



SABER

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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2014

The President's Corner



Winter is upon us. Let's hope it isn't as brutal for those living up north as it was last year. Veterans Day is behind us. For me, the time in Washington, D.C. honoring our Veterans was, as always, a moving and meaningful experience. We placed wreaths at the World War II, Korea, and Vietnam Memorials. The William A. Richardson National Capitol Region Chapter of the Association again did a great job doing the legwork along with our Executive Director Dennis Webster, including the banquet.

Remember, the fellowship is more than important as we remember our fallen troopers. I hope all of you had the opportunity to honor our Veterans in some way at this important time. As I have said before, we also need to keep our young Veterans in mind. They have done more than their share in service to our country. They may not have a memorial in DC, but us older Veterans (I hate to say that) need to respect their service. If I see an active duty soldier in uniform in a restaurant, I like to pick up their check if I can. I know they appreciate it, and it just makes you feel good! Of course, if you are at Fort Hood, you can pay your respects at the OIF Memorial near Cooper Field at Division Headquarters. Thanks to Trooper Karl Haartz, I understand there is a Mideast War Conflicts Memorial near Marseilles, Illinois. I know it is appreciated by our young Veterans. Remember, they paid a heavy price. What is happening in Iraq is a reminder of what happened in Vietnam so many years ago. It was disheartening to us as it has to be to those who served in Iraq. Let's hope a peace in that area of the world can be found. But after thousands of years of conflict, it may be difficult.

On a much lighter note, don't forget the information on the 2015 Reunion at Fort Hood is found in this issue. With a little luck, most of the Division will be present. That hasn't happened for a long time. Register early if you can, but register! The Division makes us feel more than welcome. The headquarters hotel again is the Shilo. Make your reservations now! For you first timers, the Honor Guard, Horse Platoon, and Division Band are more than impressive. At the time you read this column, the holidays will be upon us. No matter how you celebrate them, I hope they bring you peace. Then have a happy, healthy New Year! That's all for now. Until next time, I am Gunport 1-6 India. First Team!

James R. Stokely, 19333 Summerlin Rd., Unit 146, Fort Myers, FL 33908-5207, <Gunport1.6India@gmail.com>

THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR



Dennis E. Webster
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FirstCav@1cda.org



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all. This past year was quite eventful and next year appears to be another memorable year for our members and the current Troopers of the 1st Cavalry Division. Our Association server crashed at the office and that is affecting the Association web page. We will have to completely redo the web page due to changes in technology and programs that are no longer supported. Please be patient with us, we will get it going soon.

The 2015 calendar is at the printer and will be mailed out to our 28,300 members soon. Included in the calendar is a registration form for the reunion and a way to donate to the calendar program or sign-up to receive or renew your subscription to *Saber*. We missed 2014 but think you will be happy with the 2015 calendar.

The Association Board of Governors and the Trustees of the Foundation and Museum Foundation will meet at Fort Hood on the last Saturday in February to act on Association and Foundation business. If you have an issue that needs to be addressed contact me at the Association to get it on the agenda.

Reunion planning is going well and we will have a full schedule of events for those of you that can attend the 68th Annual Reunion at Killeen/Fort Hood, Texas from 10-14 June 2015. Information is on page 13 and a registration form is on **Continued on pg. 2**

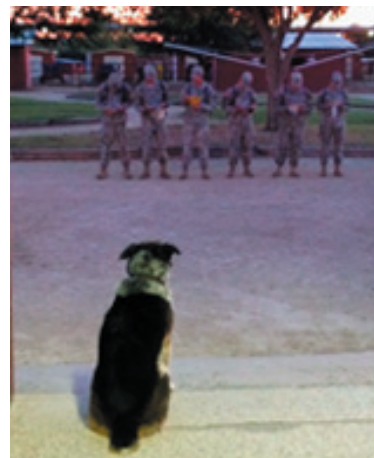
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Horse Detachment by CPT Elizabeth Rascon

The Holiday Season is fast approaching as the 1st Cavalry Division's Horse Cavalry Detachment prepares for upcoming parades and demonstrations in Central Texas. The HCD will be riding in two Parades this November: Veterans Day Parade in Killeen, Texas on the 11th and in the Blue Santa Parade in Austin, Texas on the 29th. We currently have three Parades lined up for December: Salado Christmas Parade on the 4th, Copperas Cove Christmas Parade on the 6th, and the Killeen Christmas Parade on the 13th. We are excited for these events and look forward to visiting with our local communities when we are in the neighborhood!

We would also like to recognize our newest Detachment members to the Team: SGT Wyatt Stimpfle, SPC Jessica Dareing, SPC Cody Levens, SPC Damen Schwalbe and SPC Benjamin Wurtz. After a successful completion of their introductory "Newbie" phase, all five Troopers have graduated to become official members of the Horse Cavalry Detachment and we expect that great things are in store for these fine Troopers.

We want everyone to watch the 126th Rose Parade on January 1, 2015 because the Horse Cavalry Detachment will once again be a part of this great New Year's Day tradition. This marks our 11th appearance in this parade. We will have 14 riders in the parade which includes two special guests riding with us this year, MG Michael Bills and CSM Andrew Barteky the Division Commander and



SGT Buddy, the Detachment's mascot, watching over the Newbies as they study their Trooper Study Guide before morning formation.

Division Sergeant Major. We are also taking our muleskinner, swamper, wagon, mules and Buddy. We will be leaving Fort Hood on the day after Christmas to travel to Pasadena for the parade making two stops on the way. For those who can't attend the parade in person and of course it will be broadcast on ABC, Hallmark Channel, HGTV, KTLA, NBC, RFD-TV and Univision. Home and Garden Television has complete parade coverage so you will see all of the parade.

As always, we conduct practice demonstrations at the detachment on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. This is the time we use to train new mounts and troopers and invite the public to come out and enjoy the show. Feel free to call ahead and reserve some seats at (254) 287-2229. You can also find us on facebook (Horse Cavalry Detachment) where we post pictures from the barn and let you know about upcoming events and ceremonies. Hot to Trot!

DIVISION DOINGS

As usual, much is going on in America's only Cavalry Division and the missions are diverse and in various parts of the world. The Division Commander, Division CSM, and some of the Division staff returned to Fort Hood in October but a portion of the Division Staff remains in Afghanistan under the command of BG Doug Gabram, DCG-S, as the Commander of TACC South (Train, Advise, and Assist Command). The 3d Cavalry Regiment also continues to be deployed in Afghanistan but has had some of its Troopers return to Fort Hood. The 3-8th Cavalry replaced the 1-12th Cavalry in Korea and will be deployed for 9 months. The 2nd Brigade Combat Team has been selected to replace a BCT of the 2nd Infantry Division that is being inactivated and will deploy to Korea in June 2015. The 1st BCT continues with its training mission in Eastern Europe. The 1st Cavalry Division has been given the mission to run a Controlled Monitoring Site to accept troops returning from Ebola virus disease outbreak areas and has an area set up at North Fort Hood but it will not likely be used until next year.

Tank Rounds Fired in Latvia by SGT Angela Parady, US Army Europe



C Co., 2-8 Cav fires first M1A2 rounds in Latvia on 6 Nov.

ADAZITRAINING AREA, Latvia - In the cold morning air, a burst of machine gun rounds from a M249 SAW gunner fired. After which, a single shot was fired from the first American M1A2 Abrams tank in line.

With a deafening boom, the single round shook the ground for **Continued on pg. 9**

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

2015	
Februray 28	Meeting of Board of Governors and Foundation Trustees, Fort Hood, TX
June 10-14	68th Annual Reunion, Killeen/Fort Hood, TX

TAPS

We have been notified of the death of the following:

BACON, COL (Ret) Willis G., HHC, 2-8th CAV, 1971. 10 November 2014.
BELLOMY, SGT George A., G Trp., 2-5th CAV, 1940-45. 17 February 2014.
BRYANT, CPL C.P. "Jerry", HHC, 5th CAV, 1951-52. 6 October 2014.
CAYLOR, MSG (Ret) James P. III, B Co., 2-7th CAV, 1967-68. 3 October 2014.
DAWSON, CPL Wallace I., A Btry., 82nd FA, 1949-53. 18 October 2014.
GEORGE, SGM (Ret) Jody Ann, HHC, 1CD, 1996-98; 545th MP, 1999-05. 12 October 2014.
JOHNSON, SGT Herman L., D Trp., 12th CAV, 1943-45. 4 February 2014.
KLINE, SP4 Randy D., D Co., 2-8th CAV, 1972. 13 November 2014.
LIPPINCOTT, COL (Ret) John C., F, A, E, and H Co., 7th CAV, 1949-51. 24 April 2014.
MACLEAN, PFC John A., A Trp., 1-9th CAV, 1959-60. 17 August 2014.
METHVEN, MSG (Ret) Robert D., D Co., 2-5th CAV, 1969 - 70. 23 August 2014.
MORSE, SP4 Michael A. "Tony", D Co., 1-12th CAV, 1966-67. 16 October 2014.
PECK, PFC Jerry L., B Btry., 1-30th FA, 1969. 29 October 2014.
PRICE, CW4 (Ret) Frank H., B Co., 227th AHB, 1965-66. 26 July 2014.
RANDALL, SP4 Hilton K., C Co., 1-7th CAV, 1965-66. 7 September 2014.
RAWLINGS, PFC William R., Jr., A Co., 1-5th CAV, 1950-51. 2 November 2014.
RICHEY, PVT Gilbert T., HQ, 1CD, 1945-46. 12 October 2014.
SCHEAR, MSG (Ret) Gerard K., SVC Btry., 99th FA, 1943-45. 5 August 2014.
SHEAFFER, SFC (Ret) Frank E., B Trp., 1-12th CAV, 1949; 7th CAV, 1949-51. 4 August 2014.
TAYLOR, SFC (Ret) Paula, K., HHC, 4th BCT, 2005-07. 12 October 2014.
WHITE, SFC (Ret) Thomas A., C Co., 2-7th CAV, 1965-66. 29 September 2014.
WOODS, SGT Onzie, A Co., 1-5th CAV, 1969-70. 1 November 2014.
YOUNG, SPC Tomas, A Co., 2-5th CAV, 2002-04. 10 November 2014.

ACTIVE DUTY TAPS

The following Active Duty Trooper died while supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan:

HAMILTON, PFC Donnell A. Jr., D Co., 1-5th CAV, 2013-14. 24 July 2014.

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

CHRISTIANSEN, SGT Sean P., E. Co. (FSC), 8th ENG, 2014. 4 October 2014.

DEWITT, SPC Jimmy D., H Co. (FSC), 15th BSB, 2013-14. 20 September 2014.

MAGANACASANOVA, SPC Adrian O., 53rd QM Co., 615th ASB, 2011-14. 19 September 2014.

PITNEY, SSG Bryan P., B Co., 1-227th AVN, 2008-14. 19 October 2014.

SCHELLIN, SPC Gage M.G., HHC, 3-82nd FA, 2014. 2 November 2014.

