we would love to do it all over again! Klaus Lachmann, Publicity Advisor

CROSSED SABERS CHAPTER

With the return of the Division to Fort Hood we will be coordinating for a gathering of the Chapter which we refer to as a "Stable Call" and coordinating with the new CG and Divison Staff about the 66th Annual Reunion that will be held here in Kileen/Fort Hood next year from 5-9 June. Please join us for a big gathering to welcome home our Division's Troopers. Jerry Eller, President

NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY CHAPTER



COL Lesperance speaks at the Spring meeting.

Colonel David A. Lesperance was the main speaker at our May 5th, Spring meeting. The colonel shared his military history and some thoughts on the 1st Cavalry. He mentioned a new possible medical breakthrough such as learning early signs of PTSD and the effects of combat brain injuries with blood test. After the meeting many members and chapter friends talked about how they liked him and felt confident that with leaders like COL Lesperance that the Army was in good shape. COL

Lesperance is now the commander of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood.

In the past year, some of the mailing addresses on my computer have been corrupted and or lost. We would like all chapter members and friends to update their e-mail addresses. Send them to <nynjcavalry@optimum.net >. Bob Arbasetti, President

SHERIDAN'S CAVALRY CHAPTER

This past June the chapter again made a small contribution towards the Brave-Hearts <<http://www.braveheartsriding.org/>> Veterans Program to assist with the riding competitions conducted for the residents of several local VA hospitals. It was another great day in Harvard, Illinois, and the temperature was lower than last year! Chapter member Rich O'Brien presented awards to the winners of one of the events. This is the third year our chapter has contributed and had members at the event to help and present awards. The Stetsons are recognized by the participants and we are always warmly received. Rich also was able to attend the Association reunion in Portland.

One of our members, John Crowden, made his first return to Korea since the Korean War. To say he was surprised at the changes and impressed by his hosts is an understatement. More on John's trip will be covered in the next issue, I'm sure you will enjoy his recollections.

The next "Rockin' for the Troops Concert" at Cantigny, in Wheaton, Illinois will be on Saturday, 21 July, <http://osotil.wix.com/rockin/sponsors#!__sponsors/presenting-sponsor>. If you attend the concert just look for the large gathering of Stetsons and come by to say "Hi." This is a great fundraiser for Operation Support Our Troops - America and supports the never-ending work their volunteers put forth to send packages and support to our deployed troops. The materials may be donated and the labor may be donated - but you still have to pay Uncle Sam to deliver it!

The Chapter picnic is scheduled for Saturday, 4 August, at our normal gathering place, the American Legion Post in Roselle, Illinois.

Last thought - Political Correctness was developed by those who lack the testicular fortitude to say what they really mean. Most Troopers have never had that problem! Bruce Peterson, President

check in the amount of \$1,179.75. As the number of cards activated rises, our payments from USAA will continue to increase. We received the \$20,000 from USAA that is the first of five payments made annually to the Association. He also announced that Lorinda Davison would retire after 36 years of service to the Association after the next reunion in August 2013.

The President introduced MG Daniel Allyn and CSM Isaia Vimoto to the membership.

Healthcare Information Committee Chairman, Scott B. Smith, discussed a survey that he had placed in the meeting asking for information and feedback from the membership on what the committee could do to help and which issues needed to be addressed in the committee's *SABER* article.

General Allyn announced that the Division Change of Command was scheduled for 14 June and that he was in his final hours as the CG. He announced that MG Anthony "Tony" Ierardi would be taking over command and had previous time in the Division and would be a great commanding general for the First Team.

The President of the Association introduced Jerry F. Eller, President Elect, to the membership and thanked the members for their support during his two years in office.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 0945 hours.
 Dennis E. Webster, Secretary

61st FA News



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



Hello, all. Hope you're having a good summer. We took a great spring vacation

trip to the Midwest in May. On May 3rd, we caught a Frontier Airlines flight from San Diego (through Denver) to Little Rock, Arkansas. Rented a car and drove north to Branson, where we stayed in a very nice condo at the Marriott Willow Ridge Lodge. My wife bought me a ticket on the Branson Zipline Adventure. I had never done a zipline before and was looking forward to it. I was in a group of ten who got all fitted up in the harness, went through the orientation and set out on the big adventure. The first thing we did was head over to the bunny slope for a real short test ride to make sure we knew how to brake and steer. From there we climbed a circular stair up a 45-foot tower. The guide hooked us up and away we went. It was exhilarating to say the least! We did a total of seven zip lines, climbed another tower, this one 50 feet tall, and traversed three rope bridges. The longest two zip line spans were nearly 1/4 mile each. It was really fun, way up there in the air, whipping along at up to 50 mph above and through



the trees, etc. All in all it took about two hours to complete. It was a terrific morning and I really enjoyed it. Here's a photo of me coming in at the end of the last zip line. If you ever get a chance, give it a try. It's something to put on your bucket list.

On Tuesday, I dropped by the Camden House Hotel to sign in for the annual 61st FA Battalion reunion being hosted by Bill and Pat Stewart. The Camden House provided the reunion group with a very nice room for a hospitality suite. I picked up another 61st

baseball cap (one can't have too many of those, you know). I finally actually got to meet Bill and Pat, Jimmy Marks, Curt Aronson, Harry Gary, etc. We later attended the Thursday evening banquet and had a good time. Here's a group photo of the men. Attendees at the 2012 reunion included Curt and Clara Aronson, Frank and Angie Burr, Pete and Shirley Coppock, Gordon and Lorna Cress, Harry and Brenda Gary, Dale and Vivian Lytle, Jim and Janelle Marks, Robert Murphy and Phyllis Brende, Donna Pulvermacher, Dick Young, Lori Kindschy, Bruce and Karen Tafoya and Bill and Pat Stewart.



Received this from Bill Stewart regarding the May Branson reunion... "We took the tour on the Branson Belle and again we were lucky. The meal was good and so was the show. They had a magician in the show who needed an assistant and lo and behold he picked Lori Kindschy from our group. She did very well in the show and the whole crowd seemed to love her. We also had some time to wander around the Belle between our meal and the

show. Sure was some beautiful scenery along the lake. If you have never seen this lake you are missing quite a view. We were pleased to have Gordon Cress and his wife, Lorna, join us for the banquet. We had a very good meal and the set up was excellent. After the meal, we exchanged gifts and Lori took group pictures. Then the hardest part of the reunion, saying our farewells for another year. But looking forward to our next reunion in 2013 which will be in Branson also." Thanks, Bill (and Pat) for hosting a great reunion. We all had a good time and it was terrific to meet so many nice people. Later got a letter from Bill and Pat with this information from telephone calls... Jim Barth - did not have anyone to travel with this year, but doing fine and hopes to join us next year. Say hello to everyone. Elmer Day's wife reported that he had passed away 12/15/10, just a few days after their 49th anniversary. Joe and Lois Lechmann - doing just so-so. Joe now walking with a cane and they were just not up to traveling. Betty Mehaffie - Terry just got out of the hospital. He had a blood infection. They hope to attend next year accompanied by Nancy and her husband. Frank and Claudette Mowery - doing okay, just very expensive to fly from Casper to Branson after visiting Frank's children in Seattle. Might join us next year. Monica Iglesias - beginning to cope with her loss. Say hello to everyone. She's never been to Branson and will try to come next year with her daughter. Charlie Pillars - had a stroke, but is doing okay now. Doubts if he will be able to make the next reunion. Percy and Jane Mohr - Jane had been in the hospital with pneumonia for the second time, but is now recovering slowly. Dale Lytle - Vivian reports that Dale is undergoing chemo for a spot found on his lung. Bob and Mara Hoppe - lost a daughter in May. Pete and Shirley Coppock - Pete still having back problems. Shirley is recovering very slowly from the dog attack. She's on her third round of antibiotics. And then Bill Stewart reported that he had a stimulator implanted in his lower back that relieved almost all the pain he'd been suffering with for years. We hope all the folks with medical problems get well soon and we send our condolences to the Iglesias and Hoppe families.

From Ol' John Hasselmeier in Lubbock, Texas... "Gordon, I can remember, almost as if the following parade was held: On 1 May 1947, the 61st was in a parade in Tokyo. 1 May used to be the main Communist holiday. They issued us: Live ammo for our weapons, but they did not tell us why. Years later, I read it in a book about General MacArthur that they expected a Korean Communist attack on us troops. When the truck I was in passed in front of General MacArthur, I heard a noise like loud vacuum cleaners off to the other side. I sneaked a glance in that direction. It was the first jet fighter planes I had ever seen. The boy next to me asked "What kind of planes are them? They ain't got no perpelers..." STA BUENO, Ol' John in Lubbock." Thanks for the note, John. Glad to know that things are okay in Texas.

My old pal Speedy Speedman from Big Bear, California called to find out if I was going to be attending the annual 1st Cavalry reunion in Portland in June. Speedy is going strong at 83 and will probably be the lone representative of the 61st at the reunion. We chatted for quite a while and reminisced about the old days, OCS (he attended at Fort Riley, Kansas), etc. Speedy told me about the Memorial Day events he took part in and how he brought his black horse to them

complete with the empty saddle, boots in the stirrups, etc. It must have been quite a moving experience.

Later I was happy to receive this photo from Jimmy Marks of him, with Speedy Speedman and Bob Roberts of the 61st FA together at the 65th annual 1st Cavalry Division Association reunion held recently in Portland, Oregon. The trio is shown



here at the Korean War luncheon which was attended by about 50 Korean War era veterans. Speedman and Roberts were both FO's and served with several batteries and Marks was a Chief of Section in A Battery. Thanks for sending it in, Jimmy. It's really great that we had at least three representatives from the 61st at the division reunion.

From Lori Kindschy... "Hi, Gordon. It was such a pleasure to meet you and your lovely wife at the reunion. It is a pleasure to see all the men and women year after year. They have always treated me as one of the family and I appreciate all the stories they have shared with me over the years. I get so emotional at these events as I am honored to be in their presence. The sacrifice they have given, not just in Korea and elsewhere, but all of their life. Thank you to all the men and women who have sacrificed for our freedom. I wonder if you would be able to put a note in the *Saber* for me. I would like to get a copy of any paperwork with my father's name on it. You see we have no records as the Pentagon had a fire and the records were lost. Any papers my father had were lost in a fire at my Grandmother's house. My father's name is Bernard P. Pulvermacher. Any paperwork or stories you could share, no matter what it is would be great. I want to create a binder with information on my father for my children and grandchildren. If I do not get any information, my father's history will be lost as he passed away 6 1/2 years ago. I am more than happy to reimburse any expenses incurred. My e-mail is <aton41@frontier.com>. My home address is 405 Haskin Dr., Pardeeville, WI 53954, or you may call me at (608) 429-2345. Thank you for all you do. God Bless, Lori Kindschy." Lori is the official photographer at the 61st reunions and she took some of the photos herein. Please check your files and see if you can't provide Lori with some information, records, photos, etc. of her dad, Bernie Pulvermacher. Hope this helps, Lori.

Got this sad e-mail notice from Jane Arthur... "Tom Arthur passed away on June 5th from gastric cancer, the last of three different cancers to be discovered."

Tom lived most of his full life in Glencoe, Illinois where he attended the Glencoe schools, New Trier High School, Hamilton College and Northwestern Law School. He was drafted into the Army in 1952 immediately following graduation from Hamilton. After basic training and armored leadership school at Fort Knox he went to Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He served with the 61st Field Artillery in Hokkaido, Japan for 18 months where he was a forward observer, a recon and survey officer and battery exec. Tom played tennis on the Corps tennis team, attended mountain climbing school and managed the ski team. During a trip to Europe between his first and second year of law school, he met Jane Thompson, Winfield, Kansas. They were married September 15, 1956. Their first daughter, Lisa, arrived one year later, just before his last year of law school. Julia was born two years later. Tom was with the law firm of Gardner Carton and Douglas, now Drinker Biddle and Reath for 40 years. He played tennis, golf, squash, platform tennis and bridge. In 2010 while undergoing chemo therapy for pancreas cancer, he shot his age, got a hole in one and won a bridge event all in the same week. Tom and Jane often combined their world travels with hikes such as: Popocatepetl (17,350 ft.) in Mexico, Kilimanjaro (19,400 ft.) in Tanzania, 20 or more hikes in the Grand Canyon and 10 years of Rocky Mountain hikes. With retirement Tom added a new interest - writing fiction! *Destiny in the Land of the Morning Calm, a Korean War Novel* was published in 2010. At the time of his death he was working on another novel set in 13th century France and England. For the last 10 years of his life, Tom and Jane wintered at The Lakes Country Club, Palm Desert, California. In 2011, they sold their Glencoe home of 50 years and moved to a larger house at the Lakes where there was space for Tom's large collection of paintings, sculptures, books, etc. He is survived by Jane, his wife of 56 years, daughters, Lisa Nichols and Colonel (retired) Julia Arthur Page. A memorial service was held at The Lakes Country Club on June 16th and on August 4th a service and burial was held at the Glencoe Union Church, Glencoe, Illinois. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a small donation in honor of Tom to the North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Rd., Northfield, IL 60093 or at their website www.nssc.org." I only knew Tom from our time together at Camp Youngmans in 1954 and 1955. We reconnected at a 61st reunion back in New Hampton, Iowa and had maintained e-mail contact thereafter. Our condolences to Jane and the family.

Peter O'Brien sends this note along... "The 1955 Div Arty Red Raider Football team is planning a 2012 reunion at the Grand Gateway Hotel in Rapid City, South Dakota, September 18-21. Planned activities include a chartered van tour of the Mount Rushmore and Chief Crazy Horse monuments in the Black Hills, visiting the famous Wall Drugstore, adding new shopping malls to our ladies' do-lists and some modest after-dinner carousing, until lights-out each night. The group has opted for a very informal gathering this time. Nevertheless, we will find time and energy to remember our departed teammates in a simple, but heartfelt, Memorial Service. We are grateful to *Saber* for keeping us in touch with our respective artillery batteries and battalions and the entire 1st Cavalry Division. A small division lapel pin brings frequent greetings from other First Team vets wherever I go. Try it because they're everywhere, Peter O'Brien." Thanks, Peter, hope you have a good turnout.

From Jim Brown on June 16th... "Happy Fathers Day to all. God Bless, Jim N4ZY." Thanks for the note on the occasion, Jim. Hope all you fathers out there had a great one. I know I did with a nice luncheon with my wife, daughter and granddaughter. My other daughter took me to lunch the next day. We rode the Spyder motorcycle down to her favorite restaurant in Cardiff by the Sea where we had a great Mexican meal.

Got this "Corned Willy" note from Les Newman... "It was September, 1944 and we were on Ndrillo, one of the Admiralty Islands, getting prepared for boarding an LST to retake Leyte in the Philippines. This preparation took several weeks and consisted of making sure we were well stocked with all items of equipment, arms, clothing, vehicles, food, ammo, etc. In other words, an S-4's nightmare.

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5th CAV News



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The April Meetings/Reunion in Mobile went off well. The General Membership

Meeting decided to have our next 5th Cav Reunion in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. The Board of Governors/Officers meeting was very interesting. A number of topics came up and were discussed. (1) Volunteers - The Fifth Cavalry Association is in dire need of volunteers. We need more 'boots on the ground'. The job of keeping the 5th Cav Association going may be too big for the present two or three guys who are keeping it afloat. We need almost every member to figure out some small thing that they can do and then do it! If we get everybody to do something small, the 5th Cav Association will be afloat at least as long as we are. (2) Electronic Meetings - Another thing that was discussed concerns the need for us to introduce the 5th Cav Association to the electronic age. In consideration of that, we are going to have a number of trial-run meetings over the internet. Electronic meetings can potentially give great savings and increase participation. We are planning an October or November Electronic Meeting using a program called 'Go to Meeting.com'. Anyone who is computer-savvy is encouraged to lend a hand. It will be evaluated at the 2013 Board of Governors Meeting. (3) Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome (also known as 'Old Pete') - The meetings were very effective and efficient, but we regularly came back to discussions of the effects of 'PTSD'. For example, when we were discussing the glaring need for us to increase our membership a fellow participant made the very insightful and accurate observation that most of our members first came to join us in their late 50's and early 60's. And, therefore, that is the group that we need to be aggressively going after to join our organization. Another member pointed out that when we Vets are in this 'season of our life' we finally have enough time to work our way through some long held post-combat issues. He stated that just recently his wife informed him that while sleeping he was giving battle commands and shouting 'Battle Cries' at the enemy. Another Vet informed us that a couple of years ago he decided to be pro-active and get after some of his troubles with 'old Pete'. He got involved in some kind of 'talk therapy' and after a couple of years of weekly meetings he was so sick, tired and bored talking about the incident that he just naturally quit thinking about it. A number of others shared some of their experiences as it related to bringing in new members. President DuBois closed the meeting and commented that it was probably one of the best meetings that he had the pleasure to attend.

Wear Your Hat - A couple of days after I got back I was standing in the check-out line at a local store and I saw an older fellow walk by who was wearing a baseball cap with crossed saber's. I got out of the line and approached him and pointed at my 1st Cav Hat and said, "I was with the 1st Cav in Vietnam, who were you with?" He was a little befuddled and couldn't understand what I was talking about. After we talked for a while I realized that he had had a minor senior moment and then he went on to say that he was with the 9th Cav in WWII.

61st FA News

Continued from pg. 4.

S-4 was the Battalion Supply Officer which happened to be me at that time. All the supply sergeants of the five batteries of the 61st were making sure they had what they needed including the stuff they had stolen from the Navy while we were in the Admiralties. In fact, they actually had so much of everything they were just as anxious to get rid of what they didn't need; there is only so much room on an LST. One day I was confronted by some of the battery mess sergeants asking me to let them turn back in cases of "corned willy" (canned corn beef issued by the QMC who apparently had acquired tons of the stuff from the Aussies). The mess sergeants said they had prepared the corned willy so many ways that the men would not let them put any more of it in their mess kits. As a result they had accumulated about 300 cases and wanted to turn it back in to Battalion supply. They said they didn't have room for it (as if I did). I said okay, bring it back, not

having a clue as to what I would do with it. I knew there was no way the QMC would take it back. I was forced into a decision when the Battalion CO walked by the supply tent, saw all those cases of corned willy and let me know I had better not let any of that s--- on "my LST." After a quick consultation with the battalion supply SGT Dillard and the Asst. S-4, WO Campbell, we borrowed a bulldozer, took it to the deserted far end of Ndrillo and dug a hole big enough to back a 2 1/2 ton cargo truck into. We then loaded up the truck and with all the corned willy, took it to the hole, stacked it neatly and covered it over. Since then I have often wondered if the natives might have decided to replant coconut trees on that spot and discovered that huge cache of corned willy. Would they have blessed or cursed us?" Thanks for the story, Les. Appreciate you sending it in.

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

Reserve and National Guard at Risk - I am including an article from a newsletter of an organization that I belong to. It points out some very interesting things about a group of Vets who are very similar to the draftees of the Vietnam War. The article is from 'Heroes Care Newsletter', May 2012, entitled "Care for National Guard", authored by Lauren Everitt, Andrew Theen and Gulaz Salyed <www.heroescare.org>. "Despite years of efforts to improve health care and support networks for National Guard and military reserves, these service members report higher rates of mental health problems and related ills than active duty troops, according to current and former officials, troop experts and government studies." ...Active-duty troops come home to military bases with free, comprehensive medical care and support networks that help diagnose what military leaders call the signature wounds of the wars that began after the attacks of September 11, 2001: post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury. ...Reservists do not have access to the same system or networks that experts say are needed to assess and treat their injuries. General Craig R. McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau said in November, 'The National Guard faces unique challenges compared to our active-duty counterparts'. General Peter Chiarelli, who retired on February 1 as Army Vice-Chief of Staff, said that efforts are underway to provide better care for reservists. Chiarelli said, "A National Guard soldier...has anywhere from 10 to 14 days of demobilization training and processing and then we throw them back into their community to work with folks who are part of the 99% who never fought." These communities often can't relate to the reservists military experiences, which leads to job and family friction. Studies have shown that troops often don't know they have problems or are reluctant to report them because they want to return home to their wives, their families and their jobs. One trooper was quoted as saying, "If you're standing between me and the door, why am I going to tell you that there are any issues?" The Pentagon has scrambled to close gaps in care by creating more than 200 programs. Senator Ron Wyden (Democrat, Oregon) has been investigating this situation. In response to Wyden's investigation the Army Guard has increased the time allotted for demobilization and also required leaders to sign off on the disposition of each soldier. Senator Wyden said, "If you're serving in the same foxhole, you ought to be able to come back to the same sort of benefits." General McKinley praised the Guard's reform efforts. But, he added, "We will have decades to go to make sure we do not leave any guardsman or woman behind". (All of the draftee Vietnam Vets should say Amen to that.)

OTHER REUNIONS

C Co., 1-12th CAV, 20-24 August 2012. Radisson Hotel, Green Bay, WI. Contact Cliff Pena. (707) 892-0392, <CliffieDoo@aol.com>.

7th Cavalry Korean War Veterans (1950-51), 26-30 August 2012. Peppermill Resort, Reno, NV. Contact Richard Mitchell, 311 Southbrook Cir., Houston, TX 77060, (866) 722-8598, <RJMitchell3@hotmail.com>.

12th Cavalry Regiment Association, 4-8 September 2012. Savannah House, Branson, MO. Information at <www.12thcav.us/Reunion_2012_Branson.htm>.

Aviation Platoon, HHC, 1st Brigade "Flying Circus", 8-10 September 2012. Best Western Golden Spike Inn & Suites, Hill City, SD. Info at <www.flying-circus.org> or contact Tom Kuypers, <tokpachyderm@aol.com>, (636) 947-1617.

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 <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>.

1-8th Cavalry "Jumping Mustangs", 7-11 November 2012. Holiday Inn & Suites Airport, Phoenix, AZ. Contact Clovis Jones, (480) 585-0505, <clovisjones@me.com>, information and registration form available on <www.jumpingmustangs.com/reunionreg.html>.

A Co. and D Co., 227th AHB (Vietnam Era), 8-13 November 2012. Grand Plaza Hotel, Branson, MO. Information at <www.Reunion.A227AHB.org> or contact Howard Burbank, <ChickenMan@A227Slicks.org>.

77th Artillery Association, 13-15 September 2012. The Amelia Hotel at the Beach, Fernandina Beach, FL. Information at <www.77fa.org>.

11th Pathfinder Company, (Provisional/Airborne), 9-12 November 2012. 1863 Inn of Gettysburg, Gettysburg, PA. Contact Rob Wolaver, (765) 567-6138, <RWolaver@gmail.com>.

Division Doings

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and the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade in June and July. The following stories are submitted by the Troopers of the Division Public Affairs Office.

Ironhorse Takes Silver in First Annual Sullivan Cup - Story and photo by SPC Bailey Jester, 1st BCT Public Affairs, 1st Cav. Div.



21st BCT Tank Crew places Ironhorse crest into the Sullivan cup.

FORT BENNING, Georgia - It was a humid day with a cloudy overhang; nothing like the attitudes of the tank crew from the 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

The Stallion crew was about to embark on a journey for the first annual Sullivan Cup, which in its first year has already earned a prestigious title.

"You are the best of the best in your units, your units chose you to represent them," said BG Thomas James, the Armor School commandant. "The winners of this competition will be known as the best tank crew in the Army, the best tank crew in the world."

The four-day challenge, May 7 to 11, full of rigorous physical and mental exhaustion, tests both the character and competence of the tankers, explained CSM Miles Wilson, the senior noncommissioned officer of the Armor School.

It was named after (Ret) General Gordon Sullivan, known to many as an "inspiration" and "someone Soldiers look up to." He was also the 32nd Chief of Staff for five years, from June 1991 to June 1995.

"I'm proud that someone thought enough of me to put my name on that trophy," Sullivan said about the honor. "If you think any differently, you are sadly

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12th CAV News



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0001 - Journal opened. Hey Sailor, new in town? It is your boss of the hot sauce, rocking the rolls from coast to coast and pole to pole. The first

place you look and the last place you will forget. Where you get the hot stuff, the old stuff, the new stuff, the mossy stuff, the straight stuff, the true stuff and just stuff.

0127 - We are looking for Troopers of A 1-12 Cav if you knew or served with Sergeant Charlie Gopher, 1965-1967 (18 months). Charlie earned the CIB, 2 Air Medals, Parachutist Badge w/3 Overseas Bars, Vietnam Service Medal with 5 Bronze Stars among others; he died in 1975. A presentation is to be made to his family of his long delayed awards, a flag, and a headstone to be placed on his grave (date and time unknown, probably in Brighton, Florida). If you are willing to travel to this area to honor your fellow Warrior, please use the info on this page to contact me, ASAP or sooner.

