



SABER

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



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MAY/JUNE 2016

The President's Corner



James R. Stokely
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As this will be my last column as your President in the Saber, I want to tell you what an honor and pleasure it has been. This is a great organization and I am

proud to have represented you the past two years. The time has really flown by. I wish nothing but the best for the association and your incoming president, Scott Smith. Please give him the same support you gave me.

By the time you read this, the annual reunion in Las Vegas will be in short final or possibly history. I hope everyone had a good time, renewed old friendships, and made new ones, especially if you were lucky enough to make contact with someone you actually served with while in the service. As I have said before, fellowship is what these reunions are all about, and should be the primary function of the association. In addition, taking care of the children of our troopers in the form of scholarships, is also important. Yes, the officers and board members need to take care of our finances. That's important to and a big responsibility. In the end though, I hope that translates into providing something the average trooper can relate to.

On a new subject, by the time you read this, we may have a new executive director. The search committee has recommended a candidate to replace CSM Webster who is retiring. The board of governors had to approve the candidate recommended. Hopefully, it is a "done deal" I want to thank Dennis for his support the last two years. I may have been president, but he did all major work running the day to day operations of the association.

Looking forward to activities for the rest of the year, keep Veterans Day activities in Washington, DC on your calendar. The William A. Richardson National Capital Chapter of the association does a great job, including a hospitality room and a banquet on Veteran's Day. Details are elsewhere in the saber and on the website at 1cda.org. We will honor are fallen troopers at the WWII, Korea, and Vietnam memorials. And, we should also honor our veterans who served in Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Panama, and more recently Korea again whether you were in combat or not. Remember, Korea is still in a state of cease fire since 1953 and a dangerous area of the world. And, as I have stated before, be proud to be part of the 1%. The 1% or less of the total population, who ever served in the military? Thank you for your service! In any case, no matter where you are at, pay tribute to our veterans in your own way.

Personally, as for me, I look forward to my annual trek to Kokomo, Indiana the third weekend in September for the Vietnam and all veterans reunion. I have attended this reunion every year since 1999.

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THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR



Dennis E. Webster
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This will be my last time writing the Director's Chair for *SABER*. My replacement has been identified and will be

announced at the reunion in Las Vegas. The President appointed a committee to search for a new Executive Director and we had several applicants. The Committee recommended, and the Board of Governors, in a vote via e-mail approved their recommendation. I will remain with the Association for a couple of months getting everything turned over and helping to train new folks but I won't be sitting in the Director's Chair.

My time in the chair began on 1 June 2002 and is ending a bit over 14 years later. I have said numerous times that I've never had the same job for 14 years before and that is a true statement. Although I was in the Army for a bit over 30 years my job or position in the Army changed every two or three years until my last assignment which lasted for 4 years.

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Horse Detachment by CPT Jeremy A. Woodard

This edition of News from the barn is written by one of our Troopers who works in the Horse Cavalry Detachment Boot Shop and is submitted for your enjoyment.

"We Bring Boots to Life" by SPC Benjamin Wurtz

Since 1995, the Horse Cavalry Detachment has been sending unit members to learn how to make modern western style boots. The troopers then take the knowledge of making western boots and use newly acquired skills to make and maintain the iconic 19-inch Cavalry riding boots that our troopers wear while riding. Custom boot making is much more than a trade. It's a form of art!

Boot school is based out of Saint Jo, Texas and taught by a world-renowned, third generation boot maker, Carlton "Carl" T. Chappell. Mr. Chappell specializes in making custom, made-to-measure, handmade, cowboy boots. People from around the globe attend his class which is held multiple times throughout the year. Students learn to take fourteen different measurements of the foot and calf, which are crucial to the custom fit of the boot. After the measurements are taken, the boot making process begins and takes approximately 45 hours from start to finish.

The iconic 19 inch Cavalry riding boot dates all the way back to the 1800's. Horses are capable of navigating through thick debris, brush, and trees, but without the protection provided by a tall boot, the rider's legs and feet were prone to injury. Enter the 19 inch Cavalry riding boot worn by Cavalry troopers of old, and carried on through the Horse Detachment's commitment to maintaining the standards of drill and traditions of the 1800's.

Although a store-bought boot may be time-efficient, custom boots are well-worth the wait. Sending a trooper to attend boot school is much more cost-efficient, and making and maintaining boots saves the Army money. The Detachment can make a pair of 19 inch boots for about \$100, where as an authentic style, quality Cavalry riding boot will cost \$500 or more. Additionally, a pair of handmade boots from the Detachment typically last 4 to 6 years. The troopers' boots rotate monthly through the detachment's leather shop for inspection and repair to ensure each boot is mission-capable.

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SPC Benjamin Wurtz

DIVISION DOINGS

First Team Engineers Place in Best Sapper Competition by MAJ Junel Jeffrey and SGM Daniel Kelch, 3rd ABCT PAO

FORT HOOD, Texas -- Into the woods and through a lake with 85-pound rucksacks on their backs is how 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, "Greywolf," engineer teams conquered the Best Sapper Competition April 22 at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.



CPT William Whitfield (left) moves forward while CPT Michael McLaughlin stuffs a wet poncho back inside his partner's rucksack following a raft event where the pair swam across a man-made lake carrying 85-pound bags during the Best Sapper Competition.

Often described as the Army Engineer Corps Olympic-level test, the competition measures resiliency, physical and mental stamina, and technical and tactical proficiency.

Two teams from the 3rd Brigade Engineer Battalion, 3ABCT, 1st Cavalry Division, vied for the title of top combat engineer. When it was all said and done, one Fort Hood team blew away the competition.

While 48 teams travelled from across the country to Fort Leonard Wood to

Continued on pg. 5

ADDRESS
CHANGE

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

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

2016

November 9-13 Veterans Day and Veterans Day Dinner, Washington, DC

2017

February 24-25 Meeting of the Board of Governors and Foundation

June 7-11 70th Annual Reunion Fort Hood, TX

TAPS

We have been notified of the death of the following:

ANDERSEN, T-4 Robert V., B Trp., 7th CAV, 1942-45. 29 March 2016.
ANKONY, SSG Robert C., E Co., 52nd INF, 1967-68. 19 March 2016.
ARDEN, SGT Richard E., H Co., 75th INF, 1969-70. 20 April 2016.
ASHBY, 1SG (Ret) Pierre W., A Co., 1-7th CAV, 1968-69. 21 March 2016.
BERENATO, PFC Anthony, C Trp., 12th CAV, 1945-46. 7 January 2016.
BERTALAN, CPL Frederick, SVC Co., 12th CAV, 1947-48. 2 November 2015.
GILES, COL (Ret) George R., A Co., 227th AHB, 1967. 12 March 2016.
GOOD, SP5 Benjamin F., Jr., B Co., 1-5th CAV, 1968-69. 26 March 2016.
IRIZARRY, SGM (Ret) Edgar R., C Co., 2-5th CAV, 1965-66. 16 April 2016.
JAMES, SGT Charles Ric, HHC, 1CD, 1963; C Co., 1-8th CAV, 1964. 9 April 2016.
LAMBERT, SP4 William A., C Btry., 1-30th FA, 1969-70. 24 February 2016.
LAZARES, CW5 (Ret) Michael D., E Btry., 82nd FA, 1967-68. 21 March 2016.
LEVA, SGT James T., A Co., 1-12th CAV, 1965-66. 27 April 2016.
MacDONALD, SFC (Ret) Allan A., B Trp., 5th CAV, 1939-46; E Co., 7th CAV, 1950-51. 13 April 2016.
MARTIN, MAJ Fred F. "Pink", HQ, 61st FA, 1943-45; DIVARTY, 1945. 3 April 2016.
NEWBERRY, CPT (Ret) Claude Hollis, C Trp., 12th CAV, 1942-45. 7 April 2016.
PERRIEN, SSG Charles W., G Trp., 7th CAV, 1941-45. 22 March 2016.
PIERCE, COL (Ret) Edward M., HHC, 1-7th CAV, 1967-68. 1 May 2016.
POZNICK, COL Andrew T., HHC, 3rd BCT, 2005-06; HHC, 1-12th CAV, 2010-12. 20 March 2016.
QUICK, SFC (Ret) Donald E., D Co., 5-7th CAV, 1968-69. 16 February 2016.
SHIFFLETT, MSG (Ret) Franklin D., HHC, 3-10th CAV, 1983-84. 25 April 2016.
SMITH, MG (Ret) James D., HHC, 1-8th CAV, 1967, HHC, 2nd BDE, 1967-68. 18 March 2016.
TUNNEY, PFC Edward J., F Co., 2-8th CAV, 1952-53. 22 September 2016.

ACTIVE DUTY TAPS

We have been notified of the death of the following Active Duty Troopers assigned or attached to the 1st Cavalry Division in the United States:

LEWIS, SSG Steven D., HHC, 1-12th CAV, 2013-16. 22 March 2016.
STOBBE, SGT John A. "Drew", D Co., 2-12th CAV, 2005-14; C Co., 1-8th CAV, 2014-16. 1 May 2016.

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

NEW MEMBERS

SPC ALLENBRAND KENNETH KS A 2- 12C 70
SGT ALVAREZ ENRIQUE M. CA A 1- 8ENG 8602
PVT ASHER HARRIS W. VA 15MED 6611
SGT BAVOR JEROME THOM JR. TX C 2- 8C 6806
SGT BAKER LARRY AZ b 2- 12C 6906
SP-4 BIRCH RICHARD L. OR D 1- 7C 6702
SP-6 BOHNEMANN RICHARD CA HHC 1- 7C 6909

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SABER

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Home Page: <http://www.1cda.org>

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ASSISTANT EDITOR: Karleen Maloney

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Dennis E. Webster

ARTICLE SUBMISSION

Manuscripts should be originals or clear copies, either typed or printed in near-letter quality printer mode. Word processor submissions are accepted via e-mail. Attach a self-adhesive label with photo information to the back of photos and cut lines for each photo. Include name and address if the photo is to be returned. 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.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

This is Ralph H. Jones, Life Associate member, I served with the Proud Americans 2/32nd FA in Vietnam.



Constitution memorial Park, Fort Sill, OK

and 179 Purple Hearts earned.

There are books about this that have been published, they are: Into Cambodia, Incursion, and Fire Base Illingworth but none of them told the true story in my estimation.

I went to Vietnam from March 28-April 5, 2008 and conducted a ceremony on the spot of what was FSB Illingworth and got soil from that location. In 2010, I delivered framed pictures which included dirt from FSB Illingworth to the 1st Cavalry Division Public Relations, the 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry and later gave one to my unit, Proud Americans 2nd Battalion, 32nd FA which was then at Fort Riley, Kansas but is now with the 101st Airborne in Fort Campbell, Kentucky. The 1st Cavalry Division units I visited honored me for what I have done; the pictures are hung on their walls!

I have been making donations to the 1st Cavalry Division Association each year since to honor those men who died.

The tragedy about this Baiting Operation, besides the number of dead and wounded, is that none of the 1st Cavalry Division units that fought in these battles have been honored with any unit awards. LTC Mike Conrad commanded 2/8 Cavalry at Illingworth and retired after commanding the 1st Cavalry Division was once asked by a reporter about unit awards and I think he said that going into Cambodia took over his thoughts and unit awards were not processed.

So, for the last 14 years, I have been honoring these brave, young, American Soldiers!

God Bless,

Ralph Jones, PO Box 498964, Cincinnati, OH 45249-8964

Dear Editor,

Please forgive my poor hand writing but at age 88, not much remains physically that one can control.

I just received my copy of SABER. I tried to decipher the article on combat awards. My period of service was 1951-53 with Battery A, 77th FA, 1st Cavalry Division. I served as a Forward Observer. My first assignment was with the Greeks, next with K Company of the 7th CAV, and finally with a company of Korean Infantry. All of my time was spent on the line with the Infantry.

In the awards article, I didn't see anything including Forward Observers. FO's served with the Infantry in battle and non-combat. I served in combat.

I have tried to get FO's recognized through the VFW, but with no luck due to the Infantry commanders not wanting to include FO's with their award.

I did not see where the Combat Action Badge included the Korean FO's.

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CHAPTER NEWS

NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY CHAPTER



Paul Hanson wearing "Peace symbol" and Bob Arbasetti.

At the New York- New Jersey Chapter Spring meeting we held a DD-214 review and discussion. We looked at DD-214 and the information that it contains and what might be missing. For example, any awards that may be missing. We went over what the SPN codes mean and how to search for your military records, both personal and unit, and how to find where we were in Vietnam.

Congratulations to SGM (Ret) Paul Hanson who earned his doctorate in educational leadership Ed.D. Paul is a Vietnam Veterans who served on Dusters and served with the 1st Cavalry Division as the Division Operations Sergeant Major at Fort Hood prior to his retirement.

Keep up with Chapter events by getting on Facebook <New York New Jersey Cavalry>. Bob Arbasetti, President

WILLIAM A. RICHARDSON NATIONAL CAPITOL CHAPTER

The Chapter is having a Mongolian Barbecue at "Casa de Russell," the home of the Chapter President, on 21 May and is looking forward to the 10th Annual Katz's Deli event at Walter Reed in June. The Chapter is also looking forward to hosting the Veterans Day gathering and Veterans Day Dinner this year. A hospitality room and small souvenir shop will be set up from 9-11 November in the Crowne Plaza Washington National Airport Hotel located at 1480 Crystal Drive in Arlington, Virginia. The Crowne Plaza will also be the site of the 8th Annual Veterans Day Dinner on 11 November. We will assist the National Headquarters in posting wreaths at the World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam Memorials on Veterans Day as usual. Gene Russell, President.

WALTER H. WESTMAN NORTHLAND CHAPTER

The Chapter's May meeting on 14 May will be history by the time this issue of SABER gets mailed out but we have many other things going on and hope that you can join us. We hope that you may be able to volunteer at one or more of the upcoming Gun and Knife Shows to help get donations to send grocery cards to Minnesota's Family Assistance Centers to help the Minnesota National Guard Troopers and their families. This program has donated \$164,220 over the years that we've been doing it and it does make a difference. Information on this program was included in the May *Horse Soldier*. Upcoming Gun Shows are: July 16-17 Brooklyn Park Armory, July 30-31 Hastings Armory, and August 6-7 Anoka Ice Arena. If you can volunteer at one or more of these shows, contact Don Delsing. Don Delsing, President

Letters to the Editor

Continued from pg. 2

Maybe your group can explore this overlook and help recognize the contribution that we gave to the Infantry units.

Sincerely,

James H. Liddell, 2000 Newark Ln. Unit F302, Thompsons Station, TN 37179-9625

Editors Note: Everyone knows that the Forward Observers have for many years shared the dangers of ground combat with the Infantry and not been eligible to receive the CIB. With more and more units doing Infantry type missions in the War on Terror the Combat Action Badge was brought into being to recognize their actions. Current FO's are eligible to receive the CAB but the Army specifically excluded retroactive awards of the CAB for those that served in previous wars. The Association had similar issues with the Air Assault Badge which is not awarded retroactively to the men that pioneered air mobile operations in the 1st Cavalry Division in Vietnam. It also cannot be retroactively awarded.

Dear Editor



First off, thank you for this generous scholarship. The grant will definitely aid me in my education and help me reach my goals of becoming an audio engineer. This scholarship means that my grandfather's valiant efforts will not go forgotten or unnoticed. It makes me proud to be able to carry on his legacy through the next four years of my education. Because of this grant I am able to continue my education and achieve my goals, and for that I am thankful. Z

Sincerely,
Lucas Fisher

The President's Corner

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This outdoor and Woodstock type event is a lot of fun and sort of reminds you of being back in "the Nam" again. Also, as a 12th CAV trooper, I will attend the annual 12th Cavalry mini-reunion in Branson in September as well. Branson is one of the most veteran friendly areas in the country. They pull out all of the stops!

And, as a final note, may god bless you, and again thank you for your service. May he also continue to bless the United States of America? We as a people are truly blessed. Hope to see you somewhere! Live the legend, First Team.....Jim

Horse Detachment

Continued from pg. 1

Custom boots are essential to the daily missions of a detachment trooper due to their durability and the ability to tailor to all sorts of foot sizes and shapes.

If you'd like to see our troopers in action wearing the 19 inch Cavalry riding boot, come visit the Horse Cavalry Detachment during our public mounted Cavalry demonstrations held every Thursday at 10:00 am. Our troopers are standing by every day of the week to provide guided barn tours to patrons that wish to visit our facility to include a tour through the unit's leather shop. The barn is located behind the Visitor's Center just outside of the Fort Hood main gate. Come check us out.

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 _____

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\$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 or print.
\$100 makes you a D-Troop member plus a one year subscription and you receive a First Team 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 _____
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 Address _____
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 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

CHARLES RIC JAMES – 7 January 1944 – 9 April 2016

Charles Ric James, 72, who has served as a member of the Association Board of Governors since 2014 and as a Foundation Trustee since 2013 died unexpectedly on 9 April 2016 in Bremerton, Washington.

Ric was appointed to the Foundation to serve out the remainder of the term of Charles M. McKinney and elected in his own right to serve as a Trustee at the 2015 reunion. He was elected to serve on the Board of Governors at the 2014 reunion. Ric served several years as the Treasurer of the Northwest Chapter of the Association before becoming involved at the national level.

While his health has been declining Ric had traveled to Fort Hood for the February meetings of the Board of Governors and Foundation Trustees after being unable to attend the 2015 reunion for health issues. Despite his illness, he still participated in the meetings via a conference call.

Ric served with 1st Cavalry Division in Korea in 1963 and 1964 first as the driver for the Division G-4 Sergeant Major and later with C Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry serving on the Korean DMZ. He served in Vietnam with 120th Aviation Company. He spent five years on active duty and an additional five years with the National Guard.

No funeral arrangements have been announced.

Director's Chair

Continued from pg. 1

I hope that the transition of Executive Directors is as easy and transparent as it was when I took over from Art Junot. Art was a true professional and while he was only a few miles away and always answered my phone calls and questions; he had the sense to let me learn the job with minimal guidance. That's important for people like me and I expect my replacement would appreciate the same consideration from me.

The real joy of this job has been getting to know the membership. We have over 28,000 members and while I don't know them all, I do know many of them and have spent time with many of them at reunions, Veteran Day gatherings, Chapter meetings, and answered numerous phone calls and questions over the

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61st FA News



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(760) 918-0470
Gordonc@DLSea.Net



This issue of Saber should be getting to you in mid-June, and I hope you are or will be enjoying a great Father's Day (also hope you didn't forget Mother's Day in May).

In mid-March we received this news from Bill McSpadden... "I have an appointment with a couple of specialists at Cleveland Clinic, Florida tomorrow. Then I have a couple more appointments there on March 6th. Hopefully, they will be able to diagnose my problems and get me on the road to recovery. Down to about 140 lbs. Blair is going with me. Please keep us in your prayers. Love, B&B." Our best wishes for you, Bill.

In late March I talked at some length with a Tommy Moser who lives in Oklahoma. Tommy was with the 61st in Japan for a while in 1950 or so and left the Far East from Korea in January, 1952. He had quite a career in there with the 1st Cav and then the 24th Division, among others. He also worked with the 12th Regiment and was interested in the Cav's move to Hokkaido and then Honshu in 1954. He had a book titled "The 1st Cavalry Division, Korea June 1950 to January 1952" and we discussed a few of the items in it that he was familiar with. He's been a member of the 1st Cav Division Association for a long time and enjoys the Saber. I didn't join the Cav and the 61st until late 1954, a month or two after the Toya Maru disaster, so I couldn't provide much help to Tommy, but did enjoy conversing with him. Tommy will be turning 87 in June and if anyone wants to talk with him, his phone number is 405-732-3398. I later learned from Dennis Webster at the Division Association HQ, that the Cav completed the move to Hokkaido in December of 1951. Tommy didn't have that info and couldn't remember exactly when it occurred.

Received this nice item from Ted Covington in April... "To all my "puter" buddies, as some of you know, I just turned 96. At 96 with all that experience, I know what I should do. Problem is, I can't do it. God bless you and yours, Ted Covington." Great to hear that you've made it to 96, Ted. Congratulations and just keep on doing what you're doing.

Also in April, we got the sad news from Dennis that Fred "Pink" Martin had passed away on April 3rd. Pink had supplied us with any number of interesting items and stories through the years and we'll miss his cheerful emails and photos of his days with the 61st. Pink had served with the 61st from 1943 to 1945. RIP, Pink.

Also in April, we had a nice telephone chat with Grady Tucker. He's organizing a Chitose-Younguns Group reunion at Miramar Beach in Florida in mid-November. Miramar Beach appears to be right along the gulf on state route 98, just east of Fort Walton Beach. Right now my guess is that you could fly into Mobile, Alabama, Tallahassee, Panama City or Pensacola. In any event, Grady will be passing along more detailed information on the hotel (and prices), the reunion agenda, etc. when it starts firming up. So save the mid-November time frame! For more information you can call Grady at 850-835-5444 or send him a note at <gtuckerjr27@gmail.com>. Grady also mentioned that he had talked to Bob Kagamida in Hawaii and that Bob was just doing okay and not up to any travel these days. That's about what I found when I contacted Bob during our last visit to Hawaii a couple of years ago.

On an entirely different note, my wife and I are in the midst of planning a vacation trip to Italy. We leave in late-May. We should be returning home to Carlsbad just about the time this issue of the Saber is getting to you. We're flying via British Airways from Los Angeles to Rome, via London. We'll pick up a car at the airport and drive southeast about six hours to a little town called Metaponto on the Mediterranean Sea. We have a timeshare condo there for a few days. From there it's about a three-hour drive to the Amalfi area along the west coast where we'll spend a few days just doing all the things a good tourist should do. After that relaxing week, we'll drive back to Rome and pick up a 12-day tour of Italy ending in Venice. We'll catch a flight home from there. Looking forward to a relaxing three-weeks away from this hectic retirement life in Carlsbad.

Unfortunately Pat Stewart had to undergo some eye surgery and she and Bill weren't able to attend the May 2-5 reunion for the 61st FA Bn Association they had planned for Branson, Missouri. Not sure if anyone went ahead and showed up, but if you did, please drop me a line or give me a call and let me know who attended, what you did, etc.

We also received a poem (from Blair, I'm assuming) along with a photo of Bill McFadden. Bill is in bed, looking a bit peaked and her note told us they were going back to the Cleveland Clinic. Hopefully, by the time this gets to you, he'll be feeling much better. Our thoughts are with you!

This from Peter O'Brien in mid-April... "Hi Gordon, I've been getting some health care from the VA in Brockton, Massachusetts for about 5 years now. Obama Care scared me into joining VA. The other health needs are met by



Bill McFadden

Mass General Hospital, Mass Eye and Ear and Brigham and Women's hospitals. I have two Primary Care doctors, one at VA and the other at Brigham. I get excellent care from all of the above, including the VA, but in view of the criticism of VA care lately, I'd be interested to hear what other 61ers have experienced in their parts of the world. Maybe just three categories would cover it: Very Good, Good, Not Good., without going in to specifics. So my rating for Greater Boston would be Very Good. Otherwise all is well here in Foxboro Massachusetts. The snow from a week or so has gone and now. Best regards to all, Peter O'Brien." Peter's phone is 508-543-8402, his email is <book.man@verizon.net> and his address is PO Box 133, Foxboro, MA 02035.

Had an email from Pete Coppock and a call from Harry Olson requesting one of those 1st Cavalry/61st FA Bn hats shown in the last Saber. Had a nice chat with Harry. They were winding up their winter stay in Florida and were about to leave for their summer place in Michigan. He had some kind words regarding this column and encouraged me to keep it going. I'll try, but it is getting harder and harder to find material. I was able to get a hat into the mail for each one of them. Hope they get there in decent condition. If they don't, I'm sure they'll let me know!

The last issue of the Saber was also notable in that Jim Miller (now 86), who's been writing the 99th FA Bn column for some time, is calling it quits. His article in this issue will be his last one. The 99th was deactivated in 1957, as was our

61st. He also noted that, like us, they don't have all that many members any more. Haven't yet heard if someone else is going to take over the column or whether the 99th FA Bn Saber input is ending. In any event, Jim, thanks for all your contributions to the Saber over the years. Wishing you all the best.

In late April we also got a call from Bill Fancher. He's an old 61st FA Bn guy from way back in 1941-45 days! Bill had also seen the photo of the Bill Stewart 1st Cav/61st FA Bn hats in the last Saber and wanted one too. Bill lives out in Escondido, just about 15 miles east of Carlsbad. I rode the motorcycle out there and got Bill his hat.



Bill Fancher

And here he is. Bill is 96 now and he tells me that he's had some problems with shingles and pneumonia since I last saw him in 2013, but doing okay these days. He also said he's only got one eye and one ear working. They must be working pretty well as we didn't have any problems conversing. We talked about the old days when he first joined the 1st Cav and the 61st in 1941. They had horses then to pull the French 75s and Bill was a driver of a six-horse team. Later in late '42 or early '43 he transferred to HQ Battery and manned a 50 caliber machine gun for battery perimeter defense. He had made buck sergeant when he was discharged in 1945, just after the A-bombs in August. All in all it was a pleasant way to spend an hour and I really enjoyed seeing Bill again.