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

Director's Chair

Continued from pg. 1

page 13 in this issue. Please register early, it assists us in coordinating the reunion and makes things much better for those that attend. If you haven't attended a reunion yet, I recommend that you begin now. Reunions are good therapy for what ails you. See you at the reunion!

SABER

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

Deadline for publication is the 1st of each odd numbered month.

e-mail: firstcav@1cda.org

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

EDITOR: Angela Murphy

ASSISTANT EDITOR: Dennis E. Webster

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 cutlines 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,

The Ia Drang Scholarship has played an important role in obtaining my higher education at Louisiana State University Agricultural and Mechanical College. This grant has made it financially easier for me on my path to earning my degree in Industrial Engineering. It has helped me pay tuition and I have even stretched it as far as paying for some books. I am beyond grateful to have this opportunity to receive this grant.

This scholarship has a deep, personal meaning to me. It is knowing that because of my grandfather, Lieutenant Colonel Robert L. Barker, and his comrades, we the American people are able to enjoy the freedoms we have today. I see this scholarship as way of giving back for the sacrifices he and his fellow soldiers made. Their families are able to receive this grant in order to obtain a higher level of education to better themselves for the future. Whether it is to revolutionize something or understanding the change going on in this world. Those that receive the Ia Drang Scholarship have the potential to do the impossible. All because of the sacrifices our soldiers make on a daily basis; past, present, and future. Our country would not be the same without the American men and women that serve our country whole heartedly.

When I was in the 3rd grade, my family had the opportunity to attend one of the Ia Drang Valley Reunions in Washington, DC. Not only did I go once, but three times. I didn't know it at the time but I was being introduced to some of America's finest men. It was an opportunity of a lifetime. To be surrounded by those that served our country in Vietnam. I am thankful that my family traveled to DC to be in attendance. I believe it was an experience that has made me all the more grateful in receiving this grant.

Sincerely,

John Hogg

Dear Editor,

My name is Chris Duncan and I am a graduating senior in High School. Please allow me to express my gratitude to the Foundation for awarding me the memorial scholarship. I am overwhelmed with emotions to think of the sacrifices of my grandfather and all the other brave men that made this award possible. I vow to live very day striving to uphold the values these men so bravely fought for. Thank you once again for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Chris Duncan

Dear Editor,

My name is Steven Bamber and I've been receiving my scholarship for three years now. While I cannot afford to always take full-time classes, I always do manage to get a decent amount of my schooling out of the way every calendar year while penetrating my career field. I believe I keep a pretty good balance with school and work, but doing both at the same time puts a financial stress on a college student. I'm not quite poor enough to get a full Pell Grant, but not quite rich enough to afford to pay for my schooling. The only form of financial assistance I get comes from the 1st Cavalry Division Scholarship and for that I'm eternally grateful.

My grandfather's name was Jerald Zallen. I remember going to the reunions with my whole family and "hanging out with pop pop's old war buddies." I was too young to appreciate or understand the family-like atmosphere that I always got to be a part of. Maybe family-like is a bit too loose of a phrase to describe the relationships sustained for what would equate to at least two of my lifetimes.

I remember at one reunion wanting to go swim in the pool with my sister at a hotel but my mother, Jack's youngest daughter, made us sit through a bunch of

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CHAPTER NEWS

JAMES J. MASON WEST MICHIGAN CHAPTER

At the 16 October meeting the Chapter members decided to expand our meeting dates to allow more flexibility for all of our Chapter members to attend. Beginning in 2015 we will meet on the even numbered months. We also agreed to secure a Chapter banner. Pledges were received from members to fund this project. Our last Bingo at the Vets Home for this year was on 29 November.

The Grand Rapids Outpatient Clinic is moving into a brand new facility effective 1 December. This will be a welcome addition to the needs of the Veteran community in West Michigan.

Please visit our web page at <www.jjmwmc1cd.com>. We would love to have you stop in and say hi. First Team! Bob Anderson, Secretary

NEW YORK NEW-JERSEY CHAPTER



The Chapter held its fall meeting on November 1st in Ridgefield Park, New Jersey. Our guest speakers were LTC Steve Cornelius and CPT Richard Salmon. LTC Cornelius served most recently as Assistant Chief of Staff, G1, 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas and is currently attending the Army War College. CPT Richard Salmon is a Field Artillery officer whose first assignment was in 2004 with the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, New York where he served as a fire support officer for

an Infantry company. He recently completed his fourth deployment where he served in Afghanistan, Qatar and aboard the aircraft carrier USS Truman. Also in attendance was Molly Graham from the Rutgers Oral History Archives. Bob Arbasetti, President

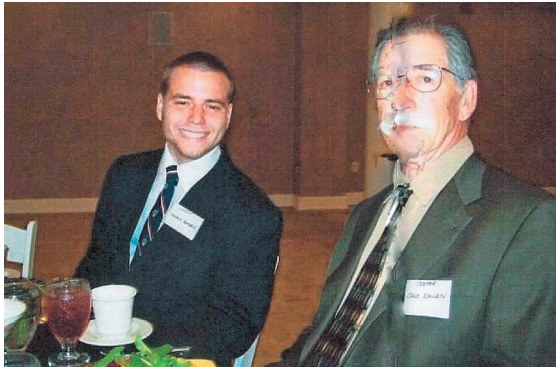
Letters to the Editor

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speeches made by some old guys. I was too young at the time to understand the political turmoil the Vietnam War created through our country. Through these speeches was the first time I had learned that our citizens didn't necessarily greet the veterans returning home from war home with open arms. This confused me. Through these speeches, which became emotional for some men to give, I remember thinking that the men giving them were almost having to justify going to war in the first place. This also confused me.

Through my education I've learned that people have a lot of differing opinions about war, politics, religion, and economics just to name a few. I'm getting to the age where my views of the world are starting to come together and my peers often debate these oh so debatable topics. I was 11 years old when the twin towers fell, and my little sister was 7. We don't know what America is like in time of peace, so my generation, while mostly adapting to what their parent's views are, love to argue about what's right and wrong in the world today. I'm sure most of my Pop Pop's war buddies have a lot of different opinions with each other, but from what I've seen (at least through reunions) it isn't really a topic of conversation. They must know something that we don't.

The last time I saw my grandfather was when he drove down on his motorcycle from Illinois to meet us at The Citadel for a reunion some five years ago. I was sitting at the table with him and my family when a couple of young cadets came and asked to sit with us. They talked to my grandfather about how different the military is today than it was in 1965. They compared every aspect of it and I could



tell these kids were genuinely impressed and interested with what my grandfather had to say. It was moments like these through the years that reminded me that I'm the offspring of something special.

My grandparents are in the cemetery at Ft. Benning. When we buried them they asked if anyone had anything to say before we started the ceremony. I was unprepared

for that question, as was the rest of my family so nothing was said. On the ride home I realized I had so much to say. Not only from the perspective of a family member, but the perspective from my generation. So this is me making up for what I wanted to say, so excuse me if my short essay is a little long. This scholarship, in many ways, represents my life.

From childhood I had seen the cavalry emblem everywhere. And just as logos play a role in marketing, this symbol has played a role in my life. I haven't had the opportunity to travel much, but when I did, I was in a minivan with that emblem somewhere on the vehicle, so the emblem to me represents traveling. It represents exploring. My grandparents lived in Kissimmee for much of my childhood so when I saw that symbol I knew we were going to Disney World. That symbol represents fun. My grandmother was the most loving person I've ever known and she always had the emblem somewhere around her. That symbol now represents love. And now that I'm educated enough to know what it really is, my interpretation is that the symbol means life.

Jack had two kids at home when he went to war. It was the first war broadcast on TV, so my aunt and uncle tell me stories of them watching the TV and their mother telling them that their father is there. I can relate. It wasn't until after he survived as part of the cut-off platoon and returned home to his family that they had my mother and 22 years after that I was born.

With my understanding of history and starting life when and where I did, with an innocent perception of the world, I'm in a position to convey to my grandfather's lifelong friends how well this scholarship money is being spent, and how much I not only appreciate it but I understand it.

To my grandfather's war buddies: With your differing opinions that I know exist based on human nature, one thing holds true that I heard from one of you that

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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CITY, ST, ZIP _____
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PHONE: _____
(000) 000-0000 _____
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\$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 _____
City _____ State _____
Zip _____ Phone (____) _____
Dates Assigned (1) _____ (2) _____
I served with 1st Team in Unit (1) _____ and (2) _____
E-mail _____

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

gave a speech years ago. You didn't fight for the same political view or the same ideology. You fought for each other. For each other's families. For each other's grandchildren. For each other's freedom, and for each other's grandchildren's freedom. Well, I'm here representing what I like to believe to be at least a big part of my generation to say thank you. With my grandfather surviving and coming home he was able to give life to my mother who gave life to me. For that I owe you life. There was a scholarship set up in my name before I even knew what a scholarship was. And for that I owe you my education. I feel like I owe you guys so much, but the best I can do is just take my gift, tell you I understand it, and that I appreciate it, and I will never take it for granted.

Sincerely,
Steven Bamber

New Members

- CPT BARTON, DONALD M.D. KY A 15MED 7607
- 1LT BATTLE, ERNIE F. TX B 15ST 7212
- CPT BRAZIL, DANIEL S. MI HQ 8ENG 6507
- E-4 CALDERON, JULIAN, JR. TX B 1-12C 6804
- SGT CARELLO, PETER E. MI C 2-7C 6902
- 1SG CHUMLEY, DONALD L., SR. NC A 2-8C 6611
- SSG COPPEDGE, WILLIAM A. TX D 227AVN 6509
- SFC DAVIS, JOE VA 15BSB 1209
- SSG DE LUNA, AUGUSTIN S. TX 1-7C 0911
- SFC (RET) DECAMP, TERRY A.K. PA HHB 1-82FA 0607
- CW3 (RET) ESPONILLA, VINCENT TX B DHHB 0611
- SGT FOX, DAVID H. MI C 1-8C 7003
- 1LT FRANKS, ROBERT S., JR. PA C 1-8C 6607
- SGT GRAHAM, LESLIE FL HHB 5-82FA 0910
- SFC GUERRA, RENE TX C 1-5C 1211
- CPT HALL, AUBREY C., M.D. VA HSC 15MED 6808

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61st FA News



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(760) 918-0470
Gordonc@DLSea.Net



First of all, I want to wish all of you the very best holiday

season ever and our hopes for a terrific New Year in 2015 for everyone.

In October we received an update on Blair from Bill McSpadden. They're continuing to search for the source of her internal bleeding, but as of this date (November 1st), they haven't found it. B&B are continuing their positive outlook and that's encouraging. I know they appreciate everyone's best wishes and concerns.