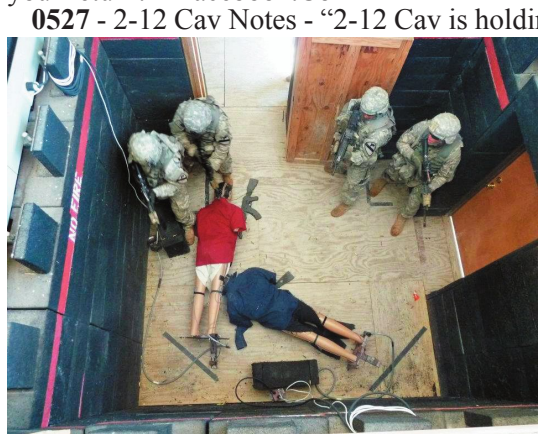
0227 - Que Son - "This evening I spoke with Renee Stone, daughter of 1LT James M. Stone. Renee stated that JPAC authorities have indicated they are 95% confident the remains recovered in the former Republic of South Vietnam's Que Son valley in December 2011 are either LT Stone and/or PFC Robert S Trujillo. The target date for the identification of those remains is approximately June 2013. JPAC authorities feel extremely certain that the remaining remains, which have been identified in a specific location in Vietnam, are those of the second 2-12th MIA/KIA from a firefight of 7 January 1968. They assume standard recovery of the 2nd set of remains sometime this year and therefore believe they will be identified NLT the end of 2015. Her contact with JPAC was 98% confident that both families would find closure once both sets of remains had been examined for DNA results. No specific facts were given, other than to state that assembled facts in this case warranted a high degree of expectation in the future. Due to fund shortages this fiscal year and uncertainty regarding funding next fiscal year JPAC is pressuring the Vietnamese government to make recovery of the 2nd set of remains in this case ASAP. Based on results to date, this case bears a high priority by JPAC. Both families have received the same information and will be each notified of the identification of the remains once DNA results have been obtained! God speed for a successful conclusion in this matter." <Roger Kehrier>

0327 - Addresses - Thanks to all who have updated the Regiment Association in regards to your e-mail and other contact information, it is much appreciated. Knowing how and where to contact you makes it easier and quicker for each of the officers should they have need or desire to contact you, or to have your specific units and the dates you served. Knowing your correct information also saves money on postage and facilitates the friends you served with finding you when they come looking. You might be surprised at the number of Troopers who pick up the phone or e-mailer, choose a name at random, and contact that stranger. For myself, I find very few veterans who do not want to talk, even to a 'stranger'. "Once Cav, always Cav" and we all were, or are in the same foxhole.

0427 - 1-12 Cav Notes - "Block leave begins 30 June, a well-deserved leave opportunity for most of our soldiers - I hope you are able to take advantage of it and enjoy the next 2 weeks. An early Happy 4th of July to all of you - the 1% who serve."; "Great day at the 1st CAV Division DSW where 2 of our many outstanding volunteers were recognized; Stacey Lucas and Laura Coviello." Congratulations to the volunteers for being chosen and to all the Troopers on leave, safe travels until your return. <Facebook.Com>



1-12 Cav Outstanding Volunteers Stacey Lucas and 1LT Laura Coviello



2-12 Cav House Urban Assault Course

0527 - 2-12 Cav Notes - "2-12 Cav is holding a JRTC Pre-Deployment Briefing for family members on July 23 at the Phantom Warrior Center located at the intersection of 37th St and 761st Tank Battalion Ave. It will cover finance, legal and TRICARE information to assist families during the BN JRTC rotation."; "22 June, 2-12 Cav conducted a family run to help raise moral of the troops and the family. We also handed out certificates to the spouses of soldiers to show our appreciation."; "22 May, 2-12 Cav coached and manned a 4BCT soccer team which won their first game against 41st Fires

Brigade before losing a close game to 13 ESC."; "18 May, 2-12 Cav executed a battalion run along Battalion Avenue to commemorate SSG Jimmie Stewart's sacrifice on the anniversary of the combat action for which he earned the Medal of Honor."; "27 April, A Co. and B Co. continued fire-team maneuver LFXs on 23-27 April at House Urban Assault Course IOT certify fire teams on offensive and defensive operations." <Facebook sites>

0727 - Regimental Reunion - The 7th Annual 12th Cavalry Reunion is 4-8 September (Tuesday-Saturday), 2012 in Branson, Missouri. 120 rooms have been blocked at the Savannah House for the exclusive use of 12th Cavalry and their guests. <SavannahHouseBranson.Com>, telephone: (800) 383-3132. Standard king and double queen rooms are \$78.00 per night. The reunion banquet will held Friday at the Camden House Conference Center with guest of honor and keynote speaker, Joe Galloway. All details and registration forms are available on the 12th Cavalry website. Call: Thomas Crabtree, Cell (432) 853-4851, Home (432) 689-8330; Terry Combs, (918) 931-8352; Doug Warden, (405) 826-8008. <Regiment website>. Call now!

0927 - C 1-12 - The Charlie Company 1-12, 4th Bi-annual Reunion is to be held

at the Radisson Hotel in Green Bay, Wisconsin, August 20-24 (Monday-Friday), 2012. The reunion is open to all who served in Charlie 1-12 in Vietnam from 1965 through 1972. <Radisson.Com/Green-Bay-Hotel-wi-54313/GreenBay>, telephone: (920) 494-7300. A banquet will be held on Thursday night with guest speaker Charlie member and author of 'Boy Sergeant, A Young Soldier's Story of Vietnam', Doug Warden. Schedule and registration forms, along with complete details, are available on the Regiment website. Contact Cliff Pena at (707) 892-0392. <Ron 'Shakey' Sauers, Jr.>. I say again, "Call now!"

1027 - 1-12 Cavalry - 11 May, 2012 saw a Change of Responsibility Ceremony as 1-12 said goodbye to LTC Andrew Poznik and hello to LTC Arthur W. Sellers. LTC Sellers was commissioned a second lieutenant of Infantry from the United States Military Academy in 1995. Throughout his career, he has served in operational assignments in Korea, the United States, Iraq, and Afghanistan. LTC Sellers' military education includes the Infantry Officer Basic Course, Infantry Officer Advanced Course, the Combined Arms Services Staff School, the Command and General Staff College, Ranger School, Airborne School, Air Assault School, the Bradley Leader Course, and Jumpmaster School. He holds a Bachelors Degree in Engineering Management. "Hello! It's a great day to be part of the Chargers, First Team's First String! I am LTC Art Sellers, and I assumed command of the battalion on 11 May from LTC Andy Poznick. I am honored and humbled to be serving with the fine men and women of 1-12 CAV and Susan and I could not be more excited to be with you here at the Great Place! This unit has a long, proud and distinguished history. Your Charger soldier is making more great history every day! Please know that I consider our Charger families to be an essential and equal, part of the Charger team. Without you and your support, this unit will not be able to accomplish its mission. Thank you for that support! Susan and I look forward to meeting all of you! Charger 6" The new CSM, CSM Wayne A. Phillips joined the active army in May 1990. He has served in every duty and leadership position available as a mechanized, light and airborne Infantryman. CSM Phillips has attended all levels of NCOES and the First Sergeant Course. He is also a graduate of the Ranger, Jumpmaster, Pathfinder, Basic Airborne, Air Assault and Battle Staff NCO Courses. He holds an Associate's Degree. He is a member of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club and a member of the Order of St. Maurice. <http://pao.hood.army.mil/1stcavdiv/units> <Facebook.Com>

1127 - Business - I am awaiting the love letter, w/pics, to arrive for a definitive report of the recent reunion and business meeting of the Regiment, not to mention those stories and memories you tell your friends and other veterans. Due to exigencies in my life and travel schedule I was unable to attend, but have received word that everything went well, the weather cooperated, the site hotel and service were the cheapest in memory, around 650 effectives attended and that our Regiment had the most attending (or 2nd ; maybe 3rd or 4th!). I was given the number 83 for 12th Cavalry attendees. Bob Magruder (Vietnam) was installed as president and retired CSM Dave Clemons (Iraq era) as vice president. Retiring president Terry Combs was elected by the general membership of the 1st Cavalry Division Association to the board of directors of that association.



Justin Baxter, Andrew Hargrett, Christine Hinton, Luis Torres, Travis Wisley

1327 - History - In the history of the Regiment Association there have been 13 members designated as Distinguished Members of the Regiment; Troopers Terry Combs, Ken Howser, Jr., and COL John Ryan were so recognized this year. Trooper Combs for being a founding member of the Branson reunion; his diligent efforts to grow and expand the reunion and the monies generated; and as president of the Association supporting the activities of 1-12 and 2-12 with those funds, among other ascriptions. Trooper Howser for coordinating and arranging funeral coverage by members to services for both active duty and veteran Troopers; setting up and administrating our Association Facebook site; and essaying to include veterans of all units and both battalions of active duty soldiers into the whole of Regimental communications, among other ascriptions. COL Ryan for hosting 12th veterans to his command, exhibiting tank gunnery and other armor actions to them during a prior reunion; interfacing Vietnam veterans with active duty troops; serving as Iraq/Afghanistan representative on the 12th Cav board of Directors and his efforts to keep membership updated with his reports from the front while deployed, among other ascriptions. Congratulations to all, you gentlemen join high company.

1527 - New blood - A great winnowing has taken the fields of 1-12 through the efforts of Tom Crabtree, Pat Wilganoski, CSM Phillips, LTC Sellers (and the past command staff), and has resulted in the gleaning of almost 100 (you read correctly) new active duty memberships in the Regiment Association! The admiration, awe, and thanks of us all, Troopers! To quote Doug Warden, "One of our major goals for the future was and is to get the active duty Troopers from Iraq, Bosnia, Kosovo and Afghanistan to join our Association and to begin taking leadership roles. This will ensure that our 12th Cavalry Association will be alive and well in the future."

1747 - Speaking of Trooper Doug Warden, has anybody been paying attention to the 2012 edition of the membership directory? Doug did a fabulous job imagining it in its current form and driving it through to production and mailing. The cover with its color rendering of the Regimental crest, the layout, style and format and the notations on members are all superb. A motion of gratitude and thanks is due Doug, and I for one extend it to him. Salute!

1927 - Taps - I had a telephone call and e-mail from Ron McKiddy notifying the Regiment of the passing of SGT Charles E. Cade, Jr. of Dayton, Ohio, who passed away June 21, 2012. He was a highly decorated Vietnam veteran serving in A 1-12 from April, 1968 - April, 1969. He was a life member of the American Legion, VFW, and Vietnam Veterans of America. Charles is survived by his daughter, Christina, and son, Brian, among others. He was retired from the Dayton Daily News and member of the Teamsters Int'l. Graphics Union. Donations can be made to the V.F.W. Post #7741 Ladies Auxiliary or Hospice of Dayton. <Legacy.Com> (We thank Ron, whose brother, Gary McKiddy was KIA with the 9th Cavalry, May 6 1970, in Cambodia, for his discretion, eye, and

Continued on pg. 11.

7th CAV News



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In speaking with both Phil Zook and Bob Arbasetti, they reported that the reunion in Portland was

another in a long line of successes. It goes without saying that the attendees are what make these gatherings special but without the dedication of our Association HQ it just wouldn't be possible. Our thanks go out to Dennis, Lorinda and Martha for their service to the 1st Cavalry Division Association and to us.

The 7th Cavalry Association has recently lost two former first ladies. Judy Brigham, wife of President Emeritus Jim Brigham lost her valiant fight against cancer on 12 May. Judy and Jim had been regular attendees at reunions starting at Fort Bragg. She was gracious in her fight and always brought her "southern charm" to these gatherings. Jim was the Support Platoon Leader in Vietnam from '65 to '66 and stayed in the Army Reserves finally retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. Deurice Plumley, wife of CSM (Ret) Basil Plumley, died on 28 May at the Columbus Hospice House. Mrs. Plumley also attended many reunions over the years with the Sergeant Major and was also gracious and a joy to talk to. The Sergeant Major's first tour was with our 7th Cavalry at LZ X-Ray and then as the 3rd Brigade Sergeant Major. Miss Deurice was buried at the Post Cemetery at Fort Benning. Our condolences to both of these warriors and their extended families on the passing of these two wonderful women! If NCOs' are the backbone of the Armed Forces, then certainly the spouses are the heart!

Karl Haartz and Scott Smith both report that COL (Ret) Victor "Tom" Bullock who was the 5th Battalion S3 during their training and deployment to Vietnam in 1966 passed away on 31 May. Scott also tells us that Tom served two additional tours with the First Team: once in Korea from '63-'64 and command of the 3rd Brigade at Fort Hood in '77 and '78. Tom was awarded three Silver Stars for gallantry and numerous other awards for distinguished service. Tom graduated in the West point Class of 1956 along with Scott Smith.

Charles R. Roberts, who served in the 7th Cavalry Regiment during the Korean War and was awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action at the age of 17 and the Purple Heart for injuries sustained in combat, passed away on 4 June. He later served in the U.S. Air Force as a jet engine mechanic on the B-47 Bomber.

Lyle R. Gibbs, SFC (Ret) sends this report of his recollections from Korea in September of 1950 forwarded to me by Dennis Webster. Captain James T. Milam had come to E Company early in 1950 while we were stationed in Japan as part of the occupation force. When the fighting broke out we were sent to Korea along with the rest of the First Team. We had been holding a hill position for about 4 days when CPT Milam was called up to the Battalion CP and told that he was soon to be promoted to Major and would then take over as the S-3. About the time that CPT Milam was receiving this news the battalion was ordered to withdraw and E Company was told to remain in place until the other rifle companies had withdrawn. As so often happens, the last company out failed to notify us that they had reached safety, which meant technically we were then behind enemy lines. Upon hearing this news CPT Milam insisted on returning to E Company to lead us off that hill. After ordering the company to withdraw down the backside of the hill, he and I were the last ones to leave but there were two cases of grenades left behind that we couldn't carry. We weren't about to leave this ordnance to the enemy so we began pulling pins and throwing them down the hill until we were attacked. We ran down the hill and joined our company forming a hasty defensive line in case we were followed. They didn't follow us so we began the trek down through the valley. We hadn't gone very far when we found an overturned ammunition truck. In order not to leave this for the North Koreans, CPT Milam climbed up and removed the gas cap and set fire to the truck destroying it and the ammunition. We then moved down the valley for another mile or so and it was decided to take the high ground on another hill while awaiting help. Unbeknownst to us there were North Koreans on that hill and their first burst of machine gun fire killed CPT Milam. The ranking lieutenant took command and we moved further down the valley until reaching safety with an American artillery unit. I will never forget CPT Milam's bravery that day. It cost him his life but may very well have saved our whole company. I believe that he should have been awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions that day. Most likely he will never get the recognition that he deserves but he has my undying gratitude and respect. Thank you for your firsthand account of one day of infantry combat Lyle.

Steven McGregor was a career soldier who was killed at Normandy on D-Day. Captain McGregor was also a Garryowen Trooper who taught the art of horsemanship to the students at the Culver Military Academy in Indiana. Until he was sent to England, he was the S-1 of the 3rd Cavalry Brigade, 2nd Cavalry Regiment of the 2nd Cavalry Division at Camp Funston, Kansas. Steven's remains were taken back to England and he was buried in an Allied Cemetery there. Michael McGregor, who writes the 21st FA News in the *Saber* and my dear friend, is Steven's son. Mike was an F.O. Sergeant attached to the 2-7 during Vietnam.

As you may recall from the last *Saber*, I was not able to attend the Portland reunion because of the recent passing of my father. I delivered the rosters and the programs to the shipping company on the Monday, prior to the luncheon, with the assurance that they would be delivered to the Red Lion on Friday. As they say, the best laid plans didn't materialize and in fact after being told they would arrive on Friday, the on-line delivery status kept showing a Monday delivery. After an unhappy phone call, in which they couldn't even tell me where our package was, I had to have it intercepted and sent back



to me. I'm writing this column on 18 June and the rosters still haven't shown up. I apologize for the unavailability of the latest roster to those who attended the 7th Cavalry luncheon. I'm told that the 7th Cav luncheon featured a talk by LTC Robert Kuth and CSM Eliodoro Perez, both with the 2-7th CAV, who came up for the reunion and spent plenty of time in the Reunion Room visiting. It was a long trip for them but we appreciate their support of the 7th CAV and our Association. Phil Zook was reelected as Vice President. Next year the election of President will be held as Bill Richardson turns over the reins to another trooper. We also made plans to donate money to the Education Center for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Rolando Salazar, D 2-7 and a prior Vice President of our Association reports as follows. I just returned from a vacation trip to England and Scotland and while I was there, I met with the U.K. Air Cav Living History group. This is the group of folks who reenacts the Vietnam War and portrays elements of the 7th Cavalry. They are really a bunch of nice people and rolled out the red carpet for me once again. I spent the weekend with them at their camp and enjoyed their camaraderie and antics. I've said many times that they really do honor us by trying to show the public what Vietnam was like for us and do it as accurately as possible. If you are ever in the U.K. between May and September, I encourage you to go to one of their shows and displays. I am sure they will welcome you heartily. The attached link to Facebook shows a number of the photos that I have taken at these gatherings. <<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.3629486409226.153648.1036056353&type=3&l=c7d69507e3>>. Thanks Rolando and I hope you had a good time in Portland.

Here is an important bit of information from Shortround Migut and Hank Llewellyn for all of us. A new phishing campaign is targeting military service members, retirees and civilian employees receiving disability compensation, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) warns. The e-mail scam dangles the prospect of additional disability compensation in an effort to get recipients to give up their personal information, according to a post on DFAS' Web site, which urges anyone receiving such an e-mail not to respond to it. The e-mails, which appear to come from a DFAS employee, display a spoofed .mil e-mail address and say recipients of disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) could also be eligible for money from the IRS, DFAS said. The phishing scam asks recipients to submit their VA award letters, income tax returns, 1099-R forms and other documents to a supposed retired colonel in Florida. Phishing campaigns of this type, offering money for personal data are fairly common around tax time and phishing scams of all kinds are increasingly common in government circles, whether the goal is to compromise individuals' financial information or to attack enterprises. The U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team recently reported phishing was the most common type of attack against government networks, accounting for 51.2 percent of attacks. Source: <<http://gcn.com/articles/2012/04/16/dfas-warns-phishing-scam-targets-military.aspx>>. Remember that the Government WILL NOT ask you for any personal information via e-mail.

Here is another tidbit from Shortround Migut. This video was originally made for me by a Patriotic co-worker. I gave her a bunch of photos in chronological sequence... she dropped the file and did a best attempt to reconstruct it. Given the kindergarten principal in NYC that banned singing Lee Greenwood's song, I thought I'd share this video featuring Lee Greenwood's music. Note the full company photo (in B&W) taken at Fort Benning are the original C 1-7 Cav and the white haired man sitting in the Fort Benning Bleachers is General Tolson... at a subsequent reunion at Fort Benning there were on-post buses to lunch at the officers Mess and the NCO Mess. General Tolson chose to join the enlisted man's bus with lunch at the NCO Mess hall, <www.youtube.com/watch?v=5IRjmi_SAXU&list=HL1339510340&feature=mh_lolz>. Ron, I certainly enjoyed the tribute (editor).

A 2-7 Cav veteran is named to the Army Ranger Hall of Fame. A Carrollton man who is a veteran of the Vietnam and Iraq wars with 27 years of active service has been named to the U.S. Army Ranger Hall of Fame. COL (Ret) Robert Powell will be honored July 12 at the 20th annual Ranger Hall of Fame ceremony in Marshall Auditorium at Fort Benning. He will be among 12 inductees into the 2012 group. "I'm humbled by this great honor bestowed upon me," he said. "Other than my family, I'm most proud of having served as a combat infantryman in Vietnam and Iraq and experiencing the great camaraderie, teamwork and brotherhood of these men serving in a noble cause." In 1970, he returned for a third tour as commander of A Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry of the 1st Cavalry Division. He received a third Purple Heart after being wounded by a chi-com grenade during the Cambodian Incursion. While still in Vietnam in 1971, Powell commanded his third combat infantry rifle company, C Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry, until he was deployed home. It was during his Vietnam service that he picked up the nickname "Cold Steel," which followed him throughout his military career. He said the name was based on his unit's high discipline and the fact that they operated with fixed bayonets for its psychological impact. His many military awards include three Silver Stars for gallantry in action, 10 Bronze Stars, six Army Commendation Medals, three for valor and three Purple Hearts.

A Company, 1-7 from '69-'71 held their annual reunion in Columbus, Georgia. There were trips to the National Infantry Museum as well as Fort Benning. Another bunch of A Company Veterans will be gathering in Rhinelander, Wisconsin in late July. This reunion is titled *A Gathering of Eagles* and will be hosted by Jim Hackbarth and Rick Carr.

Julie and I are off to Colorado for our college reunion. Hopefully Estes Park will not have burned down by the time of our reunion. Garryowen from Michigan.

WANTED

If you served with, know, knew or have information about any of the following, please communicate with the contact listed.

CHILES, SP-5 Dean and MAJ **SCHRUM**, 15th TC, 1967-68. Contact Glenn Hipps, 8518 Potter Rd. S., Waxhaw, NC 28173, <glennhipps@hotmail.com>.

MOELER, John, HHC, 8th ENG, S-3 Survey Section Feb.-Dec., 1968, S-2 in 1969. Contact 1SG (Ret) Leo Miller, 5704 Victory Cir., Sterling Heights,

8th CAV News



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I'm sorry to have missed the recent reunion in

took C130's to get us there rather than Chinooks. I just finished reading George J. Veith's new book, *Black April: The Fall of South Vietnam 1973-75*. With unprecedented access to primary source materials from the US, and from North and South Vietnam, battle studies, formerly highly classified cables and memorandum between the Politburo and the NVA military commanders in the South and interviews with many of the principal actors of the time, Veith tells in detail the decisions, strategies and tactics on both sides that led to the collapse of our ally, South Vietnam. The political decisions made by US leaders in Washington as they viewed the collapse of the Paris Peace accords, to abandon our ally as they fought desperately to save their beleaguered nation is outlined; the decision of the Politburo to advance the final stage of their campaign by over a year in light of those and other decisions by the South is described in detail. For those of you with an interest in the history of this part of our nation's involvement in Southeast Asia, I highly commend this new book by George J. Veith. For an excellent review of this book, go to the Wall Street Journal's web site: <<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304450004577277361997395318.html?KEYWORDS=abandoning+Vietnam>> or simply search on their site "abandoning Vietnam." It was a great read.

The Eagerarms group (Bravo 2-8 Cav 1967-68) reports another fine reunion in Washington, DC this past May. As part of their reunion, they conducted a wreath laying ceremony at The Wall. <www.eagerarms.com/memorial-ceremony-2012.html>.



The Wall Ceremony

From their recent newsletter comes this thought about it: "It is difficult to describe our feelings about this very moving ceremony to honor and remember our thirty-seven comrades who were Killed in Action (KIA) in Vietnam during the period July 1967-August 1968. This was one of those rare experiences where it was not only a great honor, but also a great privilege to have participated in this ceremony. It was a humbling experience, it was a highly emotional experience, and it was one of those memorable experiences that we will never forget and always cherish."

I have received several calls from WWII and Korea War vets wishing to reconnect with others who have fought in those wars. I remind them that the *SABER* can help them reconnect. Send a request for information to the *SABER*'s "Wanted" section. It was found on page 2 of the last issue.

Until next time, "HONOR AND COURAGE!"

Portland with you. I was really looking forward to the trip on the Empire Builder, the cross country train from Chicago, and to the reunion itself. Unfortunately I had to cancel due to illness. I got back to my home in Michigan from Florida on May 24th and was admitted to the hospital on the 25th; I spent the Memorial Day weekend and 12 days there trying to deal with an acute bronchial infection I got somewhere. The colony of bugs that took up residence in my lungs didn't seem to have any desire to leave a place they found quite conducive to their way of life.

For those of you who are my age and older, we know the true meaning of "the golden years." I keep reminding people that at our age, it's always a good day when we wake up on the green side of the grass and/or any day we wake up and can get vertical is a great day! Libby Allen expresses her feelings on this in her youtube video: <www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/6dbBfXCMbH4?rel=0> There is an old Spanish proverb that says, "How beautiful it is to do nothing... and rest afterward." Now that's retirement! But for the younger set, I offer this ancient Roman bit of wisdom on making the most of each and every day, "*Edamus, bibamus gaudeamus nam cras moriemur!*" i.e. "Let us eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow we die!" Even we "geezers" do our best to accomplish that, albeit at a much slower pace. Now, where did I put that treadmill?

I was talking with a couple of younger people the other day about reading books on our Kindles. One was a recent high school grad while the other was in her late 20's. They asked what I was reading; I mentioned that I had just finished the very interesting biography of General Westmorland. They replied as one, "WHO?" On questioning, they had no idea who he was. To think that the war in which so many of us fought, that was a central and transformational part of ten years of our national experience and that remains so vivid in our minds has been relegated now to the unread pages of history. In an youtube video of a speech by General Zini, he mentions that there are just 1/3 of us Vietnam Veterans left. The Korea War Vets are passing from us quickly, the remaining WWII Vets are very few and the Veterans of WWI are gone. So many of our young vets fail to realize how quickly time passes and how important it is to stay in touch with the soldiers with whom they have served in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Somalia and throughout the Middle East and Northern Africa and so many other places too many to mention here. Whenever we meet a young vet, we need to encourage them to join one of many chapters or veteran organizations lest their service memories remain only as nightmares, their battle hardened bonds of close friendship dissolve and fade away. For all of you now serving, please make a special effort to join and get your friends to join us in this community of people who have faithfully and proudly served our nation as so few have; you are a very special group, indeed - a people set apart. Unlike previous wars, our Army today is rather small in numbers and all volunteer, called upon to serve in multiple deployments. Be proud of your service - we are certainly proud of you!