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

New Members

Continued from pg. 2

MR. CAMPBELL MICHAEL A. TX 1- 7C 87
CW4 CLARK HAROLD WA HHC 11AVNGP 6612
SPC CLARK TRAVIS MO E 2- 7C 1005
E-4 COLLIER WILLIAM H. JR UT D 2- 7C 8412
E-5 COMBS THOMAS W. TX B 2- 8C 9301
E-4 COX JAMES ANDRE NC 43CSG 9011
E-5 DALTON KENNETH J. SR. TX 229AVN 8303
SPC DAREING JESSICA L. TX B 1- 227AVN 1308
E-5 DAVIS LAWRENCE CA 12C 67
SFC DE GEORGE PATRICK J. IL F 202ADA 0311
MR DE SANCTIS MICHAEL B. DC 1361 1- ASSOC
E-5 DENISON KEITH H. CA 27MNT 6904
CPT DIES KENNETH P. TX C 1- 9C 6903
DUNNE DENNIS A FL B 2- 12C 6904
SFC DURHAM KEVIN M TX 1CDA 1505
SPC EGGLESTON CHASE T. TX HHC 2- 5C 1411

2LT FETTER BENJAMIN PA B 115FSB 1503
LTC (RET) FETTER MARK PA HHC 1CDA 0707
FLANNIGAN LARRE R WA B 2- 12C 6903
LTC (RET) FOWLER GARY STERLIN TX C 229avn 7003
1SG FULLER MICHAEL E. TX A 227AVN 0814
SGM GANN JERRY WA 2- 12C 6901
1LT GAYHEURT GLEN M. NC D 2- 7C 6707
SGM GOLABEK MICHAEL J. TX HHC 1CDA 1013
CPT GORDON WILLIAM H. VA HHC 1- 8ENG 70
SPC GREELEY DOMINIQUE TX 2- 15BSB 1003
E-5 GREENHOOD WILLIAM D. IN D 1- 7C 6511
SGT HAPPEL GARY C. MO B 2- 8C 6704
SFC HATTON RHONDA LA HHC 1- 2C 0601
E-5 HEINZE KODY TX B 1- 12C 1306
SP-4 HOOKER WAYNE B. KS 15ADM 6607
E-5 IRBY THOMAS L. SR TX A 2- 12C 6703E-5
MR. JACKSON DANNY F. VA C 1- 30FA 7008

Continued on pg. 12



5th CAV News



The 5th Cavalry is still looking for a scribe to write the 5th Cavalry News in SABER. We need someone to take over gathering information and writing a column every two months. It isn't too much work and it will help keep Veterans and our active duty Troopers of the 5th Cavalry involved and informed.

What does it take to write for *SABER*? A computer and an internet connection are the first things so you can get input from 5th Cavalry Veterans and the internet, to put into the column, compose the article, and then send it via email to the Association who does an edit and puts it in the paper. You don't have to have a degree in journalism or any experience but you do have to have a love for the 5th Cavalry and the 1st Cavalry Division to want to tell the story.

This issue our 5th Cav News is again being written by Dennis Webster, the current Executive Director of the 1st Cavalry Division Association.



SFC (Ret) Allan A. MacDonald

The 5th Cavalry lost one of our oldest Veterans recently. SFC (Ret) Allan MacDonald, who enlisted at age 16 and served with G Troop, 5th Cavalry, died at his home in Marina, California on 13 April 2016 at the age of 92. Allan began his service when the 5th Cavalry Regiment was mounted on horses and served with them through World War II and during the occupation of Japan. He later served with the 7th Cavalry during the Korean War, but he owed his allegiance to the 5th Cavalry. Allan was on the Division's Mounted Honor Guard during numerous ceremonies in Tokyo during the first couple of years after the war. Allan was a Charter member of the 1st Cavalry Division Association signing up as a Life member in 1943 on the Admiralty Islands. Not all who served with the Division during World War II are Charter members and that makes Allan even more special. He often attended reunions of the Association primarily when they were held at Fort Hood because he loved to be around the active duty Troopers and the Horse Detachment. "Old Bill" as he was often referred to retired from the Army at Fort Ord and worked civil service for 21 years. He owned his own horses and kept them at the Fort Ord Riding Club (now the Marina Equestrian Center). He is survived by his second wife of 21 years, Yasuko and four daughters, five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. Old Soldiers never die, they just fade away.

A little of the 5th Cavalry Regiment's history at the end of World War II when Allan MacDonald was serving with them follows.

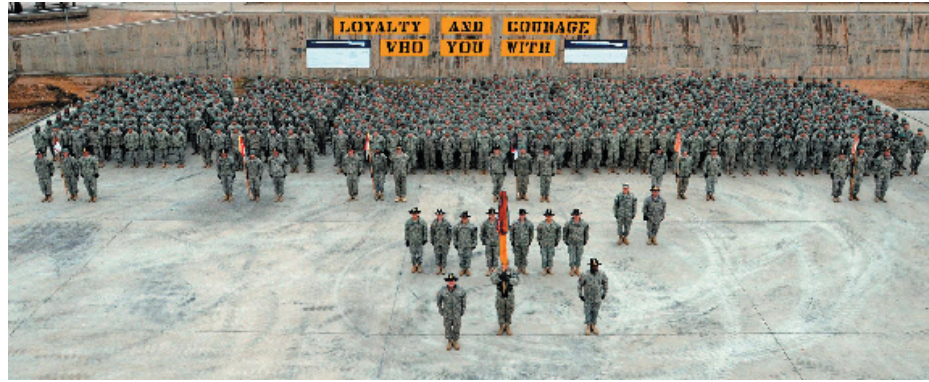
The first mission of the division after moving into Tokyo in September 1945 was to assume control of the city. On 16 September, the 1st Cavalry Division was given responsibility for occupying the entire city of Tokyo and the adjacent parts of Tokyo and Saitama Prefectures. The command posts of the 1st Brigade, 5th Cavalry and 12th Cavalry were situated at Camp McGill at Otawa, approximately 20 miles south of Yokohama. Camp McGill was named in honor of SGT Troy A. McGill who was the first Trooper of the Division to earn the Medal of Honor. SGT McGill was assigned to G Troop, 5th Cavalry and was killed in action on 4 March 1944.

Troops of the 5th Cavalry Regiment were assigned guard and security missions in the Tokyo area where General MacArthur had taken up residence. Over the next five years, until the outbreak of the Korean War, the regiment was able to perform many valuable duties and services that helped Japan reconstruct and create a strong, viable economy. On 25 March 1949, the reorganization which began in 1945, was completed by re-designating troops as companies.

The 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry which recently returned from nine months in Korea is conducting a Change of Command ceremony at Fort Hood on 11 May. LTC Paul T. Krattiger will relinquish command to LTC John D Moris on Cooper Field at 0900 hours. LTC Krattiger took command in June 2014 and led the battalion through a vigorous training program and then deployed to Korea where they continued to train to be ready to defend South Korea if necessary. LTC Moris is an Armor officer coming to the Division from a staff position in III Corps at Fort Hood.

The 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry is currently in Korea along with the rest of the 1st Brigade Combat Team. A story written by SGT Christopher Dennis of the 1st BCT's public affairs office indicates that the battalion began a month-long gunnery exercise in Korea at the end of March to rehearse movement and

maneuvers in an urban environment. Korea now has large metropolitan areas and it is important to train to fight in the terrain and conditions that they would fight in if a war breaks out. The 2-5 Cavalry deployed in a fully trained state and the fact that they are continuing to train upon arrival ensures that the Troopers and leaders of the Lancer battalion are ready to fight tonight. The unit is back on Camp Casey and a photo of the battalion on the camp is below.



2-5 Cavalry formation in Korea

A short history of the 5th Cavalry's involvement in the early days of the Korean War that was written by William H. Bourdeau follows:

On 18 July, the 1st Cavalry Division was ordered to Korea. Initially scheduled to make an amphibious landing at Inchon, it was redirected to the southeastern coast of Korea at Pohang-dong a port 80 miles north of Pusan. The North Koreans were 25 miles away when elements of the 1st Cavalry Division swept ashore to successfully carry out the first amphibious landing of the Korean War. The 5th Cavalry Regiment marched quickly toward Taejon. By 22 July, all regiments were deployed in battle positions; in itself a remarkable logistical achievement in the face of Typhoon Helene that pounded the Korean coastline.

The baptism of fire came on 23 July. The 8th Cavalry was hit by a heavy artillery and mortar barrage and North Koreans swarmed toward their positions. As the space between the battalions became increasingly threatened, the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry moved into the gap to absorb some of the pressure. Elements were also sent to help the 8th Cavalry. The next day, the troopers suffered their first severe combat losses. Company "F", 5th Cavalry moved to assist the 1st Battalion of the 5th on its right flank. Company "F", and Company "B", 5th Cavalry were hit by overwhelming numbers of North Korean Infantry. Only 26 men from the relief units managed to escape and return to friendly territory.

During the next few days a defensive line was formed at Hwanggan with the 7th Cavalry moving east and the 5th Cavalry replacing the 25th Infantry Regiment. On 1 August, the First Team was ordered to set up a defensive position near Kumchon on the rail route from Taegu to Pusan. For more than 50 days between late July and mid September, First Team Troopers and UN Soldiers performed the bloody task of holding on the vital Pusan Perimeter.

That short history of the beginning of the Korean War is a great lead for some information about a Korean War Veteran escorting a teenager to the prom. Don't get excited this isn't a story, from the tabloids, it comes from <www.dailyitem.com> who published a story about the 5th Cavalry's Howard Dean, age 88, escorting Isabella Moles, age 17, to her prom in Pennsylvania. Howard was invited by Isabella to escort her to the prom because she was grateful for his friendship and support over the past several months. Isabella's mother, Katherine Bland, has been recovering from severe injuries from a hit-and-run accident in June.

Howard wore his uniform which he normally wears at our reunions and Isabella wore a long black evening gown, with long white gloves, pearls and a corsage and ring given to her by Howard. Howard is a regular attendee at our reunions and often is asked to read the Korean War portion of the Long Roll Muster during our Memorial Service. He once brought his brother, a Marine, to the reunion so he is known for taking chances. I'm not sure Howard was up to date on the current dances but I'm sure they had a memorable time. Way to go Isabella!



Isabella Moles, Katherine Blann, and Howard Dean (photo by Justin Engle/Community News Content)

That's all for this installment of the 5th Cavalry News. Loyalty and Courage!

Division Doings

Continued from pg. 1

compete, only 19 teams made it through to the final day. In the end, the Greywolf team consisting of CPT Michael McLaughlin and CPT William Whitfield placed second overall in the Best Sapper Competition.

"You're competing against, hands down, the best combat engineers that the Army has to offer," said Whitfield, an assistant operations planner with the 3rd BEB and a native of Jefferson City, Missouri. "With anything, if I'm going to go compete in something, my goal is to win. I'll seize the opportunity and do everything I can to both meet the challenge and win the competition. I just like to test myself."

Described as a condensed 50-hour version of the original 28-day Sapper Leader Course, the Best Sapper Competition tests teams' mastery of engineer skills. Covering more than 50 miles in 50 hours, competitors waged through numerous technical, tactical, the physically demanding events while carrying 85 to 100-

pounds on their backs.

Participants noted that the competition was stiff and the events were grueling, but team 8 stayed engaged and ended up surprising themselves with how deep they could dig to make it to the top tier of engineer competitors.

"It was definitely a gut check," said Whitfield. "There were definitely moments that tested whether or not you had what it took. It was very, very challenging, not only compared to what I experienced in 2012 to competing, but to the Sapper Leader Course in general. We just elevated everything two, three, four, five times to what I have experienced in the past."

Both teammates said the first day of the competition was especially difficult. Starting with an amped up physical fitness test, a 10-station round robin engineer event, and a 25-minute poncho raft swim across a man-made lake, teams came to grips with the type of challenging environment of the Best Sapper Competition.

Continued on pg. 12

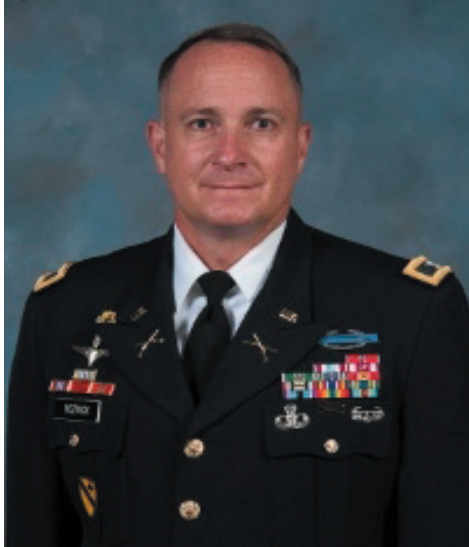
12th CAV News



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me, but me you know from my handy name recognition. Who better to vote for than someone with a well known name? A distinct plus in my column is I am warm, fuzzy, lovable and many other superlatives that spring readily off mind and tongue. I unlike that easily forgotten horde wish to "Make America Absolutely Fabulous Again!" and with your help we will. Vote, vote, vote and don't forget the people's candidate – me! Naysayers need not apply and only serve to bring down the high flung rhetoric of my uplifting candidacy and campaign. Don't vote red or blue, and don't vote Green or Brown – vote Howser! Visit the candidate's profile once again and click on 'contribute' before your exit from this website. <Ranker.Com>.



COL Andrew T Poznick

with Silver OLC, Army Commendation Medal with 2 OLC, Army Achievement Medal with 3 OLCs, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Valorous Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Citation with OLC, Army Superior Unit Award, National Defense Service Medal with Campaign Star, Iraqi Campaign Medal with 3 Campaign Stars, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Korea Defense Service Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge, Ranger Tab, Master Parachutist, and Air Assault Badge. Andrew was the recipient of the Legionnaire Level of Order of St. Maurice. The proudest moment of COL Poznick's military career was leading the Chargers of 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry during their deployment to Iraq. He loved his Troopers and took their losses to heart. He had received two Master's Degrees, one from Troy State University in International Relations and one from the US Army War College in Strategic Studies. He currently was enrolled as a PhD candidate at Temple University. He is survived by his wife of 23 years, Trish, son, John Thomas, and daughter Emma Jane, among others. Memorial contributions may be made to the Easter Seals Dixon Center for Military & Veteran Services, 1425 K Street NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20005. <HoffmanFH.Com>.

0450 1LT Steven R. Cartwright of Kalamazoo, Michigan, died on December 17, 2015. After graduating from high school in 1975, Steve went on to attend the University of Michigan and was a member of the Army ROTC. Steve served as an officer for a total of three years with much of his time being spent in Germany. He served with B Troop, 3rd Squadron 12th Cavalry, in Büdingen, Germany, 1978-1981. Steve attended United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, earning his Master of Divinity degree. While pastoring and also working



1LT Steven R. Cartwright

part time he earned a Master's Degree in History, and then a Ph.D in Medieval History in 2001. When his daughter Katie was taking Latin, he taught himself the language so he could help her. He knew at least seven languages, most of which were self-taught. He leaves his wife, Barb, and daughter Katie, among others. Memorial contributions may be made to the Second Reformed Church or Leukemia Foundation. <LifeStoryNet.Com; Facebook 3/12 group>.



SSG Steven D Lewis

0850 SSG Steven Daniel Lewis, 33, originally from Tulare, California, was found dead at his off-post residence in Killeen on Tuesday, 22 March. Steven originally joined the Navy in January 2002, later joining the Army in May 2007 as an intelligence analyst. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment at Fort Hood since December 2013. SSG Lewis deployed to Iraq from November 2008 to September 2009, and to Afghanistan from December 2010 to October 2011. His awards and decorations include two Army Commendation Medals, two Army Good Conduct Medals, Navy Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed

0001 Hey Sailor, New In Town? Sure, twenty-seven other men and women, people you never heard of, are or were running for president besides

Forces Expeditionary Medal, Navy and Marine Expeditionary Medal, three Iraq Campaign Medals with campaign stars, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korea Defense Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, two Overseas Service Medals, Navy Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, U.S. Navy Submarine Insignia, Marksmanship Qualification Badge Expert with Recoilless Rifle, and Marksmanship Qualification Badge Expert with Pistol. <KDHNNews.Com>.

1050 Troopers, "I am trying to contact any Soldiers that were in a C 2-12 fight on 11 November 1969, Republic of South Vietnam. I was the Company Commander of C 2-12 at that time. Thanks, Jim Wolfe." (H) 205-655-0601; (C) 205-612-5118; <JWolfe0601@CenturyTel.Net>. Any and all replies are gladly welcomed but most importantly from individuals involved in or present during this action. As I have the floor, rant on. I need the current and correct email, phone, and postal addresses for all members if I am to help any member. Just send me an email with your currents, no long conversation needed (unless you want one.) I despise to have to tell those seeking my assistance what Charlie the Tuna got from StarKist, "Sorry Charlie." <Email>.

1150 "National Sorry Charlie Day is observed each year on April 6. This day encourages us to think about the times we have been rejected. Charlie was often rejected but would keep going with a smile. Charlie never let rejection stop him. Do not let it stop you!" <NationalDayCalendar.Com>. "Click on the current allergy forecast USA Map to get your local allergy report. Track you allergies with MyPollen, check past allergy levels, and more features at Pollen.Com." <Pollen.Com>.

1250 Kennac the Kennificent predicts the 2017 Division Association Reunion will be at Fort Hood-Killeen; plan ahead. Ace High 2-12 1970 is also planning an Oklahoma 2017 Reunion; no final plans. The 11th Annual "Sergeant Terry D. Combs Branson Reunion" of the 12th Cavalry Regiment will be held, come rain come shine, Tuesday 6 - Sunday 11 September 2016. Ground Zero is the Welk Resort, 1984 State Highway 165, Branson, Missouri 65616. Reservations may be had at: 417-336-3575, you pay for the call. [12th Cavalry Regiment Association, Group # 437446]. Listed events include: Welcome Reception, Ladies Outing, "Million Dollar Quartet", "# 1 Hits of the 60s and 50s Too", Ladies Day, Men's 'Gab-Fab', Hospitality Room, and 'Saturday Night Live' Banquet. Questions? Call Thomas, 432-853-4851, or Maggie, 432-853-4856; email <mmctlc3@aol.com>. <Crossed Sabers newsletter>. Hopefully detailed information is on the website.

1350 1-12 Cavalry. Nothing 1-12 Cav specific over the Google since December. When it is reported, I will report it. (PIO/PAO contact me.) Here is a culling from the herd, sans description or pictures. A) 27 April: A 1-12 Anubis's Esprit de Corps from their Dining-In shows what the Charger spirit is all about! B) 22 April: 1-12 CAV FRG Easter Festival! The Charger family thanks all who supported, donated, and participated. C) 14 April: Congratulations to CPT Petersen for taking command of Chosen Company, welcome to the Chargers! The Charger family is also very thankful and proud for all of CPT Shipman's many contributions during his time as the Attack/Chosen Company Commander. D): 6 April: COL McGee (1st Team Commanding General for Support) visited the Charger Battalion to assess our overall readiness levels. E) 5 April: Congratulations to CPT Tucker for taking command of Charlie Company, 3-8 Battalion! The Charger family is thankful for your contribution during your time as the 1-12 CAV, A-S3. F) 30 March: Job well done, Chargers! Check out all the award recipients recognized for their outstanding contributing contributions during our National Training Center rotation. Keep on Charging! G) Fairwell to CPT Sam Willis, J Co 1-12 CAV Jackals Maintenance Control Officer. Thank you for all you have done for the 1-12 CAV Chargers! <Thank You Facebook!>.

1450 2-12 Cavalry. Soldiers from 2nd Battalion "Thunder Horse," 12th Cavalry Regiment met with Dongducheon City Mayor Sechang Oh, then visited the Dongducheon Museum of Liberty, Protection and Peace, and the closed-circuit television video surveillance facility in the city. "To maintain the friendship and relationship between the city of Dongducheon and Soldiers, we are proud to provide this trip for Soldiers to experience Korean culture," said Seojin Lee, culture tour organizer. After the local stops, Thunder Horse Soldiers headed to Seoul to Changdeokgung Palace, built in 1405. Soldiers toured the "secret gardens" of the palace and heard historical narratives from the facility, one of the five remaining royal Joseon Dynasty palaces. After dinner, Soldiers visited the commercial area of Seoul known as Myeong-dong, and then went to their rooms in traditional Korean guest houses. The second day began with breakfast and photos in traditional Korean garb, then on to a workshop where Soldiers made their own 'stamps', (hand carved emblems that can serve as legal signatures on documents in Korea.) After a Korean buffet lunch, Soldiers visited the Insadong shopping district and the Seoul Fortress. "For me, this experience was unbelievable, because it gave me the opportunity to learn about the Korean culture and their people," said CPL Alejandra Villegas, Forward Support Company G, 2-12 CAV. "This is a once



SP-5 Doyne I Cole Jr.

in a lifetime opportunity and I am so grateful that I could do it." <DvidsHub.Net>. (I wish I could have gone along, (#AllInForKorean-FoodAndCulture!))

1650 SP-5 Doyne I. Cole Jr., 71, born February 19, 1944 in Hammond, Indiana, resident of Sun Lakes, Arizona, died February 18, 2016. He attended Purdue University until he was drafted to the US Army. He served as a combat soldier in the 2-12th Cavalry Regiment, 1967-1968, Republic of Vietnam. Doyne earned his air medal for over 60 air assaults and was wounded twice earning him 2 bronze stars. (Line quoted as written.) He was the owner of Doyne's Floors and More, Inc. for 20 years in Indiana, growing the business by reputation and integrity. Prior to retiring to Arizona, he was past President of the Lake Dalecarlia Regional Waste District, and manager of Lake

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7th CAV News



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This middle of the year column begins with the final chapter (so to speak) of our good friend William A. Richardson. Bill (to most of us), Archie to Grandchildren and sometimes Willy, when Eva momentarily forgot to whom she was speaking.



William A. Richardson, March 9, 2016

A term of endearment lovingly given. It was a beautiful day in our Nation's Capital on 9 March 2016 as Bill was borne from the Arlington Cemetery transfer point to his final resting place by the 3rd Infantry Regiment (the Old Guard). The Caisson was pulled by a team of US Army Horses with an outrider, the Army Band played and the rifles fired. It was an agonizingly long wait for the family for this day, as Bill passed away in late November. Afterward I paused in front of the casket and rendered a slow hand salute on behalf of the 7th Cavalry Association and for those who asked me to do so. Then we journeyed to the Women's Memorial on the grounds of Arlington for a reception. Thanks to CSM (Ret) Dennis Webster for coming up for this tribute. Till we ride again in Fiddlers Green – GarryOwen Bill.

While awaiting the day of the funeral, visits were made to the National Archives and the following places: The USAF Memorial sits high above and looks down toward the Pentagon and the southern border of Arlington. It is very well done although I was a bit disappointed in the bookstore. The Pentagon Memorial is also well done and the outside border lists the years of birth of those passengers on the plane that hit the Pentagon on 9-11. The benches in each row contain the names of the passengers. A serene place so many years removed from the horror of that day. Of course we visited The Wall a couple of times to pay our respects to our Brothers, etched forever in those beautiful panels of black granite.

After the reception my travelling compatriot Mike Hale (Sergeant) from the 9th Infantry Division (2 tours) and I headed for home with an intermediate stop at the Flight 93 Memorial in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. We arrived with 10 minutes to spare before the Welcome Center closed, but the grounds are open until dusk so we spent a good hour or more reflecting on the heroic acts of the passengers and crew on that fateful day. The NPS has done a very nice job of designing the Memorial and I would encourage you to visit it at some point.

Preliminary analysis of the 7th Cavalry Vietnam Casualty information provided by Ron Migut and referenced in the last column, offers the following: January 1st and December 25th had no battle deaths during the whole war. From an incident standpoint the daily breakdown is as follows: Thursday, 87; Saturday, 79; Tuesday, 75; Friday, 74; Wednesday, 72; Monday, 69 and Sunday, 57. The first trooper killed was Daniel R. Romanko on 27 September '65 from Charlie Company 1/7 and the last trooper killed was Francis C. Brockman, III on 25 May '72 from Echo Recon 1/7. The last official casualty was my friend Lieutenant Thomas C. Finn, injured in November of 1970 and died in 1999 as a result of those injuries. The yearly battle death analysis from highest to lowest revealed the following: 1968-306, 1966-237, 1969-233; 1967-227, 1965-209, 1970-158, 1971-30, and 1972-8. The highest individual dates of course were in the Ia Drang in November of 1965: 15th-65 and 17th-127; followed by: 25 Jan '66-42, 29 Jan '66-24, 8 Aug '66-25, 8 Apr '67-23, 3 Dec '68-22. There were 10 other days that had battle deaths between 10 and 18 Troopers. These 17 days accounted for 32.7% of all battle deaths, which is a staggering statistic. The 2nd Battalion lost 580 men in ground combat; the 1st Battalion lost 476 men in ground combat and the 5th Battalion lost 352 men in ground combat. In total 1,408 warriors from the 7th Cavalry gave their precious lives in the cause of freedom in the Vietnam War. Their memories will live forever until the last of us cross over into Fiddlers Green! There is one final statistic to this analysis but time and space dictates that for the July column.