In late October we got this from Rich Weakley... "The 2014 reunion of the 61st FA Bn Chitose-Younguns was held at the Savannah House in Branson, Missouri. There were 33 in attendance. The Savannah House accommodations were excellent and the breakfast that was included with our rooms left nothing to be desired. The use of their conference center was provided free of charge and it was complete with everything we needed. Check-in on Tuesday was at 5 PM, followed by the opening ceremony. Art Moser's daughter, Laurie Heagy, welcomed everyone. Richard Heeter led the prayer. We all joined Laurie in singing "God Bless America." Art Moser and his family hosted the reunion two years ago in Gettysburg. That reunion was great and they kept us moving so fast that didn't get a chance to show our gratitude. We corrected that with a framed memorabilia, presented by Joyce and Richard Walter. I (Richard) had given Art a number of Challenger Coins, all from Korean veterans. I had promised him that if I could obtain a Medal of Honor coin from a friend of mine, Hiroshi H. Miyamura, I would. Hiroshi came through with the coin and I presented it to Art. He was very happy and proud to receive it. This was our chance to let Art know how much we had enjoyed ourselves at the Gettysburg reunion and how much we appreciated everything he and his family did for us. Later we enjoyed a buffet dinner supplied by the McSpaddens and the Weakleys. Dinner was followed by a time for socializing and plenty of refreshments. Wednesday was a "do whatever you want to" day. There was still a lot socializing going on. Thursday was a day of sightseeing and more socializing. That night the group went for dinner and entertainment on the "Showboat Branson Bell." Friday was more sightseeing and socializing. In the evening



Chitose-Younguns Reunion

Cooper, Ruth Hanson, Joyce Walter, Charlene Watt, Judy Heeter, Kathleen Nolen, and Virginia Chappell. Front row are Suzanne Napier, Mrs. Himes, Laurie Heagy, Phyllis Tucker, Audrey Weakley, Sylvia McKie, and Peg Schottlander.

In the lower picture of the gentlemen... Back row (L-R) are DuWayne Hanson, Dick Schottlander, Art Moser, Jim McKie, Don Chappell, and Glen Nolen. Front row are Rich Weakley, Rich Heeter, Grady Tucker, Marion Watt, and Rich Walter.

In a note from Grady Tucker... "Just to let you know, we have moved again, this time to Freeport, Florida, which is about 12 miles north of the coast in Walton County. We're close enough to the beaches, but away from the snowbirds and tourist areas. No change to our email address, but the new phone number is (850) 835-5444 and the new address is 157 Magnolia Drive, Freeport, FL 32439. Other than that, nothing else new here. My best, Grady." Thanks so much for the note, Grady. Good luck on the 2016 reunion and keep us up to date on progress.

My wife and I took a very nice vacation to the Far East in the late September/early October period. We flew to Orlando (via Atlanta) and picked up a rental car at the airport. We were, according to the locals, just in time for their daily cloudburst season. We did, however, soldier on and visited the Disneyworld Magic Kingdom in our plastic ponchos. At the entrance we waded through several inches of water to get in. It was amazing to see the crowds there in spite of the weather. Guess us Americans are a hardy bunch. The rides and attractions are

amazing and some are very similar to those we had enjoyed at Disneyland here in California. We stayed for the nightly Electric Parade and it went on as advertised as the rain had stopped. It's quite a spectacular event. While we were there I took the opportunity to drive over to Titusville and visit the US Space Hall of Fame. They have monuments and memorials to the Mercury, Gemini, Apollo, and Space Shuttle programs as well as a very extensive museum. I worked on the Apollo Program (we supplied the spacecraft three-man couch) and my name is one of those on the monument. It's pretty neat to see your name there.



Gordon at the Apollo Monument with my name.

From Orlando we drove north along the I-95 and took a ferry across the James River to the Williamsburg, Virginia area. The 20-minute ferry ride is fun and free. We met a distant relative in Williamsburg who invited us to an old time revue show she was in. The next day she showed us around Colonial Williamsburg and James Town. Both are great historical places and well worth a visit if you're ever in the area. From Williamsburg we drove up into the Shenandoah Mountains and had a few days of relaxation at the Skyland Resort. We even drove into Luray and toured their cavern. After that nice visit we drove into Washington, DC. We visited the WWII Memorial, the Korean War Memorial, and the Vietnam Memorial. All three are beautifully done and very impressive. Here are a few photos I took. The wreath placed by the Texas Panhandle Honor Flight was a great moment to experience. I know some of you have been there courtesy of the Honor Flight Program.



World War II Memorial (there was a wreath from the Texas Panhandle Honor Flight still there)



Korean War Memorial



Gordon and the Gemini



Vietnam War Memorial - the Wall

We also took the time to visit the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum. It's always great to see the things I worked on and here's a photo of me next to the Gemini Spacecraft and the Weber Aircraft ejection seats in it.

My wife is a quilter and she had heard that they had a quilt exhibit in the Museum of American History. We couldn't miss that! When we checked in at the Information Desk to inquire where the quilt exhibit was, we were told, "The quilt is over on that wall." They had one lonely quilt on display (the quilt exhibit had ended a few days earlier). She was disappointed but we still enjoyed the museum's other displays. From DC we drove to Baltimore, and after a few days of sightseeing and enjoying their delicious crab cakes, we caught our flight back home to San Diego. It was a great trip and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. Florida, Virginia, our capitol, and Baltimore are certainly worth your time to visit.

Received this note from Bill Stewart late in October... "Gordon, we don't have much news. Pete Coppock had back surgery and is recuperating at home, but still has a lot of pain. I had to have surgery to replace the battery in my back stimulator and had problems with it. Everything was fine, but I didn't want to wake up after the surgery. I am still waiting for answers as to why. I wore an event monitor for a month, have had a sleep study and saw three doctors. They say my heart is fine, but can't say why I had the problem after surgery. I know the good thing is they stabilized me, I finally woke up and for that I am very thankful. I still haven't been able to locate a new address for Frank Mowery since my last letter to him was returned. If anyone has any update info on Frank, I would appreciate hearing from you. Otherwise, Pat and I are just getting prepared for winter and hope it is milder than last year." Thanks for the update, Bill. Glad you hear that you and Pat are now doing well.

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

New Members

Continued from pg. 3

CW4 HALL, DAVID TX HHC 4-227AVN 1411
SGT HEARN, DONALD BRUCE, JR. WI C 2-7C 8107
MR. HENNEGAN, MICHAEL OR ASSOCIATE
CPT HOLMAN, BRENT W. TX C 91ENG 1305
MAJ MC CULLISS, CLAIRE TX HHC BSTB 05
SGT MULLER, KENNETH MD HHC 2-8C 6607
SP-4 ROBERTS, BARRY IA B 27MNT 7002



SP-4 ROWE, RICHARD OH C 4-60AAA 6811
MSGT (RET) USAF SHERIAN, JOHN N. FL B 1-5C 6610
SGT STIEREN, MARK F. IL B 1-5C 6609
E-4 TAGUPA, RANDY CA HHB 1-77FA 7005
E-5 TILSON, MICHAEL TN C1-7C 7708
SP-4 YARNALL, DAVID L. OH HHC 1CDH 6702
SSG YOUNG, DAVID E. TX A 312MI 8908

Thanks for joining the 1st Cavalry Division Association!

5th CAV News



Allan F. Foster
732 E. College Ave.
Westerville, OH 43081-2442
<allanfoster@wowway.com>
(614) 891-4345



It was great to read Captain Gioia's Memorial Day speech in the Sep/Oct 2014 issue of the *SABER*. He

captured many of the common experiences of all the "rucksack soldiers." I know in my unit the ability to pack everything in a logical, efficient, and well-balanced way, and to be able to transition from being a jungle pack-animal to a fully armed and functioning battle ready soldier in mere seconds separated the new guys from the quick old guys.

Crossing Over the Crick: On search and destroy missions my mortar platoon was very challenged. Depending upon circumstances we each could be carrying over 100 pounds of gear, mortar ammo, and hardware. Although we were often held in reserve as the back-up fourth platoon, we could just as likely be moving at the head or middle of the line of march. Joe Carpenter, our Captain was as good as it gets in setting up and protecting against ambushes. He would never move D Company on moonlit nights. On moonlit nights he would almost always have a platoon or squad set up in a night ambush. On the other hand, on dark moonless nights he would sometimes move us around so the enemy would have no idea where we were or where we were going. One dark starless night we were in full rucksack (I think maybe we were also carrying full mortar equipment and ammunition) and we were ordered to move our platoon about half a click (more or less) north and cross a creek and set up a mortar platoon perimeter to support the other platoons. I was point man and when we got to the creek I was first to begin crossing. I noticed that the creek was much deeper in the middle than I had expected. I am 5' 10" and by the time that I got close to the other shore I was up to my chin in moving water. In fact, I was bouncing up on my toes, grabbing a breath and then settling down on the river bottom and moving forward completely under water. When I climbed up the creek bank I heard a lot of panicky sounds coming from the water, I dropped all of my gear on the bank and slid back into the water. I saw two human forms coming up out of the creek; it was so dark that the only way I knew who they were was that they were both over six feet. It was PVT Mandingo (from Bedford-Stuyvesant) and PVT Spot (from Louisiana). I heard more "glub, glub, snort, snort" noises and saw 5' 6" 120 lb PVT Lang (from Budapest via the Bronx) bobbing slowly across the river holding onto another soldier: 5' 2" SGT Magna Tulfo (from Manila via the US Army). He had swallowed quite a large amount of water and was close to drowning. I grabbed him and squeezed his chest and hit him on the back and shook him and he coughed, snorted, sneezed, and threw-up some watery C-rations and took a breath. I passed him on to Spot and Mandingo who dragged him up on the shore. Everyone's equipment, gear, and bodies got across the river that night and we quickly became battle ready. We were very lucky. We lost no one. (Writer's note: If you get a chance to talk to the guys you will get a different story about that river crossing from each of us.)

The near drowning of my platoon, that I was responsible for, only took about three minutes. But, I think each member of the platoon had a moment. Those kind of dark worldly moments when we soldiers in combat are throwing up an almost spontaneous subconscious lightning-quick breath prayer to God. Those moments change all of us guys. Those kind of moments teach us how to stuff emotions, and in the blink of an eye, to act. Many of us became and still are very talented and adept at sizing up dangerous situations and dangerous people. Even now, we are very rarely surprised: we respond in the moment, we respond with experience, forethought, and if need be action. Bob Johnson once told me about a Vietnam Vet who saved the lives of 2,400 people at the Twin Towers on 9/11. The Vet was in charge of security for one of the large financial companies that had their offices in the Twin Towers. When the terrorist first attempted to strike the Towers with a car bomb in 1996 he took note, and he acted. He forced the whole corporation of 2400 people (from the President to the mailroom boy) to practice two or three fire drill exits a year by walking down the stairs of the Twin Towers in an organized, quick, no-nonsense way. I am sure he was called just another crazy hyper-vigilant Vet. But, on 9/11 when the first plane crashed into the Tower he immediately exited all 2400 of his fellow employees down the steps, out the door, and down the street. Once he was sure all of his workers were on safe ground he turned around and went back inside the burning building to help others. He was inside when the building collapsed. He has been posthumously honored a number of times in speeches and Veterans activities. (But, sadly and very interestingly, when I visited the Ground Zero Memorial in New York City neither his name nor his actions are ever mentioned.) {Editor's Note: The Veteran mentioned here is COL (Ret) Richard "Rick" Rescorla. He served with B 2-7 Cavalry in 1965 during the Battle of Ia Drang Valley, and is the soldier pictured on the cover of the book, *We Were Soldiers Once And Young*.}

I will be sending this column of the *SABER* to Copperas Cove on 11/1/2014. That *SABER* issue will be sent out in December. I am including a chapter from the book *Just Let Me Walk Away, An American Combat Helicopter Pilot in Vietnam* as a Christmas present to all of you from its author, Ray Kenneth Clark. I will try to publish a brief portion of what are some great books and war stories about us. I strongly recommend that you buy a copy of this book at <www.justletmewalkaway.com> or give me a call and we can figure out how to get one for you. There are a number of great self-published books by Vietnam Vets available. We need to support these guys. I will make one literary recommendation every Christmas season from now on. So Merry Christmas and Happy Tet.