I remain puzzled to this day why those of us who served in Vietnam at unit level never received a decent briefing on where in the country we were, why we were there, or why those specific areas were crucial to the war effort. I recall that when we arrived in I Corps during Tet '68, we didn't even initially have maps. We didn't know precisely where Quant Tri or Thua Thien were in relation to Tam Quan, Song Re, or Quy Nhon, except that they were North and it

THE HICCUP - Health Care Information Committee Report



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Questionnaire. During the General Membership meeting at Portland Reunion, a health care survey was distributed. It explained the background and purpose of the Health Care Information

Committee, and asked for input with regard to four questions: (1) How can the health care services of the V.A. be improved? (2) How can the health care services offered by the Department of Defense be improved? (3) How can the health benefits offered by the V.A. be improved? (4) What subjects would you like to see addressed in future HICCUP articles?

We ask that those with comments on the four questions---or any other health care-related subjects---contact Scott Smith at the above address. And...thanks to those of you who have already offered your suggestions!

V.A. Priority Groups. During the Reunion, we received a request for a simple explanation of the V.A. Priority Groups. The best explanation may be found on the V.A. web site <www.va.gov/healthbenefits/resources/priority_groups.asp> "Health Benefits"... "Priority Group Table." There are eight priority groups; they are numbered 1-8 with Group 1 being the highest priority for enrollment. Under the Medical Benefits Package, the same services are generally available to all enrolled Veterans. You may be eligible for more than one group; in that case, the V.A. will always place you in the highest group. Remember, if you have

30% or higher disability rating, then you do not pay for your V.A. healthcare, even if it is not service-connected. Also, you do not pay for care associated with a service-connected disability.

In a Nutshell: Group 1 includes those Veterans with V.A. service-connected disabilities rated at 50% or more and those Veterans receiving compensation for unemployability. Group 2 includes those whose disabilities are rated at 40% or 30%. Group 3 includes former POWs, holders of the Purple Heart, holders of the Medal of Honor, and those rated 20% or 10%. Group 4 is for those who are permanently Housebound and for those determined by the V.A. to be catastrophically disabled. Group 5 is for nonservice-connected veterans with a 0% disability rating who meet certain means tests, those receiving V.A. Pension benefits, and those eligible for Medicaid benefits. Group 6 includes compensable 0% service-connected veterans and veterans meeting certain other criteria including those discharged from active duty on or after January 28, 2003 (for five years post discharge). Group 7 includes Veterans whose incomes are below a certain means test and who agree to pay the applicable copayments. Group 8 actually has four sub-categories for certain Veterans who are noncompensable 0% service-connected or who are nonservice-connected.

As you can see, the determination of your proper category can be tricky! To fully and clearly understand in which group you fall, please go to the V.A. web site or ask your local expert for assistance.

Division Doings

Continued from pg. 5.
mistaken."

The competition began about four months ago for these Stallion tankers, beginning as an internal challenge within the Ironhorse Brigade to select which crew would compete.

"When I learned I was one of the chosen tankers for the Sullivan Cup crew, I was excited," said Chicago native, SPC Sam Garcia, leader for the Stallion crew, and assigned to Company C.

Although the Soldiers weren't exactly sure what the cup stood for at first or what challenges they were about to face, it did not stop them from feeling privileged for earning the chance to compete in the event.

"When I first heard about the competition, I wasn't sure what it was, but after learning about it I was excited and couldn't believe I was chosen to represent my unit when there are so many great tank commanders," said Kearny, New Jersey native, SFC Oscar Ayala, the Stallion tank commander assigned to Company D. "It

felt great to know that my chain of command has faith and confidence in me."

The crew is a young crew having trained together for only a few months prior to the competition, but they were still a success.

"Our crew hasn't been together but for almost three months now," Ayala, a four-time veteran, said about his young crew. "But it didn't hinder us in our success."

Ayala went on to explain that it helped to have an experienced tank commander and gunner, along with a young loader and driver who quickly soaked up new information.

"The crew did outstanding, of course we had our speed bumps but we moved on," said Missoula, Montana native, SGT Owen Zechman, the Stallion gunner, and assigned to Company C.

Four months later, the crew arrived at Fort Benning, Georgia to begin their run for the Sullivan Cup.

First, the crew arrived at Patton Hall to ensure all paperwork was in order and

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9th CAV News



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There have been a couple of Troopers that have sent me stories that they would like for me to consider

putting in the *Saber*. To those Troopers I would like to say thank you for sending the stories and I promise at some point I will put your articles in the *Saber* but right now I have promised a dear friend of mine that I will print his stories. Mr. Rick Erickson (Swede) has inoperable cancer and is spending what time he has remaining enjoying life at his home on Whidbey Island. Swede was an "Old Guy" when I arrived in Vietnam and I can truly say I feared him and respected him. For all that know Swede, he is a true American and a great warrior and I am proud to call him my friend.

Swede gave me a thumb drive with several stories so I picked this one as the first one because it tells the story of how Swede ended up in the 1st Cavalry Division, A Troop 1-9.

My Mother's Birthday Present and/or Attacked by NVA Airborne Sapper in "the Tent", LZ Sharon.

I was initially assigned to the 8th or 9th (never could get it straight) Infantry Division with orders to report to McChord AFB on 5 June '68, to be issued my jungle gear and transported to Vietnam that same day. I was delivered, horribly hungover, by my late Mother. Mom had conjured up a surprise going away party for me the night before, complete with alcohol, totally out of character for her, the alcohol part I mean. I'm not sure if I was more surprised by the party or the keg of beer in the backyard. My running buddy at the time rolled his Beetle on the way home or wherever he was going, if he knew himself. Never told Mom. She would have been mortified...she caused this to happen to poor Bruce Cady?...the Innocent...ha.

While being issued my gear a "listen up" was given. If your name was called, go home and report back to McChord in two-three days for shipping out. Great... I went home, drove over to my buddy's house and told him I had decided to visit Canada instead of Vietnam, from what I'd heard people were friendlier there. He told me he wouldn't be able to drive up with me since he was now in deep, deep trouble with the parents, last night's adventure.

My Mother, unbeknown to me, had had her birthday present from the government turn from a day of sadness into one of temporary joy. She had her son for a couple more days. Being the dutiful and attentive son that I was, I had no idea that my shipping out date was her birthday. Up until eighteen years ago I had always celebrated it on the 29th of June, always called her from Alaska and sent her something so she would get it by that date. She never said a word all those years. A word of note, she was in Vietnam a year before me. While in basic training I received a letter from her that she was in country visiting my step-father who was working for M-K Construction around Saigon. I'm sure the fellow sitting next to her still has the imprints of her fingers on his arm, implanted there during the "high overhead" dive into Ton Son Nut. She was terrified of flying.

Well one more time I was delivered to McChord and as luck would have it my orders had been changed, I was now assigned to the 1st Air Cavalry Division. I was elated, yes, I was elated, ever since I'd heard about them in Flight School and seen their presentation at the auditorium at Fort Wolters, I had wanted to be in the 1st of the 9th. A little hard to get there from the 8th/9th Infantry Division, but now they were within reach. And what do you know? They were looking for volunteers. They got one out of my group of officers, me, for better or worse.

Had a nice flight from An Khe to LZ Sharon, kept marveling at those beaches and the terrain changes as I looked inland. Small villages/hamlets, deep swath of sand dunes, the vast inland water areas with those elaborate fishing contraptions the Vietnamese used, probably been doing the same thing for centuries, the unique graveyards. Looking west the dunes gave in to the main north-south highway, #9 I think, (Bernard Fall tagged it "the Street Without Joy", from the nightmares the French had there and it was "Without Joy", August 20th, 1968 was our turn). Correct me on any of this if someone remembers it differently (no pride of authorship here). Beyond that the terrain evolved into the low rolling hills and valleys, most notably the Ba Long valley with the French plantation ruins, then to the mountains and Laos. Land we came to know better than our own backyards. Every inch of it, hell, every leaf it seemed, didn't even need a map to know exactly where you were at any given moment. This is the country where I learned how to fly. The wind ("Hawk") was your constant companion it seemed, always trying to blow/throw/suck you into the side of that ridge line you're hugging. You could go from 125 knots to 0 in less than a second. Relax, don't fight it, just try to control it...you'll be alright. Charlie Models are sturdy/agile and will do more than you think. Not much fun though when you get hung out over the edge of a ridge at a sudden zero airspeed, in an updraft and you're looking around to see if anyone else noticed, specifically, the guys who don't want you in their country. You sure start scrambling fast for the side of that ridge again, as close as you can get to the trees. Eyes are watching, but can they get a shot at you without revealing themselves?...they want to live, too.

When I landed at Sharon, a long multiple-finger ridge, baron of any vegetation, as I remember, it wasn't difficult to tell who was the FNG on this flight. Brand new jungle fatigues, probably a bewildered "what now" look on my face. The first person who spoke to me knew I was coming. This grizzled old man (probably only in his late twenties or early thirties) stepped up to me, confirmed who I was, pointed in the direction of Weapons Platoon and told me "the first thing you do is get a haircut". Huh?...uh...yes sir! Couldn't see any rank on him anywhere, didn't identify himself, but he sure exuded authority. I reported in to CPT Harry "Red" McLoud, platoon leader, told him I was ordered to get a haircut, any idea where I could get one? Red asked who gave the order, I told him I didn't know but offered a description. Red got this devilish grin on his face, a look I/we came to know well, he told me that was the First Sergeant. I could go ahead and obey the order if I wanted, "but I think you out rank him, do as you want".

Red then called over WO1 Wolff and led us to vacant space on the slope overlooking a small stream (Mama-san's Cleaners and Weed Distributorship, Inc.) with the land on the other side rising up to the height of our side, vegetation over there. Red then pointed to the ground and said the words I'd wanted to hear, this is your home and those I didn't want to hear, when you finish digging out your bunker, like the rest of the neighborhood, you can fly. Welcome to the 1st of the 9th. In the mean time you can sleep and put your stuff in the tent over there. "Over there" was an Army issue 10-12 man tent, fully exposed to any and all who wanted to take a shot at it from the other side. In fact until we got our parachute, with the ground under it our "club", it was the prominent site on our

side of the ravine. This is looking real good so far.

Before I dumped my stuff in the tent, I took a good look at my new neighborhood. We were perched on the side of a hill, pilots living in bunkers they had dug out by hand, also to be used as defensive positions in case of ground attacks. There were two strands of concertina wire several yards in front of the foremost bunkers/homes, one on top of the other that I could tell, about head high. As we all know they would delay even an average NVA sapper only the amount of time he took to grin at it. A good one would have taken us all out in about ten minutes or less. Of course, if he wanted to use the gate (no lock) he could've kept a pair of fatigues from maybe being ripped and saved a few minutes. Never could understand why the gate was there, "Welcome Sappers" should have been on it. Even your most incompetent sapper would have slid/slide (Dizzy Dean) right through this "defensive" perimeter with ease. One other bewildering thing, I noticed was one bunker, a non-residential one, located down off the hill, outside the wire. This really caught your attention when you became Officer of the Day. Your agenda required periodic night time visits to all defensive bunkers in our sector. The guys in that particular one knew just how precarious their situation was, so you made damn sure they knew you were on your way to them, didn't want to get torqued by your own boys. That was just one of the hazards of visiting that bunker, the others were: winding, narrow, slippery, foot path, pitch black nights, unexpected highwaymen laying in wait. There were several theories on the best way to get there, wait for a flare to go off, plenty of light for "everyone" with interest to see you on your way down, go down in the dark and risk stumbling and breaking your neck or those highwaymen doing it for you or the guys in the bunker getting jumpy and putting a burst into you or as I finally decided, screw it, take a mid-night walk in the park with your flashlight showing the way. Keep it well at arms length, maybe they will shoot at it and not you. Two, three feet is lot when they come zinging by you, hell, a quarter of an inch is just as good, it's a miss...had a few of those. I suppose most did.

Got off on another "rabbit trail" again, this ends real soon. When I retired to "the Tent" that first night it wasn't completely dark yet, however I noticed there was a single bare light bulb, turned on, dangling from its wire in the center of the tent. Didn't pay it much mind except for a thought about the London Blitz and blackout discipline, but tossed those concerns aside, light or no light, who/m on either side didn't know exactly where this tent was? Plus I was an FNG (for the uninitiated FNG stands for "f----g new guy"). Someone could have taken shots at it blindfolded at night and not missed. Men/women serving in the Armed Forces throughout the centuries have learned, canvas (especially old canvas) will not stop spears, arrows, blow gun darts or anything coming out of an AK47. After I'd been in the tent for awhile I needed to take leak and stood up to head for the door/flap, at that moment I heard a sound that sounded something like when you put a card in the wheel spokes of your bike, I can't duplicate it but I think you know the one. I turned, looked at the tent opening and froze, flying directly at me, head high, appearing about the size of a fist was the origin of that noise. It never deviated it's course and I was too dumbstruck to duck or get out of the way...kaaa thunk!...right into my forehead, dead center. It hit me with some force and bounced off, to where, I never found out, believe me I searched...carnivorous? Was I ever on the alert for another attack that night. Didn't know flying bugs could be that big, it was huge and hard. This is going to be a long tour...bugs, snakes and don't forget the NVA...maybe they all wear the same uniform. The next day I put together why it had happened. The bug saw the light from the tent and flew into it, I stood up at that moment, the light directly behind me...boom. Interesting first day with the unit, but at least I was where I wanted to be.

Always, Swede (Rick the Younger...than Rowe)

PS (side note): Wolf and I dug for about an hour or two, realized we would DEROS before we got this hole dug out and never even get to sit in an aircraft. We went over to the Engineers and traded a half hour use of their back-hoe for a Cobra ride we couldn't deliver at the time. An AC did cover it for us, I can't remember who, but I am grateful. We got our "bunker" built, if a mortar round had landed within a quarter mile it would have collapsed on us. But it gave us a home and one for our soon to become "roomies", the local rats, centipedes and snakes who came to share it somewhat amicably with us. We did try to shoot the rats though, pried off the bullet part of a cartridge and replaced it with a reasonable candle-wax head,...fired those at the critters. Still a little dangerous, probably came closer to shooting each other than the rats, I'm sure they had a laugh...crazy GI's. If they would have just gotten in front of the FOO gas tube at our front "window" we would have made toast of them. Lot of good the M60's, cases of frags and "Willy Pete" we had at home did with these guys. I can just imagine us spraying the bunker with an M60 or tossing frags at rats while they scurry about and "home" collapses on top of us.

And we graduated from Flight School?...and A Troop, 1st of the 9th Cav took us under wing. The real Apaches would be just shaking their heads. Hope they don't mind that this bunch of "Pirates" borrowed their name, did our best to respect it, uphold it, do what they did, how they did it, with the same spirit and pride. They were the best at what they did, just weren't enough of them. Maybe that's what makes them unique. Forever grateful, Apaches.

Didn't mean to write this much.

Division Doings

Continued from pg. 8.

receive their housing.

Later that evening, the Stallions, along with 14 other highly qualified crews, attended a meet and greet followed by a social allowing them to mingle and relax.

Although relaxed, it was hard for the crews to hide their excitement and anticipation on their faces.

The initial day of the competition was long, hot and began before the sun rose. The first event was a physical training test where the crew passed with an average score of 303. They were the only crew who scored high enough to flow onto the extended scale.

After completing the PT test, the crew met in the motor pool where they were required to change a track on the tank. Even with the sun beating on the necks of the crew, they completed the event with a time of 47 minutes and 50 seconds, finishing in fifth place.

With the best PT score and a top place in the maintenance challenge, the crew moved on to the next event with an overall rank of third place.

Immediately following the maintenance challenge the crews went into the Gunnery Skills Training portion. Here, the crews experienced their first up and down emotional experience of the competition.

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30th FA News



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Hard Charger News: Our 19th Annual Hard Charger Reunion was completed on 19-22 June '12 at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. The

Reunion Registration began on Wednesday, 20 June in our hospitality suite on-post at the Aultman/Allin Hotel. Later that morning we convoyed out to Meers, Oklahoma, for our world famous "Meers Burger" fix. These burgers are made with pure beef raised on a ranch only a half a mile from their store. The typical Meers Burger measures 8 inches across and it is nearly impossible to finish one. After lunch, we toured the Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge and observed the buffalo, prairie dogs and long horned cattle. We then returned to Fort Sill and began testing the libations in our Hospitality Suite to ensure they were not contaminated during shipping. We took the necessary safety precautions and once every hour we shoveled the expended brass off of the floor and then refilled the ammo cans. Many old battles were fought and re-fought, but the outcomes were always the same.



30th FA Regimental Room, 6-22-12.

The bulk of the reunion activities took place beginning on Thursday, 21 June. At 0900 hours, we proceeded by bus to a live-fire field location. The 1-30th FA had two 155mm M777 Howitzers, two 105mm Howitzers, plus three FDC Sections. Each Howitzer/FDC Section is ran by a Section Chief and the crews are made up of by newly minted 2LTs. There was also an M109 Paladin 155mm (SP), but it was out of action. The old adage used to be that the most dangerous person in the world is a 2LT with a map. However, in this case, the most dangerous person in the world was a 2LT with

a 155mm projo. The 2LT proceeded to drop the 155mm projo on the foot of the Section Chief, who was then rushed to the hospital. Consequently, the 2LT was relegated to duties as an RTO at the XO Post. There was a change in procedures this year as Hard Chargers and Guests were permitted to stand near the guns when they



Hard Chargers gather in Meers, Oklahoma on 6-21-12.

were fired. Many 'ol Hard Chargers smiled at the blast of the guns and the smell of burning powder. But that only lasted a short while as it started raining, thundering and lightning, so we evacuated the area pronto. At 11:30 am, we went to one of the new consolidated mess halls where everyone had a great meal for \$4.25 @. Then we proceeded to the new Field Artillery (FA) Museum and went on a guided tour led by the Museum's Director, Hard Charger COL (Ret) Frank Siltman, who commanded 3-30th FA from 2000-2002. There are approximately 60 artillery pieces on the outdoor displays and many historical artillery pieces can be found within the indoor displays. We are grateful to Frank for spending over two hours with us. All Red Legs should visit this beautiful new museum

Division Doings

Continued from pg. 9.

The GST consisted of four events, one for each member of the crew. The tasks involving the assembling and disassembling the M240 and .50-Caliber Machine Guns, loading rounds in the tank, and breeching, proved to be a challenge for the crew, leaving them with a 50 percent win.

"At the time I didn't know if it was timed or just a 'Go' or 'No-Go' event. But I know the weapon inside and out, I could assemble and disassemble the weapon with my eyes closed," Ayala said about the .50-Cal. challenge, his favorite part of the competition. "I outperformed all other competitors and completed with five minutes and 45 seconds."

The day ended with an Armored Fighting Vehicle Identification Test, in which the crew took the gold, earning them third place overall.

The second day was the crew's 'moneymaker,' according to 1SG Mark Poole, the most senior noncommissioned officer of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, of the Stallion Battalion.

"Each of you should feel very much a part of history, and very much recognize your own talents," Sullivan told the crews during a speech that started their day.

Although Sullivan was not someone the crews were familiar with, they found him to be inspiring.

"He showed what it's like to be versatile as a tanker, because of the number of types of tanks he has been on," said Indianapolis native, SPC Jason Dickens, the driver for the Stallion crew, assigned to Co. C. "I have only been on one type and it's been a challenge in itself."

That morning the crew took first in the Advanced Gunnery Training Simulator and the Close Combat Tactical Trainer, and placed among the top three crews in the Combat Driver Trainer and the Engagement Skills Trainer 2000.

The Stallions started the day in third, quickly moved up to second and completed the day with first place.

The morning of May 9, the crew eagerly headed out to the range to participate in the small arms competition and the secret 'mystery' event.

"My favorite event was the small arms challenge. I like to shoot my rifle and .9-mm, and it's one of my better skills," Dickens admitted. "Being the driver I don't get to shoot much, so it was refreshing."

The mystery event was a loaders engagement, with five targets for the loaders

dedicated to the FA Branch. There is something at the FA Museum for everyone to enjoy.

On Friday morning 22 June, we held our General Membership Meeting with 44 Hard Chargers in attendance. The main points included the selection of Fort Collins, Colorado as the site of our 2013 Reunion, with John Dynes as our host. Also discussed was a motion to not have a reunion at Fort Sill every two years. There were arguments on both sides of this issue and they will be discussed again at the 2013 Reunion. We then held an election of officers for President, 1st VP, and 2VP. By unanimous vote, John Dynes was re-elected as the President, Jim Harris as the 1st VP and Bob Waldron as the 2nd VP. The meeting closed at approximately 10:15 am. After lunch we gathered within our 30th FA Regimental Room (1SG Thomas J. Vernor Auditorium) for a re-dedication ceremony. Two years ago, Snow Hall went thru an extensive, multi-million dollar renovation project. Snow Hall is now divided equally between the ADA and FA Branches. Our Regimental Room measures 72 feet X 55 feet and the walls are 16 feet high. It is probably the largest Regimental Room in the entire US Army. And we have it well decorated with 30th FA Regimental history and artifacts. The new material we added include five 6 foot high individual lighted glass display cases with decorated dress uniforms for MG Dwight "Tex" Wilson, BG William C. Bilo, COL John G. "Jack" Kloke, CSM Norman "Skip" Wilfong and 1SG Thomas J. "Top" Vernor. Also, new wall displays will include pictures of LTG Jonathan O. Seaman, who commanded the 30th FA Group in Germany in 1953-54 and COL William B. Nolde, who commanded the 5th Battalion, 30th FA in Vicenza, Italy from 1969-1971. COL Nolde was the last official US ground casualty of the



Hard Chargers watch the guns 6-21-12

Vietnam War before the cease fire went into affect on 27 January 1973.

We then held our annual Memorial Service for our 1-30th FA and C-6-16th FA KIAs. We also included a memorial to remember Hard Chargers who died since our 2011 Reunion including: Jack Shoalmire (A/1-30th FA); Ron Tillman (B/1-30th FA); Ron Davis (Svc/1-30th FA) and Allan Bunton (C/6-16th F and B/1-30th FA). May

they Rest in Peace.

Later that evening we had our banquet at the Patriot Club. Our Guest Speaker was LTC Robert Krieg, the new Battalion CO of the 1-30th FA. He gave us a great presentation explaining the training courses that the 1-30th FA is responsible for. These include the FA Captains Career Courses, the FA Warrant Officers Career Courses and the FA Basic Officers Leadership Courses. After LTC Krieg's presentation, we held an awards ceremony. Distinguished Member of the Regiment (DMOR) appointments were made to MG (R) Dwight Wilson, BG (R) William C. Bilo and Mr. Richard Braly. Also, Life Member Certificates were presented to LTC Nick Mauldin, LTC Robert Krieg, CSM Anthony Cortes, Mr. Jon Fizzell, SFC Bruce Chim, SFC (R) James Wasney, Mr. Jerry Peck and several others who were not present. Receiving the Military Order of St Barbara were: Don Corbin; Roger Edwards; Joe Fleming; Dennis Kirschner; Danny Mitchell; Jerry Peck; Louie Perez; Tom Pullen and James Wasney. Receiving the Molly Pitcher Awards were: Joyce Corbin; June Edwards; Marion Fleming; Venera Kirschner; Susan Mitchell; Mary Peck; Rose Perez and Brenda Pullen. This ceremony was followed by our annual fund raising auction that raised a very respectable sum. Everyone that attended this 2012 Reunion had a wonderful time and everyone left with a smile on their faces. Hard Charger ~ Sir!

to knock down. Unfortunately all targets were missed, dropping the crew into third place.

"This is a very difficult portion of the course," James told the bystanders. "The targets are up to 900 meters away."

The rest of the afternoon, the crew rested and prepared for the evening's night-fire gunnery event.

With a thick fog rolling in, many of the crews had difficulty finding the targets, resulting in postponing many of the crew's night-fire portion until early the next morning.

Immediately following the completion of the night-fire alibis, the daytime gunnery, and final event, began.

"It was the final event and I was nervous," Garcia said about his favorite event. "I had an adrenaline rush built up, and I was able to shoot a lot of bullets. We shot four out of six targets."

With completing both day and night gunnery in a high ranking position, the crew took home second place.

"We really came together as a team to bring home a win for our unit," Dickens said about their second place victory. "It was an honor and privilege because there are a lot of tankers who would have loved to compete; this was the greatest achievement in my Army career."

Not only did the crew consider second place a small victory, but they also believe the competition will help bring back basic tank skills that have been lost due to the rapid deployment rate.

"This competition was really a test," Zechman concluded. "It really showed what the best tankers can do. I believe it's going to bring back what tankers are supposed to do. Since the war began we have gotten away from it, but I believe this will help bring it back."

Truck Rodeo – Story and photo by SGT Quentin Johnson, 2nd BCT, PAO FORT HOOD, Texas – With enthusiasm and a competitive spirit, troops were challenged for one day in their knowledge, skill and occupation specialties while preparing for future operations within the brigade.

Soldiers from the Delta Forward Support Troop (FST), 4th Squadron, 9th U.S. Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, competed in their company's "Truck Rodeo" on Fort Hood, May 30.