It is also interesting to note that 25 June of 1876, the Battle of the Little Bighorn was also a Sunday. The June 2016 issue of Wild West Magazine has three excellent articles on that fight: The Most Hartrending Tale; Five in the Valley Fight and Black Man at the Little Bighorn. For Custer aficionado's this is a nice series of articles.

I pulled these pieces from a column that I wrote in March of 2009 and they bear repeating this month. For those of you who have retired from the Army or any service and are receiving Military Retired Pay and who also are receiving VA Compensation for a Service Connected injury or illness, you will be interested in a program called Combat Related Special Compensation. The link to this Website is: <www.hrc.army.mil/site/crsc/index.html>. Double click on this link and it will take you to the site. You can then download the application. This pay, once approved replaces the deduction that the Army Finance Center is currently taking from your retired pay to "offset" your VA Service Connection award. You will then be receiving the equivalent of 100% of your retired pay plus your VA Compensation.

I also renew my continuing suggestion that all veterans request their 201 files from the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri. Their Web Site is <www.archives.gov/st-louis/> and you can do most of the process on

line. This is important and should be done today.

I also suggest that you request your Individual Awards File from the National Archives located in College Park, Maryland. You should mention your Service Number, as well as the unit you were assigned to. These awards files are not a part of your military 201 file and contain the General Order Number as well as additional eyewitness statements. This packet could be the difference should you apply for a Veterans Administration Compensation Rating.

Without proper treatment the effect of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) can become what seems like a mountain that can't be climbed. This mountain may seem so steep that a veteran may think that he or she has only one option. If you know of a loved one like this, you need to make a call to 1.800.273.TALK. This is The National Suicide Prevention Life Line through the Veteran's Administration. As one who has been diagnosed with PTSD, I can assure you that this is no longer something that Veterans need to keep behind a closed door. There are people that understand and will help through a difficult time.

As Company Grade Officers, we relied on the First Sergeant to keep us out of the paperwork nightmare that all government agencies like to hide behind. As the Executive officer in a combat rifle company, I was fortunate to have an exceptional Top Kick. The late Emory L. Smith was the epitome of that forward thinking exceptional NCO. Top Smith carried the MOS of 11G50 and was on his second tour after spending his first one with the Big Red One. On August 6, 1970, Captain Lovelace went on R&R and I became the Acting Commander of A 1/7. Of course I knew zilch about an administrative paper trail but Top came up with the proper regulation (AR 600-20) and paragraph and I was properly designated the Acting Commander until such time as George return from his R&R. I have often wondered what exactly is contained in Paragraph 20 of Army Regulation 600-20. It turns out (big surprise I guess) that there are some 50 different regulations that begin with 600. So if you have any interest you can go to this website: <www.whs.mil/campusguides.com/AR_600-1_to_AR_600-50> and see exactly what those numbers mean on your various orders. It even lists the dates that a particular regulation was changed.

Old Vietnam maps in Series L7014 can be order from the US Geological Service. These are the actual maps that we carried in Vietnam and Cambodia. I last ordered from them in 2005 and used the map key in the Late Michael Kelley's excellent research book...Where We Were In Vietnam. This is a must book for anyone interested in the history of the Vietnam War!

Marc Levy, who served with Delta Company (Silver Spartan) of the 1/7 in 1969 and 1970 writes: I may have mentioned that about three months ago I received an email from Kevin Perrier, Echo Recon 2/7, asking if I knew medic Harvey Stringer. Harvey was my replacement in Delta around July '70. I believe he's now a preacher in Indiana.

Ron Migut's tip to finding men on the Virtual Wall by date helped me to find Bob Durall, who I had nicknamed "Skinny Bob" when he came into the platoon. Skinny Bob was killed in an ambush on 22 August '70. I had left a remembrance on the Virtual Wall and less than a month later heard from his brother. Lastly, my short essay "The Quiet Time" won the 2016 Syracuse University Institute for Veterans and Military Families Writing Prize, judged by Brian Turner and published in Stone Canoe. My poem "Portrait of a Young Girl at Dawn" was published in the prominent literary journal Mudfish. The essay, about making C ration coffee, is on my website, Medic in the Green Time, in the War section. The poem is in the Poetry section.

The last week of April and the month of May are difficult times for me as I reflect back on those Sky Troopers that I served with, who paid the ultimate sacrifice on the fields of battle in Vietnam and Cambodia. I suspect that I'm not alone in this reflection. Some dates from the American Patriots Almanac: April 26, 1607, 3 ships landed in what was to be later called Virginia. Several days later they founded the colony called Jamestown. April 29, 1913, the first modern zipper was patented. April 30, 1789, George Washington takes office as the 1st President of the United States. On that same date in 1975, Saigon falls to North Vietnam. May 6, 1941, Bob Hope performs his first show for American Troops. I was privileged to see him in 1969.

The tabulation of Orders Project has taken a rumble seat in the Cavmobile and is on a low simmer on the back burner. I suspect after my Scribe duties end with the November 2016 (hint) column that I can get back to this task in earnest. Please do send me any orders be they General, Special or Unit. One thing I discovered in my Archive trips is that NARA does not have any copies of Special or Unit Orders. Combat Infantryman and Combat Medic Badges were issued under Special Orders. Those copies reside with you – the Garryowen Trooper. Every order will help to build what I believe will be the most complete record of those of us who served in the 1/7; 2/7 and 5/7 in Vietnam. Will you help?

Jim Savage (Website Manager) passed on this word of another soldier riding into Fiddler's Green: COL (ret) Edward M. Pierce, who served in the 1/7 in '67-'68, passed on 1 May '16 at 88 years of age. He was still skiing alone as late as age 82. He graduated from West Point in 1950, and commanded F Company, 23rd Infantry during the Korean War. Between Korea and Vietnam, he was awarded the French Croix du Guerre, ARCOM with V, a Bronze Star with V, and a Silver Star. When asked what he did to earn the Silver Star he said, "Aw, they just kind of gave them away back then." Posted on our Web Site by his Son-In-Law.

Another Horse Cavalryman from World War II passed on 29 March '16. Robert V. Andersen who served with B Troop was buried at the Fort Snelling National Cemetery on 5 April. I have had many e-mail exchanges over the years with Bob and his passing leaves me with only one 7th Cav, WWII Trooper that I can personally call friend – Ralph Braunstein from A Troop.

Another Trooper that I served with has also made his last Combat Assault into Fiddlers Green on 21 March '16 from complications of Diabetes and Renal failure, as a result of exposure to Agent Orange. Pierre (Pete) Ashby was a few days away from DEROS when I joined A 1/7 in October of 1969. Pete made the Army a career and retired as a First Sergeant. He was able to attend the Chicago Reunion and it was wonderful to see him again after 40+ years. Garryowen Pete – till we ride again!

Reunions are in the final phase of planning for the 5th Battalion to be held in August. For more information contact Karl Haartz at: <cav571vpkk@roadrunner.com>
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8th CAV News



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Hi again,
I am not sure if we will be at the Las Vegas Reunion or just back from it as I write this

column in April. While we did not plan a separate hospitality room, we will/did have an 8th Cav sign at our table in the large room so members can/could more easily find one another. How's that for a convoluted sentence?

For some of you, today (April 16) gave just one more day to file federal income taxes. I've gotten in to the habit of getting mine done in February over the last few years as a friend of mine who has a CPA firm has kindly taken care of filing for me. I like to get everything to him before the April crush when some of his many clients drop their files on his desk, waiting to the last minute to get it all together. Because I file early, I'm already busy spending the money the Federal and State governments "borrowed" from me without interest for the last year. It's kind of nice to have a little extra cash as I'm closing up the Florida house in preparation for the spring-time move back to "Pure Michigan" for the summer. The advertising agents who came up with that slogan for my home state didn't anticipate the irony of using it in light of the mess in Flint this year. Anyway, I'm packing up a few boxes of things to ship North, installed a home alarm system, have already got my airline ticket, and made the arrangements for lawn care etc. here until I return in November. Michigan – here I come!

Tommy Harris, our 8th Cavalry Association President, has been very busy with preparations for our 2017 Reunion to be held in Columbus/Fort Benning, Georgia. He signed the contract with the Doubletree Motel, located right across the highway from the airport. They will have a shuttle for that and other trips around the hotel. The room rate is \$95 + tax. There is free parking for cars and RVs. The room rate includes a full breakfast each day and is served beginning at 06:00. The rate is good for 3 days before and after our scheduled dates of 17-21 May 2017. You can make reservations any time now online or by phone: 706-327-6868 or <www.doubletree3.hilton.com>. Side trips in the planning stage include Camp Sumter at Andersonville the largest Confederate Prison Camp in Georgia, a National Historic Site. It had 45,000 prisoners during the Civil War including the 13,000 who died while in captivity. Today, Andersonville National Historic Site is a memorial to all American prisoners of war throughout the nation's history. The visit to Fort Benning was a big highlight during our last reunion there and will be again I am certain. The new Infantry Museum will be on Saturday's agenda. The evening banquet will be held at the Infantry Museum as we did the last time. MG Ed Scholes, USA, Retired, has graciously agreed to be our speaker. As some of you might recall, Ed commanded Angry Skipper during the time some of us served in Vietnam.

I attended the 1st CAV group's lunch gathering in Fort Meyers last Saturday. Attendance was down a bit due to the fact that many regulars have already headed north. It always strikes me a little odd how everything kind of slows down after the snow-birds leave. Traffic is down, and the full time residents state how they can now get a seat at the local restaurants once again. The lunch was great and the time shared with fellow veterans makes the trip well worth the drive. There are many of these small group gatherings taking place around the country. You might like to find one in your area.

Several recent articles and TV specials have caused me to ponder what has been happening to our military over the past few years and wonder what you think. The cover of the April issue of Military Officer banner read "Readiness under Pressure – Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr., USMA takes on the challenges around the globe and in the halls of Congress." Military Officer is the official magazine of the Military Officers Association of America. General Dunford, not one given to political correct responses to tough questions, responded to Senate Armed Services Committee Chair Senator John McCain who had remarked that U.S. forces face "the most diverse and complex array of global crises since the end of World War II. Contributing Editor Tom Philpott's article quotes Senator McCain's warnings of the deep cuts in our force strength. Mr. Philpott's lengthy Q&A with General Dunford is well worth a careful read as the General reflects on the demands facing a military under strain caused by a shrinking force with ever increasing commitments world-wide. You can find it at <www.moaa.org> under their Publications Archive.

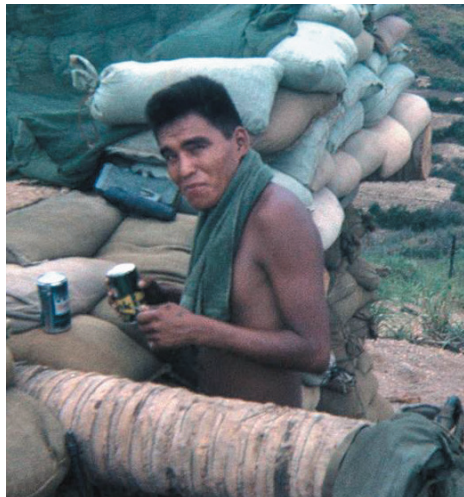
In contrast to recent engagements, a fine reflection by GEN Frederick J. Kroesen, USA Retired, entitled "When the Army was in Charge of Government" is found in Army in which the author discusses post war efforts to create stable environments following various wars in our modern history. While he does not intend to provide a comprehensive review of the history of such efforts, he states: "The purpose of this column is to call attention to the principal lessons taught by our World War II experiences that have been forgotten or ignored during subsequent years. They include recognition of the need for post-hostilities

12th CAV News

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Dalecarlia Safety Patrol. He was a member of Central Christian Church, serving in Global Link and Open Table Ministries, on the Board of Directors of Life in Messiah Ministries as well as past president, member, and former vice president of the Sun Lakes Anglers Club, and member of the Hoosier Lighthouse Club. His survivors include his wife of 51 years, Cynthia, and daughters, Amy and Valarie, among others. Donations may be made to Life in Messiah, P.O. Box 5470, Lansing, IL 60438, Central Christian Church of Arizona, and Hospice of the Valley.

1850 SP-4 Jimmie Manhiemer. "Sad to report the passing of Trooper Jimmie Manhiemer, 11 March 2016, struck and killed in an automobile-pedestrian accident while walking to his son's home in the Phoenix, Arizona area. Jimmie



SPC Jimmie Manhiemer

control and leadership to be exercised by a core of leaders educated and trained to cope with the task, the value of being prepared, and the consequences on those occasions when we were not prepared." His is one of a remarkable series of articles in the November 2015 issue of Army, The Magazine of the Association of the United States Army. You can find this series of articles at <www.ousa.org> and, again, under their Publications Archive. The "Front & Center" section of the April 2016 issue of Army covers a very important concern facing today's military in another article by GEN Kroesen entitled "Army Burdened by Weight of Nondeployables." He points out that 10% of the end strength of the Army falls into this category today, which he states is "equal to three divisions' worth of combat forces or more than a third of the reduction from the 570,000 once fighting the Iraq and Afghan wars to the 450,000 now authorized." Another article in this issue by Major Crispin J. Burke addresses a problem we have all faced in our careers, "No Time, Literally, for all Requirements" pointing out the impossible demands placed on the force due to the proliferation of training requirements. This is another concern for our senior NCO's and junior Officer's today as it has been in the past. I recall an incident when I was a company XO at Fort Knox years ago. I was assigned the task of giving a class on "Law Day" as one of the required "Professional Development" requirements for cadre. Everybody hated these required classes and saw them as a consummate waste of time. I gave it a half-hearted effort, cut it short, and released everyone to go home at the end of what had been a very long training day. When I was chastised by higher-ups for my obvious lack of effort, my Company Commander came to my defense with this unforgettable quote to the battalion commander: "F**# it – permanent party classes are nothin' but a pain in the a** anyway." Indeed, so many of these requirements were back then and apparently, in the view of many, still are. (I assumed command of that company shortly thereafter still having to deal with the many non-essential, time wasting training requirements.)

The Army Times headline in its March 21, 2016 issue reads: "Too Many Soldiers Can't Shoot." This serious issue is addressed in an article with the subtitle "The Army has a serious marksmanship problem – but there's a solution in sight" which discusses a new force-wide training effort to deal with it, train the trainers.



Helen Marie 'Peggie' Miller

Peggie Lauber Miller who was an Associate member of the Association died on 26 January. Her brother, LTC (Ret) Robert Lauber served with the 8th Cavalry during the Korean War and died in 1992. She was the Chaplain of the 8th Cavalry Association for several years and attended quite a few reunions.

Finally, the latest in a series of decisions by the civilian leadership of the military, the Army has now commissioned in the Infantry its first female officers. While there are many combat MOS's that female service members and officers can and do fill with great skill and success, I personally side with the consensus of a study done by the leadership of the USMC that calls this decision a poor one. I would go further in my own assessment. This is a case where people who have never served in combat, patrolling and fighting through jungles for months at a time in horrific conditions who cannot possibly understand the ramifications of such a decision. While it's one thing to spend a few weeks enduring the rigorous training of Ranger School, it is quite another to endure and succeed as an Infantryman in months of ongoing combat operations in hostile physical environments. It is so often said, the role of the Infantry is to break things and kill people. I may be quite wrong - only time will tell how successful or costly in lives lost this decision will be, but in this writer's personal opinion, it is PC run amok.

These are just some of the concerns facing the nation's military tasked with greater demands and reduced resources. Take the time, if you can, to read the cited articles above and let me know what you think. I will report on some of the more thoughtful responses in my next column. The young members of our armed forces serve proudly and bravely under very difficult circumstances, with multiple deployments, few permanent overseas assignments, worn out equipment from years of war, shortages of repair parts, supplies, and the equipment and time they need to "be all they can be." Support them any way you can and let our civilian leaders know you do.

See you in Vegas! Honor and Courage!

served with A Co 1-12th Cavalry Regiment, Republic of Vietnam (LZ Geronimo, Bong Son Plains, Binh Dinh Province, etc.), May 1967 to May 1968. Jimmie was our Navajo Warrior-Point Man-Bull Rider-Vietnam Brother. We who served with Jimmie will always remember him. Rest in Peace Soldier."~ Gerry Gudinas. Jimmie's survivors include his wife, a daughter, and 2 sons, among others. He was buried home on the Navajo reservation, Shonto, Arizona. The Navajo Hopi Honor Riders (Google them) provided memorial escort for Jimmie's funeral cortege. <Gerry Gudinas; Facebook>.

2050 Trooper Claude Hollis Newberry, 91, born in Abilene, Texas, passed away suddenly on April 7, 2016 in Bedford, Texas. Hollis served during World War II in the United States Army from 1942 to 1945, with C Troop, 12th Cavalry



Trooper Claude Hollis Newberry

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9th CAV News



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Spring has finally arrived here at beautiful Smith Mountain Lake. April rain fall has been below average, so we're

hoping for more rain in May.

First up is my recollection of a flight I experienced early in my tour with A Troop, 1/9th Cavalry in Vietnam.



Headhunter 39 - Date and mission unknown.

around 1600 hours. Also on board was Neil Gardenhire our A Troop Instructor Pilot who was rotating home. It was normally a one hour flight from LZ Dog to An Khe and the weather was good and the flight was routine up to that point.

Flying with me as co-pilot was Bill Davis who had been a movie stuntman in civilian life. As we got closer to the An Khe Pass which had a major road running up the mountain to the 1st CAV base, we noticed a lot of fog was developing rapidly and starting to settle all the way to the ground. We decided to drop down to low level and follow the road up the mountain and hopefully, get to An Khe before it was completely socked in.

This worked fine for about 20 minutes until we rounded a bend in the road and the fog was all the way down to the ground. I immediately pulled pitch and began climbing up in a vertical circle to get to a safe altitude, which I figured would be about 8,000 feet to clear all the mountains in the area.

The fog was so thick that we were a white cocoon and flying on instruments. Pilots in those days were trained to fly on instruments but only given a "combat instrument rating" which meant just enough training to get you killed. I asked Bill to tune the directional compass to the beacon at An Khe so we begin flying toward it. So I started "flying the needle" which means I was flying the course toward the beacon. After about 30 minutes of flight I noticed that we were heading a southwesterly direction which, my sense told me was away from An Khe.

About this time I noticed that the directional compass was set on antenna, which means in was tuned to the frequency but not switched over to home to the beacon. We switched the compass to home to the beacon and the needle swung

In September 1967, I was flying as an Aircraft Commander in Head Hunter 39 on the usual lift mission, insertion, extraction, and occasionally what we used to call "ash and trash" which were flights back from LZ Dog to An Khe. This was mainly to take troopers that were DEROSing and to pick up mail and supplies and bring replacements back to Bong Son.

After loading several troopers and their gear we took off for An Khe

around to the northeast.

At this point I called Ground Control at An Khe and asked for a radar fix on our position. They called back and told us we were 20 miles southwest of Plieku which meant we were 45 miles from An Khe. So we started flying in that direction.

By now we had been flying instruments for about 45 minutes, which in a helicopter is very tiring as it requires the full concentration of the pilot and is extremely stressful. At this point we had reached the air space for An Khe and contacted An Khe GCA for guided landing to our Squadron landing pad.

As we began our ground control approach, I became very fatigued and I noticed that the artificial horizon had dipped below level flight and our air speed was climbing through 90 knots in an impenetrable fog bank. Suddenly Bill said "I've got it" which communicated that he had taken over the control of the aircraft. He smoothly retracted our air speed to 60 knots while keeping us on course.

I glanced in the back of the aircraft and most of the passengers seemed unaware of our situation. All except Neil Gardenhire, being a pilot he was very aware and was watching everything with great interest.

After a few minutes I regained my composure and took over the controls. We continued our decent into the squadron landing pad. We had been flying for nearly two hours, an hour of which was under instrument flight. The GCA tech had a very reassuring tone as he repeated "on glide slope on glide path" as we vectored to the pad. At about 200 feet we broke out of the fog and landed at the "Lucky Hot Spot" as the squadron pad was called. The 20 minute low fuel light came on when touched down.

Everybody on board was extremely relieved to be back on terra firma!

Writers note: Bill Davis died in an airplane crash on April 22, 1995, near his home in Apple Valley, California.

The 1-9th Cavalry lost a stalwart supporter when Sue Jackson Booth, wife of former Squadron Commanding Officer James W. "Pete" Booth, passed away on February 11, 2016. Sue was an amazing woman and an avid Apache Troop and Bullwhip Squadron friend. Our deepest condolences to Pete and their family.

The 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry conducted a change of command on 2 May on Fort Hood. LTC Bryan Logan relinquished command of the Saber Squadron to LTC Mark Weaver in a ceremony shortened by lightning. Despite the ceremony being shortened all of the Troopers in formation got wet which is SOP. The 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry and the 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry just completed their nine months in Korea and are back at Fort Hood with a lot of personnel turning over. C Company, 1-9th Cavalry and D Troop, 6-9th Cavalry both have tank crews competing in the Sullivan Cup at Fort Benning, Georgia. The Sullivan Cup recognizes the best tank crew in the Army. Good luck to both tank crews!

Just a reminder of a couple of 9th CAV reunions that are planned for later this year. C Troop, 1-9th Cavalry is holding a reunion at the Stone Castle Hotel in Branson, Missouri from 29 September through 1 October 2016. For more information contact Patrick Bieneman, <pcbamin@verizon.net>, 859-771-6342. Apache Troop, 1-9th Cavalry has a reunion scheduled from 7-10 October 2016 at the Holiday Inn Oceanfront located in Surfside Beach, South Carolina. Surfside Beach is next to Myrtle Beach which is probably better known. The Apache group is mainly 1967-68, however Apache Troopers from all eras are welcome. The point of contact for this reunion is me, Mike Bond, 540-815-5004, email <mbluvsrj@msn.com>.

That wraps up this 1/9 column for this issue. Until next time, We Can and We Will, We Could and We Did!

7th CAV News

Continued from pg. 7
com>.

Dateline: FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kansas. Fort Leavenworth inducted two members into its Hall of Fame on 3 May 2016. The Hall of Fame recognizes outstanding individuals who served at Fort Leavenworth and who made significant contributions to the achievement, tradition, or history of the fort, or the armed forces. LTG (Ret) Harold G. Moore, a 1957 graduate of the Command and General Staff College and the late LTC Boyd M. (Mac) Harris were inducted today in ceremonies held in the Lewis and Clark Center.

Opening the ceremony, BG John S. Kem, Commanding General of the Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth said these members of the 2016 Class are "leaders of character who made a difference."

COL (Ret) David Moore along with his sister Cecile accepted the honor on behalf of their father who was unable to attend. "My father loved the Army and he loved his men," said Moore. "He knew tough training was a sign of love and he pushed his men to challenge themselves."

Moore led the audience in recognizing three veterans of the Ia Drang valley who were in attendance: Martin Latigue, Larry Stevenson and his wife and Ernie Hill and his wife. "For all the love and admiration I have for my father, I assert that he is only half a man," said Moore. "I say this because the other half of my father is my mother. Together they were a whole team. My mother's story, so well documented, exemplified the role that many wives took on as the Vietnam casualties came home. Her education, training, and experiences gave her the vision to immediately assess the situation. I can still hear her saying "Come

12th CAV News

Continued from pg. 8

Regiment in the Pacific Theater. He received two Purple Hearts and two Bronze Stars. He served in the United States Navy SEABEES during the Vietnam War in 1967 and 1968. Hollis was also our serving WW II Representative to the 12th Cavalry Regiment Association. He worked in the trucking repair business his entire life; owning and operating Newberry Auto Service, Newco Truck and Bus, and then Newco Services. Hollis spent the last day of his life with his sons doing what he loved, fishing. Hollis is survived by his two sons, Bill and Bob, among others. Memorials may be made in honor of Hollis Newberry to the Paralyzed Veterans of America-PVA: Donation Processing Center, 7 Mill Brook Rd, Wilton, NH 03086; or any charity that would benefit disabled veterans. <Thomas Crabtree; Legacy.Com>. "At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We will remember them." We salute these, our honored dead.

2250 <Buddy Check!>. We all think we know of the hazards we will face as

war fighters. We were wrong. We all think we successfully avoided all, many, or most of them. Again we were wrong. Traumatic Brain Injury and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder are merely some of these but they affect us into our later life and can cause us to be debilitated. If untreated and unchecked they can cause us to enter cycles of depression and even cause us to take our life. Everyone's being and life is precious to someone - and maybe not anyone of whom you are even aware. They care, someone cares, I care, and all your buddies care. Make the step and get the treatment. No man is an island. Break the silence which can itself be a killer. The greatest companionship is human companionship. Reach out and touch someone with the light of your presence and care.

2259 Journal closed. "There is a tragic flaw in our precious Constitution, and I don't know what can be done to fix it. This is it: Only nut cases want to be president." ~ Kurt Vonnegut.