Chapter 19, *Just Let Me Walk Away* by Ray Kenneth Clark: It was Monday, January 16, 1967. The day was all blue sky and sunshine. I was flying command-and-control for LTC Siegrist, commander of the 1-5 Cavalry, whom I knew from Hill 534. We were north of Bong Song and west of An Lao Valley. As we flew over the sheer, treeless grass-covered mountain peaks, I noted with concern the abruptness of the steep mountainsides. I thought to myself, "You know, if we have an engine failure up here in these peaks and try to land on the side of one of these mountains, we will never stop rolling downhill. I think I would like to get out of here." About three that afternoon we were released from our mission and headed south to return to Hammond when we got a radio call. We were directed to help with a routine troop lift of B Company, 2-5 Cav, the same company we had worked so hard to resupply on Hill 534 in August. They were in the nearby Soi Cau Valley, southwest of Bong Song. As we continued south, I was glad to leave those steep peaks west of the An Lao. A few minutes later I joined other helicopters from our unit as they flew down into the Soi Cau, an area of rice paddies framed by forest-covered mountains. We landed, two ships at a time, on the valley's western side. I had the controls as we nestled down into the small clearing.

Six troopers got on board, and the crew chief and door gunner signaled we were ready for takeoff. They said, "Clear left!" and "Clear right!" We lifted out of the trees and over the vast, wide expanse of open rice paddy that was the valley floor. The panorama was spectacular: flat paddies the color of jade stretched before me, rising into the deeper green of the tree-covered mountains, then brilliant blue sky. Then "SHEEEENNNNGGG" the sound came from the rear of the helicopter. I said to myself, "What in the hell is that! Son-of-a-gun! The freaking engine's flying apart!" "You'd better get this thing on the ground, sir," the crew chief said calmly. "We're going, son, we're going." We were only 100 hundred feet in the air, having just taken off - the worst time to have an engine failure. There is little time to react and no margin for error. Sometimes there was nothing you could do but just "pancake" in and hope you survived. I bottomed the pitch control and went into autorotation, putting us in a quick descent. I let the helicopter fall, then pulled the nose up into a flare to slow both our rate of descent and forward ground speed. Fifteen feet off the ground I stopped forward movement, leveled the aircraft and pulled in pitch. We settled softly into the water and mud of a rice paddy. I shut the switches off and got out. (DAMN!) I thought to myself. We had flown over those peaks near the An Lao most of the day, leaving them behind just 15 minutes earlier. I didn't know what held that engine together through those mountains, but I was plenty thankful for it. Later when the maintenance officer came to retrieve the helicopter, he tried to start it. He always did that. It didn't make sense to me. Did he think it wasn't really broken? Did he think he was going to fly it out after I had just made an emergency landing?

About four in the afternoon on Friday, another beautiful, clear day, we were picking up B 2-5 troops again, near where we had picked them up four days before. This was a routine flight, six slicks and two gunships carrying troops to LZ Hammond. Flying right seat with me was a 1LT, a solid performer who had been with us about four months. We had just refueled with the usual 1200 pounds of JP-4. We also had two five-gallon cans full of water and three cases of C-rations. Once six troops in full combat gear got on board we would be about as heavy as we dared get. We loaded the six troops and lifted off, the Lieutenant at the controls. We closed into formation, one-rotor-blade distance between aircraft, turned south and began climbing out of the valley along the eastern side. I was relaxed, looking at the mountain to my left, my hand in the hanging strap above the door. Then "BAMMM!" The noise was loud and sharp. The nose jerked hard to the right and the aircraft began plunging downward. The engine had failed. Four hundred feet above the ground with no power, we were falling from the sky. "BEEP! BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!" The low-RPM warning was screaming in my ears, and the red warning light was flashing with a will of its own. I was on the controls in a flash to get the pitch out of the blades and enter autorotation. Even so, the split second it took to get my left hand from the overhead strap to the pitch control cost us valuable altitude and rotor speed. We were heavily loaded, over trees, at very low altitude, and headed downwind. My pilot, who had the controls when the engine failed, had frozen. He neither moved nor said a word when the engine quit or during what was to follow. Our situation was critical. We had only seconds left in the air. I had to get airspeed to 60 knots to maintain optimum rotor speed, turn 180 degrees to land into the wind, find a clearing in the trees big enough for my helicopter, and land in that precise spot - all without engine power. I would get one attempt at landing. I glanced at the instrument panel to check the airspeed. The sun cast a glare on the gauge - I couldn't read the numbers. "Dammit!" I looked ahead to check the helicopter's attitude against the horizon for an estimate of airspeed. "The nose is too high!" I pushed the nose down and keyed the mike. "MaydayMaydayThis is Yellow3I have an engine failure I'm going down!" I said to myself in astonishment, "Dammit; I'm on the intercom!" With my left on the pitch control, I held the cyclic between my knees, freeing my right hand to reach for the radio switch on the console. I turned the switch from intercom to UHF, took the cyclic back with my right hand, keyed the mike and made the emergency call again. "MaydayMaydayThis is Yellow3I have an engine failure I'm going down!" We were falling so fast, I whispered, "Just let me walk away from this one. Just let me walk away." I looked out my window for a place to land and spotted a small rice paddy, surrounded by trees, directly beneath us. It was big enough for one helicopter. I said, "Boy, I'm glad that's there because that's where I'm going, straight down." I would have to come in high enough to clear the trees, yet land softly. There could be no forward movement when we touched down or I'd risk the front tips of the skids catching in the mud and flipping us over. If our nose was not into the wind when we reached the clearing, I'd hit the trees on the far side. I didn't know if I was high enough to complete it, but I had to make that 180-degree turn into the wind, that was crucial. As I leaned the aircraft into the left turn, the nose started up. Nose up, the feeling is wonderful because the rate of descent slows, but the rotor speed also declines, and rotor speed is needed for the landing. Suddenly I could see the stage field at Fort Rucker where I had done this in training. I sucked in my stomach, pushed the nose down, and let her fall. It fell like a meteor. Again, I whispered, "Just let me walk away from this one. Just let me walk away. I don't care what happens to the chopper. Just let me walk away." We were already 75 feet from the ground and only halfway through the turn. There wasn't time to complete it. "I'll take an injury. Just let me walk away. I don't want to be injured, but I'll take it if I can just walk away. Just let me walk away." At 90 degrees of turn I pulled the nose up into the flare. With a rush of gratitude I thought of Harold Jones, my civilian flight instructor at Fort Wolters, Texas, who first showed me this maneuver. For a moment I could see the trees and that clearing in Texas where I had flared through the last half of a 180-degree turn and landed safely in a small confined area the first time. When we came out of the turn we were right at the treetops - WE WOULD CLEAR THE TREES. It was the first indication I had that we might make it. As we crossed over the treetops and descended into the clearing, the trees on the far side of the paddy became a threat. About 15 feet off the ground, keeping the nose up, I popped the pitch and stopped forward momentum. Then I pushed the nose down and pulled in all remaining pitch. We hit the ground, rocked back and forth two or three times, and came to a stop. The blades managed one final, lazy spin, then stopped turning. The troops were out the doors in nothing flat. I shut off the switches and got out. There were no bad guys around, and our helicopters were circling overhead. We were safe for the moment. The paddy turned out to be hard ground, not soft mud. I hoped the landing had not spread the skids. A hard landing generally implies poor flying skill, and spreading the skids is an embarrassment second only to running out of fuel. I walked around to the front of the aircraft and looked under it. "Darn, I spread the skids," I said wistfully. "If only I had been a little smoother."

The next day a MAJ from battalion headquarters came into the operations tent at LZ Hammond to see me. "CPT Clark, you got a minute?" I said, "Yes, Sir." He continued, "Listen, you're being charged with a major accident on that forced landing yesterday." I responded, "What? Are you serious? But, Continued on pg. 19

12th CAV News



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around these parts before. Saddle up and draw the cinch tight. Watch that one, its sucking in air! We don't need any spilled saddles or riders, and it will be an hour before we stop. Yeehaw, move out!



Congratulations to the 11 newest Charger Expert Infantrymen!

of authority ceremony, the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment cased their colors to symbolize the end of their deployment in South Korea. "The last nine months have been a great experience for me and my battalion," 1-12 Cav Commander LTC Art Sellers said. "We were the first combat arms battalion to come to Korea so that has been full of many challenges." Sellers pointed out there were no established facilities or motor pools for his soldiers when they arrived in South Korea. They also had the long process of bringing over all their tanks and equipment from Fort Hood. "That entailed countless hours from my leaders and soldiers and I'm extremely proud of their efforts for doing that and setting up 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry, our sister battalion, to complete the mission in the next nine months," he said. During his remarks Sellers highlighted the warm welcome by South Korean leaders, the community support and strong partnerships with the Republic of Korea Army. <KCenTV.Com>

0541 2-12 Cavalry, 16 October 2014. "In preparation for training with North Atlantic Treaty Organization member countries, Soldiers with the 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment went to the range October 4 to refresh their skills with the M320 Grenade Launcher during their two-month stay in Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany. The Soldiers are in Europe to participate in the multinational exercise, Combined Resolve III. Fewer than 24 hours after arriving, the Soldiers were on their feet and training. "Having Soldiers get some trigger time on their weapon systems is most important to proficiency," said SFC Eric Daileg, a Soldier with 2-12 Cav. Regt. "This training prepares us for the great experience of working with and mentoring foreign militaries." Once on the range, Soldiers attempted to shoot a 40mm grenade at targets ranging from 50 to more than 200 meters away and a bright orange puff of chalk indicated where the practice round impacted. As part of Combined Resolve III, 2-12 Cav Regt will train alongside their NATO allies, with troops from countries such as Denmark, Moldova, and Romania. Training will consist of ground movements between infantry, infantry fighting vehicles, and tanks. Training missions like these are excellent opportunities to show the U.S. commitment to working with allies and partner nations and build international relationships. These exercises allow the NATO alliance to maintain the lessons learned over the past 12 years of war and to further develop technical and tactical interoperability among U.S., NATO and partner-nations." <FortHoodSentinel.Com>