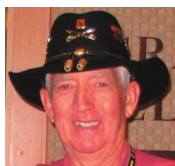
Approximately 40 Soldiers from the FST with different job skills were split

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27th ORD/MNT/MSB/BSB News



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Once again I must start this column by reporting the passing of two more of our brother troopers. The first was Richard (Dick) Maple who served in Vietnam with C Detachment, 27th Maintenance Battalion from November 1966 until November 1967. I was notified by Wayne Barrett (Vietnam 1966-67), who received word from Dick's wife, Patricia, of Dick's death on April 5th. As Wayne said, "He was well liked by his fellow comrades and served his country well." A really stirring tribute was written by 1SG (Ret) Phil Sparks (Vietnam 1966-67). I will quote in its entirety. It is called "Wearing the First Cavalry Patch."

"I was saddened today to learn of the passing of our friend and comrade in arms Richard (Dick) Maple. Dick was a good guy and I am sure he will be missed tremendously by the family he loved so much and was so proud of. I was thinking back to the days in Vietnam 46 years ago. We were all young, strong and full of resolve to accomplish our mission. Dick was with 'us' the guys wearing the 'CAV' patch. Back then that patch on the left shoulder carried a lot of responsibility. It sometimes felt like it weighed a ton when you had to put your shoulder into something. You would be straining and then you would look around and there would be several other 'CAV' patches pushing with you and that weight began to feel like a feather. After you served your tour and returned stateside, you moved that patch to the right shoulder and wore it proudly. Some of us wore it home and it hangs in the closet today. Others of us wore it on to our next assignments and throughout our careers. All of us carried that 1st CAV spirit with us forever. When you run into a 'CAV' guy you share a camaraderie that tells you this guy put his shoulder into the challenge with you and will carry more than his fair share. Dick Maple shouldered more than his fair share and could always be counted on. Somewhere in Heaven there is a magnificent mountain lush and green silhouetted by a beautiful blue sky. High on the side of the mountain at the top is a 1st Cavalry Division Patch put there by our brothers in arms that have gone on before us. Rest in peace Dick Maple we'll all get together again someday." Thank you Phil for a most fitting tribute. A picture of Dick taken at the time of his service in the Army is picture number one in this column.



Phil's tribute also applies to another fallen trooper COL (Ret) Ed Karl, who served in Vietnam with HQ, 27th Maintenance Battalion from 1969 to 1970. Ed served in the Materiel Office and then became the Battalion XO. His son, Steve, wrote "Dad was very proud of his time serving in the 1st Cavalry Division during the Vietnam War in 1969 and 1970. He wore the yellow and black patch of the 1st Cavalry Division proudly his whole career and was an avid member of the Association." Ed served in the Army for 28 years from 1959 until his retirement in 1987. His last duty

station was Commander of Watervliet Arsenal in upstate New York. Ed died on May 25th after a long battle with cancer and will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery on September 14th. Picture number two in this column is of Ed taken during his assignment at Watervliet Arsenal.

While on the subject of funerals, my wife and I were at Arlington National Cemetery for a funeral this week of the wife of a good Infantry friend and as we were leaving we saw two sets of motorcycle riders called "Patriot Riders." They were escorting two different funerals. It was quite impressive. Turns out they are available nationwide to provide escorts for fallen soldiers and particularly to provide some protection from anti-war groups that have tried to disrupt some military funerals. There was a funeral this week in California in the small town where part of my wife's family lives and they got word that a group was going to try to disrupt the funeral of a local soldier recently killed in Afghanistan. The soldier's family contacted the Patriot Riders and their presence resulted in no disturbance.

As mentioned in the last *SABER*, the 1st CAV held a Vietnam Veteran's Salute on May 20-23 at Fort Hood. Ed Jones (Vietnam 1968-70) made a quick trip from Chicago to attend and had a chance to see Wayne Barrett (Vietnam 1966-67) who lives nearby Fort Hood in Killeen. According to Ed, it was a very meaningful affair and they had a good turnout with lots of support from the Fort Hood Community. Ed did have a short visit at the 27th BSB and met with the CSM and some of the other Headquarters staff. Wayne Barrett wrote, "What an honor it was to have been at the Welcome Home Vietnam Vets ceremony at Fort Hood where over 700 veterans were honored."

As it turned out we also had several folks from the 27th attend the 65th Annual CAV Reunion in Portland, Oregon from June 6-10. Thanks to Ron Stokes, I have a list of attendees from the 27th as well as pictures. Those attending from the 27th were: Japan/Korean War - MSG (Ret) Matthew McMullin (1949-51); Vietnam - SFC

(Ret) Mervin Corder (1966-67), LTC (Ret) Ron Stokes (1968-69), Joe Viggiano (1968-69) and COL (Ret) Rolly Koreski (1967-68); 27th MSB/ Iraq/Fort Hood - Chaplain (MAJ Ret) Gail Porter (1994-98) and CSM (Ret) Jerry Eller (Vietnam/Fort Hood) (1971 and 1981). It should be noted that we now have an alumni of the 27th as the new President of the 1st Cavalry Division Association, CSM (Ret)



Jerry Eller! Our sincere congratulations to Jerry! Picture number three in this column is of Matthew McMullin and his wife at the Unit Luncheon. Picture number four is of Gail Porter at



the same luncheon and picture number five is of Ron Stokes



and Joe Viggiano flanked by Bob Arbasetti and Bob Heinz from the NY/NJ Chapter of the CAV Association.

While we are on the topic of reunions, the next 27th Reunion will be in conjunction with the Annual 1st CAV Veteran's Day Reunion in the Washington, DC area. Details were in the last *SABER* but here they are again. The dates are Friday, November 9 thru Sunday, November 11. For those of you who need it, special rates for hotel rooms are also available for November 8 and November 12. The hotel is the same as last year, the Crowne Plaza Washington National Airport at 1480 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202. Telephone number for reservations is (800) 227-6963. The rate per night, per room (single or double) is \$119 plus tax. Be sure to tell them, when making reservations, that you want the "special 1st CAV Division guaranteed rate." Rooms must be reserved NLT October 9 in order to receive the 1st CAV rate. The earlier you make reservations the better! (I just made mine today June 20!)

There will be a CAV banquet dinner on Sunday, November 11 at the hotel. A cash bar will open at 1800 and dinner begins at 1900 hours. To make reservations please send \$45 per ticket (Check, Visa or Mastercard) to the 1st Cavalry Division Association, 302 North Main Street, Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703. Tickets must be ordered NLT October 22, 2012 but it highly recommended you order your tickets as soon as possible as the event usually sells out early! As an alternative, you can call the 1st CAV Div. Association at (254) 547-6537 to make your reservations and provide them your Visa or Mastercard number. These have been wonderful reunions hosted by the National Capital Region Chapter of the CAV Association, so hopefully we will have a big 27th turnout!

We have heard from two relatively new folks recently. They are Fred Haller and Eddie Doolittle. Fred has been keeping up with the news from *SABER*, is a Life Member of the Association, attended the 59th Reunion in Louisville, Kentucky and served in Vietnam with the 27th from December, 1965 until November, 1966. Eddie Doolittle read about the roster of all deploying troopers in 1965 and asked for a copy, which we have provided to him. Eddie was assigned to Hq and Main Support Company and was the company driver and battalion mail clerk - always a popular guy! Eddie deployed from Fort Benning with the 27th and served until August 1966. Eddie now lives in Northfield, Massachusetts. Thanks to you both for getting in touch. We also want to welcome a new member of the Association,



Allan McQuilkon, who recently joined and served with HQ, 27th Maintenance Battalion in Vietnam in 1969 and now lives in North Carolina. Hope to hear more from you Allan!

The final picture for this column should bring back memories for those who served with the 27th at An Khe. The picture is from Frank Godfrey and shows "Highway 27" in An Khe. This was the road

built by our folks to get to the 27th area. The area was in the lowlands part of An Khe and not the most desirable part of the An Khe base area.

My understanding is that LTC Cortez is TDY to Afghanistan in preparation for whatever mission all, or part of the 27th BSB, may be assigned in the near future. So hopefully we will have more information about the 27th BSB in the next edition.

Thanks and remember the Veteran's Day CAV and 27th Reunion in the Washington, DC area from November 9-11!

12th CAV News

Continued from pg. 6.

his timely and much appreciated notification.)

2127 - Taps - SGT Steven John Woltz of Germantown, Maryland passed away July 19, 2010. I knew Steve personally and was only notified of his death this day. If memory serves he served in the 12th Cavalry, unit or units unknown, May 1970 - May 1971 in Vietnam. Steve was a letter carrier and always the first one I would look up if he was working and chat with. He was well spoken, a hard worker and well respected by his peers and those who knew him. Burial at Arlington was delayed due to the contretemps over misplaced markers and mislabeled grave sites. Steve is survived by his wife, Linda, son, Christopher, and daughter, Courtney. <Legacy.Com> Our best wishes and prayers attend our

fallen brothers and their families; their memories will likewise be with us till we join them in Fiddlers green.

2227 November - Remember to plan early and often to attend the grand do at the Wall in DC on Veterans Day with the 1st Cavalry. A great time is had by all attendees, the crowds are diverse and welcoming, new and old friends are everywhere, an excellent program of music and speeches are presented, something is always going on around the nurse's memorial, and sometime the weather is pleasant and cooperative. Remember to sign up for and attend the banquet and other Cav activities if that is your bag.

2359 - Journal closed. If your phone doesn't ring, it will be me. Write if you get work!

Pictures by Rose Putnum.



Denise and Al Freeland, Steve Aguilar, Max and Rita Heredia



Paul Evans



Reunion Room



Dennis Webster, Norman and Pat Lorsung



Registration Area



Al Freeland, Christina Heredia, Denise Freeland, Jose Heredia



Ray St. John and Marilyn Matthson



Rogelia and Gary Oliver



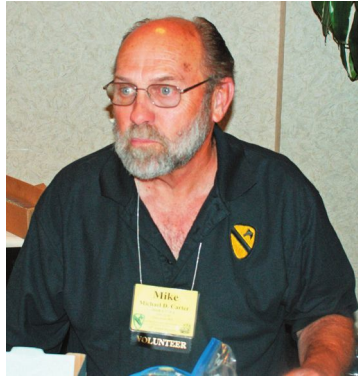
Patti and Barry Corno



Linda Christy and Al Hartley



MG Dan Allyn, Rose and Jerry Eller, CSM Ace Vimoto



Mike Carter



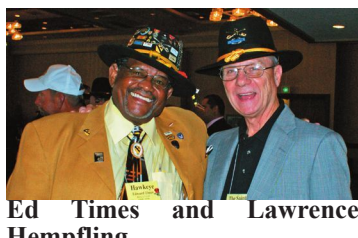
Chong and Roy Rio



Welby O'Brien and Pam Lachmann at the Ladies Tea



Sandra Webster and Steven Kernek at the Banquet Seating Desk



Ed Times and Lawrence Hempfling



Claudia and Lloyd Powers



CSM Isaia "Ace" Vimoto and Patti Webster



Joe and Yola Viggiano, Ron Stokes



Sydney, Speedy and Terry Speedman

2012 Reunion Attendees

383 Registered Members and **655** Total Attendees.

1st CAV DIV HQ

Daniel B. Allyn, Justin Baxter, Rex Cecil, Bruce W. Dawson, Jessica Goettl, Andrew Hargrett, Sean Harris, Ty Hoag, Eric Hong, Ric James, Edward J. Kelly, Klaus W. Lachmann, David Lamson, Stephen E. Lawrence, Norman E. Lorsung, Terry Macy, John J. McNiff, Devon Peters, Gerry Plummer, Marc Purinton, John Sampson, Scott L. Sjule, Dillon Stuart, Harry O. Taylor, Isaia Vimoto, Dennis E. Webster, Travis Wisley and Bruce R. Yates

1st BDE

Richard R. Browning, Mick McCann, Robert W. Moore, Howard S. Shute, Manfred Tappe and Jack L. Weichal

2nd BDE

Richard R. Browning and Matthew Parry

2nd BSTB

Matthew Parry

3rd BDE

Lyle M. Christy, James R. Horne, Richard Pierce, David F. Riley and Carl Schmeckpeper

5th CAV

Larry Allin, Franklin L. Bayer, Lawrence J. Becker, Patrick H. Benson, Hugh M. Black, Gerald E. Boldenow, Jim Burton, Thomas A. Campbell, Lyle M. Christy, David A. Cooper, Thomas W. Crawley, James Dunnigan, Robert J. Earl, Dave Fairbairn, Mike Fairhead, David Garcia, Thomas Germuga, John T. Goldey, Joel Harvey, Robert S. Heintz, Jason Holmes, Robert D. Johnson, Kenneth Vernie Jordan, Steven P. Kernek, William J. Klingenberg, Robert A. Kulin, Stephen E. Lawrence, Peter P. Mahler, Merrill A. Maye, Sherod J. Nichols, Michael James Orwig, Karl Pasero, Jim Reardon, Roy S. Rio, Paul Schwiegeraht, Jonathan Shockley, Terrance A. Skipper, Donald Stamper, Raymond L. Stewart, Scott Thompson, Magno B. Tulfo, Danny Watson, Daniel L. Whitson and Leo E. Williams

7th CAV

Robert Arbasetti, Benford A. Bennett, Dennis D. Blessing, Stanley E. Boothby, Richard R. Browning, Michael C. Bryan, Castulo Camarillo, Jr., Lance Carlson, Joseph M. Carney, Lyle M. Christy, David W. Clemons, Paul K. Collins, James B. Collins, Wendel C. Dean, George D. Dhane, Samuel C. Dixon, Mark A. Dockter, Charles W. Dougherty, Steven Draper, Martin Duesel, Lyman C. Duryea, James O. Epperson, Robert L. Etzwiler, David Gassman, Jordan L. Granum, Gordon M. Grey, Friedrich L. Gruetzmacher, Charles Hackenmiller, Dave Hanson, Robert W. Hardy, Jr., Michael S. Harris, Tom Hartin, Bruce A. Hood, James R. Horne, Ron Hrydziuszko, Ric James, Dexter Judd, Sidney M. Katz, John H. Koffski, Robert Kuth, Carl R. Lee, Terrance E. Low, John Margenau, Mark Moberg, Robert W. Moore, Bill Moore, Friedrich H. Morawietz, Allan Norris, Karl D. Oestreich, James R. Patterson, Eiodoro Perez, Henry Perez, III, James H. Phillips, Richard Pierce, Charles H. Powell, Gary Power, Glenn Record, William A. Richardson, John Rodney, Butch Roper, James Sagerhorn, Ronald A. Saizon, Rolando A. Salazar, Salvatore M. Scalato, Fred Schaaft, Carl Schmeckpeper, Steve Shear, Steven L. Siegel, Continued on pg. 12.



Klaus Lachmann, Jonathan Cook, Randy Putnam, Terry Low, Mike Carter and Al Hartley presenting toasts at the banquet.



Sweetheart Dance



Clara Ralph, Bob Johnson, Deanna Dahl, Doris Johnson, Oscar Ricker Standing: Eileen Webster, Lauri and Darren Lavender



Ernest Ryan, David Krueger, Irene Calvano, Shirley Drueger, Cal and Sue Callahan and Don Calvano



Marc Purinton, Sean Harris, John Goldey, Evaristo Parras-Favela, Jeremy Ricketts, Andrew Hargrett, Matthew Parry, Travis Wisley, Miguel Casarez and Ace Vimoto



Standing: Andrew and Lexi Dougherty, Seated: Sandra and Charles Dougherty



Stephanie Ryan and Jerry Eller



Marcia and Willie Williamson and Al and Sandy Rackley



John and Jan Lee



Seated: Linda Christy, Al, Angela and Leigh Hartley, Standing: Frank Forestiere, Yolly and Justin Low, Robert Carter and Terry Low



Chan Duryea, Jerry Eller and Dennis Webster



Christopher Lachman, Lisa Braun, Pam and Klaus Lachmann



Josean Peraza-Melendez, Henry Perez, Randy Putnam, Rosendo Vandela and MG Dan Allyn



Terry Low



Earnest Ryan



Reunion Registration



Division Honor Guard



Welby O'Brien and Frank Bayer



Al Rackley, Terry Macy and Phil Kingsbury



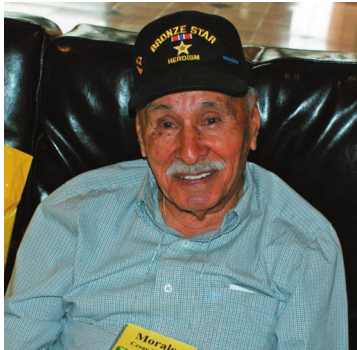
Gurt and Phil Chaffey



Registration Area



Jordan Long, Jessica Sweeney, Ted and Pricia Long, Joshua Long



Cesar Morales



Leo Marchand and Diane Clafin

Reunion Attendees

Continued from pg. 12.

Jerry Smith, Harry O. Taylor Gary Lee Thayer, Aves Thompson, Edward Times, Rosendo Varela, Steven R. VanVranken, Phillip J. Worsley, James D. Wright Steven R. VanVranken and Phillip Zook

8th CAV

Earl F. Aldrich, Jr., Thompson L. Armstrong, Charles H. Beauchamp, Raymond Bluhm, Butch X. Bottimore, Don Calvano, Patrick Campbell, Anthony D. Campbell, William D. Carpenter, Robert W. Carter, Miguel R. Casarez, Jr., Luis M. Castorena, Phil Chaffey, David W. Clemons, Barry K. Corno, Don Delsing, James Dotson, Fred R. Duncan, Robert J. Earl, Byron L. Edgecomb, Herbert L. Edwards, Benjamin H. Evans, III, Paul Evans, Juan Fernandez, Ernest Ganz, Lloyd Gratz, Lawrence F. Hempling, Craig Henderson, Richard E. Henson, Walter A. Hester, Glen Hoffa, Richard Hokenson, Eric Hong, Ric James, Craig T. Johnson, Bert Johnson, Juan Jose, Phil Kingsbury, Bill Laferriere, Gerald C. Larson, Leonard Lawrence, John W. Lee, Larry Leonhardt, Joseph Letarte, Terry Macy, Thomas M. Mancini, Bruce R. Markusen, Johnny Mays, James S. McIntyre, Gerald M. McMahon, John J. McNiff, Edwin Paul Miller, Jr., Rich O'Brien, Thomas D. Park, Douglas Parkinson, Henry Perez, III, William Pickle, John E. Pike, Gerry Plummer, Lloyd C. Powers, Al Rackley, Thomas L. Reardon, Jr., Jeremy Ricketts, James Rowell, Fidel R. Sandoval, Stephen D. Saunders, Manuel Silva, Billy Smith, Ron Spada, David A. Spears, William M. Stephens, John G. Stinson, Harry O. Taylor, Richard Torrens, Norman VanDuinen, Steven R. VanVranken, Ted Ward, Lewis L. Watts, Donald B. Williams, David Williamson and Mark Ybarra

8th ENG

Philip M. Blevins, Richard M. Christian, Gary V. Diers, Larry Greidanus, Jason Holmes, Leon M. Loomis, David R. Paddock, Walter James Seymour, Scott Smith, Gary L. Ullom, Rick VanDeurzen, Tony M. Villanueva and Bruce R. Yates

9th CAV

Frank L. Alverson, Jr., Ronald M. Black, Larry G. Brown, Sr., Steve Burke, Miguel R. Casarez, Jr., David W. Clemons, John T. Dean, Pete LaCombe, Norman E. Lorsung, Roberto T. Maanao, Leo Marchand, Daniel T. Nye, Richard D. Parrish and Earnest T. Ryan

11AVN

Frederick R. Cote, Theodore S. Long and Richard L. Speedman

12C

Kenneth M. Aguilar, Steven A. Aguilar, Michael James Anderson, Hunter L. Archibald, Charles Barley, Alan K. Battles, John Berger, Hugh M. Black, Philip M. Blevins, Don Campeau, Alan Christy, David W. Clemons, Aaron J. Collette, Frederick R. Cote, Thomas Lon Crabtree, Dannie L. Cummings, Sr., Frank de La Puente, James W. Dingeman, Mark A. Dockter, Eugene A. Fox, Al Freeland, John G. Gergulis, Larry D. Harrison, David Herbst, Jose M. Heredia, Leon J. Hinton, Jerry Hodgin, Edward J. Kelly, Roger C. King, Thomas W. Kjos, Klaus W. Lachmann, Walter C. Lundberg, Robert Magruder, Robert March, Kirk Metcalf, Cesar Morales, Gary Oliver, Frank S. Pacheco, James R. Patterson, Jack W. Pellington, Jerry R. Richards, Charles H. Rose, Robert Ruiz, Bill Schuster, Raymond St. John, Troy



Reunion Room



Reunion Room



Reunion Room



Ladies Tea



President Chan Duryea handing the gavel to the new President Jerry Eller.



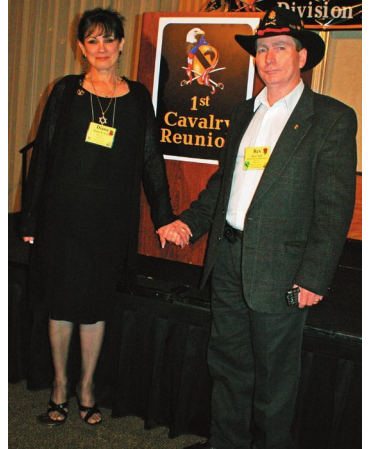
Kenneth and Linda Jordan



Jim Stokely and Tom Crabtree



Patrick Campbell and Bruce Markusen



Diana and Rex Cecil

Steed, James R. Stokely, Rich G. Valles, Mike VanKirk, Ronald G. Washburn, Larry White and Dick Wilkos

15th ADMIN
David Lutgen and Ronald G. Washburn

13th SIG
Bob Ankeney and William C. Rizi

15th AR
Norman E. Lorsung
Continued on pg. 14.

99th FA News



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



I have to tell you it's a good news-bad news situation in the recovery of missing troops in North Korea.

The bad news first: Our government has quit dealing with North Korea because of the launch of their newest missile. (it failed) We are sending the dictator a message of no cooperation or aid while they are testing missiles to blow us up. Hopefully the North Koreans will quit flexing their missiles and the program can continue.

On the other hand many of the remains that have been lying unidentified at the repository in Hawaii are being identified by new advances in DNA testing. There are more than 7,900 Americans which remain unaccounted for from the Korea War.

The latest American GI to be identified from the battle at Unsan which relates to the 99th was SGT William E. Brashear, 24, from A Co, 70th Tank Battalion which was with us there. SGT Brashear was from Owensboro, Kentucky.

While searching for information on Hqs Btry wireman Paul Coleman, I found that his wife, Karolyn, had passed away. Karolyn was with Paul at the mini reunion of Hqs Btry wiremen in 2005 at Springfield, Missouri. Our sympathy goes to Paul and his family. Strangely and sadly, three of the wives who attended that reunion have died. That defies the average of widows to widowers in the United States.

A correction is in order about the story from Ed Carty about the double agent in pre-WWII Washington. The spy who warned about the impending Japanese attack was a British double agent who Hitler liked and trusted. I had mistakenly said that he was a Russian. I guess I'm fixated in the Cold War era. Ed was afraid that some history buffs would take issue with his knowledge. If there are any nitpicky history folks out there who are concerned; it was my fault!

I had a call from Jake Stotts, Hqs Btry, who told me he had heard from Norman Derwald who had seen Jake listed as from the 99th and called him. Norman was one of the first GI replacements who came to the 99th after Unsan. Jake was captured at Unsan so he wouldn't have remembered him so I called Norman. He remembered many of us wiremen and we had a nice long talk. He lives in Idaho but is coming east for a wedding on I-90 and hopes to be able to stop to see me as he comes off the bluffs down onto the Mississippi River sandbar where I live.

I received a nice letter from WW II 99th vet, MSG Jerry Schear who sent me some interesting material from Hqs 1st Cavalry Division dated June 1945. There was a letter from Commanding General Hugh Hoffman congratulating the men of the 99th FA Battalion on the fifth anniversary supporting units of the 1st Cav Division. The last paragraph of the letter reads: "The 99th Field Artillery Battalion has proven itself to be an indispensable part of the 1st Cavalry Division Team and to you go my sincere appreciation and earnest wishes for continued success and happiness. May God bless you in the stern tasks that lie ahead."

I have included the reverse side which gives the dates and battles of the 1st Cav Division in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater from 26 June 1943 to 8 September 1945 including "First in Manila," and "First in Tokyo."

Thanks Jerry; this certainly shows the heroic role of the 99th and its troops in WW II. It is unfortunate that the U.S. Army decided to deactivate the battalion in 1957. I believe they should have looked at the history of units instead of pinching pennies.

Don Thompson, C Btry 99th, Korea and I have been exchanging e-mails. Don sent me some good photos and I'll include some in the articles as we go along. The first one is of CPT Jack Bolt, the C Btry

Commander whose bravery at Unsan is well known. CPT Bolt was responsible for many 99th and 3rd Bn, 8th Cav Troopers surviving at Unsan.