Semper Paratus! Write if you get work!

Thank you David and Cecile for sharing with us this tribute of an outstanding Combat Infantryman and Soldier - Garryowen!

I hope that everyone who attended had a great time in Las Vegas and that you saved enough money to get back home! Garryowen!

Thank you David and Cecile for sharing with us this tribute of an outstanding Combat Infantryman and Soldier - Garryowen!

30th FA News



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Hard Charger News: We are finally coming out of a really crappy winter. Spring

has sprung here on the shores of Lake Erie. The sun is shining, blossoms are blooming on the trees, the flowers are blooming, and so are the dandelions. I've been trying to go to work for the last three years, to no avail! Age discrimination is alive and thriving, as no one will hire a 73-year-old grandfather, regardless of having many years of valuable experience, a BS degree, an MA Degree, and an MS Degree. Consequently, I volunteered to be trained as a Lorain County Sheriff's Office Auxiliary Deputy Sheriff.

On 28 April 2016, I was one of a class of 20 other volunteers who graduated and received our badges. As the oldest person in this class I had the feeling I wasn't expected to complete the rigorous 15 weeks of training. Well I sure fooled everyone including the doubting Thomases in my family. The youngest group in this class ranged in age from 19-39 years old. At the end of the course I was unanimously elected as the Class President, and had the honor of representing our class and giving the graduation



Auxiliary Deputy Sheriff Dan Gillotti

speech. The lesson learned here is to never assume that an ornery old First Sergeant is too old at the age of 73. There may be snow on the roof top – but there is still fire in the furnace! Hard Charger ~ Sir!

Hard Charger Condolences: We were notified by Bob Imler of the passing of the former SP4 William A. Lambert who passed away on 2-24-2016 at his home in Nevada. William served on Gun #5 with C-1-30th FA in 1969-70. Your battle is over now Hard Charger ~ Rest in Peace!

Hard Charger History for March-May 1968: On 24 March 1968, my Battalion FDC Section was ordered to load up all of our equipment on trucks and convoy from Camp Evans to the Combat Base at Dong Ha. We arrived that afternoon just in time to be greeted by NVA rockets fired out of the DMZ. The next morning of 25 March we were greeted with NVA rockets for breakfast. We became part of a large truck convoy heading down Highway 9 to Ca Lu. When we reached the refugee Camp at Cam Lo, our convoy was hit with by an NVA 85mm gun and small arms fire. We had a 40mm "Duster" leading the convoy, and it was destroyed by RPGs. The convoy turned around and headed back to Dong Ha just in time to be hit



1st CAV at LZ Stud

by NVA rockets again! The next morning, we left early, and had helicopter gunships flying escort over us, and we made it safely all the way to Ca Lu. They had us set up just north of Ca Lu overlooking an old airfield which became LZ Stud. After setting up initially in tents we were designated as the 1st Cavalry Division Artillery Forward. Our mission was to control all artillery assets, and coordinate all air strikes in this Area of Operation. Operation Pegasus kicked off on 1 April 1968, and we were busy day and night controlling 31 batteries of artillery including 1st Cav artillery, USMC artillery, USARV artillery, and RVN artillery. By 6 April 1968, the Command Post of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Air Cav was inserted into the Marine Combat Base at Khe Sanh as they were greeted by some of the besieged Marines. Victory was near at hand and the next ten days were spent by elements of the 1st Air Cav cleaning out pockets of enemy resistance. On 11 April 1968, the four guns of B-1-30th FA at LZ Snapper were redeployed back to LZ Sharon near the 1st Air Cav's AO near Camp Evans as Operation Pegasus started winding down. On 15 April 1968, after firing more than 20,000 rounds on 1,490 fire missions, and completing ten firing battery moves in a little more than three weeks, the 1-30th FA began the process of disengaging the remainder of its elements from this operation. We were alerted for immediate movement

back to Camp Evans to prepare for what was soon to become the bloody assault into the A Shau Valley. {Note: As far as I know the 1st Air Cav Division was never thanked by the US Marines for saving them at Khe Sanh. Nor have they ever "forgiven" the 1st Air Cav for saving



A-1-30th FA at LZ Wharton

them at Khe Sanh either!}

A-1-30th FA remained in the Pegasus AO in support of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Air Cav, and OPCON to the 3rd US Marine Division. During their operations with the 3rd US Marines, A-1-30th FA fired at NVA rocket and artillery firing positions in the DMZ and also across the DMZ into North Vietnam. Operation Delaware was launched into the A Shau Valley which was about 45 Kilometers west of the city of Hue, on 19 April 1968. When the Sky Troopers of the 1st and 3rd Brigades of the 1st Air Cav entered the valley, they were hampered by poor weather that drastically restricted visibility. They referred to this type of weather as "Crachin" weather, which was a French term for very low ceilings and heavy cloud cover. To make matters all the worse the NVA were waiting with well-camouflaged 37mm AAA guns and .51 caliber heavy machineguns that poured out a wall of tracers. They hit twenty-three troop carrying helicopters during the initial assault, ten of which crashed and burned. Still more went down trying to extract the original casualties. {Note: Your historian personally observed several Chinook helicopter loads of body bags delivered to the 15th Med helipad that day. Their helipad was directly across from the HHB Motor Pool. These memories remain with me as grim reminders of what our infantrymen had to endure during this bloody battle.}

Then on 23 April 1968, C-1-30th FA was air assaulted into LZ Goodman with four guns. The other two guns were brought in on 24 April 1968. They encountered stiff resistance from a heavily armed NVA force in that area, but the 1st Brigade was finally able to secure the former Special Forces A Luoi airstrip which they quickly renamed as LZ Stallion. A few days later a radio call was received in Bn FDC from C-1-30th FA. The weak and crackling radio message was that they could hear the sounds of tracked vehicles approaching their position. Immediately a feeling of fear and apprehension gripped everyone standing in the Battalion FDC that day. Because of the prevailing bad weather, no tactical aircraft could fly, they could bring in no supplies, and no reinforcements could be flown in. C-1-30th FA was alone. About 30 minutes later a call was received from C-1-30th FA that simply stated "Two enemy tanks sighted, two enemy tanks engaged, one enemy tank destroyed and one enemy tank disabled", End of Mission, Out! Following this, the weather cleared just long enough for B-1-30th FA to be air assaulted into LZ Stallion on 30 April 1968, and then they were swallowed by the low ceiling. Because of the heavy NVA AAA encountered and continuing bad weather, the re-supply of water to drink and swab the gun bores reached a critical state. Hard Chargers had to resort to urinating in their swab buckets and using it to swab the gun bores. Thankfully, within a few days the weather began to clear and essential water, food, and ammo were flown in. B and C Batteries continued to add their fire power with a vengeance to those of the other artillery units. They assisted in supporting a successful infantry assault which drove the enemy from the valley (temporarily). Another example of a C-1-30th FA Fire Mission was told by CPT (later COL) Stephen C. Husted. He said, "When the weather cleared our FOs were able to quickly find plenty of long range targets to shoot at. One of our FOs called in a fire mission on a well camouflaged and slow-moving truck that was slowly creeping down through the valley. I guess the driver thought they would not notice him. The FO gave us a set of coordinates that turned out to be at the very end of our max range. Because of the high elevation of our Firing Position, we were able to squeeze out some extra range. We quickly shot a White Phosphorous (WP) shell as a marking round and damned if we didn't hit the back end of the truck. Talk about a lucky shot! The FO first reported the truck on fire. Then it suddenly blew up into several big pieces and he quickly changed that to "Truck Destroyed-End of Mission-Out". {Note: CPT Husted went on to serve as the Bn XO of the 1-30th FA, 30th FA as a Major in 1977 when the unit was stationed in Germany.}

It was during this period that most of the personnel at Camp Evans were afflicted with amoebic dysentery that caused severe stomach cramps and uncontrollable diarrhea. It also brought a new meaning to the acronym TOT (Time on Toilet) (Note: Toilet paper was a premium item, and when that ran out, it was the Stars and Stripes newspaper, or the old standby, DA Form 2404 for Daily Maintenance). It was also during this time period that we were inundated with hundreds of pounds of Australian mutton. The Mess Sergeant prepared that mutton every way you can think of for about two straight weeks. He baked, barbecued, boiled, braised, broasted, broiled, charred, roasted, stewed, and toasted it. Yet no matter what he did to it, it still tasted greasy, and it smelled bad. I don't think anyone who was there at the time can stare a lamb chop in the face even today. During these exciting days the 1-30th FA's ace air observer, 1LT Stephen R. Esh, was presented with a Silver Star for his heroic actions during Operation Pegasus (back on 7 April 1968). Additionally, the pilot was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the crew chief was awarded the Bronze Star Medal w/"V" Device. These awards were presented by MG (later LTG) John J. Tolson, CG, 1st Air Cav Div, at a ceremony held in the HHB area. The story of 1LT Esh's exploit unfolds as follows: After spotting an estimated NVA Regiment moving toward the Marine Combat Base at Khe Sanh, he called in a 14-Battery Time on Target Mission. The combination of HE rounds with Variable Time fuses and Firecracker rounds devastated the NVA troop formation. Later, his pilot flew the LOH-6A Light Observation Helicopter low over the target area so 1LT Esh could assess the damage. Spotted among the numerous enemy bodies was a communist KIA with a map case that 1LT Esh thought might contain important intelligence information. The pilot set the helicopter down, while 1LT Esh and the helicopter crew chief exited the aircraft to retrieve the map case. A wounded NVA soldier appeared out of the brush and was about to shoot the crew chief when 1LT Esh engaged him with his M-16 and killed him. They retrieved the map case, and it was determined later to have contained very important pieces of the enemy's attack plans against the Marine combat base at Khe Sanh. Then on 5 May 1968, an NVA 122mm rocket hit in the heart of the HHB area. The rocket penetrated the roof of the generator shed that was located between the communications bunker and the Bn TOC near the Bn FDC end of the building. SP4 Robert W. Sanders was the generator operator on duty in the Generator Shed when the rocket hit and exploded. The building was literally blown apart and collapsed on top of him with pieces of the shed on fire. Several men from HHB distinguished themselves by rushing forward and

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27th ORD/MNT/MSB/BSB News



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Hey! How about that new look *SABER*! Great job, Association Staff. Unfortunately, the color photos on the first page, the back page, were

in the middle, and on only for one issue due to the printer being out of yellow. So this issue is back to black and white photos. You can see *SABER* with color photos by viewing them on the Association web page in a PDF. Visit <www.1cda.org/saber.html>.

It's been a bit slow on the news front but I have a great story of a lighter moment from back in the day as well as a few contacts, so let's get started.

I received a letter from Jim Hays, former A Detachment Specialist in 1969. Jim wanted to pass along an interesting development that occurred in Tay Ninh that involved our illustrious Detachment Commander, CPT Sid LaDow.

My name is Jim Hays. I was assigned to A Det. at Tay Ninh. I was reading the latest edition of the *SABER* and saw where the Captain had written into another column and stated that he usually reads each issue from cover to cover. That being the case, I thought now would be a good time to relate a story that I am sure CPT LaDow would willingly corroborate. (BTW, I called him and he did!)

This happened sometime in the spring of 1969. We received parts shipments, almost daily, from Battalion at Bien Hoa via aircraft. Many of the deliveries were bulky, requiring a 5-Ton tractor and a low-boy trailer (105mm gun barrels, generators, etc.). We had a guy, SPC Gould that executed the deed every day. As a result, he became good friends with most of the crew chiefs of the delivering aircraft.

On that fateful day Gould showed up to pickup whatever cargo was destined for our unit and was approached by one of his crew chief buddies who explained that he had a pallet that Gould may be interested in. He explained that a pallet was loaded onto his aircraft that morning without the proper documentation and was only labeled for delivery to Tay Ninh, without designating any receiving organization. He as crew chief was responsible for whatever was carried on his aircraft and he decided to find out what was crated on the pallet. He discovered that it was full of Johnny Walker Red Label whiskey which just happened to be unauthorized cargo for their types of flights. Question was what was he suppose to do with it, and would SPC Gould be willing to take it off of his hands before the crew chief found himself in some kind of trouble. Gould loaded her up on the low-boy!

Gould returned to our compound at a high (but safe!) rate of speed and ran to CPT LaDow with the good news. CPT LaDow, the smart man he was, immediately realized that someone would soon be looking for their missing shipment. At the time, we had a bunker which was built as a test fire pit for small arms. The CPT ordered that the crate be immediately dismantled and

destroyed, and the 80 cases of booze be stored in the bunker. Within ten minutes there was no visible sign of the cargo. CPT LaDow, again, being the smart officer he was, thought it only appropriate to share our good fortune with the powers that be, Brigade Headquarters. He took a couple of cases and went straight over. Long story short, Brigade HQ was trying to figure out who had pirated their latest allotment of Johnny Walker. As a consolation prize, the CPT was allowed to keep a case or two of the illicit cargo of which he graciously shared a fifth or two with the rest of the detachment. Morale was certainly high for an hour or two on that Spring day in 1969. CPT LaDow was one of the best CO's I ever had. I'm glad that he is still around to give his version of events.

Thank you, Jim, for sharing. As noted, I did get in touch with Sid at his home in Palm Bay, Florida. This was one of multiple fond memories he has of his time with A Detachment. He mentioned how fortunate he was to be able to serve his entire time at A Detachment, from I Corps to III Corps. Like most, he is slowing a bit but he is enjoying life and enjoys remembering the good old days with the 27th.

I received an email from LTC (Ret) Dick Weinberg. Dick served with the 27th from September 1966 – October 1967 at An Khe as shop officer and Battalion S-4. He retired from the Army in 1979 and went on to work a Lockheed Missile and Space, Lockheed Electronics and finally retiring for good from SAIC in 1999. He is enjoying the good life in Panama City Beach, Florida. He requested a copy of the 27th History in Vietnam and John Ramsden, Battalion XO, 1968-69, provided the same. Good hearing from you Dick. Keep in touch.

As most realize, the 1st Cavalry Division Association functions are primarily attended by aging veterans. We are looking for younger blood to start taking part in larger numbers in various positions and duties of the Association. Those veterans of Desert Storm, Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan are being sought and we are asking for their insight to continue the growth of this great Association. For those who use Facebook, please go the 27th MSB Rough Riders page. Join in with comments and stories. This page was set up by former members of the 27th Main Support Battalion who were active duty primarily from 2000 – 2008. I've shared a couple of stories and pictures with the group and have had many "likes" and comments. They love hearing from us. I thoroughly enjoy their stories.

I have been in contact with a regular from that page, SPC Ricardo (Rico) Cruz-Rivera. He is there, reaching out, to help those who are having some difficult times. I have reached out to him to encourage more membership to the Association and learn of the good things going on with our organization. Let's all double our efforts of reaching out to our younger veterans. What great efforts these soldiers made in producing the Army we have today! Step up, write them, encourage them, most importantly, WELCOME them.

I'm looking forward to the 1st Cavalry Division Association Reunion in Las Vegas. Until next time, stay happy, healthy and safe.

30th FA News

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ripping the pieces of the burning building apart until they found SP4 Sanders. He had one leg blown off and was riddled with rocket fragments. However, thanks to swift medical attention provided by CPT Gjerdrum, the battalion surgeon, and the Bn medics, they quickly transported SP4 Sanders to the 15th Medical Bn.

There he received treatment to stabilize his condition. He was quickly flown to a much larger surgical hospital in Japan, and later flown back to the States. {Note: It was determined in 1996 that SP4 Sanders had survived his wounds, but had to endure many months of rehabilitative surgery before being medically retired from the Army. As I remember it, he was promoted to SGT E-5 the day after they medevaced him out, and then to SSG E-6 the next day. As would be expected, he received the Purple Heart.} Additionally, a Navy Seabee who was assisting with the building of drainage ditches throughout the HHB area was not as fortunate. He died because of his wounds from the rocket that day.

Also as a result of that rocket, all of the generators were damaged or destroyed and all of the RC-292 radio antennas on top of the Battalion TOC were knocked down. Still, the RC-292 antennas knocked off the roof of the TOC were quickly repaired and communication was reestablished with all firing elements. Tents and bunkers in the immediate area were riddled with rocket fragments, and the Bn FDC end of the Bn TOC suffered some structural damage. The dirt-filled 105mm ammo boxes used to build the protective walls of the TOC were pushed in by the force of the explosion of the 100-pound rocket warhead. The back wall had to be rebuilt as it was "leaning in." A total of 14 personnel from the 1-30th FA were wounded that day including CPT (later MAJ) Robert E. Doering who was the FDO on duty in the Bn FDC. When the rocket exploded, a piece of rocket fragment bounced off the Perforated Steel Plate (PSP) on the ceiling of the Bn FDC/TOC and punctured his thigh. {Note: Those of us inside the TOC were knocked off our feet like a bunch of bowling pins from the force of the explosion. All of our maps and charts were blown off the walls and the dust was so thick it choked you. Your historian was standing next to CPT Doering looking at a map when he was hit. Your now scared and shaken historian used a 155mm Graphical Firing Table (GFT) and a belt as a tourniquet to squeeze CPT Doering's leg to try to stop the bleeding. The writers of Field Manual 6-40 for Artillery Fire Direction Procedures would tell you this was not the proper use of a GFT, but it got the job done. CPT Doering was medevaced out. He spent about three weeks recovering from his wound and was awarded the Purple Heart w/OLC. He had been wounded earlier in the year while serving in Service Battery as the Bn Motor Officer.}

Also wounded that day was SGM William J. Heidbreder Jr., the Battalion Sergeant Major, who was a WW II and Korean War Veteran. In spite of being wounded, he was the one who led the effort to pull the severely wounded SP4 Sanders from the burning and destroyed generator shed. In addition to the Purple Heart, SGM Heidbreder also received the Soldiers Medal for his actions. Following this incident, C-1-30th FA moved from the A Shau Valley on 10 May 1968, and occupied A-1-30th FA Position at Camp Evans. Also, C-1-30th FA displaced a two-gun Platoon to LZ Jack to provide additional coverage of Base Area 114. This movement was followed by A-1-30th FA, who returned from OPCON to the 3rd US Marine Div near the DMZ, on 17 May 1968, and moved to LZ JANE. On this same day, Operation Delaware was terminated by the 1st

Air Cav after capturing 2,371 individual weapons, 13 NVA 37mm AAA Guns, several machineguns, 42,000 large caliber rounds, 169,000 small arms rounds, 40 tons of food, two bulldozers, 73 wheeled vehicles, three tracked vehicles, and one tank still operational. Additionally, they had killed 737 enemy soldiers. The down side of this operation is that the 1st Air Cav suffered 86 KIA, 47 MIA, and had 530 WIA. One of the NVA 37mm AAA Guns and a Russian truck captured in the valley were presented to the 1-30th FA as a tribute to their efforts in this operation. The 37mm AAA Gun was displayed at the entrance gate to the Hqs Complex and the Russian truck was used to haul trash, which was about all it was worth.

On 19 May 1968, Camp Evans sustained many casualties when the Division's Ammo Supply Point (ASP) was destroyed after incoming 122mm NVA rockets started a fire in the powder storage area. The heat from this fire caused the entire ASP to eventually erupt in a million explosions. Every type of ordnance from M-16 rounds to 8" Howitzer rounds cooked-off and exploded, causing several casualties to personnel and heavy damage to many helicopters and structures. Also, 500-gallon rubber fuel bladders were exploding around the airstrip, and the fireballs they formed were seen at least 10 miles away. {Note: Your historian spent about three very nervous hours, sitting in a drainage ditch near the HHB Mess Hall, in-charge of a 12-man Quick Reaction Force.} Command anticipated that the enemy would use this opportunity to hit us with a ground attack. Fortunately, they did not. All the while you could hear pieces of metal and other debris flying through the air and hitting the ground all around us. To say we all became "One with the Earth" would be an understatement. Through the grace of God and a couple of very busy guardian angels, none of us were hit. The ground all around us was littered with every type of ordnance imaginable. When a relief force came out to replace us after midnight we were very happy to say the least. Rounds continued to cook off and explode in the ammo dump for more than 12 straight hours. One of my young sergeants (young was a relative term as I was only 25 years-old myself) and I started low-crawling past the mess hall toward the Bn TOC. As we had consumed our individual canteens of water a couple of hours earlier, we were very thirsty. The fear of death or dismemberment will do that to you. To get something to drink, we crawled over to the stainless steel 10-gallon coffee and bug juice urns located near the eating tent. That lime flavored, Kool-Aid tasting, chlorinated swamp water tasted like fine champagne. As I was gulping down my second cup of "bug juice" we heard a loud bang that scared the hell out of both of us (as if we could be any more scared than we were already). Something had just knocked the plywood door of the mess hall off its hinges. The mess hall was a large General Purpose (GP) tent hung over a 2" X 4" wooden frame with screening along with a couple of plywood doors. My young sergeant and I crawled over and found a 40-pound hunk of shell fragment from an exploded 8" round that had sailed from the ammo dump about 1,000 meters away. This is what had just knocked the mess hall door off its hinges. I made the mistake of touching the jagged and hot piece of shell fragment and burned the hell out of my fingers in the process. Sticking my burned fingers into that lime-flavored, Kool-Aid tasting, chlorinated swamp water made them feel a whole lot better! To this day I shudder every time I think of what that 40-pound hunk of shell fragment could have done to my tender, skinny body. I quickly crawled into the Bn FDC-end of the TOC and sat on my

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30th FA News

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helmet while holding my head between my hands. My thoughts were 10,000 miles away at that point. CPT Bill Potts was one of the Bn FDOs on duty and he took my picture. He told me afterwards that he had never seen anyone with such fear in their eyes. Thinking about the fact that I had less than three weeks left on my tour, and I had just been scared witless (or something like that) for the umpteenth time in the last 11 months, he was 100% correct. I sure wish I had a copy of that picture today. A total of 16 Hard Chargers were wounded during this attack. LTC Kloke gave me a three-day in country R&R at China Beach in Da Nang and I thank him. My original R&R to Hawaii had been canceled back in January 1968 because of the TET Offensive. At China Beach they had a PX-type snack bar set up there. The first day there, I ate cheeseburgers and French fries, and drank malted milkshakes till I puked. My stomach was still a mess from the amoebic dysentery so I switched to eating cheese doodles and drank rum and coke for the next two days. Man were we having fun or what!

All C-1-30th FA's Ammo Section who were in the ASP when it exploded, were wounded trying to escape the fiery inferno. The 1-30th FA's brand new 5-Ton wrecker was found the next day almost completely melted down due to the tremendous heat from the thousands of burning powder charges. This wrecker was a replacement for the one destroyed on 23 February 1968, when it took a direct hit by an NVA 122mm rocket which resulted in two Hard Charger KIAs. It took well over a week to dispose of the thousands upon thousands of exploded and unexploded rounds that littered the whole Camp. In one case, a 4.2" mortar round had hit one of the 3/4 Ton Trucks assigned to the Bn FDC Section. The round was so hot that it fused itself into the windshield frame and dashboard where it had penetrated but not exploded. The Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Team had a hell of a job trying to pull that round out. So they declared it "unsafe" and eventually just towed it out to the edge of the perimeter, slapped

some C-4 plastic explosive on top of it, and blew it up. Needless to say they declared the 3/4 ton truck a combat loss when they got through with it. A total of 16 Hard Chargers were wounded on this day.

On 1 June 1968, the 1-30th FA was officially assigned to the 1st Air Cavalry Division. The announcement was read at a formation held in front of the 1-30th FA's TOC with LTC [later COL] Jack Kloke presiding. A few days afterwards a 2-gun Platoon from B-1-30th FA displaced from LZ Sharon to LZ Anne. Then on 15 June 1968, the 1st Howitzer Battalion, 30th Artillery was reorganized and lost its "Howitzer" designation which it had held for ten years (1958-1968). It would now be known simply as the 1-30th FA. On 27 June 1968, LTC (later COL) Richard M. Jennings assumed command of the 1-30th FA. Action was sporadic for a few weeks until A-1-30th FA was hit with a vicious ground attack at LZ Jane on 21 July 1968. An incoming round hit a 5-Ton Truck loaded with 155mm ammo and powder canisters, setting it on fire. The immediate threat was that the burning vehicle would ignite the powder canisters and cause the explosion of the pallets of 155mm rounds. Rushing forward under intense ground fire was SP4 Richard H. Jones, SSG Jimmie A. Watson, and CPT John J. Fleming. In spite of the ground fire and intense heat, they began throwing the hot powder canisters clear of the vehicle and continued to do so until all were removed. They then attempted to extinguish the burning vehicle. The total disregard for their own safety and exposure to intense enemy small arms and mortar fire directly resulted in the avoidance of a major disaster. For their brave efforts on 21 July 1968, all three of these Hard Chargers were awarded a Bronze Star Medal w/"V" Device.

As a side note, some of the Soldiers named in this article have gone to Fiddler's Green including: LTG John Tolson, MAJ Robert Doering, CPT John Fleming, 1LT Steve Esh, CSM William Heidbreder, and SSG Jimmie Watson. May they rest in peace!