Company C 2-12th Cavalry Regiment remote fire a tank during calibration fire at Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany, Oct. 1

0741 You do know there is an app for that? Google Play has almost all the Vietnamese related applications you might ever need. Enough to whet your Vietnamese appetite for a start, or maybe fulfill a lust for things Vietnam related. There is: Karaoke Vietnam, Learn Vietnamese, Radio Vietnam, English-Vietnamese Flashcards, Vietnam Calendar, English Vietnamese Dictionary, Vietnam Telex Keyboard, Vietnamese Translator & Dictionary, Vietnam HD TV, Vietnam Battle (game), Name That Vietnam War Thing, Vietnam War Aircraft, Vietnam Travel Guide, Vietnam Wallpapers, and more and more and more. Land navigate on over, pick, choose, and download your particular passion. Why, yes, I did; a music and a pho app. <Play.Google.Com/Store>

0941 SPC Michael Anthony 'Tony' Morse, 68, rode away peacefully to Fiddlers Green 16 October 2014 at Hospice of Northwest Ohio. A lifetime resident of Toledo, Ohio he succumbed after a valiant six-year battle with ALS. He enlisted in the United States Army and served two tours in Vietnam as a combat infantryman; with the 1st Cavalry Division (D 1-12 Cavalry 1966-1967), and the 173rd Airborne. Tony is survived by his wife Nadine and sons Colin and Garrett, among others. He talked to his sons and siblings daily and enthusiastically attended every family function, gladly serving as the family historian by having his camera and video camera ready to capture each moment. Memorial contributions in memory of Tony may be made to the ALS Association, 6155 Rockside Rd. Suite 403, Independence, OH 44131. <Legacy.Com> RIP.

0001 Hey Sailor, new in town? Semper Paratus! We meet again for the last 12th Cavalry Trail Ride of 2014. I don't believe I have seen you

0341 1-12 Cavalry, 24 October 2014. "Dozens of U.S. soldiers, members of the Republic of Korea Army and community leaders gathered at Camp Stanley as one Fort Hood battalion said goodbye and another was welcomed on Friday. Called a transfer

1141 3-12 Cavalry "During a 2013 reunion of the Association of 3rd Armored Division Veterans a small group of 1970s/80s 3rd Squadron 12th Cavalry Troopers met up with a few of the 'Old Timers' from 1957. We had a great time sharing stories of our times in Bűdingen Germany. Together we spanned the entire time frame of the Squadron in Germany, 1957 - 1989! One of the things we shared was a Challenge Coin we had commissioned by our Facebook Group. Our group has several hundred members now (659) and it is great seeing the pictures and meeting up with some of the guys that we had not seen, in some cases up to forty years. One of the things we saw were all the unit colors displayed around the room. But something was missing, Our Colors! As we talked about it we all agreed that we wanted our unit colors on display also. So after returning home I sat down and started researching for information on our colors. I contacted the Army Aviation Museum at Fort Rucker, Alabama where I found that all unit colors of non-active units are stored at Anniston Army Depot, Alabama. I contacted them and did a request through Fort Rucker to have our colors sent to the museum for the purpose of photographing them. I was taken back to learn that our flag was not there, nor had it been returned by the unit after reflagging to 4-7 Cavalry in 1989. I continued to ask questions about having another flag made. Well with no surprise I was informed that the Army would not authorize making a new flag for a unit that is not active. This was very disappointing to a few of the members in our group and as time was growing close to the next reunion, it was suggested that we have our own flag made. After a couple of weeks we had quotes in hand for a printed flag but they were not up to our standards. In March we found a company that could do a fully embroidered flag for a reasonable price, but it would take up to a year. I explained that we really wanted it in about five months for the reunion - they told me that was almost impossible. So I started looking at the printed flags again. About two weeks had gone by and one night I received an unexpected call from California; it was the man from the flag company. He had spoken to the manufacturer, if we would agree to the price we had set he would get the flag made, and to us in time for the reunion! The race was on and we started raising money through our site to buy the flag. In just three months we had done it thanks to all the 12th Troopers that made it happen! In July 2014 we unfurled our 3-12 Colors, they looked great, and we dedicated them to all the Troopers that had served together in the 3rd Squadron, 12th Cavalry Regiment! Maybe someday our colors will be unfurled again over an active duty 3-12 Cavalry! Until then we are proud to show our colors and stand as Brothers. Semper Paratus!" <Mark Williams (US Army Retired), D Troop, 3-12 Cavalry>



Mark Williams with the 3-12 Cavalry Squadron Colors

1341 Trooper Bennie E. Tuggle wrote to self-report on a mini-reunion of C 2-12 Cavalry from the 1965-1966 Vietnam days. The gathering was in February 2014, Cape Coral, Florida, so you just missed it, Bro! Attendees included LTs Ray Welch and Joe Schillings, 1SG Billy J. Tippins, SSG Bennie Tuggle, and SP-4s Mike Vanatta and Bernard Deamicis. As twice is the charm the troops decided to do it all over again in Columbus, Georgia in May 2015. We are looking for members who served in C 2-12 from July 1965 through December 1966. Please report for duty: SSG Atkins, Glenn Broach, William O. Child, Jim Fowler, Phillip W. Gibbs, PFC Golden, Thomas O. Hawkins, Jackie O. Hunt, Tracy D. Mathews, Billy McDonald, Nathan N. Miller, Elroy N. Pryor, Claude Register, Pedro Rojas, Billy W. Stanfield, Oscar J. Sanchez, William E. Taylor, Thomas D. Tidwell, Vittario V. Valente, Raymond Welch, Virgil Wilkerson, Jon R. Wise, Robert C. Worrell, and other GIs (you know who you are.) Come on people, let's make this happen! Point Persons are Troopers Ray Welch, 606-248-3458; and Bennie Tuggle, 464 Kingston Road, Colbert, GA 30628-2621, (706) 614-0895, (long distant rates may apply.) <BenTuggle@WindStream.Net> (Any misspellings are mines fault.)

1541 HA! The late great election is fast fading in the mirrors and the dustbin of history. We shall all have to live within the results, now won't we? As 'Kenack the Great', I foresee: two and four more years of carping and harping until the next rounds of Democracy are finished. Were you part of the about 28% that actually voted instead of just talking about it? Then congratulations or something. "Democracy must be built through open societies that share information. When there is information, there is enlightenment. When there is debate, there are solutions. When there is no sharing of power, no rule of law, no accountability, there is abuse, corruption, subjugation and indignation." ~ Atifete Jahjaga

1741 Trooper Elvis Poe, A 2-12 1969-1970 Vietnam memoire, 'Fireworks!' To continue: "Larry Batterson and myself had last guard. Just before dawn we had just cooked some coffee and cocoa, when we heard it va-romp. A mortar had launched a round and we knew where it was going. When the first round hit, more was on their path. AK's started shooting along with B-40's. One gook had slipped within 35-yds of our position and was firing steadily. The gunner, Roy Brasher, open up on him along with the rest of us. No bullets coming our direction, they were firing in the area where the mortars hit. They thought they had us dead to right, but the C.O. had pulled one on them. He stated later he knew they would hit us in some way. So that's why he moved us up the hill, then had that site on the grid perfect. Of course the 1st squad (1st platoon) moved out first, with me on point and SGT Gaddis behind me. Everything we had left behind the evening before had been demolished. I can remember walking into the area, only to stop and look around. I couldn't believe my eyes. The place was riddled. With the C.O. right behind he said, "Don't tarry, they've got this place we're standing on marked and they could drop some on us." Huh, I thought, but he was right. They didn't get us the first time and we don't want to give them a second chance. This was like following a wounded deer. Some troops learned a few things about tracking that day. All day long was cleaning up. Lots of gear had to be sent to FSB Buttons and new gear sent out. We got resupplied in the little opening that day with everyone on edge. I guess CPT Gallagher never received a letter, or a medal for his action, but he sure saved some lives and wounded **Continued on pg. 8**

7th CAV News



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Computer glitch: My sister and I just recently updated my e-mail from Outlook Ex-

press to Outlook and in the process I forgot to back up the old file information. This included my working files for upcoming *Saber* articles. Please, if you can, re-send those articles so that I can process them in upcoming columns. Now on to this month's article.

How quickly the calendar rolls along anymore at least for me. It seems like I just sent our last column off to Angela and here is another deadline knocking at my door. I was reminding myself last night that the 49th anniversary of the Ia Drang and Pleiku campaigns is a short two weeks away. We owe a debt of gratitude to those warriors who went through the training at Fort Benning, proving that the Airmobile concept could work, and then traveling to the Republic of Vietnam and showing the world that it did work. With that in mind this installment of your 7th Cavalry Column is dedicated to the Troopers of the 11th Air Assault (Test) who were then re-flagged as the 1st Air Cavalry Division (Airmobile) in 1965.

Just a bit of medical prevention to offer as I just went through a second colonoscopy. If you haven't as yet had the pleasure, it really isn't that big of a deal and as our good friend Joe Galloway points out - the prep work is way worse than the procedure. This was my second procedure at the five-year interval. Truth be told, it is a simple exam and an excellent way to be pro-active regarding the possible occurrence of colon cancer.

Just read an excellent book by Joe Abodeely titled *Dear Mom and Dad, Love from Vietnam*. Joe served as a Platoon Leader in Delta Company of the 2-7 during the year 1968. His letters home to his parents were saved and became the backdrop to this wonderful story. The letters are filled in with research over the last 45 plus years and I recommend it to any GarryOwen trooper. After his tour, Joe went back to school and became a lawyer finally retiring as a JAG Colonel. I found one particular experience that exactly mirrored my own as I too was one of the Quon Loi base Defense Officers in the early spring of 1970. You should be able to order it from your local bookseller. GarryOwen Joe!

Another warrior of the 2nd Battalion who fought at LZ Albany is Bud Alley. His battle experiences will be in bookstores early next year and will be titled *The Ghosts of the Green Grass*. We look forward to reading this battlefield memoir, 50 years in the making, next year. A hearty GarryOwen to you too, Bud!

Another recommend book is titled - *War Stories of the Infantry* by Michael Green, and covers conflicts from World War I through OIF, including some accounts from First Team Warriors.

The Department of Veterans Affairs is reissuing identification cards to all who are currently in the Health Care System. This is an ambitious project and there doesn't seem to be any methodology to their approach. Some of my friends have already received their cards while others are left with when will I receive mine? At my local Outpatient Clinic I spoke with the facility manager in mid October, himself a veteran and he hadn't heard of any time frame either. It will be an improvement once this massive project is completed as our personal data will be made much safer.

As I put the finishing touches to this column, it is a rainy and gloomy day here in Michigan. A day, however, filled with hope as America goes to her polling places on what is called the mid-term election. I hope that each of you exercised your right to vote in this most wonderful example of what it means to live in a free society. A society where "We the People" pick those who will govern during the next two years. Every vote does in fact matter and do not ever let anyone tell you differently.