I got an interesting phone call from Bob Dillon who commanded one of the tanks of A Company, 70th Tank Battalion at Unsan. He told how he buried members of his tank crew and engineers from the 19th Combat Engineer Battalion who were with him before he escaped the Chinese at Unsan. He remembered the location and informed the Pentagon personnel later and now some of those bodies have



CPT Jack Bolt at Camp Bender, Ota, Japan.

been recovered and identified. Thank God for Troopers like SGT Dillon for his brave actions so that families can now have some closure.

I received a phone call from John Kritzer of Brookfield, Illinois. John read my column relating my experience at the landing at Po Hang Dong and told me he did the same thing from an LST QO-73 with B Co, 8th Cav Regiment. He was a member of the 14th RCT from Camp Carson, Colorado that was transferred to the 1st Cav shortly before the Korean War started. John was wounded and hospitalized in Japan early in the war and later returned to Korea to serve as an MP guarding a MASH unit. He and I had many episodes in common in Army and civilian life and it was good to talk to him.

I talked to Richard Clark who had been gadding about the US recently. As usual Richard was full of information and good to talk to. Richard always has a wealth of information about the Korean War and sources to find more.

Buck Burgess, Louisville, Kentucky, A Btry 99th FA Japan and Korea and I exchanged phone calls. Buck is having some medical problems and Buck, like many of us, is having trouble jumping through the hoops of the VA Medical system. I offered what little I knew from my experiences and hope he's able to get the help he needs soon.

I read an account of a 24th Infantry Division soldier who was captured early in the war in Korea. They were being taken north on a train when the North Korean guards stopped the train supposedly to feed their prisoners. Instead of feeding them, they lined them up and began shooting them. This man survived by huddling under the other dead prisoners and enduring the bayonet pokes and kicks of the executioners. He never told about this experience until near his death and his family wondered why.

Civilians cannot comprehend the terrible situations that occur in combat in a regular day let alone something like this. There is no use in relating the experiences because the normal mind does not accept the concept of such cruelty to one another. It is only with other combat veterans that a person can tell of his wartime experiences.

Dan Sullivan, A Btry, 99th FA sent a letter that certainly took my mind for a ride. He was severely injured in the jeep accident on a trip to Nagano, Japan that I referred to in an article in 2005. Nagano Prefecture was our Occupation responsibility with the city of Nagano being the capital. A small detail of Troopers from the 99th was making its way over a mountain pass when a jeep driven by A Btry Trooper PFC Thomas Keene went over the side careening down the cliff hitting several trees before coming to a stop.

CPL John Grant, also from A Btry suffered a broken arm and other injuries and was evacuated by vehicle to the 49th General Hospital in Tokyo. The driver suffered minor injuries and was not evacuated.



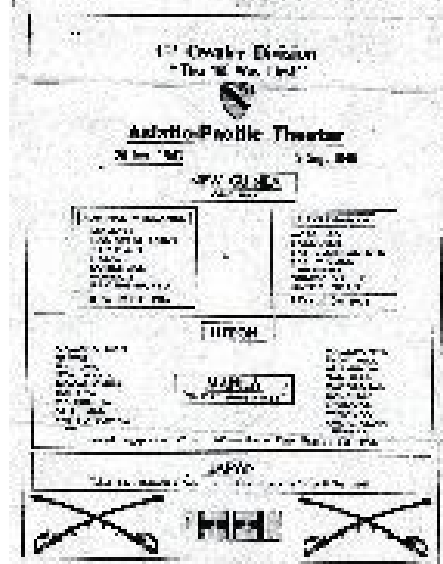
A Btry Troopers, Lloyd Pitman - unknown - John Grant.

If you remember the story, I was driving a jeep for LT Weeks, Hqs Btry, who was leading the detail. After being notified of the accident, which occurred behind us, LT Weeks ordered me back down the narrow unpaved mountain road to a guard box manned by two Japanese policemen. After a phone call to Div Hqs informing them of the situation, I hurried back to the scene of the accident and we transported the injured to a KMAG unit in Nagano. When

they decided to fly Dan out in one of our small observation planes, I was chosen to act as an end of the runway marker for the nighttime take-off from the small landing strip.

Dan Sullivan was evacuated to the U.S. with his injuries later being assigned to the 1st FA Observation Battalion at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. His unit went to Korea and he was able to visit A Btry when we were in the Bowling Alley area battles. He later served as ISG of Hqs Btry at Camp Crawford and with the 1st Cav Division at An Khe, RVN in June of 1966. Also included in Dan's letter was a trip ticket from the A Btry jeep driven by PFC Keene. Many thanks for the information and for Dan Sullivan's service to our country and the 1st Cav Div.

As we go through the summer, take time to remember those Troopers who have gone before us. Also keep those in mind who are serving in our armed services. There are many dangerous places in the world today. Remember, we are all in this together. CSMO



Reunion Attendees Continued from pg. 13.	20th FA Ryan A. Johnson	32nd AR Roger May	75th INF William T. Anton, Michael J. Blymyer, David A. Cooper, Alvin Deimes, Daniel J. DeMara, Jr., Samuel C. Dixon, Bill F. Elliott, James S. Faulkner, Bennie Gentry, Dave Hanson, Gary Kilmer, John LeBrun, Craig Leerberg, Doug Matze, Jr., A. Wayne Okken, Daniel J. Roberts, Walter James Seymour, Howard S. Shute, Richard J. Wall and Terry Wanish	99th FA Richard J. Clark and James T. Lawton
15th MED Lawrence J. Becker, Frank Forestiere, Robert W. Hardy, Jr., Floyd F. Jackson, Henry Land, II, Marty Mueller, William Pickle, Mike Smith, Maurice H. Walsh and Leo E. Williams	21st FA Terrance E. Low, Victor R. Mitchell, Sr., Josean D. Pedraza-Melendez, Jerry Smith and David D. Wiley	50th MECH INF Charles W. Dougherty and Bill Moore	77th FA Michael D. Carter, Thomas N. Gorman, Anthony Hartley and Jack W. Pellington	162nd INF Fred Fah
15th TC James T. Burn	27th MNT Stanley E. Boothby, Mervin Corder, Rolland Koreski, Ronald J. Stokes and Joseph Viggiano	52nd INF Michael J. Blymyer, Thomas A. Campbell, Lawrence M. Curtis, Bill F. Elliott, William T. Hand, Curtis R. Kimes, Patrick J. Lyons, James S. McIntyre, Douglas Parkinson, Walter James Seymour, and John Trumbull	82nd FA Scott L. Sjule and Felix A. Woods	191st MI Thomas A. Campbell, Ronnie L. Killingsworth, Ronald G. Kloet and James D. Wright
17th CAV Larry G. Brown, Sr.	27th MSB Gail Porter	61st FA Jimmy Marks, Milford G. Roberts and Richard L. Speedman	92nd AAA James T. Lawton	227th AVN Arthur D. Averitt, Edward R. Mahr, Evaristo Parras-Favela, William R. Putnam, James E. Scholl, Gary Lee Thayer, Phillip J. Worsley
19th FA James P. Johnson, Mark Moberg and Allan Norris	27th ORD Rolland Koreski and Matthew W. McMullin	68th CHEM William A. Jackson		228th AVN Robert D. Bartlett, Edmond R. Duncan, Walter Harris, Don Helmick, Richard L. Speedman, Peter
20th ARA Bruce A. Chase and Frank Forestiere	30th FA Joe Devlaeminck and David D. Wiley			Continued on pg. 19.

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 340044
Columbus, Ohio 43235
(614) 889-2358
E-mail: buckeyechapter1cda@yahoo.com
Meet on 3rd Tue. of every month 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: nrriinc@sbcglobal.net
http://www.conncav.com
Meeting info in newsletter and on web page.

COWBOY STATE CHAPTER
Pres: L. Pete Quinell
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 Harcourt 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
A Troop is currently without a meeting location, please contact Buck for meeting info.

FLORIDA TROOP B "BAKER TROOP"
Pres: Bill Franklin
473 Kimberly Dr.
Melbourne, FL 32940
(321) 255-0868
E-mail: swfwf@aol.com
Contact: Frank Alverson
12468 Boney Rd.
Jacksonville, FL 32226-1983
(904) 757-7009
E-mail: mcaverson@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: 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.

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

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
Website: 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: tombrettphoto@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.

LAST FRONTIER CHAPTER
Pres.: John W. Thomas
225A Akutan Ave., Apt. A
Jber, AK 99505
E-mail: john.thomas71@hotmail.com
Contact for meeting info.

LOS ANGELES/ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER
Pres: John Guillory
780 Mandevilla Way
Corona, CA 92879
(951) 278-3740
E-mail: fisheye1@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: abnrrngnam71@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
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Bogota, NJ 07603
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NORTHWEST CHAPTER
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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.
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Colorado Springs, CO 80910
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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.: Bruce Peterson
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Sugar Grove, IL 60554
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Website: www.sheridansfirstcav.com
Meets at the American Legion Post #1084, 322 E. Maple Ave., Roselle, IL 61072 at 1pm.

SOUTHEASTERN COLORADO CHAPTER
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(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
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It's hard to believe that Memorial Day and the 1st Cav Reunion in Portland have come and gone and that the dog days of summer are

almost upon us. Here in the nation's capital, Memorial Day is marked by the Rolling Thunder Motorcycle Procession on Sunday, the day before Memorial Day and the observances at the memorials on The National Mall and at Arlington National Cemetery on Monday. This year's Rolling Thunder Procession marked the 25th year that Vietnam veterans and friends have ridden their motorcycles to Washington, DC on Memorial Day weekend to remind America's political leaders and Americans in general, of the need to support the men and women who serve in the nation's armed forces and of the need for the government to recognize and protect the nation's POWs and MIAs.

According to the Rolling Thunder official website, the organization's mission has changed from a cause of finding POWs/MIAs to locating and bringing home MIA remains and providing closure to families. Since Rolling Thunder started in 1987, the U.S. government has recovered remains from past and present wars as follows: WWI 6, WWII 240, Korea 73, Vietnam 697, Gulf 14, and Iraq 3. Seven POWs were returned from the Iraq War. As a side note to Rolling Thunder, Marine Staff Sergeant Tim Chambers (Ret) stood at attention in full dress uniform by the Lincoln Memorial holding a continuous, unbroken salute for more than four hours as the Rolling Thunder riders came across the Memorial Bridge and turned onto Constitution Avenue NW for the ride past the The Wall on The National Mall. SSG Chamber's father was a marine in Vietnam.

The highlight of Memorial Day, at least for Vietnam and Iraq/Afghanistan-era veterans, was the observance at The Wall. This year's keynote speaker was President Barack Obama who used the opportunity to proclaim May 28, 2012 through November 11, 2025, as the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. As I understand it, this means that beginning on Memorial Day 2012, the Federal Government will partner with local governments, private organizations and communities across America to participate in a 13-year program to honor and give thanks to a generation of Americans who saw our country

through one of the most challenging missions it ever faced.

This year's observance had a touch of Hollywood to it with television personality Tom Selleck presiding as the master of ceremonies. Jan Scruggs, founder and president of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, provided the opening remarks and then Selleck took over and introduced the official presidential party, which in addition to President Obama, included First Lady Michelle Obama, Vice President Dr. Joe Biden and Chairman, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Army General Martin E. Dempsey, and others. The sun was so bright during the ceremony that Selleck had trouble reading the teleprompter and was forced to search for his written notes and read from them. The actual introduction of the president for the keynote address was done by Chuck Hagel, former U.S. Senator from Nebraska. Hagel was a member of the University of Nebraska football team when he got drafted into the army. He served with the 9th Infantry Division in the Mekong Delta in 1967-68.

I'm happy to report that our unit had a good turn-out in Portland and that the 1st Cav overall also appeared to have a good turn-out. The numbers and names of the reunion attendees are included elsewhere in this newsletter. In talking with Gair Anderson ('68-'69) at the reunion, we learned a little more about Oliver Stone, the Hollywood writer and director, and his time in the LRRP unit. Stone spent the month of April 1968 in LRRP training at Camp Evans along with Gair and others. See enclosed photo of Gair and Stone at Camp Evans in April 1968, courtesy of Gair Anderson.



Camp Evans, April '68, Gair Anderson (l) and Oliver Stone (r)

Gair lost contact with Stone when he completed his training and started pulling missions in the field. But based on the movie *Platoon*, the members of the LRRP unit made enough of an impression on Stone that years later he based several of the leading characters in it (*Tom Berenger and Willem Dafoe*) on them - ironically, not always in a favorable light.

As a side note, in doing research on *Platoon*, the final battle at the end of the movie was based on the real life battle of LZ Gold (Battle of Suoi Tre) in War Zone C, northwest
Continued on pg. 17.



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Hello once again fellow Sky Troopers. Well as you probably know, I was not at the reunion for the Silver Wings luncheon. I had too many irons in the fire for me to attend this year. I understand I missed a good one. Henry Land (aka Capt Hook) wrote: "Hank missed you in Portland at the reunion. Things aren't the same when you aren't there. They had to switch us to a larger room because we had so many. Speedy (Richard Speedman) was there with his 2 daughters to liven things up. We had 3 from Medevac including Leo 'Doc' Williams and door gunner Smitty 69 and myself." Henry, knowing that you and Speedy were on hand and at the controls is reassuring to me. I know you entertained all attending. Thanks much! If anyone has some photos of the luncheon to share I'd sure appreciate it. E-mail or mail to the address at the header of this column.

Let's pull pitch and launch the mail sortie. Larry Agosta from New Jersey, <la. oldies@yahoo.com> wrote, "Hank, hope everything is well by you. I need the help of everyone out there. I have been trying for the past five years to locate a copy of the rosters of the 15th Administration Company and A Company, 229th, both out of Bien Hoa, 1969-1970. I have photos and need names to match. I've been though the records at St. Louis, Missouri all the way up to a Veteran Congressman with no help. Thank you." Larry, I don't know where to direct you. Perhaps one of the readers can provide some insight.

John Brennan wrote and asked if I would share this information in the column. Silver Wings troopers may pre-order (and receive a 33% discount) from Amazon or Barnes & Noble on the September 1, 2012 release of John Brennan's latest publication: *Vietnam War Helicopter Art: U.S. Army Rotor Aircraft*. It is an 8.5 x 11 inch, 208 page book, containing 300 color nose art photos from Stackpole Books. Contained therein are 61 photos of 1st Cav birds. John can also be reached at, <johnmailman@yahoo.com> a former SP5, with 114 AHC, 1970-71, Vinh Long AAF, Mekong Delta.

I received a request from Dianne Egan asking for some help. "My husband George Michael Egan was with the 229th, D company in Vietnam from December 65-December 66. The chopper's rocket was hit by ground fire and exploded causing the chopper to go down in Pleiku on May 18, 1966. He was the only one injured. If anyone was there or has info on the crash, please contact us at <egans2005@yahoo.com>. Thank you all for your service!"

In Ken White's LRRP/Ranger column in the 2012 March - April issue of the *SABER*, he shared an account from LTC (Ret) Jim Wright. If your copy is lining the floor of the birdcage you can re-read it online at <http://www.lcda.org/SABER.htm>. He wrote of an incident that occurred on 26 July 67 when the tail rotor was "shot off" a Huey containing his LRRP team. The story sparked a bunch of memories from readers and filled the "Wings" mail box for an evening. I personally recalled the event after the e-mails flowed in. It's interesting how, after all these years, the details and names that are available for something that happened so long ago thanks to the Internet and some old (seasoned) Skytroopers. Ken stated, in part, "heard about the crash when it happened but both LT Jim Wright and operations sergeant Jim Horne were medevaced out of the unit to Japan immediately after it happened and then to hospitals in the states so we never heard the details of it. Numerous versions of the story have circulated over the years but it was only when Jim Wright wrote an article recently for inclusion in the LRRP/Ranger unit newsletter describing the crash that we learned the real story. Your (Silver Wings) e-mails adds further clarity. If you think about it, it's a wonder that any of us survived that place."

Here's a sample of some details that were communicated across the Internet in one evening and how it was triggered. Simply amazing! I've been writing this column for many years and I still marvel at the information and details you folks can provide. Not only between us, but for family member requests that I receive. You may not be able to remember what you did with your car keys of late, but stuff like this is etched into our minds forever.

"While perusing through (the *SABER*) after reading the Silver Wings portion, I stumbled across the LRRP article. On page 18, the article mentions John Othmer

in an incident that obviously happened prior to my arrival. Lanny and Ed you may have knowledge of this incident as you were there during this time frame. I think anyway. Gene".

"Gene, This is what I recall but memories do fade; I'm guessing it was around August 1967. I was S-3 and check pilot at that time, working out of English and had been working with several pilots practicing emergency techniques for tail rotor failure. We used LZ Two Bits for practicing power on landings at about 40 knots. You may recall after you arrived that there had been a rash of tail rotor problems and I think it was attributed to the sand/grit that was also aggravating the main rotor system.

Hank probably remembers this as well; a few of us were in Ops when we heard Othmer's Mayday call. He was southeast of LZ English toward the Bong Son coast. We understood that he had directional control issues and we suspected tail rotor failure. Before any of us could patch through to him, "Sky 6" came up and offered assistance. General John Tolson was in his command chopper above the fray at the time and took charge of Othmer's dilemma. As I recall, he ordered Othmer to put it down on the beach immediately. Othmer had not yet had a freshener in tail rotor failure and he did as he was told and, as he began to decelerate, add pitch and start to flare, the rest is history.

The aircraft veered hard right and hit the ground hard, rolling over. I don't recall other injuries (no deaths) but John had a broken back. He was shipped out ASAP and returned to the states. I next saw him when I returned to Fort Wolters in January 1968. He was in good health and was an IP. By then, he had married a gal from Washington State that he knew who had two kids from an earlier marriage. John resumed a normal life and is now retired from school teaching in Washington. During his teaching tenure, he referred to himself as the "school marm." You may recall that John Othmer and Bob Runyan were in flight school together, came to A/229th together and were soul mates.

Not sure of the validity of this, but we were later told that MG Tolson received a DFC for his bravery in this action because he had his A/C land on the beach where he directed traffic, rescue, etc. It was a safe zone where they went down.

If anyone knows different or can add to/correct this, please do so. Lanny."

"Hello All, I was the pilot on the aircraft John was flying when we lost the tail rotor and continued to fly the aircraft while I made the mayday calls. This was not likely a tail rotor drive shaft failure as the tail rotor completely left the tail boom. Lanny's description is on the money, although I do not remember John being ordered to attempt a landing on the beach. I believe General Tolson's Huey was the first aircraft to land at the crash location. I had a sore back for a while but returned to flight status about two weeks later. The door gunner may have suffered a broken back also. I believe the crew chief was not badly injured. Rick Berry, <rickberry3205@att.net>."

In September of last year, I heard from Jesse Hansen of Helicopter Applicators Inc., <http://www.helicopterapplicators.com/HISTORY.HTM> located in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. They had just purchased an old D model Huey that flew with the Cav back in 1966-67, #888. It was to be overhauled by his company and put back into service. Jesse wrote me a couple weeks ago and stated, "Hello Hank, I thought I'd drop you a line to let you know that 64-13888 (N648HA) is on the job. It left for Duncannon, Pennsylvania this morning to do seeding for the gas pipeline. Will get back to you soon Jesse." Jesse, I'm looking forward to some photos. Unlike many of us Vietnam vets, this old bird is refreshed and still working. Thanks for sharing.

In May, I was contacted by Brian McCauley, managing editor for the Miami County Republic newspaper in Paola, Kansas. He was seeking permission to reprint a Silver Wings of the Cav story from the Jan/Feb 2009 issue as told by MAJ Robert Runyan. The late Mr. Runyan is a Paola native and a bench is to be installed in his honor on Memorial Day at the Miami County Veterans Memorial in Paola. He stated, he thought local residents would be interested in Bob's description of his involvement during the beginning of the TET Offensive. I was honored to say "yes" in Mr. Runyan's memory.

Need to acknowledge Arthur (Art) Tetreault of Middelboro, Massachusetts for his phone calls and receipt of a *Vietnam* magazine he mailed with an interesting article containing error about one of our aviation battalions. It's too late to set them straight, Art, but thanks for bringing it to my attention. Art served with the 17th Aviation, Vietnam.

With that, I'll bring this sortie to an end. Until next time, "Clear right!"

Division Doings

Continued from pg. 10.



PFC Christopher Wiggins, Fort White, Florida, a transportation specialist with D FST trains Soldiers on the proper assembly/disassembly of a M240B machine gun.

into 21 teams of two, taking on six timed events to earn their spot as the top team within the company, said 2LT John Adams, officer-in-charge of the event.

For one month, events such as flat rack loading, tire changing, vehicle handling on a serpentine track, a straight-line trailer back up, .50-Caliber Browning Machine Gun "head space and timing" and a M240B machine gun assembly/disassembly, were executed to challenge Soldiers on their basic skills, become proficient with convoy operations and build morale.

"We chose tasks that provided the Soldiers with an everyday functionality and basics of their Soldiering skills," added Adams, from Martinsville, Indiana. "They should know how to perform these tasks while performing convoy operations."

"The main thing is the Soldiers receive hands-on training with their critical and individual tasks to support convoy operations," said CPT. Adam Bradford, commander of Delta FST. "Improving on the fundamentals means a better team," added Bradford. "The cross training and vast learning of their primary weapons will save time when performing duties when deployed and provide a higher level of support overall."

Adding to their knowledge, leaders and junior Soldiers were effective participants ensuring less experienced troops were capable of completing the tasks and understanding what they learned.

"Having new Soldiers in the unit, our evaluators were also trainers, chosen

because of their extensive knowledge of the tasks," stated SSG Kendrick Daniels, platoon sergeant for Delta FST who hails from Shreveport, Louisiana. "They performed remedial training for the Soldiers who struggled with a particular event."

Additionally, they (senior leadership) helped keep up morale during the event and expressed their camaraderie by performing the tasks in buddy teams themselves.

"They (evaluators) make it as fun as possible. Everyone seemed to enjoy it," said Adams. "Everyone seemed to be really motivated and safe."

Competitor, SPC Zachary Davis, petroleum specialist with Delta FST, said he thoroughly enjoyed the competition and was thankful for being able to perform the tasks in teams.

"Competing against your peers, working as a team, made the rodeo extra special. Helping each other is great when one person is less knowledgeable in a particular event," added Davis, a Pine Bluff, Arkansas native. "I was excited to pass on knowledge to my teammate and couldn't have succeeded without him."

Winning team members receive an Army Achievement Medal. Results have not been published.

UAV Upgrades Increase Mission Readiness – Story and photo by SGT Sharla Lewis, 3rd BCT PAO

FORT HOOD, Texas – Soldiers with 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division recently conducted a three week-long training exercise on new equipment at Fort Hood.

The platoon trained on RQ-7B "Shadow" Unmanned Aerial Systems, which are tactical intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance plat

Continued on pg. 17.

Division Doings

15th MED/15th FSB/15th BSB



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Gordon Russell, '69 MEDEVAC PSG, died Thursday, 17 May 2012. Pilot Dan Toothman, "Fang" wrote, "MSG (Ret) Gordon Russell was the MEDEVAC Platoon Sergeant when I

arrived in the unit in January 1969. I had no personal dealings with him then, but have been exchanging almost daily e-mails with him for the past few years. He was an amazing man and true patriot who, early in his career, was a Medic with George Patton's Third Army during the relief of Bastogne in the Battle of the Bulge in WWII." Gordon was also in B Co., 15th MED in '68 when the 1st Cav first deployed to Vietnam and was honored as a Distinguished Member of the AMEDD Regiment. <http://www.15thmedassociation.com/GordonRussell.html>

Murray Gibbs, Webmaster/Past President 2003-2006, 15th MED Association, MEDEVAC '67-'68 <gunnermadmur@neo.rr.com> posts about the reunion on the Website, "It was one great reunion to attend this year. We had more members attend this reunion than any previous one. This all goes to good planning by our Reunion Coordinator, Art Jacobs."

Also, the kidney condition of Bobby Brooks is not worsening according to his wife. But, Dr. Marco A. Endara, PHD, MBA MSG, 15th MED, 1st Cav Division RVN is suffering from a cancer condition. He notes, "My cancer may be related to exposure to Agent Orange. I was in Nam '70-'71 in Song Be, near Cambodia, 15th MED Battalion. During my time there, we used to spray Agent Orange very frequently so, indeed, I was exposed to the Agent Orange every time during my tour in Nam."



Wounded pickup in the field. Photos from Larry Hatch.

MAJ Jon K. Gutierrez, AZ ARNG State Maintenance Officer, <jon.gutierrez@us.army.mil> writes, "Mr. Bodnar, Wonderful article on the March/April SABER edition."

"I served with the 15th Forward Support Battalion from 1998-2000. I went to the National Training Center in California twice and one rotation to Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1999. The Battalion was proud of our heritage and we were always telling the rest of the Division, we were the most decorated Forward Support Battalion in the US Army. In large part, to the outstanding efforts of you and your peers. Thank you.

"I would like to ask you for a favor, I notice that the 15th is titled the "15th MED/15th BSB". I would like to add the 15th FSB to that title, I see the 27th does it with 27th ORD/MNT/MSB/BSB; that is kind of bulky, but appropriate.