This is Hard Charger 9G ~ End of Mission ~ Out! Dan Gillotti

New Members

Continued from pg. 4

E-5 KALACHMAN HOWARD NY A 2- 12C 6711
 E-4 KEIFER AUGUST M NC D 2- 5C 6607
 SFC LAGANA CAROLYNETTE TX 1SB 1507
 SGT LAKES JOHN S KY 99FA 56
 SGT LANCE CODY G. TX A 1- 82FA 1307
 SFC (RET) LAWLESS TIMOTHY PAZ HHB DIVARTY 8911
 E-5 LEARY JAMES C FL C 1- 7C 6702
 E-4 LEWIS JASON NY A 2- 5C 9711
 E-5 LISIESKI FRANCIS W CT B 1- 9C 6909
 CW2 LYLES CURTIS O. JR TX C 27MSB 9201
 SGT MALICK ROBERT T. AZ LRRP 6903
 SGT MALONEY JAMES T. CA A 1- 7C 6705
 SGT MARTINEZ LEONEL R. TX B 1- 3C 1408
 SGT MAYS RONALD E. IN C 19FA 7011
 SP-4 MEISS RONALD PA HHC 2- 5C 76
 SGT MORGEN ROBERT JACOB TX B 2- 7C 1506
 LT MOSEN MARTIN J. NJ 2- 12C 6904
 MR. PACHECO TOMAS CA 12C 6012
 SPC PARTEN CORY J. TX B 1- 2STB 1006
 SP-4 PENDERGRASS STEPHEN M. NC D 1- 9C 6901
 SPC RICE ORRIN L. TX A 1- 12C 1311
 SSG RIGGINS ELLIS BILLY III TX 1ACB 1011
 PFC ROBERTS CHRISTOPHER JR TX A 1- 82FA 1501
 SGT ROBERTSON GARY D. TX E 82FA 6906
 MAJ ROPELEWSKI ADAM T. TX HHB DIVARTY 1511
 SGT ROTH KARA NY 215BSB 1311
 1SG SAMARRIPA RUBEN TX 615ASB 0008
 SPC SANCHEZ FIDEL TX 1CDH 1508

SGT SANTAELLA ELLIOT A. PR B 15MED 7606
 MSG SCHENK MARK L. TX HHT 1- 9C 06
 SGT SCHWALLE DAMEN S. TX 1CDH 1410
 SSG SEEMANN DANIEL W. TX 1- 9C 0810
 SSG SENG VIRAT SUSAVAN TX B 1- 3C 1304
 SP-4 SILVANIC MICHAEL LEE NY B 2- 12C 68
 SGT SNELL CASSIDY R. TX B 1- 12C 1204
 SSG STEBBINGS JOHN F. VA B 8ENG 6007
 CSM STINSON ROBERT L. TX C 2- 12C 75
 MR STRUGALA JOHN A. IL C 3- 82FA 8810
 1SG TAYLOR ALONSO TX D 4- 5ADA 00SSG
 MR. VITTORIO SCOTT M. WV 545MP 04
 SFC WAIL MICHAEL TX HHC 215FSB 1111
 E-4 WEBSTER KENNETH W. WI B 1- 8C 6609
 SPC WENZEL MIKE IN B 5- 82FA 0712
 1SG (RET) WILGEROTH JOE TX 227AVN 0509
 CPT WILSON ROBERT B III TX D 2- 5C 1210
 SPC WOOD RYAN TX A 15BSB 1210
 SPC WURTZ BENJAMIN TX G 2- 7C 1208



Thanks for joining the 1st Cavalry Division Association. We greatly appreciate your support.

Help us sign up the other Troopers that you have served with in the First Team.

Please keep us updated on your moves and address changes by sending an e-mail to firstcav@1cda.org or calling the office at (254) 547-6537.

Division Doings

Continued from pg. 5

"Earning second place and being able to stack up against these guys is really great," said McLaughlin. "You have all of the top-notch folks from the engineer regiment, so even to go there and finish all of the events feels great. It was a really good overall experience."

1st Air Cavalry Brigade Brings Air Mobility to Saber Junction 16 by CPT Jaymon Bell, 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, PAO.



SFC Sharon Stewart scans the horizon during Air Assault operation during Saber Junction 16.

HOHENFELS, Germany -- The 3rd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, "Task Force Spearhead," the regionally allocated force attached to the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade, recently completed their mission of providing aviation support to the 173rd Airborne Brigade during Saber Junction 16, here, March 31-April 24,

at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center.

The 3rd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, conducted air assault's, sling load operations, medical evacuations and provided mission command of eight AH-64 Apache's from Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, 12th CAB and of two CH-47 Chinook's from 1st Battalion, 214th Aviation Regiment, 12th Combat Aviation Brigade.

Task Force Spearhead moved over 450 passengers, flew 430 hours, moved 27,876 pounds of equipment and completed over 56 air movement requests. The highlight of Saber Junction was the three company sized air assaults that were conducted at night. Each serial included six UH-60 Black Hawk's, two CH-47

Chinook's, and four AH-64 Apache's.

The night time company air assaults are in preparation for Anakonda 16 where 3rd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, will conduct battalion size movements.

Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, conducted 24 hour attack aviation operations for the 13 days of the exercise. Their mission set covered the entire spectrum of unified land operations with joint air attack teams, deliberate attacks, screen missions, recon missions and air assault security. Six crews of aviators would cover the missions throughout the day and night.

"The Task Force quickly met the challenge of integrating into the scenario with a light infantry unit," said CPT Trey Wheeler, an Apache pilot and company commander for Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment. "Our coordination increased as the mission progressed."

Hotel Company from 1st Battalion, 214th Aviation Regiment, 12th CAB, also provided two CH-47 Chinook helicopters to perform heavy lift operations.

This rotation to the Joint Multinational Readiness Center focused on the basics associated with conducting operations in an austere environment. This began with the Task Force tactically occupying the assembly area at night using night vision devices.

Saber Junction 16 included nearly 5,000 participants from 16 allied and European partner nations.

Saber Junction 16 is U.S. Army Europe's annual combat training center certification exercise designed to evaluate the readiness of one of its two combat brigades to conduct unified land operations with an emphasis on tactical interoperability among allied and partner-nation forces.

1st Cav Soldier Takes Top DA Journalism Award by SSG Christopher Calvert, 1st Cav. Div. PAO

FORT HOOD, Texas - Many Soldiers are unsung heroes who complete their day-to-day missions not seeking praise, and even fewer receive the admiration they often deserve.

But only one Trooper can say she is the best in the Army at breaking that mold. SSG Leah Kilpatrick, the public affairs noncommissioned officer in charge of the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, here was recently named the Paul D. Savanuck Military Print Journalist of the Year during the 2015 Major General Keith L. Ware Journalism Competition.

"What's more fun and rewarding than telling the Soldier's story?" said the

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Division Doings

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Detroit native. "It's my job to tell the stories of the Soldiers of Greywolf. That's the reason I won; I give the credit to the Soldiers - I was just sharing their experiences."

Kilpatrick was no stranger to the military, growing up in a household with a mother and father who served in the Air Force and an older sister who enlisted in the Army as a petroleum supply specialist. So it should come as no surprise she found herself treading into familiar military waters in 2003 after attending college and finding herself strapped for cash, she said.

"Service was a rite of passage," Kilpatrick said. "I initially joined for pragmatic reasons when I ran out of financial aid and was unable to finish school at the University of Michigan. When I decided to join, I figured I'm going to do this on my terms and began looking for what the Army had that would allow me to write."

Kilpatrick developed an interest in writing, specifically creative writing, since the age of 12 and would often write poetry and short stories in her spare time.

It was during this time she began to fine tune her craft, one that would eventually help her become the best print journalist in the Army, and potentially the Department of Defense, as the competition judges are slated to announce the DoD winners April 15.

"I never was in love with the idea of journalism. It had too many rules, too much structure," she said. "I enjoyed poetic license, being able to do what I want and call it poetic license."

The avid poet was willing to give journalism a try in order to serve and keep a pen in her hand, she said.

"Now, I get to write, which is what I do, and the photography is a bonus," she said. "I fell in love with it."

During her training at the Defense Information School at Fort Meade, Maryland, she said she remembered thinking how she would love to return to the schoolhouse one day, planting the seed for her most rewarding experience thus far in the military, instructing.

After redeploying from Balad, Iraq in 2005 where she was the assistant editor of the installation newsletter, Kilpatrick jumped at the opportunity to become a Basic Public Affairs Specialist Course instructor, where she would teach the journalism block of instruction.

"Teaching was the most fun I've had my entire Army career," she said. "A lot of people spend their lives trying to figure out what they want to do. I had that eureka moment when I was on platform teaching. Whether in front of 12 students or 48, I always knew this is where I belong."

Kilpatrick would go on to coach, train and mentor three of the last four DA-level print journalists of the year: SSG Ken Scar; SSG Marcus Fichtl; and SSG Lindsey Kibler, her first Soldier after becoming an NCO.

"Most of my former students are my friends on Facebook now," she said. "Every time they place or they win [during the competition], I say 'Yes! We got one.' It's a good feeling. It's like watching your babies grow up."

MSG Angela McKinzie, PA NCOIC, 1st Cavalry Division, and Kilpatrick's former supervisor, became friends with Kilpatrick while they were at DINFOS and had always admired her professionalism.

"We met at DINFOS, where we were both on platform teaching," said McKinzie. "She was a consummate professional, always doing whatever it takes to mentor and guide her students. When she later came to my shop, I was so happy to have her on the team because I knew the caliber of Soldier she is, and how authentic and passionate she is as a person. She brings out the best in everyone around her." After instructing at DINFOS, she would move on to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and then to Yongsan, South Korea, before finally making her way to "The Great Place," where she served as the First Team's command information chief/editor.

Then, tragedy struck.

On October 23, 2014, her husband of five years and best friend of 10, Sam, tragically passed away, leaving behind a baby daughter, a toddler son and a grieving widow.

"I felt numbness," she said, of her initial reaction to the terrible news. "Then it was what all do I need to do, and I was more productive than I've ever been. I thought, 'I need to go here and do this and that,' constantly - I was on autopilot. I fed our kids on schedule every day, but lost 30 pounds, because I forgot to eat myself. I couldn't taste anything anyway."

However, Kilpatrick soon realized that by continuing to support her two children and by putting her best foot forward every time she dons her uniform, she is simultaneously shedding positive light on her late husband's legacy.

"When my kids need me, they need me; I push the emotions back," she said. "It's about self-preservation now - if you don't swim, you'll sink. Failure is not an option. My husband left me with the huge responsibility to raise our children. I got so much joy out of making him proud of me. In a lot of ways, I'm still trying to make him proud of me. I like to think of my angel in the clouds looking down and saying, 'You got this, honey.'"

McKinzie was side-by-side Kilpatrick during her time of need as her care team manager.

"Leah is a woman who carries herself with a humble, quiet grace yet her presence is powerful," said McKinzie. "Seeing such a vibrant soul go through this tragedy broke my heart, but the support from friends of past and present allowed me to see that she wasn't going alone. Whether it was making meals for her or



Leah and Sam Kilpatrick pose together for a photo during the Defense Information School's holiday party at Fort Meade, Maryland, Dec. 18, 2009. (U.S. Army courtesy photo, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs (released))

sending greetings from afar, I am truly humbled by the generosity of those who helped Leah. I cannot say she is okay -- I don't know if she will ever be okay. What I do know is that she is a warrior and lives life one day at a time."

Now, Kilpatrick finds her daily drive to accomplish the mission by continuing to bring out the best in her peers and by telling the Greywolf story

"This past year in 3rd Brigade, I've had the chance to meet some awesome Soldiers, who had great stories to tell," she said. "My advice to all of them is to keep shooting for the stars. For me, I'm not going to stop trying to be great just because of this milestone in my career. In all you do, strive for greatness."

Medics Battle for Best by SSG Leah Kilpatrick, 3rd BCT PAO



SGT Nicholas Santos, a senior medic assigned to 2-7 CAV climbs up a wall with a rope while negotiating an obstacle course during the division's Best Medic Competition.

FORT HOOD, Texas - This was just one of many feats required to win the 1st Cavalry Division's Best Medic Competition conducted April 26-27 here.

The two medics who scored the highest in a series of arduous tasks, testing basic Soldier skills as well as medical competencies, earned the honor of representing the division at the pinnacle of Army medical excellence, the Army Best Medic Competition in Camp Bullis, Texas, in September.

But on this damp April morning, with fatigue bearing down on them, the candidates had only will power and heart to keep them upright and moving toward the finish line.

"We are doing the division-level best medic competition," said 1LT David Attanasio, the First Team surgeon cell's patient administrator. "We are running 12 candidates from the subordinate brigades through a series of medical lanes and warrior tasks, standardized with the Expert Field Medical Badge testing."

The candidates began the day with an enhanced physical fitness test, akin to the Marine Corps PFT, with two minutes of pushups, two minutes of sit-ups, pullups, and a 3-mile run.

And just to set the tone for the entire event, the PFT was quickly followed by an obstacle course, requiring the candidates to climb a rope, jump over and under parallel bars, leap over walls and negotiate their way over a cargo net wall.

"The guys we got came out here motivated, determined," Attanasio said. "They would not be beat until their bodies gave out."

As Soldiers and civilians began trickling into their workplaces at 9 a.m., the candidates were just arriving at their third event, a five-mile tactical foot march carrying roughly 60-pound rucksacks. The event began when the Soldiers flexed their land navigation skills and plotted their points.

Then they stepped off, and along their route they encountered various tasks to complete and "casualties" to treat.

At any one of the four stations, they might find themselves triaging and loading patients into a military vehicle or controlling bleeding using a tourniquet and subsequently evacuating the casualty or treating an abdominal wound and initiating an IV.

The candidates conducted a stress shoot with both the M16 rifle and the M9 pistol inside the Engagement Skills Trainer 2000 and ended the day establishing a casualty collection point, maneuvering through the Military Operations in Urban Terrain site and conducting casualty evacuation operations.

But it didn't end there.

Before the sun had arisen, 12 candidates stepped off on a 12-mile stroll. The fatigue from the previous day's events took its toll on some of them, but there were others who would not be defeated.

"I just don't quit," said SGT Edwin Luchendo, a medic assigned to the 215th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cav. Div. "If I quit, I will feel so much worse than I would be feeling right now, so I'd rather just go ahead and finish it and just keep it moving."

Luchendo was in the lead for most of the foot march, but when SGT Nicholas Santos saw that he could finally catch him, it was game on.

"I just don't like to quit, and towards the end I stated seeing [Luchendo], and I thought he was a lot farther ahead of me, so I guess it's that whole competition thing," said Santos, a senior medic with 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd ABCT. "I was like, 'Oh, I can actually catch him now, so I'm going to push even harder and harder and harder.'"

Covered in sweat, tired and achy all over, Santos and Luchendo ran the final stretch of the foot march. Only one more obstacle lie ahead -- the written test -- to determine who was going on to San Antonio to attempt the Army Best Medic Competition.

Luchendo said winning in San Antonio would mean a lot to him.

That would be a great achievement, because not a lot of people have that," said the Arlington, Texas, native. "Even the opportunity to go for it, not everyone can do that. It's a big deal."

Together with the scores from all of the events, the pair scored the highest among the other 10 candidates and earned the honor of representing the First Team in San Antonio.

Now with five months to train for the medical crucible of a lifetime, for Luchendo and Santos, the real work hasn't even begun.

For additional stories about the 1st Cavalry Division visit the 1st Cavalry Division's Facebook page, <www.facebook.com/1stCavDiv/>.



SGT Edwin Luchendo, a medic assigned to the 215th Brigade Support Battalion, walks the last leg of the 12-mile foot march during the division's Best Medic Competition.

99th FA News



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I received a phone message from Jane informing me that we have lost SGT MacDonald. I hate to

open each column by reporting on a death in our family, but I guess we've reached the point where that's a common news item. I have been unable to contact Jane to get more information, but I'm sure there are 99th FA Bn Troopers who will recognize the name.



Jim at the Korean War Memorial

I will continue the recap of my year, minus a few days, serving in the Korean War with the 1st Cavalry Division, 99th FA Battalion.

As I mentioned, the change of command to GEN Ridgeway seemed to improve moral a great deal. We were still trying to work our way out of the hole the Chinese intervention had put us south of the 38th Parallel, but we were making progress and our mission seemed clear.

The weather was warming some so one of our enemies was weakening, but mud was taking place of the ice and was difficult to deal with too. Rain was not as bad as snow, but still darned uncomfortable with little or no protection from it in a foxhole or open truck. And we were dirty! I don't

remember changing clothes or immersing my body in soapy water all winter, so we were unimaginably dirty. Some people have talked about showers in April, 1951, but my wire team was always too busy I guess, and we remained dirty; filthy really.

It was a nice day in April; a little chilly, but the snow was gone, when we were moving somewhere or other, and needed to regroup. So we rendezvoused to bring the battalion together to change positions. Headquarters Battery pulled into this open area first. We took a grassy field near a large sandy open area. My truck and the other wire section vehicles were lined up bumper to bumper when B Btry started pulling in beside us in the sandy field. About 10 feet away one of the 2 1/2 ton trucks ran over a mine. With a blinding flash and accompanying boom, our BS session was over. Other than a good shaking up, no one seemed injured. A wheel, I believe, right-front, was damaged. The GI riding shotgun jumped out and ran to get repair parts for the crippled truck. A second boom-flash left him lying in the sand with his leg shattered by another mine explosion. These seemed to be small anti-personnel mines but they created a big problem for B Btry. The Medics were called and they along with our Battalion Doctor were treating the wounded Trooper. We watched as things seem to quiet down. One of our wiremen who was a buddy of the wounded B Btry Trooper ran over to be with him while he was being treated and readied for transport. While it's certainly never a good thing to have a Trooper wounded, this seemed to be a good situation. The Medics were in control, the Battalion Doctor was there, and there was a Chaplain from somewhere there, with a photographer. Troops crowded around; even the Battery Commander was helping console the victim.

We were watching this occur about 25 feet away from our parking spot when the Medics began to transport him lifting the stretcher, then, setting it back down. At that point there was a huge explosion which knocked some of us off our feet and rained debris on us. The stretcher scene was a cloud of dust and smoke over several bodies scattered around a hole where the wounded Trooper and his care takers had been. We lost 12 KIA



Just before second mine exploded

and several wounded in that episode without an enemy in sight.

What happened was an unanswered question. Did the Medics set the stretcher on a souped up mine? Or was it a pressure fuse that was set off when they lifted the stretcher? No matter it was a horrendous happening with a big loss. B Btry Commanding Officer, both of our Medics, the Battalion Doctor, the Chaplain, and the photographer, along with our wireman, and the victim and some onlookers were KIA. It was my second narrow escape in a mine attack and it's why I hate mines even today.

Helicopters were called in to transport the wounded, but something changed at the front lines and I and my Spirit Forward wire team were sent to lay some wire. We were very cautious where we drove or walked even tip-toeing whatever good that would do. The B Btry mine incident is one of those things that will remain fixed in my mind forever.



Evacuating the wounded from mine explosion

Our unit became very mobile again much like the Pusan Perimeter days only we were moving up instead of back. This meant that my team and I spent some very busy and sleepless days and nights as our unit moved and we provided communication to the infantry battalions.

At about this time we began to get some new replacements. Other than a batch after Unsan, we had received very few new men so we were still shorthanded. The good thing about this was these were American troops; combat trained American troops rather than ROK army troops. Lo and behold one of the replacements getting off the truck was an HQ's Btry man who was wounded in our first combat action. We'd thought he was long gone back to the States, never to be seen again, here he was in new fatigues looking very unhappy to be back and did not take well to our kidding.

Another interesting replacement incident came in an on the job training situation. A member of my team and I were looking for a break in our telephone wire by walking down an unpaved road with two of our new crew when we received some random enemy fire. The Chinese had been firing some kind of anti-aircraft weapons randomly which were going overhead; we knew that it wasn't meant for us and kept looking for the break or cut in the wire. Momentarily we realized the two new guys were no longer around. We retraced our path to find the new Troopers lying in a muddy ditch. Looking down at them I asked, "What are you doing down there?"

"They're shooting at us!" came the reply. I laughed about it at first, but then I thought, "My God, I've been here way too long; I'm getting used to this."

Most folks who are rotated out of a combat zone have pleasant memories of the event; not me. I can't remember much about the process at all. Yes, I remember going back to HQ's for supplies and having the 1st Sergeant yelling, "Miller, you want to rotate? Hurry up and get on that truck; they're ready to leave!" So I undid my pistol belt and tossed my equipment into my faithful truck, still without a gas tank, and climbed up into the idling truck which then left. That's the only concrete memory I have until I landed in Seattle sometime later. I have little snatches of things like taking all my clothes off and throwing them in a burning pile and going through the "sheep dip" process for bugs, but I don't remember Japan or getting new uniforms or getting on the ship. A few gambling events are clear in my mind on the trip home and the events in Seattle. The train trip is pretty clear; they put two of us on a regular Pullman car with females and everything. I bought an expensive watch in Seattle that I still have, and it runs. When I reached my home town of Canton, Ohio, there was no one to greet me, no bands, or no parades. I threw my duffle bag in a taxi and went home. End of story.

Unfortunately, this is my last column. When I turned 80, I said "I'm done." When I turned 85, I said "I'm done." I'm now 86 and I am done. It's difficult for us all who are left and I surely understand that. I have some physical problems that make it difficult, and I don't think there are many of us left who are able to submit info for the column. So I am going when I can make a good exit. "Leave 'em laughing," is my new motto.

I will always be a First Team Trooper with red legs! Thanks to Dennis Webster and his 1st Cavalry Division Association team for letting me hold forth in the Saber. And once more, remember we are all in this together. CSMO Jim Miller

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LRRP/Ranger News



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Fairfax, Virginia by Confederate troops in the spring of 1863. The troops who conducted the raid were members of the 43rd Battalion, 1st Virginia Cavalry, Army of Northern Virginia, a Ranger unit that was also known as Mosby's Rangers or Mosby's Raiders.

The raid on the Fairfax Courthouse by Mosby's Rangers was one of the most famous raids by a Ranger unit during the Civil War, but it was only one of many such raids. Both sides, the Union and the Confederacy, used Ranger forces within their ranks to carry out lightning quick raids against the other side and then to elude their pursuers and disappear by blending in with the local townsmen and farmers.

Colonel John Singleton Mosby was the commander of the 43rd Battalion. He had joined the Confederate Army as a private at the start of the war and had risen through the ranks to colonel. J.E.B. Stuart, with General Robert E. Lee's concurrence, had given command of the battalion to Mosby at the start of 1863. Under Mosby's leadership, the Rangers became famous for their daring raids on Union communications and supply lines between Washington, DC and Fredericksburg, Virginia. In the spring of 1863, Mosby, then a captain, and his Rangers were given the order to assemble at Dover Mill in Loudoun County, Virginia and then to penetrate Union lines and capture COL Percy Wyndham, the commander of a Union cavalry brigade. COL Wyndham was at his headquarters at the Fairfax Courthouse. The mission was a vendetta for Mosby who COL Wyndham called "a common horse thief."

In groups of two and three men, 29 of Mosby's Rangers arrived at Dover Mill amid the drizzle of a miserable day. They moved out in the cold rain through the black of night and fields of mud and entered Fairfax at 2:00 a.m. They quietly moved through the town capturing sentinels, cutting telegraph wires, and securing horse stables and various other buildings. Arriving at the courthouse, they discovered that COL. Wyndham was actually housed in a building on the other side of town. A squad of Rangers was dispatched to the site only to learn that COL Wyndham had been summoned to Washington, DC and had spent the night there rather than return to Fairfax and be with his troops in the field. An interrogation of some prisoners soon revealed an even greater prize - the commander of the Vermont Infantry Brigade, BG Edwin H. Stoughton, was in town.

Mosby and his men forced their way into the general's headquarters and found the young 25-year old general sound asleep. The Rangers took him prisoner and returned to the courthouse with their captive around 3:30 a.m. Mosby and his men began to ex-filtrate and return to Dover Mill with their Union soldier captives and a large number of Union horses. In total, Mosby and his Rangers captured one Union general, two captains, 30 enlisted men, and 58 horses. Not

a shot was fired, nor a man killed or wounded in the raid.

Interestingly, after the war COL Mosby worked as an attorney for President Ulysses S. Grant, former commander of the Union forces, serving in the U.S. Department of Justice.

On a different note, I received the following email from LTC Jim Wright (1967), Yorktown, Virginia. "I came across an article in the 11 March 2016 issue of the Newport News Daily Press entitled "Looking Back in Time," It featured a picture of a Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) Team which was participating in a weekend reenactment at the Hampton, Virginia Historical Museum. Mary Jane and I attended the reenactment. I was concerned that the actors would turn out to be a bunch of wannabes with a lot of B.S. Turns out, they were young men ages 20-25 who for some reason have focused on reenactments related to Special Forces, LRRPs, and members of SOG. After careful questioning, it became apparent to me they were taking this seriously and that they had done extensive research on related tactics, techniques, and procedures. See attached Daily Press photo. Also, <www.vietnam-airsoft.com/phpBB3/viewtopic.php?f=11&t=437>."