A note from a trooper that served with our President - John Guillory in C 2-7: "Congrats John for stepping up to fill the President's position. My name is Emil "Lefty" Ercolano and I served proudly with John in Charlie 2-7 in 1968/69. John is truly one of our best then and now. Short story and I know John will be ticked off, sorry buddy boy I don't care. It was Christmas Eve 1968 and we were out of the field for a few days on LZ Odessa: John, Bert, Butch, Andy, Marty, and I made a recording on a small reel to reel to my family back home. We were joking and singing and all the guys proposed to my sisters and at the end John made a promise that at some point in time he would bring us back together again. A promise made and promise kept! We've had many successful reunions hosted by Jerry (Snuffy) Armstrong and SGT Jimmy Brown and both their families. All of our guys are extremely grateful! Looking forward to our next one in May 2015. Always Remember!" Thanks Lefty, I can't see anything here that Harpo would object to. GarryOwen!

Jim Savage, our Website Manager reports the following changes in the 1st Squadron and 2nd Battalion Command structures: LTC Jay Miseli who has commanded the 1-7 since June of 2012 has relinquished command to LTC Ryan O'Connor. LTC Robert Kuth who has commanded the 2-7 since March of 2012 has relinquished command to LTC Andrew Watson. These command teams are expected to be in place for two years.

Fort Hood, Texas - Distant popping sounds could be heard from the command tower of Jack Mountain Multiuse Range throughout the week of 26 August 2014. The sight of Bradley Fighting Vehicles on the range below revealed that another round of level one gunnery qualification is in full swing for the 1st Squadron "GarryOwen," 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team "Ironhorse," 1st Cavalry Division. Some GarryOwen crews on the range this time around satisfied a bi-annual certification requirement, while other crews are preparing for series of upcoming missions. This fall, more than half of the squadron is heading to countries across Europe for Atlantic Resolve and Combined Resolve III. "We're finishing up the rest of the Blackhawk Troop crews now preparing for movement to Germany to do gunnery there," said SGT Jason Olivar, a GarryOwen cavalry scout. Olivar, a San Jose, California, native said he's excited for a change in scenery. "The guys always like training, but most of them have never been to Europe or Germany," said CSM Seann O'Brien, GarryOwen's senior noncommissioned officer. "This will be their first encounter with Germany, the cold, the different land and training environment, other NATO countries and seeing other armies." Compared to what he has seen in Iraq and parts of Afghanistan, Olivar

said Germany is going to be a world of difference. In the meantime, the rest of GarryOwen will be on-call at Fort Hood for wildfire firefighting operations. The unit was tasked to help assist during wildfire emergencies across the southwest U.S. from July through October in the event civilian and National Guard resources become exhausted. Additionally, troopers back in Texas will be running a tactical operations center during two simultaneous training exercises in October. Simulated battle scenarios back at Fort Hood will support CBR III exercises in Germany, linking the scattered squadron across an ocean. Although O'Brien's troopers have a series of multi-faceted missions ahead between three countries and two continents, he is confident in his Soldiers' abilities to succeed. "We kind of have everybody spread out...but we have good first sergeants and commanders and they're ready for the challenge," said O'Brien, a Miami native.

I know there will be a contingent of GarryOwen troopers in DC for the annual festivities that surround Veterans Day. I hope to have several reports that I can share with you in the January column.

The 5th annual reunion of the men of Charlie Company 1-7 (1970-1972 Vietnam and Cambodia) was held in Maggie Valley, North Carolina on September 6, 2014. Maggie Valley is nestled in the Smokey Mountains just west of Asheville, North Carolina. Twin Brook Resort, consisting of 17 cabins/RV slots, hosted our reunion and was more than accommodating. All units were taken by C 1-7 personnel which make it much like a family reunion. The reunion was scheduled for Saturday, September 6th but members started to arrive on Tuesday the 2nd. There were many shops, antique stores, car shows, and other sites to visit. Some brave souls went zip lining and others visited the "Wheels Through Time" museum and the Biltmore Estate. First timers were Danny Bullock from North Carolina, Bobby Guthrie from Georgia, Bob Mobbs from Oklahoma, Geoff Prosch from Virginia, Bob Spears from Tennessee, Norm Tuggle from Georgia, and Mark Wooley from Louisiana. Cassie writes: "35 men and their wives, friends and relatives, from all walks of life and scattered throughout the United States, gathered together to reminisce and share their stories. There were hugs, slaps on the back, shaking of hands, laughter and tears as they greeted each other. These men survived Vietnam and Cambodia and came home to face civilian life that did not always welcome them. After 44 years, these men gathered to relive their youth and find answers to memories and questions that have haunted them. Some stood in groups, some sat at tables. Photo albums were spread for anyone to leaf through pictures of a lifetime ago in the jungles and hills of Vietnam. The pictures were of young men- some teenagers and some in early manhood - lean, muscular, a head of hair, dressed in green fatigues, carrying weapons and packs that weighed almost as much as they did. The resounding chatter was prefaced by "Do you remember...?" "What happened to...?" Finding and bringing these men together after all these years has been a challenge. When contacted about the reunion, each and every one of them had their reservations about dredging up the past. However, each and every one who attended has found peace in dealing with the past. They have rediscovered the camaraderie they shared. It has become a time of healing and of coming to terms with what they saw, remembered, shared, and tried to forget. No amount of counseling can accomplish what one weekend with fellow veterans can achieve. Reach out and be healed....Garry Owen...." If anyone is interested in joining us for next year's reunion and/or hosting a reunion at a different location, send an email to Marion Siara at <tzanka2@aol.com>.

Significant milestones in our Charlie Company (70-71) family since the last reunion: David White, South Coffeyville, Oklahoma passed away on June 6, 2014. Dan and Emma McNamara were married in St. Paul, Minnesota on August 6, 2014, and George Durham, Lawton, Oklahoma, passed away on September 5, 2014. Thanks Marion for this report.

Some of you might wonder why Company and Platoon sized reunions are featured in our column and the simplest answer is that we are not getting any younger. We are on the back side of Nui Ba Den and it is a great feeling to see again those Boys who became Men and to remember our fallen warriors!

Mark Levy, a medic in Delta 1-7 who earned a Silver Star for Gallantry sends this link regarding artillery of a 1-7 firebase called Bronco in Cambodia during the May and June 1970 "official" incursion. You will have to type in the link into your preferred search engine: <http://www.criticalpast.com/video/65675062050_United-States-soldiers_Vietnam-War_loading-howitzer_smoke-from-firing>

Just a reminder that currently membership into the 7th Cavalry Association is closed to new members. This is a result of our Association not having a current Secretary. Hopefully at Fort Hood someone will be willing to raise their hand for this important position.

Ron Migut sends in this report: A lieutenant colonel relieved of his post as head of the Warrior Training Center at Fort Benning, Georgia, was not authorized to wear the Ranger and Sapper tabs displayed on his uniform, base officials said. LTC Gerald H. Green III, a member of the National Guard in active service with the WTC, was removed from command on 9 October and is under investigation, the base said in a news release. Members of the unit identified concern about the Ranger tab, specifically, Benning's chief spokesman, Gary Jones, said Thursday. A concern brought to leadership that led to the investigation. "Due to the findings of the preliminary investigation we had...there was enough evidence of misconduct to warrant MG Scott Miller relieving him from command as we continue further investigation of misconduct," COL Patrick Donahoe, chief of staff for the Benning-based Maneuver Center of Excellence, said later Thursday. Miller is MCoE's commanding general and would have court-martial and disciplinary authority in the case should the investigation warrant such measures. If the investigation proves unauthorized wearing of awards this indeed is a sad situation.

The following warriors have sent me copies of orders per my request for the cataloguing of those who served in the 7th Cavalry during Vietnam: Ron Migut, Joe Carney, Bob Mobbs, Roger Galloway, Marion Siara, James Dean, Dick Taylor, and Bud Alley. If I missed anyone, I'll catch you in the next column. Please keep those orders coming as this is an important project. Why you might ask, and the simplest answer is that this preserves your individual legacy in the 7th Cavalry. We still get folks claiming their ancestors served with COL (Brevet Major General) Custer during the Indian Campaigns in the early 1870's. Records are scarce and proof is sometimes very difficult to come by. This record will

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8th CAV News



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Hi again!

Way back when, there was a very popular song among us in RVN. Remember it? The lyrics went something like this: "My bags are packed, I'm ready to go.... I'm leavin' on a jet plane...." I even learned to sing it in Vietnamese. Well today, October 30, my U-Haul is packed, my COMCAST router and TV boxes are bagged and ready to turn in, a few more things to finish up (including this column), and I'm leavin' for my new home in Port Charlotte at the break of dawn tomorrow. I must add that this journey South is just in time as snow is in the forecast for tomorrow here in Grand Rapids. I am looking forward to being in a place where I run the A/C rather than the furnace for the next six months.



Larry Hempfling

Larry Hempfling wrote a quick note about the latest Kentucky Kampout: "The Kentucky Kampout was, as usual, another great time. Wednesday evening meal was hosted by the Am-Vets hall across the street from the Fishtail Lodge resort at which we reside. Food was wonderful as newlywed James "Topgun" Dotson's wife and the ladies of the auxiliary provided us with a home cooked meal. Once again we had quite a turnout with brothers from the East to West coasts most of whom arrived on Wednesday so they could take in the entire reunion. Tommy "Smiley" Harris, Topgun, and yours truly procure all the provisions to make for some delectable breakfasts, lunches, and dinners anyone can image at a Kampout. There is always something available to satisfy your hunger

of quench your thirst, no matter what time of day you get the urge. Half of the huge pavilion is converted into a kitchen most gourmet chefs would envy. A large campfire and a lot of great stories were exchanged during this relaxing weekend. Worst part is the goodbyes on Sunday. As stated in the past, anyone, any era serving with the 1st Cavalry Division is welcome. I promise you won't leave without having gained a few pounds."

Gene Hedberg, with whom I served on my first tour in 'Nam with the Regiment, is very active as one of the leadership team with "Eager Arms." He wrote to us concerning next year's reunion in Killeen. The Eager Arms group is joining the Division Reunion this year and has made a block reservation at the Courtyard by Marriott. Thirty-three members have already indicated their plans to attend. Gene suggests Eager Arms members make reservations now by calling the hotel at (254) 616-2000 and mention "1st Cavalry Reunion Eager Arms." Points of contact are Pete Genecki <pcghelm1@verizon.net> (732) 521-3087; or Jim Smith <jimjoann@ptd.net> (973) 875-7668.