"I was hoping for: 15th MED/FSB/BSB. The 15th was a Forward Support Battalion for over 10 years and I believe they deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom for the first time as a FSB. I feel it is appropriate that the FSB is allocated to represent the fine work those soldiers did to represent this great Battalion in Fort Hood, Bosnia and Iraq. Thank you for your time."

I forwarded this to Executive Director, Dennis Webster who said, "If you want it changed, then I'll make the change in the title. It will still be listed as 15th MED on the Index on page 1 but we will add 15th FSB/BSB to the title."

Jim Calibro <jimcc4@att.net> phone: (209) 573-0701, Reunion Coordinator 2013 Past President 2006-07, Secretary 2007 to present, e-mails: "Mike, our 15th annual Reunion was held at the Marriott's Hotel in Franklin, Tennessee, from May 2-6, 2012. The Reunion coordinator, Art Jacobs, did an outstanding job.

LRRP News

Continued from pg. 15.

of Saigon, in 1967, in which Stone survived as a member of the 3-22nd Infantry, 25th Infantry Division. In the movie, Stone played the part of the 3-22nd Infantry battalion commander in the bunker which is destroyed by an NVA soldier who charges into the bunker and detonates a Claymore mine.

I received several e-mails from Hank Liewellyn and Rick Berry from Alpha Company, 229th Aviation Battalion (Assault Helicopter) that provided additional detail on Jim Wright's ('67) account of the helicopter crash on the South China Sea beach east of Dam Tra-O Lake, eight kilometers northeast of LZ Uplift in Binh Dinh Province, in July 1967. WO1 Rick Berry was the pilot on the aircraft at the time of the incident, however, 1LT John Othmer was flying it when it was hit with enemy fire and lost its tail rotor. LT Othmer continued to fly it after it

Continued from pg. 16.

forms. The Shadow provides near real time full motion video to commanders to help them understand their operating environments.

The Shadow was recently upgraded to improve maintenance turnaround time, increase flight endurance and provide extended communication range for radio equipment. Additionally, the system has an updated engine to increase fuel efficiency.

The training prepares the Soldiers for future deployments and introduces the troops to the new components.

"This training is allowing us to progress our people to get ready to deploy," said SGT Shawn Kentch, a native of Warrensburg, Missouri. "Hands on experience is the only way to learn the equipment, which we don't get unless we go to the field, so being able to come out here really brings it back to the surface." Those that helped launch an aircraft June 18 said it was a cool experience; one that they enjoyed.

"It went pretty good," said PFC Thomas Arnette, from Knoxville, Tennessee. "It makes you a little nervous the first few times you do it."

Besides providing valuable education for troops in the battalion, the training

He went far beyond what was expected of him as the Reunion coordinator. This Reunion was a tribute to door gunner Jerry Dick who was shot in the head July of 1968. We had a record number of people attend this year's Reunion.

"Most of our attendees were from east of the Mississippi. Next year's Reunion will be held in Old Sacramento, California. Old Sacramento is in the planning stages and will be held from April 17-April 21, 2013. I will be the Reunion coordinator and I have many ideas going through my head to make this Reunion as successful as Franklin, Tennessee.

"I would appreciate it if you would post this e-mail in the next *Saber*. My e-mail address and phone number is also attached in case anyone wants to call with questions or ideas.

Al Joy, 15th MED '68, who has been submitting his reminisces, updates, "Just a short note to let everyone know I'm still alive. I went to the VA last week to check out a 'pimple' on my belly that I was concerned wasn't healing.

"The doctor in Olean thought I should have it looked at by the doctor in Buffalo, so I headed to Buffalo. The plan was to have the doctor look at it, lance it, drain it and be back home for supper. As soon as I arrived I was given a private room and informed I would be having 'surgery' the next morning. By surgery I thought they were just giving a fancy title to 'lancing pimple.' It turned out that three days later I was being released from the hospital with a hole in my side the size of a golf ball, enough antibiotics to cure a dead horse and an appointment to go back next week.

"I will say that the treatment I received at the VA was the greatest. I cannot imagine any congressman or VIP getting better care than I was given. When I go to the VA I'm treated like a war hero; every nurse and Dr. there makes me feel like they really care about me. Still, after a couple of days of being treated like a prince, I'm ready to go home and be treated like a king. As great as the nurses are, they can't replace Judy and Bella."

Those city names sounded familiar to me so I asked Al if he lived in proximity to where I was born in Salamanca, New York. He replied "Cuba, New York, thirty miles east of Salamanca."



L to R, unknown, CPT Hagerty, WO Larry Hatch.

'70 MEDEVAC Medic and fellow 2-7 Cav Medic Bill Walsh reminds about John Brennan, author of *U.S. Army Helicopter Names In Vietnam*, Hellgate Press, 2011. John says, "You can order from me a signed copy for \$26 by sending a check payable to me and mailing to; 17355 Via Annette, San Lorenzo, CA 94580. You are welcomed to preview the first twenty pages at the publisher's website.

I preordered a copy from Amazon for a discount. You may also pre-order (and receive a 33% discount) from Amazon or Barnes & Noble the September 1st, 2012, release of his second publication: *Vietnam War Helicopter Art: U.S. Army Rotor Aircraft*. It is a 8.5 x 11 inch, 208 page book, containing 300 color nose art photos from Stackpole Books.

I wrote to Larry Hatch <campingout@comcast.net> whose photos I started to publish. One of them is with him and a CPT Hagerty. I told Larry that the Air Ambulance Platoon Leader when I was accepted in '69 and joined MEDEVAC in January '70 was CPT Michael Hagerty, whom the photo resembles.

Although I never knew of CPT Hagerty's history except that he was a pilot, Larry confirms CPT Haggerty was there when Larry arrived in November 1966. Larry says, "As a side note, when I was stationed in Frankfurt, Germany, two years later, I met CPT Haggerty's girl friend who was a nurse at the hospital. Small world sometimes. CPT Haggerty died around that time from TB if I recall correctly."

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

FIRST TEAM! Garryowen, SO THAT OTHERS MAY LIVE

was hit and WO1 Berry made the mayday calls. General John Tolson was in his command chopper close by at the time of the incident and was the first one to land his aircraft at the crash site. He immediately started to direct rescue efforts for which he later received the Distinguished Flying Cross for his bravery in this action. WO1 Berry received back injuries but was able to return to flight status several weeks later. The door gunner (identity unknown) may have suffered a broken back. The crew chief (identity unknown) was not badly injured. As mentioned in the March/April issue of the *Saber*, 1LT Wright also suffered a broken back and some paralysis and was evacuated to the Philippines and then to Japan. He returned to Vietnam several years later to lead a rifle company in the 2-12th Cav out of Cambodia.

RANGERS LEAD THE WAY.



RQ-7B Shadow is launched.

fosters cohesion and a sense of camaraderie. Each person had a job to do, whether it was monitoring video surveillance, keeping lines of communication open or clearing the airspace.

The atmosphere was light while the Soldiers worked on the equipment. They swapped stories of previous days in the field and watched as the team on the airstrip readied the UAS for launch.

"This brings the platoon together and provides real life experience," said SFC Joseph Armer, from Alpena, Arkansas. "I couldn't ask for a better platoon than what I have now."

Continued on pg. 21.

20th and 79th Artillery Regiment News



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“Going Hot” Well, once again in true artillery fashion, the Aerial Rocket Artillery (ARA) units delivered the traditional airmobile direct preparatory fires as they led other combat units of the 1st Cav Division into the potential hot LZ of Portland, Oregon for the annual reunion. Members of the ARA Association gathered at the Benson Hotel for their 15th annual reunion on May 23, 2012, making way for the rest of the division who arrived for their 65th annual reunion on June 6, 2012, at the Red Lion Inn. During our week, all that could be heard were a lot of voices exchanging stories as we shared happenings of the previous twelve months. The mission was successful. We received no hostile fire and for that matter there was no requirement for friendly fire.

“Weather Forecast” Several of us were welcomed with one of Portland’s downpours! We took the MAX rail service from the airport and upon exiting at the stop five blocks from the Benson, we ran for cover near one of the many Starbucks, digging through our luggage for rain gear and umbrellas. Sensing a let up in the rain, we set out like a group of Montagnard village people dragging our suitcases as we navigated the traffic and puddles of water. The advance party, with our hosts Herb and Cindy Hirst, were there in the hotel lobby with open arms, smiling as they gave us hugs and helped us register and find our rooms so we could change into dry clothes. We had twenty-eight members and twenty-three wives and guests registered. Some of the first timers were “Tony” and Isabel Quesada, James and Gloria Flemming and David and Roberta Cooper. The locals who came, Bill Anderson and Bob Tessier, were also first timers. Most of us enjoyed a truly remarkable dinner at “Jakes Famous Crawfish and Seafood” restaurant. The “Dungeness Crab” quickly became the favorite.

“Local AO Check Rides” It was a great event with representatives from 2-20th, 4-77th and F Btry/79th taking the bus tour on Thursday to the Oregon coast where we searched out Cannon Beach for good food and “Bruce’s Salt Water Taffy,” and a good view of the “Haystack Rock,” one of the intertidal structures that can be reached by land. Later that afternoon we discovered the secrets of the “Tillamook” cheese. We enjoyed the assembly line, bought some cheese to take back to the hotel for refreshment time and some to take home for our own private consumption. Before we left, we had to taste the Tillamook ice cream! All the way to the coast Herb Hirst kept saying he had ordered us a beautiful blue sky. Well, he was right on target. As we approached the coast the drizzle stopped, clouds broke and beautiful blue skies opened for all to enjoy!

During the bus ride, our tour guide did an outstanding job of keeping us informed of our surroundings. There was the plethora of Queen Anne’s lace with its red dot which the guide made sure we knew was the result of the Queen pricking her finger while “knitting” her lace; then the thousands of Christmas trees which the locals ship to Japan because they really enjoyed them as decoration in their stores and shops; and finally the acres of hazel nut trees, the grounds of which are so well groom enabling an effective harvest by vacuuming the nuts off the ground. It was an exciting day!

On Friday we ventured via bus to the Columbia River Gorge where we had lunch at the Multnomah Falls Lodge. While sightseeing the falls, our group experienced a lesson in honesty. One of group placed her hand bag on a bench while she took pictures of the falls. When she turned around the purse was gone. We all scattered and searched the area to no avail. Racing back down the trail to the gift shop she found that her bag was turned in by a visitor. All of her possessions were in the bag! Halleluiah, there are still moral and ethical people in this world! After that we journeyed to the dam at Bonneville where we waited for an eternity to see one spawning salmon making its way up the fish ladder.



Ladies on the President’ Bed.

“R & R” With all the traveling behind us, we headed to the Presidential Suite (which served as our hospitality suite) at the Benson for needed refreshments. Our President, Jesse and First Lady, Gloria, were the likely candidates to reserve the room which had served previous US Presidents. We even have a photo of several wives relaxing on the same bed which had been occupied at one time by US President Bill Clinton. I’m not sure where to go with this one!

“Staff Meeting” Saturday morning the wives made their trip to the Saturday Market, a long time attraction in the Port-

land community. While they were out shopping, the guys conducted the annual business meeting. Several items of interest to be mentioned include:
1. We have initiated contact with the Field Artillery Museum at Fort Sill,



Jesse and Gloria at the controls of the Spruce Goose.



Jesse wearing Howard Hughes’ hat.

Oklahoma to ensure that ARA is duly recognized as an integral part of field artillery. Joanne Woodruff, wife of LTC Al Woodruff who served with us in 1965-66, has sent his dress blue cape which is on display in the museum. Bruce Wilder is finishing Al’s flight suit with all the patches for ARA and will be sending it to the museum along with some of his own personal flight gear to be displayed. 2. Request for interest in having T-shirts for the next reunions. 3. Our 2013 reunion will be held in Hershey, Pennsylvania in mid June. All members are invited. 4. No host was identified for the 2014 reunion; the Board will be hosts and is considering Pensacola, Florida, Dayton, Ohio, Fort Rucker, Alabama or Fort Benning, Georgia. 5. Previously circulated changes to the By-laws were approved IAW Article IX. 6. Election for a new board of directors results:

President: Cecil Hengeveld; Immediate Past President: Jesse Hobby; Vice President: NG (Glenn) Brown; Secretary: Huey Odell; Treasurer: Jule Szabo; Newsletter Editor: Asa Talbot. Bruce Wilder remains the Chaplain and Columnist for *Saber*.

“Command Performance” Our annual banquet guest speaker was Larry Wood, the Executive Director of the Evergreen Air and Space Museum in McMinnville, Oregon, who gave an informative audio visual presentation of the “Spruce Goose” which is housed in the museum after being relocated from San Diego, California. Several members made a separate visit to the museum and even have a photo sitting in Howard Hughes’s seat in the aircraft.

This year we honored our hosts with a gift in the form of a donation in their name to the Wounded Warrior Project.

“Hail and Farewell” This being the election year, we had to bid farewell to the past board as we knew it for the past two years with the following officers: Past President Rodger McAlister, President Jesse Hobby, Vice President Bruce Wilder, Secretary Chuck Voeltz, Treasurer Larry Mobley and Editor Asa Talbot and welcomed the new board of directors. I want to thank Rodger for his outstanding leadership the past four years, Jesse for his leadership and dedication to membership, creating our new certificates and the rewrite of the By-laws as directed by the membership at Fort Rucker in 2008, Larry for his expertise in bringing us into a solid financial position, Asa for his perfection in publishing our newsletter, *The Straphanger Gazette* and Chuck for volunteering to keep copious notes and minutes of our meetings and providing the crew chief touch for all the RVers traveling to our reunions. We offer our prayers for the new board as they lead us the next two years.

“After Action Report” We had a great reunion, shared a lot of memories - good and bad, made new friends and created new memories and missed those who could not be with us. For those who desire to join the Association, please go to our web site as listed above and download the application for membership. Hope to see you at the 16th Annual Reunion in Hershey, Pennsylvania in June 2013!

NEW MEMBER LISTING

E-5 AGUILAR, KENNETH M. CA B 1-12C 68
CW4 ALLEN, LEROY D. TX B 1-8C 6512
SPC ARCHIBALD, HUNTER L. TX B 2-12C 1102
CW3 (R) ARIAN, ROY D. OK HQ 229AVN 6705
E-5 BARTLETT, ROBERT D. OR A 228AVN 6612
CSM (R) BARVENIK, JOHN W. NH A 3-197FA 6904
SPC BAXTER, JUSTIN TX 1CDH 12
SGM BEAUCHAMP, CHARLES H. OR C 2-8C 7003
MR. BECKER, LAWRENCE J. ,OR A 15MED 6608
E-4 BLACKWELL, BARRY MICHAEL AL B 27MNT 6803
SSG BODES, PAUL E. KY 1-82FA 9001
SFC BULWINKLE, STEPHEN TX A 2-12C 1204
E-4 BURKE, STEVE AZ B 1-9C 6908
CPT CALDWELL, MICHAEL R. TX D 215BSB 1103
SPC CAMACHO, ANTHONY TX C 4BCT 1102
MR. CAMPBELL, ANTHONY D. HI C 2-8C 67

PFC CAMPBELL ZACHARY R. NC I&S HHBN 1106
SPC CASTORENA, LUIS M. CA C 3-8C 1003
E-5 CLINE, JOHN A. NC C 228AVN 6701
SPC COLLETTE, AARON J. OR A 1-12C 1007
CPT COTTON, REGINALD TX 1-9C 1102
SPC CRAWFORD, CRAIG TX ,HHC 2BSTB 1103
PFC CUNNINGHAM, PAUL WA D 1-12C 6204
SGT DAMSKOV, JR., RUSSELL IRVING A 1-9C 6607
SGT DAVIS, DARRELL AR 2BCT 12
E-5 DAWSON, BRUCE W. MI 1CDH 6706
SSG DE RIGNE, GARY K S D 1-12C 6904
SSG DINGMAN, DAVID OK OPS HHBN 1104
SGM DODDS, JOHN F. NM D 1-8C 6507
E-7 DUNCAN, EDMOND R. WA C 228AVN 6507
PFC DURAND, ANDRES R. TX D 1-9C 1110
PFC ELSTON, MIKE OR 1-21FA 6602
E-5 ERICKSON, DALE R. WA B 227AVN 6702
MAJ ESACHINA, PAUL E. PA 945FST 0904
PFC EVANS, JERRY A. AL B 27MNT 7304
SSG FAH, FRED OR HHC 2-162INF 0410
CPT FOSHEE, SHANE D. TX OPS HHBN 1104

LTC GAUDLITZ, DEREK TX HHT 1BCT 1101
COL (RET) GERGULIS, JOHN G. FL D1-12C 65
SGT GOETTL, JESSICA ANN TX HHBN 1208
SGT GOLDEY, JOHN T. TX HHC 1-5C 06
SGT HACKEN, MILLER CHARLES IA B1-7C 6707
E-4 HAGAN, RICHARD L. TX D3-229AHB 7202
MR. HAMMERSLEY, TOM FL A 229AVN 68
E-4 HANSON, DAVE WA H 75INF 71
PFC HARGRETT, ANDREW TX 1CDH 1110
E-5 HARRISON, LARRY D. CA A 2-12C 6702
E-4 HAWES, JR., JOHN F. GA A 1-7C 6808
SGT HERNANDEZ, JR., FAUSTINO MI 1CDH 7007
MAJ HILLKJONAAS, IDAMARIA TX HHC 2BCT 1103
SPC HOAG, TY TX 1CDH 0811
SGT HUFFMAN, GERALD W. WI B 2-7C 6702
SPC HUNTHROP, CHRISTOPHER TX HHC 2-7C 1009
COL HURLBUT, DANIEL TX 1CDH 1105
CPT ISERN, KARL H. MI 27MNT 6306
SFC JACKSON, LES TX HHC 2BCT 1009
SGT JENNER, JAMES M. TX 3BCT 1204
Continued on pg.20.

82nd FA News



"Can and Will"
Dan Gillotti
 4204 Berkeley Drive
 Sheffield Village, OH 44054
 (440) 934-1750
 FirstCav68@Roadrunner.Com

received a letter in May from Alva Snider. I apologized for not getting the reunion information out sooner. Their reunion was 1-14 June 2012 at the Comfort Inn in Lafayette, Indiana. Alva said he can hardly write anymore and shakes too much. All he seems to do anymore is run back and forth to the doctors and he can no longer drive at night. We wish you well 'ol Trooper.



WO1 Snowgren beside crashed Night Hawk, October '69.

Co-Pilot was WO-1 Ronald Baker. The best we can determine, the name of the Door Gunner manning the M-60 machine gun on the right side of the aircraft was SP4 James Helms. The Crew Chief, who operated the Starlight Scope and



WO1 Snowgren in front of crashed Night Hawk.

Xenon Light, was SP4 Harold Boatz and manning the mini-gun was the intimidating and infamous "George of the Jungle", SP4 Stanley Cook.

As most of you know, when the sun goes down in Vietnam, Charlie went to work when we were trying to get some sleep. Our little company-size unit was nestled in the edge of the rubber trees at Camp Gorvad. There is no mystery that Charlie was well aware that Camp Gorvad was the base camp for the 1st Cav Division HQ. Every now and then he would get lucky, hit something of importance and create quite a mess. In time, we became somewhat accustomed to the intimidation and nuisance of it all. When an attack was over, we would get off the floor or get out of the bunkers and get back to bed. All of it just seemed to be another "normal night" at Camp Gorvad.

E-82nd Arty introduced a new target detection concept and engagement system mounted on a UH-1 helicopter called "The Night Hawk". It was equipped with a 50,000-watt Xenon light with an infrared mode and a mini-gun geared down to 2000 rounds per minute. The Night Hawk was the Target Detection side of the team and the Engagement Side of the team was a Cobra gunship flown by Blue Max, from 2-20th Arty ARA. Huey's were a normal sight at Camp Gorvad but one equipped with a Mini-Gun, Starlight Scope and 50,000 watt Xenon light was a new sight. There were Ground Surveillance and Recon Teams inserted in the jungle as listening posts to detect enemy movement around Camp Gorvad. When enemy movement was detected, the locations were transmitted to the Night Hawk crew operating in the area. The Night Hawk flew blacked-out at about 400 feet and forty knots while a Cobra flew at 1500 feet with navigation lights and armed to the teeth with a mini-gun, 40mm grenade launcher and 2.75 rockets. Now who wants to stand and battle these giants? Once on location, the light man would scan the area of interest using an infrared 10" Starlight Scope mounted on top of the searchlight. When a target was detected, it was marked with MK 21 flares as the Night Hawk orbited the target. When given clearance from the TOC, the 50,000 watt Xenon searchlight was turned on, the friendly troops on the ground called clear of the light and the mini-gun operator would engage the target area as the Night Hawk defended itself from ground fire. Then the Cobra would roll-in and neutralize the target with 2 to 6 pair of 2.75" rockets. This targeted cell of Charlie ceased to be a threat to Camp Gorvad.

On a particular night in October, '69, WO-1 Snowgren was piloting the Night Hawk and WO-1 Baker was flying as co-pilot. The two-ship Team (Huey and Cobra) was returning to Camp Gorvad after a night out in the AO. As the team reported into traffic, they were informed of movement reported along a strip of bamboo well outside the perimeter wire. The Night Hawk coordinated with the Blue Max that Night Hawk would mark the target with one Willy Pete (WP) grenade on each end of the bamboo. Night Hawk made the low pass, the WPs

Today is 14 June 2012 and I'm wishing everyone a Happy Flag Day. And please remember to pray for all of our service men and women serving in our Armed Forces.

82nd FA Battalion: I received a letter in May from Alva Snider. I apologized for not getting the reunion information out sooner. Their reunion was 1-14 June 2012 at the Comfort Inn in Lafayette, Indiana. Alva said he can hardly write anymore and shakes too much. All he seems to do anymore is run back and forth to the doctors and he can no longer drive at night. We wish you well 'ol Trooper.

E-82nd FA: I received an e-mail from Bill Thomason with the following story, "The night our Night Hawk goes down". This story was provided by Jon Snowgren who was a WO-1 Pilot serving with E-82nd Arty, 1st Cav Division, at Camp Gorvad. He was the pilot of the helicopter we referred to as the "Night Hawk" and the

over the radios and along with the light man and mini-gun operator exited the aircraft out of the left side running for the revetments about 20 yards from the now burning hulk of Night Hawk. WO-1 Snowgren ran back to the helicopter to grab a fire extinguisher and as he swung open the door of the AC's side, no fire extinguisher. Ooops, that was the wrong door. About this time the WP grenades under the seat of the Door Gunner began to cook-off and caused the mini-gun ammo to begin cooking-off. E-82nd Arty personnel witnessing the explosion came to the rescue and helped the door gunner out of the aircraft. The infamous Night Hawk burned in half as the 4,000 rounds of 7.62 ammo, a case of MK 21 flares and a case of WP grenades cooked-off.

were thrown down and Night Hawk pulled out of the low pass and headed for the Woodpecker pad.

The controls were passed to the very capable co-pilot WO-1 Baker who set up an approach to the Woodpecker Pad. While established on short final with a standard rate of descent, there was a violent and brilliant explosion in the right door gunner's side of the bird. The Night Hawk was over the hooches and rubber trees about 300 yards from the pad in a normal descent. A huge explosion accompanied by dense blinding white smoke consumed the cockpit and visibility was absolutely zero. As previously mentioned, WO-1 Baker had the controls. Not wanting to change the attitude or direction of the approach, WO-1 Snowgren grabbed the collective, holding it in place, squeezed the cyclic controls between his legs and held it tight as to not change the attitude of the nose allowing the Night Hawk to fly itself into the ground. The helicopter struck the ground with a moderate impact, bounced, hit the ground a second time and skidded to a stop. Snowgren and Baker exited



SFC Bill Thomason with Night Hawk, 1969.

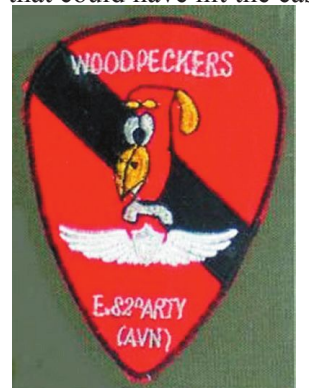
Everyone survived the crash. The right side door gunner however was severely burned by the relentless, almost un-extinguishable burning white phosphorus. Anyone who has seen a WP grenade explode knows the capabilities of the dangerous material. Observers remember the door gunner being pulled from the burning wreckage and dragged to the side of the helipad where there was some puddled water. He was pulled into the water until he was evacuated to the hospital. God bless him wherever he is. May the pain that he suffered be only a distant memory and hopefully the trauma of that night has faded from his memory over time.

The cause of the explosion was never determined. It could be speculated that Charlie fired a round through the floor of the Huey that could have hit the case of WP grenades under the Door Gunner's seat and set off the chain reaction. Another possibility is the door gunner had pulled the pin on a WP grenade making ready to drop it onto a target area. The door gunner had to have the WP grenades ready to drop the instant a target area is detected. On occasion the door gunner would have to reinstall the pin in the WP grenade because it was not dropped on a targeted area. Was the pin pulled? Was he trying but failed to get the pin reinserted properly? Who knows and we may never know. What we do know is that a violent explosion was the beginning of the episodes that brought "The Night Hawk Down".