"The name of the reenactment group is RT Ramrod, a living history group specializing in representations of U.S. special operations units, including long-range reconnaissance patrol teams, members of the Studies and Observations Group (SOG), and of MACV Recondo School. Apparently, they have auxiliary groups in other parts of Virginia as well, and in North Carolina, Georgia and perhaps elsewhere. They were dressed in Tiger fatigues, had their faces painted, and displayed all of the related LRRP equipment to include AK 47s, M-16s, AR 15, SKS, M-15, M-60, Claymores, LRRP rations / C Rations, and all the paraphernalia."

"The group is also scheduled to appear at a historical gathering at a Jamestown, Virginia park next weekend, 18-20 March 2016. See <www.historyisfun.org/jamestown-settlement/military-through-the-ages/2016-reenactment-units/>."

"The group we spoke with was completely unaware of any LRRP organizations and apparently has not been in direct contact with any actual LRRP members other than those who just happened upon them at these historical events."

"Has there been any situational awareness of RT Ramrod or of their portrayal of LRRP history? Best Regards. Jim."

I received the following email from Sam Dixon (1971), New Castle, Delaware. "It was announced at this year's mid-year board meeting that Pete Booth's wife died on February 11th, 2016. Also, the early report for the Las Vegas reunion is showing that this reunion is going to be a large one. Seventy percent (70%) of the allotted rooms have already been booked. All luncheon rooms will be on the small size. The largest luncheon group will get the only large room available. Sam."

On a final note, I received the following from Bill Carpenter (1967), Fairmont, West Virginia: "I just got off the phone with Doug Parkinson (1967-68), Bayside, California: "Bob Ankony (1967-68), Huntington Beach, California, passed

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Greetings once again fellow Sky Troopers. It's that time of the year when many of you will be traveling to the annual reunion. I know you seasoned aviators will have a great time in Vegas. It was once a training center for helicopter pilot swagger, borne of sunglasses, drinking, gambling and ladies. Ah, yes. Air Cav... because even naval fighter jet pilots need someone to envy.

Let's pull pitch and launch this issue by honoring a lifetime of devotion to aviation by a Silver Wings trooper and friend, Fred "Pink" Martin. It saddened me to learn of his passing, April 3, 2016 following an illness. Pink was the type of person that I could call on, at any time with an aviation query, and get a cheerful and helpful response. He had decades of experience, a wealth of information, and was always eager to help. He once emceed the Silver Wings Luncheon during our annual reunion.

Fred spent most of his youth in Maryville, Illinois. He honed his mechanical and math skills working in the local blacksmith shop and rebuilding Model T Fords into racecars. His real love was flying. As a kid he borrowed \$40 to take flying lessons. He took his skills and his love of flying to the Army.

He was a Liaison Pilot flying a Stinson L-5 for the 1st Cav in the Philippines, 1945. He was later discharged and joined the Air Corps Reserves. Obtaining a Commercial Pilot Certificate through the Military Competence, a Flight Instructor Certificate on the GI Bill, "Pink" started a Flying School at Lakeside



Fred 'Pink' Martin

Airport in Granite City, Illinois training GI Bill students for Private, Commercial, Fight Instructor and Multi-Engine Certificates. He operated a fleet of light aircraft and some military surplus such as the PT19, PT23, PT26, PT17, BT13, UC78 and a Navy Timm. In February 1950, he became a Flight Instructor in the Air Force Primary Flight training program instructing Cadets Student Officers at Columbus AFB, Alabama. In February 1961, Fred worked with the FAA in Anchorage, Alaska and later the King Salmon FSS. He was discharged from the USAFR as a Major. In January 1963, he was assigned as an Operations Inspector in the



Pink Martin

Cincinnati, Ohio FAA Flight Standards Office and became a Jet Specialist. Later in Europe Fred headed up the Operations team in the Certification of the German manufactured Hansa Jet and ran test flights out of Tarragon Air Base, Madrid, Spain. In 1968, he was transferred to the Columbus, Ohio FAA, G.A.D.O. as the Principal Inspector over Executive Jet Airways Inc. Retiring in 1984 as the Louisville, Kentucky FAA G.A.D.O. At age 95, Fred was the "Silver Wings of the Cav" most senior member.

In all that Fred did he achieved excellence, truly earning his title as a member of "The Greatest Generation." His last contribution to this column was in the Jan/Feb issue. He will be missed. We salute you, Pink.

Let's set a heading for some mail. I have a few messages I'd like to share with you that came into my <python26@aol.com> mailbox. I thought it odd that for the past several months' incoming "Silver Wings" emails had dropped dramatically. So I checked my e-address as printed in the SABER to confirm the address is correct. IT WAS NOT. An error on my part for sure. When I sent my updated e-address into the association last year, I ended it with the wrong server (aol.com) it should be (gmail.com). So the correct address is: <SilverWingsoftheCav@gmail.com>. Sorry for any returned/rejected mail due to my error. I really think it has something to do with aging as I find myself doing stupid stuff like this of late. Okay, let's get back to the mail sortie.

The first one comes from John Brennan. "Hank, would you be so kind as to post the following request in the wonderful Cav newsletter. Thank you, and thanks for all that you do to help your brother veterans, all the best, John.

Dear helicopter veterans, my next Vietnam War helicopter book is 50% complete. The other half needs your help. I am an Army aviation veteran in search of in-country photos and historical data pertaining to personalized artwork and names (e.g. Good Vibrations, Proud Mary) painted on Army helicopters during 1962-73. Help me document this often-overlooked chapter of our aviation history. Thank you gentlemen. Respectfully yours, John Brennan, former SP5, 114 AHC, 1970-71, Vinh Long AAF, Mekong Delta, <johnmailman@yahoo.com>.

Next from Deborah Cenni: "It's official now; DD-214's are now online. Please pass on to other vets. The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following web sites for veterans to gain access to their DD-214's online: <vetrecs.archives.gov/> and <archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>. This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes. NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files.

Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents. Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard

Form 180, which can be downloaded from the online web site.

Because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized. The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by elimination the records centers mailroom and processing time. Please pass this information on to former military personnel you may come in contact with and their dependents."

This note came in from Ralph Tutrani, "Hank, I was doing some Googling and stumbled across your Silver Wings of the Cav postings. You actually referenced the "Take Me Home" Huey event that I participated in this past November in Peoria, Arizona. I served with Charlie Company, 15th Med Bn, 1st Cav in Vietnam February '68 through February '69 as a Medevac door gunner. Let's chat sometime if you wish. Best Regards, (also) Clear Right." Ralph J. Tutrani Vice President Investment Services Business Excellence, 760 Moore Road, King of Prussia, PA 19406." Ralph is referring to the Jan/Feb 2016 column about Steve Maloney's "Take Me Home Huey" displayed at the Rio Vista Recreation Center in Peoria, AZ., last November 5th, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. Good hearing from you Ralph.

Carl Buick <carlbuick@gmail.com> sent in this note and a couple photos. "Hank... I think we traded emails some years back. I was in E Btry/82 FA as a F/W pilot. I am a retired firefighter in a small town fire department in central Washington (Wenatchee, WA). About 20 plus yrs ago, our department purchased 3 Huey's from Fort Hood for the price of a title transfer + \$5.00. Two were used for cannibalization and the third is used for firefighting. It's a beautiful old work horse. I don't know her combat history, but I'll go ahead and research it, if I can. I just read your Saber article for this month and thought that you might be interested a picture of it. A/C info: <www.aviationdb.com/Aviation/Aircraft/9/N911MR.shtm>. Carl, Thanks. Good looking bird! Thanks for sharing. Anyone out there have information on #65-09710? With Carl's note I'll bring this quick mail sortie will end.



While attending the 1998, annual 1st Cav reunion held in Buffalo, New York, my wife and I were dining with Hank Milum, A/229th AHB, 65-66, and his son Shawn. Before leaving the dining area, Hank handed me a faded single-page typed story and several other Air Cav related items to add to my archives upon returning home. By chance, I recently came across that piece of paper while searching for another file. I noticed

it was almost fifty years to the day of the incident described within, making for a perfect time to recount the event. Hank, the quiet giant from Madison, Connecticut who attended many reunions, died July 10, 2002 in Summerfield, Florida where he had recently retired. Hank told me back in Buffalo that he witnessed the landing described in the story below.

"The Army Aviation company commander was angry. He stood watching a helicopter come in, bounce, almost nose over, rock back and bounce against the PSP of the landing pad. "That's the worse landing I've ever seen," he shouted. "Who the hell is the pilot?" Just then the door of the chopper opened and out slid an enlisted man from the pilot's seat. "Give me a hand" he shouted to all within hearing distance. "I've got a couple wounded men."

"The wounded turned out to be both pilots. The trooper who landed the bird was the crew chief, PFC Orvel McKee of Farmington, New Mexico. He had never flown the Huey before. But he managed to keep the bird in the air long enough to get to safety. It was an emergency.

"When the Cav got into trouble at the base of Chu Pong Mountain that day it was the first real combat that McKee had been in. He was crew chief on one of the first birds that ferried troops into the fight with the heavily armed PAVN. "We weren't on the ground more than a couple of seconds when the NVA opened fire from a tree line just 10 yards from the rotor wash," McKee recalled. "Eight rounds came through the right Plexiglas, some hitting the pilot. The co-pilot took over the aircraft and lifted it about 20 feet above the trees. But it began to lose altitude. Both sides brushed against the treetops as it dropped toward earth.

"We were rocking around and the lieutenant (co-pilot) was having trouble getting control of the ship. The bird was going around in circles. He radioed for help and one chopper came in and started firing at the PAVN below". McKee, meanwhile crawled forward in the helicopter cabin and bandaged the pilot's left arm, he also noticed a hit to the right thigh.

"The crew chief managed to get the pilot out of the seat and secured in the cargo area. By this time the co-pilot had the chopper fairly well under control and was gaining altitude.

McKee moved back forward to see if he could help the lieutenant. "All of a sudden, the co-pilot looked at me in an odd way and shouted, "take over". "The lieutenant's face looked like it was starting to swell. It was white and his head started nodding." This was the first time that McKee realized that the co-pilot also had been wounded. A slug had torn into his left shoulder. The crew chief put his hands on the controls. He had never flown a helicopter before, but he had watched the pilots go through the mechanics many times. "I didn't have any time to learn," he commented, "I just had to do it."

The landing area wasn't far and McKee managed to keep the bird fairly level

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15th MED/15th FSB/15th BSB



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MEDEVAC pilot Hank (Little Okie) Tuell Inducted Into Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame November 2015.

Another honor was bestowed on a 1st CAV MEDEVAC pilot. Hank (Okie) Tuell, was inducted into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame. In addition to being inducted into the DUSTOFF Association Hall of Fame in 2011, the notorious tobacco chewing Oklahoman, who flew as 'MEDEVAC 1' in the 1970 time frame, was recently inducted into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame in November 2015. 'Okie' now resides in Red Lodge, Montana and has been doing great things for our wounded warriors through Operation Second Chance.

The other-'Big Okie'-was CW2 Phillip K. Gibbons. If I'm wrong, someone who knows, correct me. I'm looking at a saved copy of 15th MED Association founder Snore's original Website with the 1970 roster. I had to pick a name I thought was possible and it says he DEROS'ed in February '70, which would work, because I never saw him-'Big Okie'-later. As a new MEDEVAC Medic in January '70 coincidentally my very first mission was with both these 'Okies' flying together-probably inseparable.

Terry McCarl <terryamccarl@gmail.com> sends in his account of the 2016 15th Medical Battalion Association Reunion: "The 15th Medical Battalion Association 2016 Reunion was held in Olympia, Washington, April 11-16. Reunion Coordinator (and now new Association President) Larry Hatch began planning for the Reunion immediately after the 2015 Reunion in Boise, Idaho. He put together an incredible program and publicized the Reunion widely in periodicals of interest to veterans including the 1st Cavalry Division Newspaper (SABER) and the 15th MED Bn. Association's new Website, <www.15thmedbnassociation.org>.

"The turnout was incredible! A total of forty-two veterans attended; along

with spouses, family, and guests, over eighty people from twenty-one states were there! For many veterans, this was their first Reunion, and others had not attended for years. Attached is a group photo and identification of the veterans in attendance.

"The Red Lion Hotel is a superb reunion/convention facility with a spectacular view of Capitol Lake and the Washington State Capitol. Rooms were spacious and luxurious for a daily group rate of only \$94 per night. A free hot breakfast was available for guests every morning. Service to guests in all areas was outstanding.

"There was never a dull moment at the Reunion. When participants were not on one of the tours, at a meeting, or group dinner, they could always go to the hospitality room and visit with old friends and make new ones.

"Tours included the Museum of Flight at Boeing Field (eighty-five historic air and spacecraft), the Lemay Family Auto Collection (over 2,500 vintage cars, trucks and other vehicles), NW Helicopters (200,000 square feet of hangar space filled with helicopters), and the Olympic Flight Museum (historic rotary and fixed-wing aircraft and other flight memorabilia).

"There was a group dinner Tuesday-Saturday evening. On Friday night a Banquet Barbecue Dinner with music by an outstanding group called the Oly Mountain Boys Bluegrass Band.

"A Saturday auction of donated items raised almost three thousand dollars for the Association. The auction lived up to its reputation as being fun and lively.

"Some review comments by participants were: 'We had a blast,' 'Never seen such a fun auction at Reunions,' 'Fantastic Reunion,' 'BBQ banquet and entertainment fantastic,' 'Tour options great.' Even the Red Lion Hotel Staff said, 'We never had such a fun group in attendance!'

"The 2017 Reunion will be held in Branson, Missouri. Dates will be established soon. Visit the Association's Website at <www.15thmedbnassociation.org> for details. Make plans to attend for a fantastic time.

"Quoting Larry Ash, MEDEVAC door gunner, '70-'71, who was unable to attend the Reunion for health reasons, 'Only a very special event in one's life can continue to bring so many together so long afterwards. 'So That Others May Live'.... That pretty well sums up the 15th Medical Bn. Assn. Reunions!'"

Larry was one of the many MEDEVAC door gunners with a Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB)-looking out for his own. He had been in 2-12 CAV "Ace High."

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



2016 15th MED Association Reunion Attendees, Front row: Larry Hatch, Art Martin, Leo Williams, Bob McKinley, Bill Haistings, Jim Calibro, Richard Schroder, Randy Cavanaugh, Clyde Moore Subsequent rows: Rudy Peden, Tom Grove, Larry Silvey, Jim Victor, Randy Burkhart, Dennis Guthrie, Rich Leonard, Barry Brown, Larry Norris, Jim Hall, Dave Huser, Damien Vierra, , Jim Ong, Ken Colby, Jim Fergusen, Mike Smith, Terry McCarl, Richard Medlock, Jon Lundquist, Ron Huether, Fred McKeller, Ron Ingram, Henry Land, Ken Moro.

LRRP/Ranger News

Continued from pg. 15

away this morning (March 20, 2016). You now know all that I know. Bill."

The following was posted online by The News-Herald. "Robert C. Ankony, known as the "Tan Running Man of Grosse Ile," has died at the age of 67. During his life, Mr. Ankony ran more than 130,000 miles in various countries around the world. Mr. Ankony's family said he struggled for years with post-traumatic stress disorder and depression, which resulted in his taking his life. In an open statement, his daughter, Catherine Christ, wrote: "If I could get just one more minute with him, I'd want him to know how loved and cared for he was, and always will be, to me and so many others." Ankony was born September. 21, 1948, to Edmond and Ruth Ankony in Detroit's south end, where he grew up."

"His wife, Cathy Ankony, said he was a troubled youth who "begged his mother to sign him up for the military at a young age instead of finishing high school. Despite his mother's concerns, in October 1965, at the age of 17, he began serving as a paratrooper in Europe and then transferred to the 1st Air Cavalry Division in Vietnam, where he was made sergeant and a team leader."

"He received an honorable discharge after eight years of military service and was awarded honors including the Expert Rifleman Badge, the Vietnam Campaign Medal and a Bronze Star. After his service in the Army, he served with Company F, 425th Infantry (Ranger) in the Michigan National Guard, and became an undercover narcotics officer and a detective sergeant with the Wayne County Sheriff's Department in Detroit."

"While working full time with the Wayne County Sheriff's Department, he



Robert C. Ankony

earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, a master's degree in correctional sciences from the University of Detroit Mercy, and master's degrees in science and arts, as well as a doctorate in sociology (criminology) from Wayne State University. He also did graduate research in the former Soviet Union and in other Warsaw Pact nations as part of his studies."

"His wife said she hopes his story of overcoming obstacles inspires other youths who are struggling or are having a difficult time finding their way in life. One afternoon while working at the department, he met his wife, Cathy. She said they first met when he came in to fill out an application for a promotional examination to become a sergeant. The couple recently celebrated their 38th wedding anniversary by spending the day at a beach, where they "sat and basked in what we thought was such a wonderful, lucky and amazing life together," she said."

"After working with the sheriff's department from 1972 to 1982, Mr. Ankony decided to retire and begin writing criminological, firearms and military articles for scientific and professional journals and for special-interest magazines. In addition to those interests, many Downriver residents would say they knew him most for his running."

"On average, he ran 2,800 miles a year, which added up to more than 130,000

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Bob Ankony, LZ Betty, Quang Tri Province, January 1968

20th and 79th Artillery Regiment News



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Well, the April showers have come and gone, the lush green grass has been cut thrice, and the birds are busy feeding on the new feeders. The water falls here at Skyland Falls Condominiums were turned on after the last freeze to find out we have a leak in the return line. Maintenance called in our handyman team and we were handed an estimate of \$1,999.00 to repair the line. Why did I ever accept the nomination to be President of this Association?

There is a way to take a break from all this – “Go West Old Man, Go West to the Springs of Colorado!” I hope you are making your plans to attend the reunion. I will include my usual reminder as I promised. Again, I call your attention to our 2016 Reunion scheduled for September 7-11, 2016, at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 7290 Commerce Center Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80919. Our hosts are Larry and Regina Mobley, with the Board of Directors assisting. Room rates are \$117.00 per night, plus 9.63 % tax. Rates are good for two days pre/post 7-11 September 2016. Reservations may be made by calling 1-800-362-2779 or 1-719-599-9100. When making reservations use code “ARAA” to ensure you receive the \$117.00 rate. Thirty-five (35) rooms have been set aside for our reunion. You are encouraged to make your reservations early as more rooms can be set aside as needed. The hotel has requested that all reservations be made by 6 August 2016. Embassy Suites provides a complimentary cooked to order breakfast each morning, plus free drinks during the evening reception each day. For those who are flying, flights can be made into Colorado Springs Airport (COS). For those traveling by RV, there are several camp grounds in the area. We stayed at the Air Force Academy and found the sites to be very large and accommodating. Would recommend one check them out. The rates were very reasonable.

Now on to mail call. Received an email from an armament repairman who served in ARA and thought our Saber articles could and should have more news about non crewmembers of the units. He voiced the same song I have been singing for ten years. We need correspondence from every member of ARA to complete the story – the story which will form the basis of the book, “The History of ARA in Vietnam,” for which Jesse Hobby and I are gathering data as we archive each email and letter we receive. So once again, I call upon all members; cooks, bakers, clerks, POL specialists, avionics specialists, armament repairmen, medics, aviation maintenance personnel, military drivers, and public affairs personnel. If I have left anyone out please forgive me and add your field (MOS), with stories, to our data gathering project.

On my birthday, March 13, 2016, I received an email from Jesse with additional information about the Battle of An Loc.

“While we have discussed killing tanks with helicopters and the Battle of An Loc in previous editions, the following article taken from the 1999 edition of the VHPA Directory covers the Vietnam War from the Easter Offensive of 1972 to the end of the Vietnam War, sheds some new light on the role of F/79 during this time period.



An Loc from the Air

pads at Lai Khe and Son Be had small stacks of 2.75 inch rockets with warheads few of the pilots had seen or used, High Explosive Anti-Tank or HEAT.

Manufacture dates on these Korean War-era warheads was 1953, when they were used by fixed wing attack aircraft. The only upgrade was to mate them to current rocket motors with canted nozzles, instead of motors designed to be fired at high speeds, so these little six-pound warheads were propelled by the same rocket motors as the heavier warheads.

That resulted in impressive velocity and trajectory for pilots accustomed to shooting 17 pound warheads, but the terminal effects did not satisfy those who needed the bursting radius of the 17 pounders. Against armor, HEAT usually made deadly little holes, but they were all but useless for other types of targets, so they were not favored by the Cobra pilots in the cavalry troops.

In contrast, the Cobras of F/79 accomplished what should be considered some of the army’s best work with those HEAT rounds. On 13 April, as Soviet-made T-54 tanks rumbled and clanked arrogantly and without infantry support into An Loc, the situation seemed as bleak for the US advisors as it did for the ARVN defenders they were helping.

The story cannot be told better than it has been told by COL Bill Miller, the senior adviser at An Loc. At the tanks penetrated into the city and approached his command bunker, a Blue Max fire team from Battery F, 79th AFA reported on station, and called that they were prepared to engage. COL Miller did not think helicopters would have any effect on the tanks and told them the anti-aircraft fire was so bad that if they rolled in they would not roll out.

CW2 Barry McIntyre had the F/79th commander, MAJ Larry McKay in his front seat. A comment about McKay that says a lot for his character is that although he regularly flew the extremely hazardous missions to An Loc, he usually occupied the copilot’s position with his aircraft commanders. That was not because of lack of experience on his part. He already wore the star of a senior aviator on his wings. McKay responded to the senior US advisor that his team was armed with HEAT rounds.

Expecting heavy ground-to-air fire but receiving almost none, Blue Max rolled in with 17 pound HE warheads in the inboard pods and old HEAT warheads outboard.

HEAT Although High Explosive (HE) warheads were not expected to destroy tanks, the first tanks killed by helicopters during the Spring Offensive were destroyed by multiple hits from 17 pound HE warheads fired from extremely close range. Within a day or two, the rearming

That day at An Loc, almost at the feet of the senior officer who was at the very center of the most violent battle of that war; the ultimate infantryman to whom every senior army officer would listen with respect, McKay and his pilots dramatically demonstrated that army helicopters could indeed kill tanks in a hostile anti-aircraft environment.

COL Miller’s observations and accounting of the incident were riveting and his debriefing of the battle were instrumental in contributing to the future of the attack helicopter and army aviation. The summation delivered in his distinctive voice, is marvelous to hear: “The Cobras were the instrument of our salvation.”

This remarkable endorsement from an infantryman’s infantryman already selected to command a brigade of the 101st Airborne Division and noted for his heroism and leadership in one of the most visible and significant battles of the war, could well justify the declaration that “Colonel Miller was an instrument of the attack helicopters salvation.”

Within days of the tactically and politically significant tank engagement, a newly developed and far more effective anti-tank warhead was delivered to the attack helicopters fighting near An Loc. Arriving in country on 15 April with a manufacture date of that very month, the High Explosive Dual Purpose (HEDP) warhead was introduced and combat tested. The rear portion of a 17 pound warhead was fitted with a shaped charge cone like the Light Anti-Tank Weapon (LAW), a streamlined nose cone, and a piezo-electric fuse. The warhead casing allowed for far more explosive than the LAW, to produce the same lethal bursting radius as a normal 10 pound warhead.

By actual experience that month, the warhead was found to be able to penetrate a T-54 series tank from all directions as promised. On soft targets it gave the same anti-personnel effects as a normal 10 pound warhead, and was the perfect compromise to engage armor, vehicles, equipment and personnel.

The new rounds were accompanied by a field grade officer on temporary duty from CONUS, whose duties included ensuring that the rockets were made available to the correct units, briefing the pilots on the warhead’s capabilities, and learning the results.

I briefly met that officer at Lai Khe in April of 1972, and in preparing this history I was surprised to be contacted by Father Jerome R. Daly, of Saint John’s Catholic Church in McLean, VA. That’s quite a change of pace for a man whose call-sign with the 235th in Vietnam was Devil Six.

When Father Daly was MAJ Daly, he wrote an article for Armor Magazine’s July/August 1972 edition, which spelled his name Daley. Jim McKnight, formerly a scout with B/1/9th and H Troop, 16th Cavalry, and later with the SS-11 Team, deployed to the Spring Offensive, sent me that article along with others.

Jerry mentions that the HEAT round was past its shelf life and displayed a high dud rate, so his team at Picatinny Arsenal, was developing a new warhead with the armor penetration of the LAW, and the anti-personnel and soft target capability of the 10 pound HE warhead.

When it was apparent that armor was a threat in the new offensive, the team produced 1,000 of these new warheads in a four day period, and Daly accompanied them to combat. Arriving in Vietnam on 15 April, he determined that An Loc was where they were needed most, and he accompanied their delivery to Lai Khe.

Daly flew combat missions with F/79th, and his article describes in detail the

engagement of tanks on 13 April, prior to his arrival. His assessment of the anti-aircraft threat, even before confirmation of the SA-7, was interesting.