Gene wrote to me earlier about his recent participation in the 2014 Freedom Flight. Here is a copy of the letter he submitted to his local paper: "Recently I had the honor and privilege of participating in the 2014 Freedom Flight along with veterans from WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. Even though it took over 60 years to recognize the Korean War Vets for their "Police Action" and 50 plus for the Vietnam Veterans to be welcomed home, it was accomplished in style by send-off ceremony and the memorial visits in Washington, D.C. Some may have been uncomfortable because they weren't combat veterans, but that's not the point. They served, they did what was asked, and went where assigned. We all know that without support, a combat soldier doesn't last very long. The Freedom Flight experience would not have been possible without the help of a

dedicated group of volunteers: Story and Polk county law enforcement, Story and Polk county fire departments, Sun Country Airline, bus companies from Ames and Washington, D.C., the Patriot Guard, Legion Riders, Hy-Vee, Ames Tribune, Dr. Salma, the City of Ames, family, friends, and anyone else I may have missed. It was just amazing what they efficiently accomplished. But most of all, thanks to Brett, Renee, and the 'red shirts.' Their days were longer, their work non-stop. Whether it was pushing wheel chairs, serving food or drinks, or performing their many other tasks, they always had a smile and make the comment, "This is your day." It truly was.

Here's a quick summary of the 2014 Freedom Flight:

148 veterans from WW II, Korea, and Vietnam attended a sendoff ceremony on Sunday. As we headed to the city auditorium on chartered buses, we were escorted by approximately 100 Patriot Guard and Legion Riders motorcyclists, Story County law enforcement, fire departments, family, and friends. We listened to speakers and our state senator and then shook a lot of hands. Tuesday the veterans and escort staff met at 3:30 am to board the buses for the 50 mile trip to the airport. A local grocery store furnished coffee, juice, and doughnuts. Again we had a motorcycle escort with law enforcement leading the way with lights flashing. Each bridge over the interstate had fire trucks with lights flashing and American flags hanging from their extended ladders.

We arrived at the airport at 4:45 am and proceeded through groups of family, friends, and strangers to security before we boarded our chartered 737. Then there we sat with fuel pump problems while we waited for a mechanic to sign off on our little problem. We finally took off for DC 2 1/2 hours late. We arrived at the Dulles Airport to a water cannon salute and processions of airport personnel, family, friends and strangers. We again boarded buses. Our whirlwind day included: a visit to Arlington where we presented a wreath, and visits to the WWII, Korean, Vietnam, Air Force, Navy, and Marine Iwo Jima monuments. On our trip back to Dulles, one of the buses developed a mechanical issue that was resolved in about a half an hour. We arrived at the airport at about 7:45 pm, again to be greeted by lines of airport personnel and strangers. Because the airplane crew had not had enough down time, we had to wait for another 1 1/2 hours before boarding.

We finally boarded the plane at approximately 9:15 pm. While taxiing to the main runway, a rain storm moved in and shut down the airport. We sat there with our faulty fuel pump, our tired air crew, and engines running stuck in those 18" seats for another 20 minutes before taking off. On the trip home, the airline sprung for a couple of free drinks. We had a surprise "mail call." Thanks to my wonderful wife I received the largest mail packet on the plane. Included were all the wonderful notes from you guys, my friends, and family. Fred Fish had sent a tee shirt with a Cav Patch and CIB on the front. On the back it read: "Happiness is a Cold LZ." Belt Fed included a nice letter about our grenade throwing experiences which had my seat mates chuckling (or maybe it was the adult beverages!) So thanks to you all, my wife, family, and friends I had a great day! - Gene"

Our thoughts go out to the active duty members of the Regiment who are deployed. The 800 soldiers of 3rd Battalion is on rotation in Korea for the next nine months having arrived at Osan Air Force Base this October. They replace the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment. Our soldiers support the US defense commitment to the Republic of Korea. SSG Keith Anderson reports that the soldiers of the 2nd Battalion are in Lithuania as part of the US Army Europe-led Atlantic Resolve, a multinational combined arms exercise involving the 1st Bde Combat team and host nations taking place across Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland.

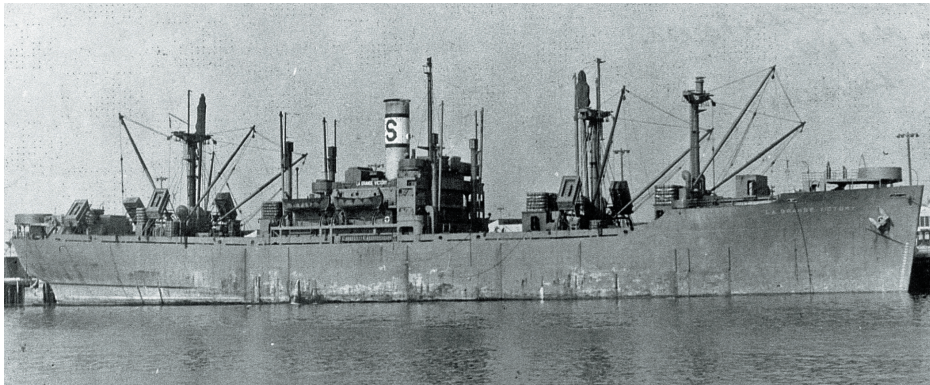
Finally, a correction: In the last issue the caption under the photo of an air assault was incorrect. The photo in question was one I took while we were operating in the Central Highlands and the choppers were clearly Hueys not Blackhawks. Sorry for the ooppps.....

OK - I am out 'a here! Florida, here I come!

12th CAV News

Continued from pg. 6

troops that day. Thanks to you CPT. This was supposed to be about fireworks, which we all hate, and I guess it was. When they shoot these big tube fireworks from a distance I tremble in my shoes. Sounds like that you never forget. A big thanks again to C.O." Thanks Elvis!



Troop Ship 'SS LeGrand Victory'

1941 Trooper Joseph J. Champagne Jr., F Troop veteran of the Japan Occupation, January 1947-48. Trooper Joseph currently lives in the mountains off the west coast and tries his hands at picking bluegrass on a Martin flattop guitar. He (Skipper) got us through a hurricane with waves up to 50 or 55 feet, which also tore off a bow plate. I think they named it 'LeGrand Victory' because if it made it to land, it would be a victory. These ships were called 'Kaiser's Coffins'. It took us 14 hair-raising days to cross from San Francisco." Thanks Trooper! Semper Paratus!

2041 CSM Warren S. Eichelberger, 1st Battalion, 12th Cav, 1st Cavalry Division Korea, (war and peace!) lives in Greencastle, Pennsylvania, about a rough hour from my home. After posting about him in the last issue I bit the proverbial bullet and charlie alpha-ed up to see him for myself. I spent 2½ wonderful hours



Champagne age 16 at Camp McGill, Japan.

with this distinguished Trooper, learning about him and reminiscing with him on his military career. First off he is full up to here with organizations to join. As airborne and a paratrooper, his chosen ones are the 82nd and 101st Airborne Associations. He does fondly remember his time in the 8th Cavalry during the occupation of Japan and during the Korean War, where he earned his first Combat Infantry Badge. So, along with his service in the 12th he had two regiments and two service periods in the 1st Cavalry Division. He wished to go airborne but while he had the height he lacked the weight. Due to this he missed out on airborne training in the states at Benning and the US Army site in occupied Japan. When the weight restrictions were reduced finally he still lacked the weight. Being driven and enterprising, before his scheduled weighing-in he drank as many milkshakes as he could stomach and taped pennies to the bottom of his feet. The rest, as they say, is history. I am remembering he had at least two tours in Vietnam with airborne units, where he earned his second CIB. He also is recipient of three Silver Stars. A fascinating Trooper and gentleman.

2141 For the past two years I have been assisting Trooper Tony Morse contact persons with whom he served. We located Doc Anderson from California two years ago, and in October we found his LT William E. Wenger in Michigan, after spending an entire day on the phone and the internet. By this time it was way too late for them to meet up - Tony waited too long to begin searching and remembered the important details to aid our search too late. Please don't you be in the same boat. Find your friends while you are young and reconnect while memories hold and you are still able to travel. Through all of this my contact with Tony was through his friend and comrade Trooper Don Wright, Jr. of A 2-5 Cavalry. Somehow in the states they connected and bonded. Maybe at the VA, don't spoil a good story. Don has always been there for Tony, trite as it sounds, above and beyond the call of duty. It was Don's calls about Tony that roused me to action. Don was there, he was an advocate, he was faithful, he was forceful, and most of all he never gave up. In the end he was Tony's good friend and a friend to all Cav. To my eye and mind he epitomized what great friends are and should be. When I grow up I want to have friends like Don. Loyalty Courage!

2359 Closing Time. Belly up to the bar - last call for mineral water. "A citizen of America will cross the ocean to fight for democracy, but won't cross the street to vote in a national election."~ Bill Vaughan. Semper Paratus!!! Write if you get work!

9th CAV News



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Greeting from South-west Virginia where Old Man Winter just paid us an early visit with temperatures in the teens overnight and daytime

Inn at 866-378-1797 and receive a special room rate when you identify yourself as with the A Troop 1-9 Cav.

Still trying to track down what happened to James W. Arvidson who was KIA in August, 1968. Got a phone call from Bob Marshall with a few leads I'm still trying to run them down. If you've got some information on this please contact either me or Trooper Elvis Poe at (870) 253-4658.

Got a long letter from Trooper James Dewell sharing a story about how he was able to help one of his buddy's get his CIB while serving with Bravo Troop Blues. His letter also mentioned that quiet a few of his comrades did not receive the Air Assault Badge that they should have been entitled to since they were all on the same aircraft. His question is: what was the level of record keeping at the time of his service (1969-70). I do know that the 1st Cavalry Division lost some records in Vietnam, but I don't have any dates or even proof of when this took place. But we need to look into these situations where earned awards and decorations have not been given to the soldiers that earned them. Let me know if you have any information concerning this issue.

I encourage all of you to make sure you have a copy of your DD 214 and if you don't have one go on the VA website and request a copy. Make sure it is correct regarding dates of service, especially overseas. It is a gateway to many VA benefits and medical help for Veterans and their families. Most VA hospitals are staffed by caring Doctors and Nurses and so many of us use the VA as our health-care provider. These are benefits you have earned. So don't let some politician tell you this is "an entitlement." You earned these benefits through your service. When your country called you stepped up and said "send me."

Editor's Note: The Air Assault Badge has never been authorized for wear by any of the 1st Cavalry Division Troopers that served in Vietnam. Requests for retroactive award of the badge have been repeatedly disapproved by the Army and the only personnel who are authorized to wear the Air Assault Badge must have completed the Army's Air Assault Course.

I close with the hope that you have a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday with family and friends, and that the Christmas Season brings joy to you and yours. Until next time: We Can and We Will.

highs in the 30's!

Had a great Apache Troop gathering in Atlanta last month over the Columbus Day weekend. A tip of the hat to Will Baker and his lovely wife Eileen for hosting us and making all of the arrangements for the hotel and Dinner on Saturday night which had 43 of us in attendance.