The incredible success of this first Night Hawk to fly a nightly mission in the Camp Gorvad AO was well known by the upper level brass. For the first 31 days of the mission, Camp Gorvad was not attacked and did not take a single hit from a rocket or mortar. Charlie would hit us on the foggy nights when Night Hawk and Blue Max could not launch. Unbeknownst to the Night Hawk Team another bird was already being built in Vung Tau. Nearly finished, it only took a few days and a trip to the in-country R&R Center to bring a new Night Hawk bird back to Phuoc Vinh. The new one was built specifically as the Cadillac of Night Fighters.

WO Jon Snowgren provided the preceding information. Bill Thomason, Rotary Wing Maintenance and Flight Line NCOIC composed the story. The story was then authenticated by WO Jon Snowgren and released for publication. Mr. Snowgren can be contacted at <snowgren@gmail.com> and Bill Thomason at <bthomason12400@aol.com>.

End of Mission ~ Out!



E-82nd FA "Woodpeckers" Pocket Patch.

Reunion Attendees

Continued from pg. 14.

Tattersall and John P. Wilch, Jr.

229th AVN

Sonny Bargata, Tom Hammersley, Mike Keele, Glenn T. Liska, Mick McCann and Manfred Tappe

312th MI

Ronnie L. Killingsworth

501st ENG

Gary L. Ullom

545th MP

Lyle M. Christy

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Lorinda Davison (Life Associate), Clay Keown and J. Stephania Ryan

DISCOM

Jerry F. Eller, Jonathan E. Frederick, Norman E. Lorsung, and Scott Smith

DIVARTY

Richard R. Browning, Donald Callahan, Richard J. Clark, Rex Cecil, Jason Holmes, David R. Krueger and David D. Wiley

ENG BDE

W. Terry Maddox

LRRP

William D. Carpenter and Ken White

RANGER

Norman Ratzlow, Calvin C. Renfro and Danny Svoboda

Thanks to all who attended the 65th Reunion in Portland.



Plan now to attend the 66th Reunion in Killeen/Fort Hood, Texas from 5-9 June 2013.

Crossed Sabers Chapter Souvenir Shop

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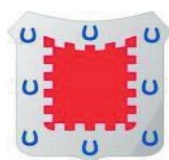
<www.crossedsabers-chapter-giftshop.com>

The Crossed Sabers Chapter Souvenir Shop is a non-profit organization. Net income is distributed to the Association for application to the Scholarship Program and other ongoing programs as needed, to the Soldier Travel Fund which allows active duty soldiers of the Division to attend away Reunions as guests of the Association, to the 1st Cavalry Division Museum and to fund other activities for the Troopers and families of the 1st Cavalry Division Association. The manager, Michelle Wolfe, accepts telephone orders with payment by MASTERCARD, VISA or DISCOVER credit cards or you can order on-line using credit cards. **Printed catalogs are available for \$3.00 from the Association, 302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703. Make your check out to 1st Cavalry Division Association.**

Thank you for supporting the Souvenir Shop and the Troopers of the 1st Cavalry Division Association.

Reunion DVD available for \$2 to cover shipping/handling. Contact Rose Putnam, 1004 SE Althaus Dr., Troutdale, OR 97060, PayPal accepted <www.1stCavDesign.web.com>, <putnam@yahoo.com>.

ENGINEER News



Jesse Crimm
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Jacksonville, FL 32207-62241
(904) 737-6172
TheCrimms@Gmail.Com

Gigantic Prize And Award: Sky Beaver Contest. Three prizes in the following categories; 1. For the person who can tell me the most authentic version of the origin of the Sky Beaver Award. 2. For the person who can tell me

the most interesting version of the origin of the Sky Beaver Award and 3. For the person who can tell me the most outlandish version of the story. Because of press delays, you are not reading this till August. The accumulation period is August thru September. Winners will be published in the November/December *SABER*. Multiple entries are accepted from single sources. Documentation is a plus. The decision of the judge is final. Para-mutual wagering is not authorized. Notice the initial entry is accomplished by telling. That means calling. Supporting documents may be mailed or e-mailed. All entries are subject to placement in the 1st Cav Museum.

In Memoriam: The first Sergeant Major of the Army, William O. Wooldridge, died March 5, 2012. His service is known and his legacy retained by the NCO Corps and all others who saw and emulated his example.

This Is The Way It Works: You read this column. You see a name or event. You say "damn I know that guy." You contact me. I put you in touch with that guy. And it played out just that way when Fred Betteridge read about Rich Estes in the Mar/Apr *SABER*. (Yes this is our *SABER* for that is what we do for each other). For forty years Fred had been thinking of Rich and suddenly there he was in print in *SABER*. A phone call later lead to more discoveries in the small world category. Rich has a sister in Florida whom he visits regularly and Fred lives only a stones throw away. The two will have met by the time you read this issue. We await a report. In the meantime, Fred began his military career as an 11B NCO at Fort Benning. He decided to go to OCS and applied for infantry, naturally. The Army, in its mysterious wisdom, sent him to the new Engineer OCS at Fort Belvoir. All this is occurring in the post Korea era as Fred served from 1957 to 1978. Fred was the S3 for the 8th Engineers and takes credit for designing the training jump tower that the rest of us came to love. After all, he was at Benning remember? Fred finally escaped the 3 shop and was given command of a line unit. His fellow company commanders were William Gary and Bert McCullum. Want to hear something even more weird? Go back a few issues in *SABER* to the story about painting outhouses yellow. I think that was Don Manville's story. At any rate, Fred was the commander of the yellow outhouses and used yellow since that was the only paint on hand. Now it makes sense, at least in Army logic. Fred will be at the Texas reunion in 2013. Saddle up!

The Way It Works Part II. Victor Mitchell got all excited when he saw the name Lorenzo Chavez. One phone call later and the two were reunited. Victor is in Arkansas and Lorenzo in California and the two will meet in 2013 in Texas. Saddle up! Somebody is going to have a big bar bill. For those of you that know Victor, he will be glad to talk to you at (573-528-5340).

The Way It Works Part III. Jim Shotwell read the last issue and went looking for Mike Lapansky. Think about it. How many Lapansky's are there in Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania? Well not enough apparently as Jim reported no luck in finding him. But he made the effort. Thanks and stay in touch.

Ok Ok Part IV: Mike Schwering wrote to say thanks for putting his name in *SABER*. I wrote back to ferret out more details. Mike, I'm waiting. Now you have your name printed three times. It's your turn. Come on. Fess up. We all know it was you that popped purple smoke in the officer's latrine.

A Holler From West Virginia: (Get it?) Bill Bennett checked in this time sending a thoughtful memorial tribute regarding The Wall. Among the tributes are: 1. Thirty one sets of brothers are on The Wall. 2. Three sets of fathers and sons are on The Wall. 3. One hundred and fifty three MOH awards are memorialized on The Wall. Thanks Bill, we won't forget any of these. Next time you are in Weston, West Virginia for the annual hollering across the holler contest, look Bill up on Middle Run Road.

And If That Weren't Enough: Joe Wagel stopped fishing for pike and blue gills in the lakes around Bloomfield, Michigan long enough to check in by phone. Joe wants to encourage all engineer vets to meet in D.C. on Veteran's Day. Especially go to the 1st Cav reception that Joe describes as being nicely prepared. Over many years of attending, Joe has bumped into only two other engineers but has a handshake and welcome home ready for others. Joe was in country during 68-69 but got shipped around a lot spending fractional time with the 84th Engineers and the Americal Division as well as the Cav. Like all of us, Joe rode the choppers

to unknown destinations, (LZ's Betty and Barbara came to his mind) pushed dirt around and then hopped the next flight to the next unknown destination. Joe did manage to get a shave and haircut in Phouc Vinh from time to time. Joe also says hello to our mutual correspondent friend, Steve Richey. (Hey, that's not a bad idea. How many of we engineers could turn out for this Veteran's Day? A dozen? Maybe more if we mutually make the effort. What about it guys?)

Vote: You will be reading this paragraph in time to vote this November. Fail Not. Consider the following semi-poetic statement from the #3 rock group of all time: "I pick up my guitar and play, just like yesterday, I get down on my knees and pray, we won't get fooled again. Meet the new boss same as the old boss." Don't let this statement apply to you. Vote and insist that all your family and friends vote.

Book Review: *War and the Soul* by Ed Tick. This book was fully recommended to me by one of our own engineers and endorsed with partial reservations regarding some of Tick's semi-political commentary by another of our own. Both are correct. I can condense the first 170 pages for you. War was and is hell and hell upon those who are in it. Tick's premise is that we are physical bodies housing a separate but fully intertwined soul. The two are distinct but forever one. The physical wounds of war can be healed using traditional medical methodologies. The scars on the soul require a different approach. Psychotropic drugs or group therapy sessions do not remedy those scars. We must search deeper, more painfully initially but in finality more conclusively for a cure. Modern warfare is depersonalized and technically mechanical. The warrior (you and me) has become a means, a mechanism to achieve an end not always defined. The warrior needs emersion into the civilian society that either sent him to war or that he chose to enter by emulating existing societal archetypes. That baptism best occurs in the form of a ritual cleansing and reaffirmation of the worth of his or her work and self. And yes, women are equally liable to suffer PTSD. Now hold onto your hats. This is where Tick gets specific. It's the proven (according to Tick) Indian sweat lodge method. Yep, we sweat truth out of PTSD. In the confines and searing heat of the lodge, only the truth can be told. And in an individuals telling of the truth, he is redeemed. The truth is simply his story of whatever demons haunt his dreams, his soul. Others in the lodge listen without judgment but in empathy. No, it's not group therapy. It is guys telling, just telling and sweating out, revealing and leaving behind the hauntings. Tick says it works. Let me now condense the second half of the book by quoting Tick. "We must not deny or deaden our feelings about war. Rather, we must remember war and its lessons. We must say our prayers for peace and remember the pain and losses war has caused us. We must learn to walk through hell with our hearts wide open." For starters, read the book. If need be, call him or me for that matter. I'll listen.

The Assistant: He gets the glory if you can call it that. He gets the write-ups, the medals if any and the books. He pulls the trigger. I aim the trigger. Windage so much. Elevation so much. Distance so much. Dial it in. Adjust the hair lines. We are separate but one. His kills are equally mine. I too am draped in cammo. I too breathe in practiced rhythm. My voice carries less than a meter containing only measured words. I see the target more plainly than he. My scope is bigger, more precise than that nub on his barrel. The bullet is gone. I hear the bolt retract and insert the next round, no more. The silencer works as designed. I see the splatter. I speak one word, "down." I read somewhere in some day room or was it the U.S.O. about the Japanese archers of the 16th century. The extending of the bowstring encompassed all that they were. The releasing of the arrow is the projection of themselves into space and time. Dispassionate. Centered but centerless. Repeated in a dance of insert, pull, release and breath. That's me. How many arrows have I released? Unknown. Uncounted. It's only the cycle I know. Windage so much. Elevation so much. Distance so much. Breath. Down. He and I are one.

More Reunions: If you miss the opportunity to kick in the doors of the artillery reunion in Florida, the how about a more polite and brotherly reunion in Indiana just for us Engineers? Bill Arasz wrote to say hold the dates of September 14-16. The following have committed or almost committed to attend: Ed Gaines, Bill Arasz, Gary Rosseau, Cecil Wheeler, Sam Bellow, James Kendrick, Bobby Bright and Bill Tew. For those of you who may not have eaten the famous half-pound hamburgers of Kokomo, Indiana, this is your chance. Make time for this one. Call Bill at (732) 278-1381 or Ed at (765) 621-5893.

It Wasn't A Lie: I just didn't get around to it. Printing all the names of engineers that have written or e-mailed this column. Give me another issue. I'll put it at the top rather than getting around to it.

New Members Listing

Continued from pg. 20.

SFC JOHN, MICHELLE TX 4BCT 1111
SPC JOHNSON, RYAN A. TX 41FIRE 1008
SGM JONES, DARRIN L. TX 41FIRE 1007
SFC JUDGE, YAMILETH D. TX 15BSB 0508
CPT KASEL, JOHN TX HSC HHBN 1010
MR. KEOWN, CLAY WA 1-ASSOC
SP-4 KNOWLES, PAUL NJ 586SIG 6508
SP-5 KOEHLER, GLENN CA C 227AVN 6908
LTC KUTH, ROBERT B. TX 2-7C 1203
SPC LAMSON, DAVID GA 1CDH 1008
PVT LILLY, CHARLES E. NC HHC 2-5C 6511
SFC LOOMIS, LEON M. OR B ENG 7008
CPT LOTT, WILLIAM BENTON SC A1-12C 0709
SP-4 MAKAREWICH, DANIEL M. MI 15ADM 7001
SGT MALDONADO, RICARDO TX 4BCT 1204
E-4 METCALF, KIRK MA B 2-12C 6808
LTC MILLS, RICHARD L. UT A 2-20ARA 6608
SGT MOORE, BILL OR B 1-7C 6709
CPT MOORE, RHONDA P. TX C 14BSB 1204
SPC MORRIS, TERRY CA HHT 1BCT 1007
PFC MUMA, ZACHARY E. MI 3BCT 1204
CPL ORWIG, MICHAEL JAMES TX 2-5C 0805
SP-4 PADDOCK, DAVID R. MT C 8ENG 6810
MAJ PALMER, MATTHEW TX HHBN 1007
SP-5 PARKER, RAYNAULD J. TX E 82FA 6708

SSG PARNELL, LOUIS TX C 1-5C 1008
MSG PARRAS-FAVELA EVARISTO TX 2-227AVN 0505
SPC PARRISH, RICHARD D., TX A 6-9C 1006
MR. PATTERSON, JAMES R. OR C 2-7C 65
MAJ PAYNE, ROBERT OR 2-7C 9910
SPC PEDRAZA-MELENDZ, JOSEAN D. MA 41FIRE 1209
CSM PEREZ, ELIODORO TX 2-7C 1201
SSG PEREZ, III, HENRY TX B 3-8C 10
SGT PETERS, DEVAN TX BAND 0906
LTC (R) PHILLIPS, JAMES H. WA 7C 6809
SSGT PHILLIPS, RICHARD CA C 2-7C 68
SSG PITTMAN, WILFREDO L. TX DSC 1CDH 1005
SP-4 PORTUGAL, JOSEPH S. TX 15AG 7306
SGT PURCELL, JOHN M. TX BAND 1CDH 1101
SSG PURINTON, MARC TX BAND 1011
E-5 RECORD, GLENN WA A 5-7C 6805
E-5 RENNER, BRUCE D. TN 1CDH 67
SFC RICE, VERONICA F. TX 4BCT 0910
CPT RILEY, DAVID F. OR HHC 3BDE 65
CPT ROBERTSON, III, JOHN W. IN 1CDH 1005
CSM ROBINSON, GLENN D. NM B 2-5C 9501
1LT ROCHE, DANNY SC D 5-7C 6803
LTC ROPER, BUTCH OR 2-7C 6708
LTC SELLERS, ART NC HHC 1-12C 1205
SP-4 SEMROW, ROBERT C. MT 545MP 65

2LT SERRA, DOMINICK A. NJ HQ 1BSTB 1111
SPC SHAW, CATRINA TX HHBN 12
SSG SHAW, JONATHAN C. TX HSC 615ASB 0905
E-3 SINGLETON, JACK W. PA A 2-12C 5811
MR. SMITH, BILLY MI C 2-8C 6805
1SG SMITH MICHAEL H. TX A 2-8C 1003
SSG SPEARS, CHRISTOPHER M. TX HHBN 1107
PFC SULLIVAN, HAROLD P. IN 2-4C
SP-5 TONJES, CRAIG FL A 227AVN 7009
PFC TORRES, LOUIS TX 1CDH 1012
MR. TRAVERS, CHARLES R. FL 1-ASSOC
SPC TRUE, DAVID N. SC D 1-227AVN 0908
MR. VALLES, RICH G. CA C 1-12C 67
E-5 VAN DUINEN, NORMAN OR 1-8C 6906
SGT VARELA, ROSENDO TX C 2-7C 0802
CPL VELEZ, ISRAEL TX F 2-5C 0511
PVT WHITE, JACOB WA 1BCT 1204
SPC WIERWENGA, DAVID TX I&S HHBN 1008
SPC WISLEY, TRAVIS TX 1CDH 1110
E-4 WOODS, MICHAEL J. WA C 2-20FA 6612
SGT (RET) WYATT, ERICK TX C 615ASB 0604

Thanks for joining the
1st Cavalry Division Association

545th MP COMPANY



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http://www.545thMpAssn.Com



SSG (Ret) Dell

with the 545th MP Company in Vietnam. He is survived by his wife, Linda and children: Teresa, Tammy, Lacy, Robert, Linda and Willie. We miss you buddy! Rest in Peace.



SP-4 Shinall

time Mike spent his summers with his father in Lewiston, Idaho. Mike moved permanently to Lewiston in 1972 where he graduated High School. Mike joined the Army in 1974. He took his training at Fort Ord, California and Fort Gordon, Georgia before being stationed at Fort Hood, Texas. In December of 1974, he married his High School sweetheart, Billie Jo Amspaugh. Billie had joined the Army to be with Mike. Both were assigned to the 545th MP Company at Fort Hood. In 1976 both were transferred to Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. After leaving the Army in 1977, Mike returned to Lewiston to pursue a career in law enforcement. Mike joined the Washington State University Police Department in 1978. Mike later worked for both the Moscow Police Department and the Lewiston Police Department. In 1991 Mike went to work for Pullman Transit where he remained until 2004. After leaving Pullman Transit, Mike worked for Winco Foods and Wal-Mart until his retirement in 2011. Mike had a great

Greetings Fellow 545th MPs,
It is my sad duty to report that we have two Taps notices in this issue: SSG (Ret) Glenn F. Dell who served in the 2nd Platoon, 545th MP Company in Vietnam from 1967 until 1968 passed away at his home, surrounded by his family and loved ones on June 25, 2012. There was no burial service as Glenn wanted his body donated for medical research. That was the type of man he was – always giving of himself and thinking of others. Glenn served with the 545th at LZ's English and Uplift and Camps Evans and Radcliff and was a member of our Association Staff where he served as Association Armorer and Ordinance NCO. Glenn was also one of our Association founding members and remained very active with our organization. Glenn was one of the many who earned a Purple Heart while serving

SP-4 Michael L. Shinall who served with the 545th MP Company at Fort Hood, Texas from 1974 until 1976 passed away at his home on May 15, 2012 surrounded by his family: wife Billie Jo (who also served with Mike in the 545th at Fort Hood) and his two sons, Michael and Matthew. SP-4 Shinall was born in Richlands, Virginia on October 12, 1955 to Earl and Edith Shinall. Mike lived in Richlands for the first four years of his life surrounded by his family. In 1959 Mike moved along with his family to Elk City, Idaho. Mike and his mother spent each summer back in Richlands, Virginia with family. Mike attended grade school in Grangeville, Idaho. After his parents' divorce, Mike lived in several locations including Georgia and Carpentersville, Illinois. During this

love for books and was constantly reading something. Mike also loved history and his collection of books reflected this to a large extent. In May of 2011, Mike was diagnosed with liver disease. Despite this illness, Mike remained as active as possible and retained his positive outlook on life. In 2012 the disease began to take its toll on Mike and he died at his home in Johnson, Washington surrounded by his family. It was Mike's request to be cremated and buried in his hometown of Richlands, Virginia where he was buried with full military Honors on June 4.

The US Army provided pall bearers, the Richlands VFW Post 9640 provided a firing squad, bugler and honor guard and the 545th MP Company Association provided an 545th MP Honor Guard.



On the 27 of June, our Old Timers Honor Guard was once again invited to attend a function in Texas and SSG Ira Harrison went with the Association Jeep and our Web Master, SSG Victor Alvarez took photos and a video.

The Texoma Health Foundation has been honoring soldiers for over two decades at Reba's Ranch House and this year it was decided the best way to promote patriotism was to honor two active duty soldiers with multiple tours in combat and who were stationed in Texas. The county judge was given a long list of eligible soldiers and he picked two, CPT Drew Dornstander and SGT Richard Fields both with four combat tours each and both with tours in



Afghanistan and Iraq. The local Mayor presented these two soldiers with a US Flag that had flown over the US Capitol and a wreath w/\$700.00 in gift certificates for local stores and an autographed photo from Reba. The soldiers wives were presented with yellow roses by the 1st Cavalry Division Horse Detachment and our very own SSG Harrison rendered Honors while the presentation was going on.



Horse Det and SSG Harrison in Sun Glasses.



CPT Mike Henriques and 1SG Josh Solomon.

CPT Mike Henriques and 1SG Josh Solomon just brought the 545th back home to Alaska after a stint at one of the training centers and 1SG Solomon informs me that the unit is gung ho and up to snuff and ready to be deployed or sent on any mission the US Army might have for them. In true Cavalry tradition as soon as they returned home they won all sorts of sporting competitions and even the unit wives took top honors in some events involving the MP Unit wives at Fort Richardson, Alaska

I hope you all had a great 4th of July and I'll "see

Division Doings

Continued from pg. 17.

Long Knife Mortar Men Hang Rounds to Improve Crew Proficiency – Story and photo by SPC Angel Turner, 4th BCT, PAO



SPC Alexander Ward adjusts the deflection on a dismounted 120mm mortar system during live fire training, May 9, 2012.

FORT HOOD, Texas – "The mortar systems' purpose is to deliver direct, accurate, lethal fire indirectly on enemy forces so our flanking units can get through," said SFC Joe Garcia, a mortar platoon sergeant.

Soldiers assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Division, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, honed their skills on the 120 mm mortar system in a dismounted configuration during a live fire exercise May 9.

Soldiers conducted the exercise to help prepare them for a mortar system evaluation later this summer and to build proficiency

on the system they will work with in a combat environment.

With the unit's last mission to Iraq completed over nine months ago coupled with the departure of combat troops from Iraq at the end of 2011, Long Knife Soldiers are focusing their training on the possibility of having to deploy to Afghanistan.

"Today, we dismounted our gun systems to prepare for Afghanistan's terrain since we would be dismounted there," said Garcia, who is assigned to HHC, 2-12th Cav.

After receiving deflection and elevation data from the fire direction center, the mortar crews adjusted their mortar tubes and, when directed, fired rounds on the designated target location. Forward observers, watching from on top of a nearby hill, confirmed whether or not the impacts produced the desired effects on the target and relayed any needed adjustments to the fire direction center.

"This training is important because it allows these Soldiers to hone their mortar skills for real life action if deployed," said Garcia, a native of San Antonio. "It will get them faster on the gun system and allow them to better understand the system...it will give them the confidence to fire down range without second guessing themselves."

After each set of rounds fired, Soldiers raced against time to adjust the mortar tube's deflection and elevation for the next fire mission.

The fire direction center gave Soldiers simulated missions where mortar men had to remove the allotted amount of charges to range a target located 2,700 meters away.

"Each charge adds more range and distance," said PVT Austin Silvers, a mortar man assigned HHC, 2- 12th Cav. "Charge one will be the closest and charge four is the farthest away. With a charge four, you can fire up to 7,200 meters away," stated Silvers, a native of Spring, Texas.

"Thunderhorse" Soldiers of the 2-12th Cavalry Regiment fired 140 training and live rounds. The group of Soldiers learned from their mistakes and perfected their techniques and procedures.

"The more proficient you are, the more timely and accurate you will be if you have to drop rounds down on the enemy," said SPC Alexander Ward, a mortar man assigned to HHC 2-12th Cav. "In a matter of two weeks, all of us achieved a score of expert on our mortar system exam," added Ward, a native of Sidney, Ohio.

Round after round flew through the sky, cracked the air and landed a few kilometers away where notional enemy forces were located.

The Soldiers not only gained proficiency during the training event, but they also gained the knowledge needed to successfully operate in a deployed environment if and when called upon to do so.

First Team Changes Command - Excerpts from a story by SGT Kim Browne, 1st Cav. Div. PAO

FORTHOOD, Texas – This time last year the 1st Cavalry Division Headquarters celebrated the Army's birthday with a cake cutting and donning of the biggest patch in the Army to their right shoulders while deployed to Bagram, Afghanistan. This year while the Army celebrated its 237th birthday the division experienced the passing of its colors from one major general to another.

MG (promotable) Daniel Allyn passed on the reins of America's First Team to MG Anthony Ierardi in a ceremony conducted on Cooper Field on 14 June.

"It is indeed an honor and privilege to serve again with the tremendous Soldiers of the 1st Cavalry Division," Ierardi said. "We will remain focused on our mission, on care for our Soldiers and their families, and on the team of teams that is the 1st Cavalry Division."

Ierardi comes to the First Team from the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff as the director of force management. He has numerous other assignments including being a Brigade Commander and the Chief of Staff for the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea.

The new commanding general is no stranger to the First Team and Fort Hood. He served as the operations officer of the 1st Cavalry Division and also commanded the 1-7th Cavalry Regiment.

Ierardi is married to Mrs. Angela Ierardi and they have two sons.

"[Ierardi] comes to us with a wealth of experience earned during tough and diverse assignments," said LTG Don Campbell, commanding general of III Corps and Fort Hood. "I am truly excited and honored to have Tony and Angela join the III Corps and 1st Cavalry Division Teams and I look forward to serving with both of them."