“Defense of An Loc” painting by Dru Blair www.drublair.com

The anti-aircraft fire around An Loc was continual and impressive. Having been at Lam Song (sic) 719 last year, I can say that the fire was a high, and a bit higher around An Loc, as it was around some of the fire bases established by ARVN in Laos.”

While mentioning the problem of gathering data on engagements and kills, Daly reported that Cobras equipped with only the 2.75 inch rocket system destroyed ten T-54’s, three PT-76’s, and damaged six T-54’s for the period 30 Mar through 11 May.

Though covering only a portion of the battle his report is unlikely to have brought joy to most armor officers or to the men wearing blue suits and planning their version of close air support for the future.

There is more on this action and it will be continued in the next articles of the *Saber*. Also, if anyone can locate the referenced edition of Armor Magazine, July/August 1972, it appears that there is another article waiting to be published.

Jesse L. Hobby, Armed Falcon 29F1.”

Jesse, thank you for sharing these important combat missions Battery F /79th Artillery (ARA) at An Loc. This action changed the concept and tactics for the employment of helicopter close air support against enemy tanks in built-up areas! Stay tuned for more in our next edition: “Page Two!” You’ll get the rest of the Story!

We would also like to thank Dru Blair for giving us permission to use his painting: “Defense of An Loc” <www.drublair.com> in this article.

“This is ArmedFalcon28 Delta, breaking right!”

82nd FA News



"Can and Will"
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Another Woodpecker Passes: We lost another Woodpecker. He was a great author, pilot, great guy, and friend. Will miss communicating with him since we e-mailed almost

daily.

Michael Dixon Lazares, beloved husband and father, age 70, passed away on March 21, 2016 in Arizona after a long battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife Heleen, mother LaDonna, children Michelle, Monica and Michael; grandsons Devan and Dillon; brothers Danny and Nick; sisters Lonnie and Lynette. He has many more family members and a lot of friends. He is



Michael with his books he published

preceded in death by his father Louie. Michael served two tours in Vietnam as a combat helicopter pilot. He earned the Distinguished Flying Cross, two Bronze Stars, the Purple Heart, and 17 Air Medals. His 28 year career led him to be one of the first CWO-5's in the military. He spent 30 years in law enforcement also. This included serving in the Tacoma Police Department where he retired as a detective in the homicide unit. In later life Michael became a successful published author. He wrote six books on his military and police careers. Michael donated all of the proceeds from his books to various charities. After his retirement, Michael and Heleen moved to Arizona where he continued to write, ride his Harley Davidson, drive his Corvette, walk Mossie his dog, and play golf with his wonderful group of friends. A military funeral honor ceremony will be held later. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Fisher House Foundation. He will be loved and missed every day.



WO-1 Michael Lazares as a Pilot

So long Brother Michael, may you Rest in Peace. See you in a much better place later. Welcome home brother.

Bill Thomason Celebrates: The past year in general has not been a year in which I feel like celebrating but I suppose when we reach

the ripe old age of 75, and that alone should be enough to celebrate. But I have two more reasons. As most of the avid readers of this column know, I have been diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, surgery removed a big piece of my colon and small intestine, 3 months of mind boggling chemotherapy and all of the shots, blood works, etc., you get the picture. Now my first happy face is this, I had my last infusion of chemo and now I am spending the next couple of months recuperating from the chemotherapy. I believe this is my hope anyway; I have a 99.9% chance of being cancer free. I will naturally go through follow-up scans, blood work, probes, etc., just to make sure nothing pops up and sneaks in to cause me to go through the miseries again. So I need your prayers. Now here comes another big surprise and celebration. My wife drove me to Princeton, West Virginia on 12 March to attend the 101st birthday of my oldest known and living relative. My Aunt Lilly Richards who now resides in Princeton turned 101 earlier that week. Wow, what a celebration and occasion. I did some research and I could not find another Mayberry in my mother's family genealogy that has reached that age. Some of my aunts and uncles died in their mid to late 80's but some in their mid 90's. My Grandpa Pete Mayberry died at the age of 94; Grandmother died at 81. Now let us hope that the genetics from my Mayberry family keep me safe for a while. I do have somewhat of a problem. I spent a year in Vietnam and in one of the most heavily sprayed parts using Agent Orange herbicide. A full year of living and breathing, bathing, eating and drinking the contaminated atmosphere and water does not give us much of a chance. As one of my doctors told me after reading my history, he said that once Agent Orange enters the human body, it stays there. It remains sort of hidden and as we age our immune system declines and when the immune system reaches a point where the Agent Orange has the advantage, it strikes with all kinds of sad results. Unfortunately as I have stated at the beginning of this celebration, Agent Orange stepped in and caused us one heck of a miserable period of time. Along with that comes the reality of learning to live healthy, lots of exercise and fresh air and most of all a very, very positive attitude. Stress along with a diagnosed problem can and will eventually lead to a very bad ending for you and the family. Having those around you that take care of you with love and devotion goes a long, long way. All of the elements of the medical caregivers at the Lexington Medical Center in West Columbia, South Carolina were above reproach. To have them greet you with a big smile and a hug is far better than treatments and medications. Now I do not remember embracing the miseries and agonies after the infusions but I do not blame anyone for that. Hopefully I have seen the last of the effects of Agent Orange on this tired old body.

Active Duty News: The 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment colors were cased during a re-designation ceremony conducted on 5 May 2015 on Cooper Field at Fort Hood. Immediately following the colors casing, the unit reflagged as 3rd Battalion of the 16th Field Artillery Regiment. "It has been a humbling experience getting to lead Soldiers under the colors of the Red Dragon battalion and I look forward to the opportunity that awaits us in the Republic of Korea as the Rolling Thunder battalion turns the page within its history book," said LTC Terry Clark, 3-16 FA Commander. "I welcome 3rd Battalion, 16th Field Artillery regiment into the 2nd Brigade Combat Team," said COL Sean Bernabe, 2nd BCT Commander. "I am confident that they will bring a continued

success and honor to the legacy and heritage of that regiment and those colors under which they will now train and fight under." "Today is a glorious day," said Jim Kilpatrick, former Battery B Commander of 3-16 during the Vietnam War and Silver Star recipient. "I am so happy to see the 3-16th become part of the 1st Cavalry Division." The historically significant ceremony drew attendees from across the country. Vietnam War battle buddies, Vernon Chapman and Allen Merrill – who recently reconnected after 40 years – traveled from Texas and South Dakota to attend the ceremony. "Gun 3 – that was the gun we were on in Vietnam," Chapman said. Their experiences began a brotherhood that continues. "All of our buddies from Gun 3 are still around and we make sure we look after each other," Merrill said. "One of our buddies said he was having some trouble with (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) and we all pulled out our cell phones to take down his number and we call him to check up on him." "It's about taking care of one another, even after all of these years," Chapman added. After the ceremony, distinguished guests enjoyed a cake cutting ceremony where retired MG Thomas Lightner, former Battalion Commander of the 3-16 FA, cut the cake, which displayed both unit insignias. "I aimed for the middle of the cake but it might just be a quarter inch larger on the 3-16th side," Lightner said. After some laughter, Lightner took a moment to recognize the importance of the occasion. "Today is about two distinguished units who have served our Army and country to the highest degree of professionalism that you would expect," Lightner said. The 3-16th FA will deploy to Korea for nine months. During the deployment, the 2nd BCT will continue to support the United States military partnership with the Republic of Korea.

Condolences: Passing of Michael Lazares. Story above.

Received an e-mail from Patrick McIntyre from Graham, Washington and stating that his 103 year old father-in-law Roy passed away. He stated that he became so close to his father-in-law that he considers him his father, so condolences to Patrick and Vicki and to Helen his 92 year old widow and mother-in-law for their loss.

Other News: Had a wonderful long conversation with CSM Thurman Cousins of Scurry, Texas. Thurman was the First Sergeant of Echo Btry (Aviation), 82nd Arty for a couple weeks in August 1969. He is doing quite well now with his back and hip problems. The VA installed a device into his back that is treating him for his pain. He is responding quite well.

Received the following from Harry Peters of Oak Ridge, TN: He was an LOH Crew Chief, and wounded during his tour in Echo Btry, 82nd Arty. "By the way - heads up - one of the lovely things at our age. Kidney stones brought a CAT scan that not only showed the stones but also showed (what ended up) as 2 malignant superficial tumors on my bladder. Pathologist says all was removed but I will have to go through repeated periodic inspections for the rest of these years - hope that's 40 or more. I go back to the doc on Monday to have a temporary stint removed and pray for clear checkups."

Donald Holmes sent the following message: He is from Franklin, Georgia. He was an F/W Pilot in Echo Btry in Vietnam. "Just read the Saber and saw your update on Alice. Thanks for the thought. We are praying for you in your recovery. Hang in there. I guess you know by now that Mike Lazares lost his battle and passed away the first part of March. His daughter sent me an e-mail with the information. Alice has gotten about 95% recovered from her injuries and is going full blast again. No use trying to rein her in as she is going to do it anyway. She is restricted from ladders, chairs and steps without railings."

Vietnam Veteran and writer Michael McDonald-Low sent me an autographed copy of his book, as many of you may remember in the March/April Saber article about "Unaccounted". Captain McDonald-Low wrote about the very realistic view of the experiences that an infantry officer was subjected to during his tour in the brutal Vietnam War. It appears he did not tone down his experiences and woes of his war experiences. Have been there myself, war in Vietnam was no Sunday walk in the park, especially for the heroic efforts of Grunts like him. Thanks for his service and "Welcome Home Brother". His book can be purchased on E-Bay. It is a very good read.



Veterans Memorial, Bluefield, VA

I have a brother, James A Thomason, that served 2 tours in Vietnam one was with the 586th Signal Company, 1st Air Cav Division in An Khe. He also served a second tour in the Long Bien area before being discharged. My brother Jim is an active member of all patriotic organizations in the Bluefield, VA/ WVA area and a vivid writer for local newspapers, a member of the Honor Guard for the VFW, American Legion and VVA and has participated in hundreds of ceremonies. His key position is that of folding the US Flag from the coffin of a deceased Veteran at the burial site. In the little town of Bluefield, Virginia, the citizens had a Veterans Memorial built many years ago to show their appreciation and patriotism of Veterans serving in Wars. They recently updated the Veterans Memorial to include other Wars and Conflicts. They now sell bricks with the names of local Combat Veterans for their wall. My brother Jim purchased 2 bricks, one to commemorate his service and one for his service in the 586th Signal Co in Vietnam. Jim also

WILLIAM FRED POST SERVING COMPANY 1960-1962	JAMES A. THOMASON SP-4 U.S. ARMY VIETNAM 67-69	EAST RIVER NY NY CA 988	JAMES A. THOMASON SP-4 586 SIGNAL CO 1ST AIR CAV
EDDIE BOONE U.S. ARMY VIETNAM 1967-1968	VIETNAM VETS CA 988 IN MEMORY OF THOMAS	R.S. STEVENS WW II NAVY	T.A. STEVENS WW II ARMY
AROLD A. SMITH U.S. ARMY 1964, 1967-1968	KEVIN T. THOMPSON SP-4 U.S. ARMY 1970-1971, 73	SP4 ROBERT W. MERRILL, ARMY VIETNAM 1967-1968	CAPT DAVID GILBERT USA AIRBORNE
FRANK DAVIS MELISSA 1964, 1967-1968	CHARLES L. SHARON SERV VIETNAM 68	SAZA RONALD, TSP US ARMY WW II	VIETNAM VETS CHAPTER 438 ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Jim Thomason brick on the Veterans Memorial

Prostate Cancer.

Received the following E-Mail from Jesse Crimm, writer for Engineer News segment of the Saber: A big thanks to Jesse and his attempts to get more

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ENGINEER News



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Battle Buddy Crisis Line (BBCL): Nothing, I say again nothing is more important to our Association than saving the lives of our vets that contemplate suicide every day. Here is your chance to help, not in some fancy, top heavy, we'll get to you organization but in direct phone contact with a vet in trouble. You don't have to be a psychologist or any of that crap. You just have to listen if a call is directed to you. BBCL is crawling along right now but Richard Grey at 918-865-2423 or 918-812-3974 is determined to make this Line a working number. Richard did three Iraq tours with the 82nd Arty and suffers PTSD himself. A web site is coming but for now you can find BBCL on Facebook. This opportunity is for real because you will make it work.

EngineerActiveDutyNews: (1)Concrete: The 937th Route Clearance Company, 20th Eng Bn, 36th Eng. Bde, recently installed five static display concrete pads for the 69th ADA Bde. The project had been delayed by the 937th's recent deployment to Africa to build Ebola treatment centers. This project represented direct training application and saved considerable construction money over using private contractors. SFC Marcus Brantley is quoted as saying that this project built confidence among the troops such that more base improvement projects can be handled effectively.



CSM Holloway and LTC Lyn Ray, Engineer Pioneers at Fort Irwin, CA

(2) In Command: LTC Lyn Ray is the first commander of the new Regimental Engineer Squadron, 3d Cavalry Regiment. Having completed a rotation at the NTC at Fort Irwin with the squadron, upon returning to Fort Hood, Ray stated "With any obstacle I've just barreled through them and overcome; as long as

you are always striving for self-improvement, never look at an obstacle as a stopping point." Spoken like a true engineer and thank you ma'am for being a

role model in our new and better Army. Also pictured is SGM Holloway. (3) ASB: The Assault Breacher Vehicle joins the team. With a crew of only two, maintenance becomes a bit



Assault Breacher--Bad Ass!!

of a chore. The driver operates the blade and plow while the commander can participate from a desktop between operating the radio and weapons. 104 have been delivered after assembly on an M1 tank chasis at the Anniston Depot. Of interest to old Bangalore torpedo guys is the mine clearing linear demolition system utilized from atop the turret. We engineers can keep up with and lead



Patterson and a B-40--Why??

maneuver units past or through combat obstacles. When fielded, three ABV's are delivered to each of the engineer companies of an armored brigade. (4)Benefits Of 1st Cav Association: (a) Community: The people you serve with and their spouses are living together with you in the same zip code. You have common interests. (b) Networks: It's what you know and who you know that moves a career along. (c) Service: Save a soldiers life by knowing him inside and outside the service day. Simple as that, it's the greatest mission we together have. Join us. There is a chapter right there at Killeen. Call 254-547-6537.

Texas: I was driving back to the Austin airport after your Board meeting on Hwy 195. I saw a rancher standing, just standing, beneath some cottonwoods in an otherwise open field. Curious, I pulled over and asked what he was doing. He said he was figuring to win the

Silver Wings

Continued from pg. 16

until the field was in sight. "As we came in to land," he said, "I felt pressure on the controls and I looked over to see the lieutenant was also hands-on.

"At that instant, the ship touched the ground and the lieutenant's head dropped to his chest, his eyes shut and his hands passed from the controls." The lieutenant, in his wounded condition, apparently thought the job was done and then passed out. But the aircraft lurched forward, bounced, and tilted nose down toward the ground. McKee pulled back the cyclic and the bird leveled back to the ground once again. McKee wasn't sure how to shut the engine down, so he left it running and jumped out to get help for the pilots. "I was scared numb," he said later. "But every time my mind would say I had to do something, I'd find I'd already done it. Maybe somebody else was at the controls helping the lieutenant and me." McKee got a chance later to walk around the aircraft and counted 20

Nobel Prize. "How so?" I asked. "What I heard," he replied "is that they give that prize and the money to a person who is outstanding in their field."

Another True Story: Mike Lapsansky came into the 8th a few months after I did. He was assigned to the survey section. More times than I can count, he and I would go where ever we were told and do whatever we were supposed to do. Many times it had little to do with surveying, but that was the Army. We were working out of Phouc Vinh, Camp Gorvad, or Rocket Alley. They were all the same base camp. We were flying out weekly and sometimes daily to places between where we were and Cambodia. We were a team, Mike and I but occasionally, each of us would go alone to do work. On one occasion Mike was



VanGordon and Arimoto

out in the bush and on the way back to Camp Gorvad, he stopped at C Company in Quan Loi. Quan Loi had a good PX and Mike wanted to visit it to see what all the things they had there. We always carried a clean shirt and pants. He found a shower at Quan Loi, which we never had in the bush, and took a long cold shower. Hot water was something you never had. He put on his clean clothes and started hiking to the PX. He was walking down the freshly penna primed road. Penna is gooey, sticky, stinky oil used to keep the dust down. Then he heard the flutter of an incoming mortar. He told me he heard me yell at him, "get down!" in his mind and flopped right there in the middle of the road. A mortar landed behind him about 40' and one in front of him about 30'. He told me had I not drilled into him, the first thing you always do, without fail every time, is to eat dirt. He had oil splattered at him, but he was below the cone of shrapnel that came blasting out of the mortars. He got up when the mortars stopped and looked at the blast holes and realized he'd just escaped being hit by shrapnel and likely being killed. He was slimed with penna prime but was happy to be unharmed. He walked back to C Company's area, found some diesel, washed the oil off, took another shower, and put his dirty clothes back on. He threw the clothes soaked with oil in the trash. He walked back down to the PX intending to freshen up his wardrobe. When he got there, he found it closed. That's life in the Army. When he got back to Camp Gorvad, he told me this story. He said, "I heard you yell at me just like you were there." I send Mike an email now and then. He's still a great guy and an old friend. (submitted by S. Richey on behalf of M. Lapsansky)



Fisher and Arimoto 1969--Phouc Vinh

Missed Your Chance: Read back an issue or two. There were two contests. The first was to notice the logo change of the Engineer News. In a stroke of a keyboard that prize was won. The second was to simply tell the job duty of Dara Wydler at the Association Office. Sorry there were no entrants. The prize was significant, five figures as the saying goes. So much for your new pre-paid Land Rover. Next time you'll pay attention and call or email.

OK 2nd Chance: For this month's grand prize name the Confederate General who failed to take the Round Tops on the 2nd day of Gettysburg and thus you send your taxes to Washington instead of Richmond (assuming you live south of Pennsylvania, east of Arizona and north of Cuba).

Somebody Woke Up: The A10 Thunderbolt Warthog will be kept in the active Air Force inventory till 2022. No other weapon system protects troops on the ground (us) like a sustained burst of depleted uranium 30mm tank busting shells raining down from above not to mention a wing rack full of missiles.



Christmas 1968 -- Phouc Vinh

Christmas 1968(Phouc Vinh): Pictured L-R, Top to Bottom are Miller, Moeller, Piper, Williams. Then Beisline and Schriebl. Picture provided by Titus.

Not To Be Outdone: We have more engineers from Quan Loy. Pictures provided by Richey.

hits. "It is a miracle that any of us got out alive.""

I've never heard anyone else make mention of this incident nor do I know the names of the pilots. And there is no indication of the original author of the story. If a reader has more information and can enlighten me further, I'd like to hear from you.

Ok, time to bring this Silver Wings flight to an end. I have a busy few months ahead. I will be in the Dominican Republic, Atlanta, Georgia and Oshkosh, Wisconsin for the air show in July. If you encounter a delay to an email just bear with me, as I will get back to all quires. Just one more thing before shutting down, if you served with Alpha Company, 229th AHB, VN between mid1966-68 I'd like to talk with you. My cell number is at the top header of this column.

Have a great summer. Until next time, Clear right! Hank

Help us recruit, make sure those that you served with in the Division are also members of the 1st Cavalry Division Association!

A donation to the Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division Association helps a student acheive their educational goals and is an investment in the future of America.

21st FA News



John Parker
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the turn out for the 1/21 FA is a good one this year. Last year's was very good as for the number of people that came. My wife, Judy Parker, passed up last year's



Reunion 2015

reunion at Fort Hood so she could go to Las Vegas this year. I'm looking forward to seeing battery mates and meeting friends. I want to thank, Dennis Webster, for filling in for me in the last issue with his wonderful article. I had knee replacement surgery on January 25. The recovery was more intense than I thought it would be. With the discomfort plus the medication I couldn't focus enough to write as productively as I needed to be. I would like to thank my 1st Cavalry Brothers for their well wishes for my recovery: Bob Barker, Larry Clayton, Gene Davis, Chuck Paul, Roy Wood (NC Chapter President), Ernest Byrd, Joe Koch, Tim Millar, Joe Scarborough, Terrance Skipper, John Whitson, Dennis Webster, Cliff Haskins, and anyone else that I did not have listed. Many of them I have met in person in the last several years. Some I know through Facebook and some I served with while in the 1st Cavalry Division. It wasn't long ago that I thought I had lost contact with the people that I had served with but now with modern technology we are as close as the computer or smart phones. I have a Facebook page for the 1/21 Field Artillery. All you have to do is ask permission to join this group. As of May, there are 51 members in this group. The purpose is to have a place for those that have served with the 1/21 FA and to have a place to call their own. I promised a new website for the 1/21 FA. Again my recovery keeps me from many things I wanted to do, and the building of a new website is among them. I have all the information ready and hope to announce the new website in the July/Aug issue. Anyone that has some information/pictures, send them to me.

I've got a few items in the mailbag. Guess the chopper was late again. I received a message from Chuck Patrick. Both he and Dave Matter were what we called Shake-N-Bake NCOs. They both arrived in A Battery but Dave Matter was sent to another FSB and Chuck couldn't remember the name. He tells me that he was the Crew Chief of gun section 6 from April '70 to January '71. He remembers Daniel Cheigo. Daniel Cheigo was my Crew Chief while I was in A Battery. Chuck Patrick and Danny Cheigo trained together in the States before being sent to Vietnam. Both Chuck and his wife are full time RV'ers. I look forward to hearing more from Chuck and wish them safe travel.

Here's one from my friend and A Battery 1/21 FA Veteran, Joe Koch. Joe worked in FDC. While Operation Byrd was ongoing, he received a call of

82nd FA

Continued from pg 19

members in the 1st Cav Div Association and especially the younger generations. The following is Jesse's attempt to introduce me to Richard Gray who was a member of 82nd Field Artillery during the Iraq War. I called the numbers provided by Jesse 4 or 5 times and left messages only once. I received a call from Richard one evening and we talked a few minutes about his new program called the Battle Buddy Crisis Line (BBCL). Before I had time to get into the conversation Richard said he had to go and would call back in an hour or so. He never returned the call. I called a couple more times with no answer and assumed he was not interested. So here is the introduction by Jesse to me and Richard:

Richard Gray meet Bill Thomason and vice versa.

Richard, Bill is your Saber writer for the 82nd Arty.

Bill, Richard is an 82nd Arty Vet with PTSD of his own yet determined to help other vets via his concept of a vet talking to a vet on what he calls the BBCL as noted above.

I got to Richard first and his story will be in the Engineer News section of the May/June Saber.

However Bill, if you wish to call Richard, his story is worth a paragraph in both our columns.

Gray is at (918) 865-2423 or (918) 812-3974.

Bill is at (803) 542-7278. You two need to talk.

Bill, I grew up in Columbia and my cousins still live there. I will be there this summer, so let's do lunch.

My closest first cousin lives just around the corner from you in Springdale and his son is the Principle at Lexington Middle School district (2)?

BBCL will be my lead paragraph in the May/June Saber. After you two talk, BBCL may be worth two lead paragraphs.

Nothing is more important to our Association than finding and saving our own

Look out Las Vegas, the Cavalry is coming to town! By the time you receive your issue of the Saber, the 69th 1st Cavalry Division Reunion will be just around the corner. I'm hoping

assistance for help. The battery was down near the coast around Phan Thiet. It seems that a heavy cloud layer had settled in and a chopper was lost because it couldn't see any landmarks to establish its location. They were asked to fire an illumination round above the clouds to be seen by the chopper. FDC said it could but wanted to know at what altitude and what direction! Joe Koch remembers they did fire at least one round maybe more. He said he always wondered if the chopper saw it or was still trying to find its way. Joe said he filed this as the strangest fire mission he's had. He says it's true. Good story, Joe.

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The date was 1 September 1969. How do I remember? It was my 21st birthday. I was the Recon Sergeant with the FO attached to Co. D 1/8 Cav. That morning the company loaded up in choppers to take the first wave out to a LZ. I was in the third chopper with the FO. Luck was with us, a green LZ. Soon the whole company was in the LZ. We were to sweep an area in a search and destroy operation. About an hour later the company got a call to march to a LZ to be lifted out. On the march, a Daisy Cutter bomb was dropped somewhere near us. I remember the ground shook. Scared all of us. In enemy territory, that big of an explosion: not knowing if it was enemy fire or friendly fire was very unsettling. Everyone took cover and waited. Soon we were notified what the explosion was and we again marched to the LZ to be lifted out. Were we getting to go back to the rear? No, we were going to be sent in to sweep another area that had just had a B-52 strike. We went in as soon as the order to sweep the area was given. What I saw is news for another time. Two combat assaults in one day, not something I was expecting. Why do I remember it, it happened on my 21st birthday.

A short story to make you smile. I was in A Battery, 1/21 FA near Quan Loi, December 1969. The battery was set up beside the airstrip. Next to the battery were these long tubes. After much debate as to what they were, curiosity got the better of us. Finding out how to remove the end of the tube, we discovered what was the first thing out. It was a parachute. Everyone wanted a parachute, so we removed parachutes from about ten of the tubes. We carefully replaced the end caps. What we found that these were parachute flares dropped by the Air Force. Soon after, the battery was sent out to a new Fire Support Base. I always wondered what happened to those flares when they were dropped without parachutes. It must have been a sight falling from the sky.