Allyn carries on with his family to Fort Bragg, North Carolina to take command of the XVIII Corps.

"This is a tough day for Team Allyn, but as with every day serving America's finest, it's one filled with inspiration," Allyn said. "I am blessed to hand over the reins to an outstanding commander, a man of great intellect, vision, and proven leadership: MG Tony Ierardi."

HQ and Special Troops News

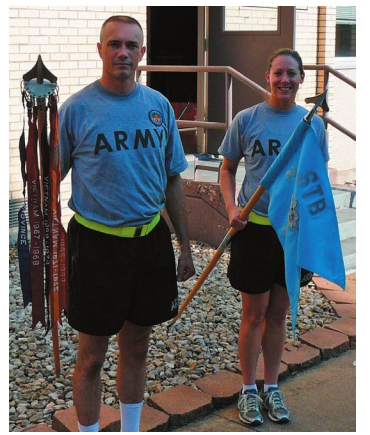


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Have you looked through the whole edition of the *Saber*? Did you find a column for the unit you served with in the Cav? If not, then you

visited with CPT Tiffany Phillips, 1SG Michael Grand and SFC (soon to be 1SG) Christine Seldon, the commander, 1SG and soon to be 1SG of Company A (MI), 2nd BSTB, 2nd BCT, 1st Cav. My tour in Vietnam was with the 191st MI Company (April '71-April '72) and my last assignment in the US Army before I retired was with the 312th MI Bn (April '82 to January '84). The 191st MI, after Vietnam, became Company B of the 312th MI Battalion. When the 312th MI Battalion was deactivated and the Brigade Support Battalions were formed, the honors of the 191st MI were passed on to Company A of the 2nd BSTB, 2nd BCT, 1st Cav. CPT Phillips unlocked a wall locker and pulled out a guidon staff with the honor streamers of the 191st MI attached to the top. CPT Phillips and I are researching the Army regulations to see if these honor streamers can be attached to the company guidon. She admitted she was unaware of the many honors held by her company. I explained to her that all the troops under her command are authorized to wear the ribbons of the honors given to the 191st MI as long as they are assigned to the Company.



A Company, 2nd BSTB Commander and 1SG with 191st MI honor streamers.

CPT Phillips and 1SG Seldon have promised to keep us advised of events of this active duty company. Another MI unit that was assigned to the 1st Cav in Vietnam was the 371st Radio Research Unit (can you say Army Security Agency?) so the honors of that unit would now be located at one of the MI companies in the support battalions of the 1st Cav brigades. I think it was company A of the 312th MI so could be the MI Company (Company A?) of the 1st Brigade's support battalion. Something for someone to look into! If any of you former 371st RRU troopers know the answer, e-mail me and I'll pass it on to the current company commander. These units should be aware of the honors carried not only by the 1st Cav Div, but by the companies and battalions that make up the 1st Cav.

Sue and I just returned from the 1st Cav Division Association reunion in Portland, Oregon (June 6-10). I understand there were about 600 old soldiers from 1st Cav at the reunion. We certainly enjoyed talking with many of them. The "Hq and Special Troops" had about 21 people at the unit lunch on Saturday, including three active duty troopers from Fort Hood. We had representatives from MI, Finance, 15th Med, a couple of Infantry units, maintenance and of course CSM (Ret) Dennis Webster was our guest speaker. I'm hoping that some of the troopers present at the unit lunch will help support this column. I'll wait and see what pictures the editor puts in this edition of the *Saber* and then post some reunion pictures later. Congratulations to the Columbia-Willamette Chapter and to the staff of the association for a job well done!

Well, all good things must come to an end. Keep those e-mails and letters coming; I need all the input into this column that I can get! May God bless and keep all of you and yours.

TAPS

- We have been notified of the death of the following:
- AGNEW**, SFC (Ret) William R., HHC, 1-12th CAV, 1968. 2 April 2012.
 - ARNDT**, SFC (Ret) Harold L., 15th ADMIN, 1966-67. 26 April 2012.
 - ARTHUR**, 1LT Thomas, A Btry and B Btry., 61st FA, 1953-55. 5 June 2012.
 - BOYLE**, CW2 Jerry M., A Trp., 1-9th CAV, 1970-71. 24 November 2011.
 - BULLOCK**, COL (Ret) Victor T., "Tom", 1CD, 1963-64/B Co., 5-7th CAV, 1967-68/HHC, 3rd BDE, 1977-78. 31 May 2012.
 - CADE**, SGT Charles E., A Co., 1-12th CAV, 1968-69. 21 June 2012.
 - CAIN**, SFC (Ret) Ronald J., HHC, DIVARTY, 1988-89. 21 June 2012.
 - CAMMANN**, SGT Robert R., Jr., D Co., 2-5th CAV, 1969-70. 7 May 2012.
 - CORY**, COL (Ret) Charles J., HHC, 1CD (FAC USAF), 1965. 16 June 2012.
 - DELL** SSG (Ret) Glenn F., 545th MP, 1967-68. 25 June 2012.
 - DUNLAP**, MSG (Ret) Charles B., A Co., 13th SIG, 1965/ C Trp., 1-9th CAV, 1966. 28 March 2012.
 - EIDSON**, SP-4 Henry R., C Co., 1-12th CAV, 1971. 21 November 2011.
 - GOWER**, LTC (Ret) Johnny K., C Trp., 1-9th CAV, 1965-66. 7 May 2012.
 - GRANBERRY**, MAJ (Ret) Glenn E., A Co., 229th AVN, 1966-67. 5 February 2012.
 - HOLTSBERRY**, CW3 (Ret) Russell J., Hvy Mortars, 7th CAV, 1950-51. 11 February 2012.
 - HOUSTON**, COL (Ret) Darrell G., C Co., 1-12th CAV, 1966. 24 March 2012.
 - KARL**, COL (Ret) Edward V., HHC, 27th MNT, 1969-70. 25 May 2012.
 - KEENEY**, CW4 (Ret) Dana Ed, B Trp., 1-9th CAV, 1969-70. 20 April 2012.
 - MAPLE**, SGT Richard L., C Det., 27th MNT, 1966-67. 5 April 2012.
 - MIRANDA**, SFC (Ret) Carlos D., 545th MP, 1969-70. 24 May 2012.
 - OERTEL**, SP-4 Lawrence D., B Co., 2-7th CAV, 1966-67. 11 May 2012.
 - RANEY**, PFC James E., HQ, 12th CAV, WWII. 8 March 2012.
 - RENNER**, SP-5 Bruce D., HHC, 1CD, 1967-68. 14 June 2012.
 - ROBERTS**, PFC Charles R., Sr., F Co., 2-7th CAV, 1950-51. 4 June 2012.
 - RUSSELL**, MSG (Ret) Gordon L., B Co., 15th MED, 1965-66 and HHC, 15th MED, 1968-69. 17 May 2012.
 - SHINALL**, SP-4 Michael L., 545th MP, 1974-76. 15 May 2012.
 - STEWART**, MSG (Ret) James S., 82nd FA, 1948-50, 77th FA, 1950-51. 14 May 2012.
 - TEATS**, SGM (Ret) Gary L., HHC, 1st BDE, 1991-92. 5 July 2012.

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:
- HOLLADAY**, SPC Jordan L., HHC, 615th ASB, 2012. 10 June 2012.
 - HOLLEY**, PFC Joshua J., HHC, 1-5th CAV, 2010-12. 9 July 2012.
 - PENNEY**, SPC Travis S., A Co., 1-8th CAV, 2011-12. 26 May 2012.
 - PIKE**, SPC Gregory J., A Trp., 6-9th CAV, 2010-12. 8 June 2012.
 - SUMNER**, SSG Donald P. Jr., 67th FSC, 2-20th FA, 2012. 16 June 2012.

We honor the passing of our friends and comrades in arms.

have found your voice right here in this column. However I cannot print what I am not sent. I need your input. Drop me a line or send me an e-mail. Ask your questions or tell us about your experiences in the Cav. This is a column for "all others" and it is your voice in the *Saber*. This is not just a Vietnam War column, we want to hear from all you troopers out there.

Tom Kjos, <tom_kjos@hotmail.com>, 9817 W Mockingbird Dr., Sun City, AZ 85373, phone is (480) 352-2583, is looking for personal stories of troopers involved in battles during the period December 6-21, 1967, pertinent to the units in 1st Brigade (and attached and support) that participated in the series of battles referred to as "Tam Quan". Tom has recently uncovered some documents at the Military National Archives in College Park, Maryland, but needs some personal stories to go with the documented facts. Tom says this is not his memoir but is a history of the battle. Tom was with Company B, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry, from November 1967 to November 1968. Read more about this effort at <http://min.us/msLVTYQei>.

I received an e-mail from Frank M. Smart, <fsmart@rocketmail.com>, who served with the Public Information Office in Nam. Frank said, "Ron, It is with great sadness that I report the death of a great 1st Cav soldier. Don Lonsway, a native of York, Maine, served with the 2nd Brigade Public Information Office in 1968-1969. Don and I served as Combat Reporters/Photographers under then MAJ Fox McCarthy and he later served under MAJ J. D. Coleman. Don was an educator when he was drafted in 1967 and he loved children, especially the Vietnamese children. He also loved being out in the field with the Sky Troopers, telling their stories for our newspaper, "The Cavalair" and taking their pictures. He formed many fast friendships with the men and officers of the units he went out with. The man was absolutely intrepid. He went to the news like a bloodhound on scent. He knew his duty and took it seriously. He returned to his beloved Maine coast after Vietnam and continued his teaching career eventually becoming a counselor. About 6 years ago, he returned to Vietnam with the Tours of Peace. He said that the burden of 37 years of PTSD was lifted from his shoulders because of that trip. Several years later he contracted Prostate Cancer, beat it once, but it came back and Agent Orange claimed another victim. Don took the story of his recovery to the public and helped many of our generation and of the younger generations understand PTSD and how to deal with it. I personally will miss Don. He had my back in the 'Nam."

Thanks for the input Frank. Frank sent some more about his duties as a combat reporter and I'll put that in future editions of the *Saber*. There are many more of you out there who served with the Brigades or with the division headquarters in various positions. This is your column! Send me your stories.

Sue and I drove down to Fort Hood, Texas, on May 21st for a "Welcome Home Vietnam Vets" ceremony hosted by III Corps and Fort Hood. We arrived the night before and at 0600



Vietnam Vets arrive by bus.

on Monday we were standing in front of the III Corps building watching representatives from all the III Corps and Fort Hood units participate in a "Corps run". I had participated in several "division runs" while assigned to the Cav back in '82-'84. Then at 0900 over 700 Vietnam vets from all the armed services gathered under tents in the III Corps parking lot and were treated to coffee, juice and cookies by the local USO. The vets were then loaded on buses and bused to the front of the III Corps headquarters where bleachers full of welcoming active duty military, wives and local dignitaries awaited.

The Vietnam vets were given the same type of "welcome home" our returning troops receive at Fort Hood today when they return from Iraq or Afghanistan. LTG Donald Campbell, III Corps and Fort Hood commanding general and GEN (Ret) Robert Shoemaker gave short but heartfelt speeches welcoming the Vietnam vets home. General Shoemaker commanded the 1-12th and the 1-9th Cavalry (which was the only air cavalry squadron in the Army at the time) in Vietnam. He returned to the U.S. and after a tour at the Pentagon, returned for his third tour of duty in Vietnam as Chief of Staff for the 1st Cavalry Division. In 1969, he became Assistant Division Commander of the 1st Cavalry Division. After the Vietnam War ended, General Shoemaker served as Commander, 1st Cavalry Division and then Commander, III Corps and Fort Hood. In 1977, GEN Shoemaker was assigned as Deputy Commander, U.S. Army Forces Command and a year later was promoted to General and became commander of FORSCOM. Since his retirement



GEN Shoemaker and LTG Campbell.

General Shoemaker resides in the Fort Hood area and is active in many community activities. He also served as the president of the 1st Cavalry Division Association from 1984-86.

LTG Campbell and all the troops at Fort Hood deserve a "well done" for putting on such a wonderful "Welcome Home!" to those 700 or more Vietnam Veterans!

On Tuesday, May 22nd, Sue and I drove back onto Fort Hood and

21st FA News



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As you read this, another annual reunion of the 1st Cav is history. If you attended, I would like to hear your impressions of the reunion as well as experiences. Unfortunately I have never attended a reunion as there always seemed to be a conflict about the time

with work before I retired and family stuff after retirement. Right now I do plan on going next year.

In regards to a reunion, a few comrades have raised the question of whether there would be enough interest in having a 1-21 reunion somewhere. I believe this was tried a few years ago but don't know the results. I understand that at the Division reunion the 1-21 attendees get together. I don't know if this is formal or just an informal gathering. I would like to hear your opinions on holding a separate 1-21 get together. Personally I think it would be a great idea. So give me your feedback.



Paul Wessman as Arty Liasion Officer 1-7 Cav.

A group of recruits going on a military charter to Fort Jackson, South Carolina. While waiting around for the departure, I struck up a conversation with a fellow recruit named Jim Engelmeier who was from the Green Tree section of Pittsburgh. Soon after that, we boarded and flew to South Carolina. We arrived at Fort Jackson late at night and were escorted to the Reception Center. There we started our initiation into the US Army. I went about getting all my gear, haircut and anything else we needed. I also spent considerable time dodging KP duty at the huge mess hall.

A day or so later, a group of us loaded on buses and met our Drill Sergeant, SSG Raymond Soulet. He was huge and imposing. He told us to shut up and remain quiet until we reached our destination, which was the Basic Training Center at Fort Gordon, Georgia. We left the bus at our training company and I looked beside me and saw Jim Engelmeier. Since there was no talking, we just acknowledged each other and ended up in the same platoon. The eight weeks of Boot Camp went drudgingly by and at graduation, Jim and I and a few others received our orders for artillery training at Fort Sill.

We all arrived at Fort Sill and were assigned to the same training battery. That time went rather quickly and soon most of us received orders for Vietnam although some guys were sent to Germany. We all said our farewells and went home on leave prior to going to Nam.

My time at home went by quickly and soon I was on my way to Fort Lewis. There we made preparations to go to Nam. I remember starting the malaria pill regimen and I think we received some immunizations. I also remember three guys in my barracks turned up AWOL and one of the guys had overheard them planning to go to Canada the next day. It was a crazy time.

When I got on the jet at SEA-TAC, I heard a familiar voice call out. It was Jim. I was glad to know I had someone to talk to on the long flight.

We flew into Bien Hoa airbase on December 4 and were assigned to a replacement company. Again Jim and I separated and went our separate ways. I ended up assigned to the 1st Cav and flew a transport plane to An Khe. While there I went to the Jungle training course. In the meantime the Division moved south to III Corps. I ended up at Quon Loi, which was the Battalion HQ. I was assigned to B Battery, 1-21. I flew out to FSB Carolyn and joined the Battery. When I landed I saw this pale looking guy walking toward the pad. Guess who? It was Jim. We couldn't believe that we ended up in the same unit again. On December 29, I was wounded in a ground attack along with my Battery CO, CPT Swain and another guy who just joined the Battery. I was out about six weeks and then rejoined the Battery at FSB Elrod. Our Battery experienced quite a lot of action in the next few months.

In June 1969, we moved to a new fire base ironically named 'Joy'. It was anything but! In the early morning of the 12th, we experienced a ground attack and Jim was KIA. I could not believe the friend that I spent my entire time in the Army with was dead. I went over to the stretcher he was laid on and said my good-byes. He was solely missed by all his fellow soldiers and they had a priest perform a memorial service for all the KIAs.



1-21 105 coming into a new firebase

with me shall be my brother".

Joe Koch, A 1-21, sent an e-mail. As you will recall Joe was featured in "How

I ended up in the 1-21..." He wrote in part: "Perhaps if you do not get many how I wound up in the Cav stories, maybe you might ask for what someone feels is a most interesting situation or story about it. I do not mean a "war story", just something interesting or a funny story. I do not know about you, but I remember the funny and interesting times the best..." This is a great idea! There is always room in this column for what we recall and I hope those of you reading this will take the lead and get the interesting and funny stories and incidents to me to share in the column.



Phuoc Vinh Division Forward HQ.

Lyle Hickman called and is seeking help. Lyle did two tours in Vietnam. The first tour with the Americal Division and his second with the Cav in HQ Battery, 1-21 (11/71-7/72). When the division redeployed to the States, Lyle volunteered to stay in country with Task Force Garry Owen and was the artillery liaison NCO with 1-7 CAV. When the Task Force was wrapping up, he got a call from someone in FDC congratulating him on a Bronze Star (Meritorious). Apparently the FDC person got the award and Lyle's name was also on the orders. When he went to battalion HQ to clear, he was told if he wanted the award he would have to come back in the afternoon as everything was locked in the safe and no one knew the combination. Shortly thereafter a seat was available on a flight out and Lyle took it thinking the award would follow him. Back in the States he finished his hitch with the 2nd AD at Fort Hood. The award never reached him and when he left the service there was nothing on his DD-214 indicating the award. If you have any information about this or any suggestions as to what Lyle can do, let me know and I'll get it to Lyle.

I heard from Jeff Campbell recently. He writes: "I was assigned to the 1-21st from 8/69 - 8/70 at the HQ medical station. I did spend some time with all the batteries relieving some of the medics for a few days to get supplies and to take a break. My main duty was at HQ to run the Battalion Aid Station. My memory fails me at times but I believe that Charles Hampton was the medic for C Battery and he may know about some of the guys from C Battery like LT Hall. I do keep in touch with Chuck." Don't know how everybody feels but I think our medics were really valuable and at times underappreciated. If any of reading this would like to get in touch with Jeff just give me your information and I'll pass it on.

The following was sent by Sam Ault who was a FO with C Battery, 1-21: "Here is a story of A Company, 1-8th Cav where I was the FO from C Battery. The Fire Support base was LZ Wescott, named for the First Sergeant of A Company KIA in April 1969. I noticed in the most recent *Saber* Frank Bingham thought he was on Westport. I have pictures of the FDC personnel on Wescott. Anyway, here is my story of a FO from C Battery 1-21st FA.

By July 1969, I had been moved from A Battery 2-19th FA to A Battery 1-21st FA. It had to do with the move from I Corp to III Corps in a flip-flop manner during 1968 and 1969. I was FO in A Company 1-8th Cav. The Company Commander was CPT Avenik. In mid July 1969, we were combat assaulted 21 kilometers from FSB Wescott which was East of Quan Loi. CPT Avenik did not tell the any platoon Leaders or me that we were attached to E Troop, 2-11th ACR. When we landed 21 Kilometers out, I went to Avenik for our location and was dumb founded that we were out of range of our supporting artillery at Wescott. The area we were located was a rolling hills lacking trees and sawgrass. From what I understood, we were walking back toward Wescott. The only fire support frequency I had was for Scarlet Guidon 8 back at Quan Loi. I could not raise them at all the first day. But the first day was the day I needed Scarlet Guideon 8.

We were strung out in a single file that you could see entirely with no cover. We crossed a hill and met 8-foot sawgrass on the other side. Shortly the point spotted a NVA soldier squatting so we would not see him. His helmet gave away his location. The point platoon sent the NVA back to the CPT Avenik. To our right and about 500 yards a wooded area was located. We started taking machine gun fire from the wood line. The CP dropped down in an open area behind a large fallen tree. 52 Caliber bullets were chopping away at the log. I tried to reach Scarlet Guideon 8 but they never answered. I began changing channels and came across a conversation between a Radio Relay and another party. BREAK BREAK FIRE MISSION IN CONTACT. HELP! Someone heard us and we got a 155 SP Battery on the move to shoot for us. I began bringing 155 on the wood line and the enemy continued to fire RPGs and machineguns. Suddenly 82mm mortar rounds began falling in the CP area. I was nearly hit by one. We never heard the mortar firing because of the noise. As things would be, the mortar rounds were without fuses. What luck. I should be dead along with the CP personnel, but the inexperience of the NVA saved us that day. In the distance, we began to hear tanks and APCs moving closer. Suddenly APCs began coming down on us and could not see us since we were prone on the ground. Luckily I began waving a flag and they spotted us before driving over us. When they arrived, our battle was over and the tanks and APCs drove in to the woodline with guns blasting. After 30 minutes or more the APCs came out and made a circular defensive position for there night location. We returned back up the hill from where we came and dug in. My FO Team took up behind a downed tree for added cover. We could look down on the ACAVs in their circle of tracks like in a Western. At about 0100 hours, all hell broke loose at the ACAVs. They responded to the attack by firing 50 caliber MGs in all direction. Suddenly we were being strafed by the ACAVs as bullets struck the ground and hit the downed tree. The Captain was able to stop the firing on us. The next morning, I was told we were headed for a pickup point; a 7 ship LZ and were headed for LZ Wescott. That was the second most difficult day in the life of an FO that I experience in Vietnam. Thanks for sharing Sam. I know many who are reading this can relate.

When you read this, summer will be nearly over. I hope yours was enjoyable.



HONOR ROLL

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In Memory of PFC William Henry WHITE, A Btry. 1-30 FA, KIA 23 July 1968, Danang, Biah Dinh Province RVN.
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In Honor of CSM (RET) Charles F. Davidson, my hometown friend.
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The First Team Family Cares!
 We are grateful for your support of the Association's D Troop Program and for supporting the Foundation and Museum Foundation.

VETERANS DAY 2012 IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Join us in the Washington, DC area to celebrate our day, Veterans Day. The 1st Cavalry Division Association and the National Capitol Region Chapter will sponsor our annual Veterans Day Hospitality Suite and Gift Shop for all present and former First Team members and their families at the Crowne Plaza Washington National Airport Hotel. The Hospitality Room will be open from Friday, 9 November to Sunday, 11 November 2012.

The hotel is located at 1480 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202. The 1st Cav Division Association room rate is \$119 for a single or double room plus tax (10.25%). We have contracted for complimentary parking at the hotel for guests of the hotel. Call the Crowne Plaza directly at (800) 227-6963 (800-2CROWNE) or do it on-line by going to <<http://www.crowneplaza.com/redirect?path=hd&brandCode=cp&localeCode=en®ionCode=1&hotelCode=WASNA&PMID=99801505&GPC=CAL>> to make your reservations. Be sure to tell them that you want the special "1st Cavalry Division" guaranteed rate. Room reservations MUST be made before Thursday, 9 October 2012 in order to receive the discounted rate. We have some rooms blocked for the evening of 8 November and on Monday 12 November to accommodate your travel arrangements.

Wreath laying ceremonies will be conducted at the Memorials for World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. The Ceremony at the Vietnam Wall is planned for 1300 and the times for the World War II and Korean War Memorial have not been set yet. The Honor Guard of the 1st Cavalry Division will be present as part of the ceremony at the Vietnam Memorial Ceremony.

Join us in honoring our veterans on Veterans Day in DC.

The Director's Chair Continued from pg. 1.

in positions on our Board of Governors, Trustees of the Foundation or Museum Foundation, and as a Vice President or President. One of these Troopers resigned from his position on the Museum Foundation prior to our February meeting because of deteriorating health. LTC (Ret) Robert W. "Bob" Tagge was recently diagnosed with two different forms of cancer and while the prognosis is very poor he is fighting and doing what he can to get out of the hospital and back home. Bob was a long serving member of our Board of Governors and a driving force in organizing the Museum Foundation and served as their first Executive Trustee. He also played a major roll in the fund raising and construction of the Division Memorial which was dedicated in 2005 honoring those who served in Iraq. Bob also wrote the 77th FA News in *Saber* until his eyesight began failing and made it too difficult for him. Please keep Bob in your thoughts and prayers.

Our agreement with USAA to provide credit cards and other financial and insurance services to our members has been working well. There are some issues with property insurance in some states that are regular recipients of severe weather but the company and its employees have been easy to work with on the few issues that have been raised by members. If you haven't signed up for a credit card with our logo on it you are missing a great opportunity to support your Association since we get paid for all who sign up and receive money from every purchase that you make on that card. I use mine exclusively for pleasure and business to help pay my own salary. There is more information on our web page.

I hope that your summer goes well and that we will see you in DC for Veterans Day. That's enough for this issue. First Team!

4th ANNUAL VETERANS DAY DINNER

The National Capitol Region Chapter in conjunction with the 1st Cavalry Division Association will host the 4th Annual First Team Veterans Day Dinner on Sunday evening, 11 November 2012 at the Crowne Plaza Washington National Airport Hotel, 1480 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Virginia. The speaker is still being coordinated and will be announced as soon as it is confirmed.

A cash bar will open at 1800 and a plated dinner begins at 1900 hours. For dinner reservations please send \$45 per ticket to the 1st Cavalry Division Association, 302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703. In order to ensure that you have tickets, full payment must be received by us no later than 22 October, 2012. Please do not wait until October to reserve your tickets. We urge you to send in your reservations and check or credit card number as early as possible. We can only accept VISA or MASTERCARD. Please ensure that your card number and expiration dates are written correctly. Please provide your name, address, unit you served with and the name(s) of your guests with your payment. Tickets will be available for pickup in the 1st Cav Division Association Hospitality Suite or at the door to the banquet room. Seating is limited due to the size of the room. We must make final coordination with the hotel before the event and we may not be able to accommodate late registrations.

**4th ANNUAL 1st CAVALRY DIVISION
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