I'm going to change the set up starting in the July/August issue of the 1/21 FA News. Since this is for the 21st Field Artillery, it will be divided into four sections. The first will be HQ Battery, and then the second section will be A Battery, then B Battery, and C Battery. I hope I can receive some information from veterans from each battery. I will try to put all the names that I have in each battery so the readers can see where each one served. As stated before I'm going to start working on the new website and don't forget the 1/21 FA Facebook page. Let's get connected and stay connected. A parting word: For the things we have been through, we aren't always able to find the words to express ourselves. It must come from someone that has the same experience. Garryowen!

who are contemplating self destruction. BBCL may be that opportunity. Received the following from Robert Holland: CPT Holland was part of the advance party that flew over on a C-130 and established the 1st Cav in An Khe. Bob and wife Carole live in Jamesville, New York. "Glad to hear things are going well with you. My wife went through that 4 years ago. Chemo and radiation for throat cancer. Six weeks of it. But it worked and she is still cancer free. Hope it works as well for you. Enjoyed your piece in the Cav Saber paper. Always do. I left in July 1966. We were still at An Khe, so it's very interesting to learn what went on after I left. I tried to get back into the Cav on my 2nd tour in January 1968, but they assigned me to the 199th Aviation Co. in the Delta. (Vinh Long), flying 0-1 Birdogs this time. But my heart is with E Btry. Of all the units I served in during my 20 years in the Army, E Btry, 82nd Arty is by far my favorite. I have fond memories serving with great guys. Your article is always the first one I read. Next is Silver Wings. God Bless,

Bob

One Last Tidbit of Info: I know you get tired of reading the same thing over and over. I just received info that two old Vietnam Veterans in the Columbia, South Carolina area were diagnosed with Agent Orange related diseases. They have never submitted a claim. Now both are in the process of getting the claims in and hopefully approved. One is a chronic diabetic and the other a cancer victim. Go see your VA Representative. Most counties have a Veterans Representative that you can call and make an appointment with. Make the call and the representative will tell you what he needs to get the ball rolling. It could mean the difference in getting compensation you deserve or doing without it. You earned it. Please do it. My recommendation also is check with one of the Patriotic Organizations, VFW, DAV, American Legion and VVA as most of them have Service Officers that are well trained in preparing and submitting claims. They can answer questions and put you on the right track and fight for you as needed. It works Brothers.

Bob

Contact me (803-542-7278) e-mail <bthomason12400@aol.com>.

Do you have plans for Veterans Day? Join us in the Washington, DC area to celebrate your day. Info on the events and Dinner on page 23.

Check the expiration date on this issue of SABER, the info is on your label. You can renew your subscription at any time for as many years as you want.

HQ and Special Troops News



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Greetings troopers. The weather here in Northwest Louisiana has been crazy. We have had rain and floods. We live on

along with the newly commissioned 545th MP Company rode into history arriving in South Vietnam during the build-up of the war. The division settled in An Khe and the MP's were saddled with prisoner of war detention and post operations. Those young men today, like me, are senior citizens, with several being called up to that great place where all good troopers finally get assigned to. In April of this year, I was most fortunate enough to be invited to attend the annual reunion, at the Daytona Beach, Florida Hilton Inn Garden resort, of those first MP called into the war in 1965. The 545th MP Company members at the reunion invited me into their fold and I in turn felt awed and honored to be in their mist. We started with registration on Sunday afternoon, April 24 and went on through the 27th. The reunion was filled with war stories, laughter and a close camaraderie only found in such a close knit military unit. From breakfast to dinner, sightseeing, watching the Girls Go By, and an Elvis Presley impersonator, we had fun, fun and more fun.

historic Caddo Lake just north of Shreveport, Louisiana, and the lake rose to record high in April. Although the lake never returned to normal levels, excessive rain has caused the lake to flood again, reaching within two feet of the record level, again putting our road under water but sparing our house. But God is good and we are more fortunate than many who are having their homes flooded for the second time in less than a month.

Sue and I are excited about heading out for Vegas for the 2016 1st Cavalry Division Association reunion. Vegas is not one of my favorite places but we plan to have a great time and visit with old friends. Hope that we see you there.

The board has voted on a replacement for Dennis Webster, our Executive Director. I feel sure the person selected will do a great job and Dennis is hanging around long enough to get the person well trained in his many jobs. You will learn more about this and also election of new board members and trustees for the foundation at the general membership meeting at the reunion.

A "young" trooper, Rosey Carter, provided a write up in my last column. She has expressed interest in serving on the board and also as a trustee on the foundation. Rosey served with the Cav in Bosnia and at Fort Hood. We need younger troopers to step up and assume leadership positions in the association. If you are a Bosnia veteran or a veteran of the Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan or service at Fort Hood, we need you to become active in your association.

Rosey was privileged to attend the premier of "We Were Soldiers" at Fort Hood in 2002. She sent me the following remembrances of that great event:

"Rosey Carter here and thanks to Ron for including my memories in the last edition. I wanted to reminisce a little bit about the day back in 2002 that we hosted the men of 1-7 Cav and 2-7 Cav during the premier of the "We Were Soldiers" movie at Fort Hood. It was an event-filled day starting with a Division Run with an open invitation to any veterans who wanted to join us, followed by breakfast at several of the Dining Facilities. LTG Moore and Joe Galloway were our honored guests for the day and after the breakfast they held a Professional Development event at the theater for the officers and NCOs of the First Team. It was an incredible opportunity to hear them speak about the Ia Drang Valley and the amazing acts of leadership and heroism that they witnessed. After the OPD/NCOPD they headed over to the PX to sign books for anyone and everyone who came to see them. The 1-7 Cav and 2-7 Cav had open houses at their unit areas all day for veterans and also hosted luncheons at the DFACs for anyone who wanted a good Army lunch. The afternoon was filled with displays and tours at the Cav Museum. That evening MG Peterson and the leadership of the Division hosted LTG Moore and his family to include his children, Joe Galloway, Barry Pepper, Madeline Stowe, and many of the returning veterans at the Officer's Club with a formal dinner. Then we headed over to the post theater to watch the movie. The entire center of the theater was by-name seating for veterans, their families, and the other honored guests. COL Parry, who was the Garrison Commander and former 1st Cav Chief of Staff, and his team, did a great job getting the old theater spit shined for the event. I recall steam cleaners working on the carpet late the night before after the evening movie was over. I also recall how incredibly gracious Mrs. Moore was to everyone - taking extra time to thank all of the junior Soldiers who were serving as ushers and providing other support. She was truly a class act. On a funny, side note - it never occurred to me that the name of the movie might be different than the name of the book. We printed tickets and seating placards and all kinds of other documents and every one of them said "We Were Soldiers Once ... and Young" The mistake was all my fault and I was thankful that I am the only one who noticed it except Mr. Barry Pepper who pointed it out to me after the dinner. I guess since he was in the movie it mattered to him. All in all, it was a day full of memorable events (nine if you are counting along) and a great opportunity to recognize our veterans of Vietnam and the Ia Drang Valley - both those present and those who were in our thoughts and prayers. I feel very privileged to have been a part of this great day in the First Cav."

Thanks, Rosey for that walk down memory lane. One of the things I enjoy most about being a Trustee for the Foundation is awarding scholarships to children and grandchildren of veterans of this historic battle.

The 545th MPs have lost the writer of their column in the *SABER* and I have invited all members of the great 545th MP Company to send comments and pictures to this column until such time as they obtain a new columnist. Victor Manuel Alvarez, SSG (Ret), took me up on my offer and sent in the following information about the 545th MP.

"My name is Victor Manuel Alvarez, SSG Retired Army. I was drafted back 1963 and retired in 1984, but was recalled for active service in 1990 for Desert Storm, and re-retired in 1991. I was an MP and CID agent, serving as an agent with the 545th MP Company, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) in Vietnam in my first tour of duty in 1967-1968 and a second tour with the same unit in 1970-1971. When the Division stood-down in 1971, I was reassigned to the 23rd CID till mid 1971. I'm currently the webmaster for the 545th MP company association which CPT Sam Reinert started. In 1965 the 1st Cavalry Division



1965-1966 members of the 545th MP Company at reunion in April 2016

Huntsman - Actual Stories of an Arizona Bounty Hunter, in April 2015. Currently it is a best seller on Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble book stores. A little synopsis of the book: 'Victor Alvarez is a forty-one year-old tough minded and resourceful Puerto Rican raised in New York City's Spanish Harlem where he learned to fight just to survive in the inner city gangs. After serving his country in the US Army as a criminal investigator (CID Agent), he transitioned into the role of a private investigator who then became a bounty hunter. His stories, all based on real life experiences, are set in Tucson, Arizona in the mid 1980's. Alvarez encounters some of Tucson's most deadly criminals, and bail jumpers. The book is filled with non-stop action from shootouts, knife fights, fist fights, and high speed car chases as he tracks his Jumpers and brings them back to jail - alive.' The sequel to the *Huntsman* "Chronicles of a Bounty Hunter - *The Huntsman*," should be out in October of this year, with a third installment sometime thereafter. Currently the *Huntsman* is being looked into for a possible Hollywood movie production."

Thank you, Victor for that great write-up. You can contact Victor at his email, <v.alvarez48@yahoo.com>. I am always glad to help promote any book or other enterprise of our veterans. I encourage you to check out Victor's book. I served in Vietnam with the 191st MI and worked closely with a small detachment of MP's of the 545th at Fire Support Base in 1971-72 as part of the 3rd Brigade (Sep) of the 1st Cav Division. We worked hard providing security and intelligence for the fire base. As a Vietnamese linguist I also interrogated my share of POW's.

If you are a trooper who served with a unit that does not have separate unit lunches, I will see you at the unit lunch for Headquarters and Special Troops at the reunion. We always have a large mix of many "MOSs" with troopers from all kinds of small units. We also have troopers who served in various "HQ" assignments within the division to include the division HQ.

Several troopers have asked me if I am a retired general officer - they noticed the two stars in the 1st Cav insignia at the top of my column in the "Saber". No, that is the unit crest for the division headquarters personnel and since I write the column for HQ and Special troops, just thought it would be a good representation of that group. While on active duty I was technically outranked by 2LTs (although few ever tried to "pull rank" on me) and I technically outranked the CSM (although I assure you I never tried to pull rank on one!). You figure it out.

That about wraps it up for this issue. Hope this finds all of you enjoying good health and prospering. As Spock used to say, "Live long and prosper!" Sue and I are excited about seeing you at the reunion. Until then, keep your heads down, watch your backs, be kind to all those you come into contact with, and may God bless each of you, the 1st Cavalry Division, the US Army, and the USofA.

LRRP/Ranger News

Continued from pg. 17

miles over time. That's more than five laps around the Earth, more than half the distance to the moon," said his wife. "And he has logged a lot of those miles in faraway places such as Vietnam, Hong Kong and Moscow."

"On the island, Ankony could be seen running anywhere from Hennepin Pointe in the north to the Ford Yacht Club in the south. His wife said she'd drop him and their dogs off at Sam's Club and they would run home as she shopped, or near the Edison Plant in Monroe County, and they'd run all the way back along West Jefferson Avenue. Mr. Ankony gained attention from many Downriver residents who recognized him as the "Tan Running Man of Grosse Ile."

Bob wrote and published numerous articles and books on military history, including *No Peace in the Valley* (Vietnam Magazine) which was also published



in *SABER*, a story about the LRRPs in the A Shau Valley in April 1968 in one of the 1st Cav's most daring airmobile operations; and, *LURPS: A Ranger's Diary of Tet, Khe Sahn, A Shau, and Quang Tri*. Bob was also a regular contributor to *Patrolling*, the magazine of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!

If you served with the 1st Cavalry Division, you are part of the First Team Family!

VETERANS DAY AND 8th ANNUAL VETERANS DAY DINNER IN WASHINGTON, DC



Division Honor Guard at the Vietnam Wall Veterans Day 2010.

The William A. Richardson National Capitol Region Chapter in conjunction with the 1st Cavalry Division Association will sponsor a Hospitality Suite and Gift Shop from 9-12 November and host the 8th Annual Veterans Day Dinner on the evening of 11 November. Both events will be held at the Crowne Plaza Washington National Airport Hotel located at 1480 Crystal Drive in Arlington, Virginia. Reserve your rooms at the rate of \$132 per night plus tax with free parking prior to 9 October. Call (703)416-1600 and tell them you are with

the 1st Cavalry Division.

Wreaths will be placed at the World War II Memorial, Korean War Memorial, and Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Veterans Day. The ceremony for the World War II Memorial is scheduled at 0900 hours and the ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is at 1300 hours. We normally place the wreath at the Korean War Memorial around 1100 hours since there is not an organized ceremony conducted there.

The National Capitol Region Chapter in conjunction with the 1st Cavalry Division Association will host the 8th Annual First Team Veterans Day Dinner on Friday evening, 11 November 2016 at the Crowne Plaza Washington National Airport Hotel, 1480 Crystal Drive., Arlington, Virginia.

CSM Rory Malloy who was the Division Command Sergeant Major from 2008-2011 at Fort Hood and in Iraq will be our speaker this year. After serving with the First Team, he was the Commandant of the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy at Fort Bliss. He is currently the Sergeant Major for the Assistant Secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics, and technology in the Pentagon.

A cash bar will be open at 1800 and dinner will begin at 1900 hours. For dinner reservations please send \$55 per ticket to the 1st Cavalry Division Association, 302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703.

Full payment must be received no later than 21 October 2016. We can accept VISA or MASTERCARD only. Please ensure that your card number and expiration dates are printed clearly and correctly. 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 Cavalry Division Association Hospitality Suite or at the door to the banquet room. A form is provided to assist you with registering for the dinner. We must make final coordination with the hotel providing the number of people attending before the event and we may not be able to accommodate late registrations.

Join us in the DC area for Veterans Day!

**8th ANNUAL
1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION
VETERANS DAY DINNER
NOVEMBER 11, 2016
\$55 PER TICKET
(Please print clearly)**

Name _____

Address _____

City/St/Zip _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Guests _____ Name(s): _____

Unit(s) _____

Tickets _____ Amount \$ _____ Check _____ VISA or MC _____

Credit Card Number - Print clearly _____ EXP Date _____

Print Name on the Credit Card _____

_____ Date _____

Signature - Credit Card Payment Only _____

**Attend a reunion, it's good therapy!
70th Annual Reunion of the 1st Cavalry Division Association
7-11 June 2017 in Killeen, Texas**

Director's Chair Continued from pg. 3

years. I have developed friendships with many of you and hope that continues as I move from employee to being one of the Troopers.

I want to thank the Presidents that have served the Association during my time for what they have done to make this organization great. They are: Pete Tattersall, Bob Johnson (who died in 2013), Bill Richardson, Pete Booth, Chan Duryea, Jerry Eller, and Jim Stokely. Each one of them was different but they all were focused on doing what was right for the Association. I am thankful for each of them. I expect that Scott Smith who takes over as President at this reunion will continue to move the Association forward.

I also want to recognize Dave Lutgen who serves as the Chairman of the Finance and Budget Committee for his excellent work. Everyone who serves as an officer or member of the Board of Governors has a role but the one with the most actual work involved is the person in this position. Dave took over after Johnny Johnston died and hasn't missed a step. The Association is better because of him. Thanks Dave!

Every organization has a few asses and to the five or six of you that fit that description; I love you too! I say that with tongue in cheek. Yes there are some that make life difficult but Veterans have earned the right to be ornery. The vast majority of our members are really wonderful people with great personalities and possess a great sense of humor. Working with each of you has been an honor and a pleasure.

One of the problems with being here for 14 years and getting to know folks is having to put their names in the Taps section. Many good Troopers that served their country and the Association well have moved on to Fiddler's Green during my tenure. I cannot mention them all but several that I wish to remember in no particular order are: Myron T. "Johnny" Johnston, Bob Tagge, William A. Richardson, Harry Boudreau, Bob Cooper, Jim Brigham, Andy Tsimpedes, Jim Stanford, Ernie Terrell, Basil Plumley, Dick Bauchspies, Rod Caesar, Walt Westman, Doc McNaney, Bob Magruder, Charlie Bader, Parnell Bethune, Mike McGhie, Bob Tredway, Terry Combs, Ken Mertel, Hollis Newberry, Jack Hodes, and Bob Litle.

This issue marks the end of the 99th FA News in *SABER*. Jim Miller has written the 99th FA News for the entire time that I have been in this position and has been a pleasure to work with. He has always gotten his column in on time and he really requires only minor editing. While the 99th FA was inactivated in 1957, I feel like I know many of the men that served in the unit by reading Jim's column every issue. You did a great job and provided great support for your unit, thanks Jim!

I've seen quite a few columnists in *SABER* in the past 14 years and a few of them were a challenge each and every issue but most were easy to work and did a great job. All of our writers are unpaid volunteers that write a column, often with little or no feedback from the readers, every two months. We even had one that wrote two columns at the same time and one or two that have come back to write a column after a brief respite. We have some that are very particular about the way their column is put in the paper, the use of punctuation is a point of issue for some and we've had one or two that didn't use punctuation in the columns they submitted to us, and some who have not learned how to use spell check. That being said, most of the mistakes that you will find in *SABER* are mine because I'm supposed to find the mistakes and correct them before printing. Trust me when I tell you that no issue of *SABER* has ever been published that is perfect. To those who have written or are currently writing a column, a sharp salute and a hearty thank you for everything you do.

I would be wrong to make you think that it is all me. Thanks to Lorinda Davison, Martha Fisher, Angela Murphy, Karleen Maloney, Dara Wylder, and a host of volunteers that have been the real workers in this office and at reunions.

I have enjoyed greatly representing the Association at a multitude of events on Fort Hood over the years. I cannot count the number of ceremonies I've attended. While I've enjoyed attending all events, the Welcome Home Ceremonies on Cooper Field as our Troopers return from deployment have been my favorites. I love the families, friends, and unit leaders that come out at all times of the day or night in good and bad weather to say "Welcome Home!" The volunteers from the USO and DJ Tony Rossi are special.

To the many active duty Troopers of all ranks that I've known and especially the Honor Guard, Division Band, and the Horse Cavalry Detachment, thanks for making the ride a great one.

I'll steal a line from the movie *She Wore a Yellow Ribbon* to end this column. "Goodbye is a word we don't use in the cavalry. To our next posting..."

OTHER REUNIONS

Guns-A-Go-Go (Armed Chinook) 50th Anniversary, 23-26 June 2016. Holiday Inn Research Park, Huntsville, AL..Contact Ralph "Doc" Holloway, <doc-holloway@sbcglobal.net>, 210-824-7428.

5-7th Cavalry Association, 7-14 August 2016. Hotel Elegante, Colorado Springs, CO. Info at <www.cav57.org>.

1-8th Cavalry "Jumping Mustangs", 24-28 August 2016. Holiday Inn, Pigeon Forge, TN. Info at <www.jumpingmustangs.com>.

12th Cavalry Regiment Association, 6-11 September 2016. Welk Resort, Branson, MO. Contact Thomas Crabtree, 432-853-4851.

Aerial Rocket Artillery Association, 7-11 September 2016. Embassy Suites Hotel, Colorado Springs, CO. Information at <www.araassociation.com>.

77th FA Regiment (All battalions, all eras), 14-18 September 2016. Amelia Hotel, Fernandina Beach, FL. Contact John Moran, 937-361-1333, <johnjanmoran@who.rr.com>.

8th CAV Regiment/10th INF Division Basic Trainees, 9-11 September 2016. Drury Inn, Shawnee, KS. Ft. Riley Basic Training Companies HHC, 1st Bn 85th Inf; Item Co., 87th, Inf Rgt, Dec '53-Jan '54; George Co., 86th Inf Rgt Feb-Apr '54; 8th Cav Rgt May '54-Nov '56 of Camp Crawford, Hokkaido and Camp Whittington, Honshu, Japan. Contact Steve Bosma, 7109 Via Portada, San Jose, CA 95135, 408-270-1319 or Jack Hackley, PO Box 40, Oak Grove, MO, 64075-8198, 816-690-3443, <jackremembers@aol.com>.

C Trp., 1-9th CAV, 29 September-1 October 2016. Stone Castle Hotel, Branson, MO. Contact Patrick Bieneman, <pcbnamin@verizon.net>, 859-771-6342.

A Troop, 1-9th CAV, 7-9 October 2016. Holiday Inn Oceanfront, Surfside Beach, SC. POC Mike Bond, 540-815-5004, <mbluvsrj@msn.com>.



HONOR ROLL

Acknowledgement of generous
donations from the following troopers:

UP TO \$25

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SP-4 BLACK, Dennis F.
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SP-5 BRYAN, Ronald F.
SP-5 BUCHVALT, Frank S.
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E-6 CAMPBELL, Jeffrey W.
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SFC DEARBORN, Lawrence A.
CPT GAYLER, Ronald D.
SP-4 GIAQUINTO, Frank A.

MR GUSTAFSON, Dan M.
SP-4 HAMILTON, Larry L.
In Memory of M. McClelland 3-12
SFC HARMON, Richard V.
SGT HEIN, Kenneth C.
1LT HEITTER, Terrance E.
SGT IHNAT, William H.
*In Memory of Sherman G. Fuller A Company, 1st
Battalion, 12th Cavalry*
SP-5 JUNKERSFELD, John D.
CW3 (RET) KELLER, John L.
1LT KING, James C.
SFC LEE, James H.
SP-5 NAGY, Frank J.
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SGT SCHRANK, Walter C.
TSG SHIPPEE, John H., Jr.
MSG (RET) SMITH, Ora A.
SP-4 TOOKER, Ronald
SP-5 WATERS, Maurice E.
SGT WEBER, Gordon
SGT WELLENTHEUTER, John M.
CPT WILSON, John M.

\$51 - \$100

SGT BIRD, Stephen W.
SGT DEMING, Michael D.
SP-4 DEVON, David
*In Memory of PFC Victor Williams, KIA 29 October
1971, Long Khanh Province, Vietnam*
1SG (RET) FLANDERS, Sherman C.
SP-5 GATES, Vaughn A.
SGT Henry, Al
*In Honor of 1st Cav Troopers, past and present; In
Honor of O. Gutierrez 2-16*
SGT Henry, Al
In Honor of C 1/7 Cav, Vietnam, 67/68
PSG PALMER, Leslie L.
*In Memory of SP-4 Roger E. Denny, 1-30FA, KIA
3/11/69*

\$101 - \$500

MR. BOLLINGER, Brian G.
LTC (RET) KAYE, Richard A.
SMSGT and MRS. MARTIN, William C.

The First Team Family Cares!

Your donations to the
Foundation and Museum Foundation are
tax-deductible.
We are also grateful for your support of
the Association through donations to our D
Troop program.

MEDAL OF HONOR - 1LT ROBERT L. POXON

Rank and organization: First Lieutenant,
U.S. Army, Troop B, 1st Squadron, 9th
Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division

Place and date: Tay Ninh Province, Republic
of Vietnam, 2 June 1969

Entered service at: Detroit, Michigan

Born: 3 January 1947, Detroit, Michigan

Citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity
in action at the risk of his life above and
beyond the call of duty. 1LT Poxon, Armor,
Troop B, distinguished himself while serving
as a platoon leader on a reconnaissance
mission. Landing by helicopter in an area
suspected of being occupied by the enemy,
the platoon came under intense fire from
enemy soldiers in concealed positions and

fortifications around the landing zone. A soldier fell, hit by the first burst of fire. 1LT Poxon dashed to his aid, drawing the majority of the enemy fire as he crossed 20 meters of open ground. The fallen soldier was beyond help and 1LT Poxon was seriously and painfully wounded. 1LT Poxon, with indomitable courage, refused medical aid and evacuation and turned his attention to seizing the initiative from the enemy. With sure instinct he marked a central enemy



bunker as the key to success. Quickly
instructing his men to concentrate their
fire on the bunker, and in spite of his
wound, 1LT Poxon crawled toward the
bunker, readied a hand grenade and
charged. He was hit again but continued
his assault. After succeeding in silencing
the enemy guns in the bunker he was
struck once again by enemy fire and fell,

mortally wounded. 1LT Poxon's comrades followed their
leader, pressed the attack and drove the enemy from their
positions. 1LT Poxon's gallantry, indomitable will, and
courage are in keeping with the highest traditions of the
military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the U.S.
Army.

Awarded posthumously

Robert Leslie Poxon, aged 22 at his death, was a graduate of De La Salle
Collegiate High School in Warren, Michigan. He enlisted in 1967 and was
commissioned a Second Lieutenant out of Officer Candidate School.

President Richard M. Nixon awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously
and presented the Medal to 1LT Poxon's parents at a White House Ceremony
conducted on 17 February 1972. 1LT Poxon is buried in Forest Lawn Cemetery
in his hometown of Detroit, Michigan.

We Can, We Will.



Saber Blue, 1LT
Poxon in Vietnam