Apache Troop Reunion

Speaking of Apache Troop gatherings, I got a call from Rick Curtis (Blue India) about a gathering next April 12-14, 2015, in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. You can contact Rick at (269) 524-1082 for more details. You can contact the Gettysburg

13th SIGNAL BATTALION HISTORY - "Voice of Command"



13th Signal Battalion Distinctive Unit Insignia

The 13th Signal Battalion was organized as the 7th Field Signal Battalion on 14 July 1917 at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia. When the 1st Cavalry Division was activated in September 1921, the battalion was reorganized as the 13th Signal Troop, and assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Turning in their mounts with the rest of the Division, the 13th Signal Troop moved with the Division from Fort Bliss to Australia in 1943 to train for fighting on the islands of the Pacific during World War II. The 13th Signal Company entered combat with the 1st Cavalry Division on 29 February 1944 as part of Task Force Brewer. The company participated in the fighting in Lorengau and Mamote during the campaign in the Admiralty Islands. Providing signal support for the 1st Cavalry Division continued through the fighting on Leyte and Luzon where the 1st Cavalry Division freed the internees in Santo Tomas in Manila. Following the fighting in Luzon the Division prepared for the invasion of Japan which wasn't necessary after the dropping of two atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The unit served in Japan as part of the occupation force after the surrender of the Japanese along with the rest of the 1st Cavalry Division until war broke out in Korea.

In July 1950, the 13th Signal Company entered the Korean War by making an unopposed amphibious landing with the Division at Pohang-dong and proceeded immediately to the front where it served as the eyes and ears of the Division. The unit received seven battle credits for actions during the Korean War, as well as the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation and the Meritorious Unit Commendation. Signal support was challenging with the fighting ranging from the Pusan Perimeter to the Unsan area near the Chinese border and back south of Seoul before the fighting for the First Team ended along the 38th Parallel.

The 13th Signal Company returned to Japan in December 1951 with the 1st Cavalry Division providing signal support to the Division in Hokkaido until the Division was transferred back to Korea in 1957 replacing the 24th Infantry Division. As the Division provided security in Korea along the DMZ the 13th Signal ensured that communications were maintained between units and the 1st Cavalry Division and its higher headquarters until inactivation in Korea in 1965 for the move of the Division colors to Fort Benning, Georgia.

The 13th Signal Battalion, as part of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) deployed from Fort Benning, Georgia to Vietnam in September 1965. The battalion provided telephone, radio, teletype, and cryptographic services to an airmobile division spread over an area of operations approximately the size of Connecticut while being the smallest signal battalion in the Army. The battalion's basic signal systems were given their first full scale combat test during the Plei Me Campaign that took place in the Ia Drang Valley in November 1965 where the Division earned the Presidential Unit Citation. The large areas that the First Team fought in during the Vietnam War demanded retransmission of radio signals to

provide the communications necessary for the Division Commander to control the Division. The 13th Signal Battalion earned Meritorious Unit Commendations in 1968, 1969, and 1970. The battalion left Vietnam in 1971 along with all but one brigade of the 1st Cavalry Division.

Reflagging of the 1st Armored Division at Fort Hood brought the Division and the 13th Signal Battalion back to Texas where the Division was organized as a Triple Capability Division with an armored brigade, an air cavalry combat brigade, and an airmobile infantry brigade until the Division was reorganized as an Armored Division in 1975. In September 1987, the 13th Signal Battalion field tested the new Army Communications System, Mobile Subscriber Equipment (MSE). For its actions during the fielding and acceptance of MSE, the 13th Signal Battalion was awarded two Superior Unit Awards.

In September 1990, the 13th Signal Battalion was once again called to provide communications for the First Team in combat on a foreign shore. Deploying to Saudi Arabia for Operation DESERT SHIELD and later to provide critical communications for the Division during Operation DESERT STORM made the 13th Signal Battalion the first to deploy MSE into combat. The battalion provided superior communications support for the First Team installing, operating, and maintaining communications equipment to support a vast communications network spanning 280 kilometers.

Eight years later, in August of 1998, the battalion deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina in support of NATO peacekeeping mission during Operation JOINT FORGE. The battalion provided superb communications for Multinational Division (North), virtually rewriting signal doctrine as it pioneered many advances in communications technology.

In November 2001, the 13th Signal Battalion deployed to Kuwait during Operation ENDURING FREEDOM providing communications to Task Force BLACKJACK.

Returning to Fort Hood in 2002, the battalion fielded Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) switches and Secure Mobile Anti-jam Reliable Tactical Terminal (SMART-T) in support of the Division's Force XXI modernization.

In March 2004, the 13th Signal Battalion deployed to Iraq with the 1st Cavalry Division in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM II. The battalion was the most modernized signal battalion in the Army at that time. Implementing and installing cutting edge innovations such as VoIP telephony and optical fiber throughout Baghdad, the 13th Signal Battalion became the first signal unit in the United States Army to bring such civilian commercialization into a combat zone.

Returning to Fort Hood after a one-year deployment in Iraq supporting the 1st Cavalry Division in Baghdad, the Army again reorganized the 1st Cavalry Division into a Modular Division and the 13th Signal Battalion was inactivated in a ceremony on Cooper Field on 15 July 2005. At the time of its inactivation, the 13th Signal Battalion was one of two units that had continually served with the 1st Cavalry Division since 1921.

Division Doings

Continued from pg. 1

all standing by watching this historic moment. Then the next tank fired. After the third round, a pause gave room for the machine guns to again fire down range in a cloud of smoke before the three tanks fired simultaneously.

On November 6, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, fired the first tank rounds downrange in Latvia since the Soviets left in 1994.

"This is the first time we have had the M1A2 Abrams in Latvia, or the Baltics period," said CPT Gerald Stoermer, commander of Company A, 2-8 Cavalry. "This used to be a Soviet bunker, and this was their tank range. It is interesting to be where the Soviets were training to fight us, and now we are here training our guys on the same grounds."

COL Martins Liberts, commander of the Latvian National Armed Forces, Land

Forces/Infantry Brigade pointed to the significance of the morning's event.

"There are not too many tank rounds shot in the Baltics since the Soviets left," he said. "This is a very symbolic start to our joint training event that will start next week." The joint training is part of the U.S. Army Europe-led Operation Atlantic Resolve land force assurance training taking place across Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland to enhance multinational interoperability, strengthen relationships among allied militaries, contribute to regional stability and demonstrate U.S. commitment to NATO. Teams of multinational Soldiers are working together to enhance responsiveness, strategize on tactics, techniques and standard operating procedures, as well as build unity.

Stoermer said the experience his Soldiers are gaining from this training has been invaluable.

"A lot of these guys have never been overseas before," he said. "This is giving

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30th FA News



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



Hard Charger News: In the last few issues of the *SABER* I've asked for prayers for a number of Hard Chargers who are



L to R, Jerry Peck, Tom Pullen, Wayne Crabtree 2011

seriously ill. It is with a heavy heart that I must report that Jerry Peck lost his two plus years battle to cancer on 29 October 2014. He was buried in Hudsonville, Michigan on 3 November 2014.

Hard Chargers that attended his wake and funeral include Wayne and Jill Crabtree who traveled from Oklahoma, Tom and Brenda Pullen from Missouri, and my wife Theresa and I, from Ohio. We met with Jerry's family including his wife Mary, his mother, sisters, and his brother, his children, grandchildren, and several of his

friends. Jerry never talked about his experiences in Vietnam with his family or his friends.

But those that served with him in B-1-30th FA know the real Jerry Peck who earned a Silver Star, a Bronze Star for Meritorious Service, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Gold Star. May this true and faithful Hard Charger Rest in Peace. Amen.



Doc Ellington & Jerry Peck, Branson, MO, 2011



Gillotti's, Pullen's, & Crabtree's at Peck's Funeral 11-3-14

Hard Charger History: It was during April '69 that B-1-30th FA occupied LZ Carolyn just north of Tay Ninh near the old Prek Klok Special Forces Camp. Tragedy struck B-1-30th FA on 28 April '69 when SP-4 Gerald F. Coulthart was killed during a rocket attack on LZ Carolyn. He was awarded a Bronze Star and Purple Heart (Posthumously). By early May '69, the 2-8th Cav operating out of LZ Carolyn along with its supporting artillery had become a thorn in the side of the NVA after sixty-two separate contacts within 24 days. At the time LZ Carolyn was occupied by a reduced-strength 2-8th Cav, along with A-2-19th FA (105mm DS) and B-1-30th FA (155mm GS). In Shelby L. Stanton's book *Anatomy of a Division - 1st Cav in Vietnam*, he wrote, "In the early morning darkness of 6 May, the NVA retaliated with an intense rocket and mortar barrage, followed by a massive 95th (NVA) Regiment pincer ground assault against two sides of the base an hour later. LZ Carolyn's garrison was reduced by the absence of several line Companies on patrol, and the withering defensive fires of the 2-8th Cav's Company C and E were unable to prevent the onrushing (NVA) Battalions from storming through the wire and into the LZ from both directions. Six perimeter bunkers were overrun, one of the Medium Howitzers was captured, and the enemy threatened to slice through the center of the base. The Americans counterattacked with all available personnel, with officers involved being killed at the head of their troops. Artillerymen, Supply, Signal personnel, and Combat Engineers fought and died as emergency infantry reserves. The counterattacks were hurled against both enemy penetrations, but the most violent fighting occurred on the northern side, where a seesaw battle raged for possession of the 155mm Howitzer position (B Battery).

During the course of the battle, this weapon exchanged hands three times in hand-to-hand fighting decided at close range with rifles and entrenching tools. Several Hard Chargers from B-1-30th FA stepped forward during this intense ground attack and exposed themselves to mortar fire, small arms fire, Rocket-Propelled Grenades, and finally hand-to-hand combat in order to repel the enemy. In one instance, several NVA were able to occupy a bunker only ten feet in front of the #6 Gun Section of B-1-30th FA. An attempt by four sappers to throw satchel charges into the #6 Gun Section's position were stopped cold when PFC Jerry Peck engaged them with his rifle, killed three of the NVA and wounded the fourth who ran away while clutching both cheeks of his ass. At the conclusion of the battle, the NVA casualties included 101 KIA and 29 Captured in Action (CIA), while the 1st Air Cav Division casualties were 9 US KIA and 64 US WIA. For his bravery and heroism PFC Jerry Peck was awarded the Silver Star Medal and the RVN Cross of Gallantry w/Gold Star the next day by MG Elvy B. Roberts, CG, 1st Air Cav Division. Jerry Peck's Silver Star Citation reads as follows: "For gallantry in action while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. Private First Class Peck distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action on 6 May 1969, while serving as a cannoner with Battery B, 1st Battalion (Airmobile),

30th Field Artillery during an enemy attack on Landing Zone Carolyn, Republic of Vietnam, when his unit's perimeter came under intense rocket, and mortar attack followed by a ground assault, Private First Class Peck left the security of his bunker and proceeded to his howitzer position. Exposing himself to several satchel charges that exploded near his position, Private First Class Peck continued to place accurate suppressive fire on the advancing insurgents. His actions contributed greatly to repelling the enemy attackers, and served as an inspiration to his fellow comrades. His gallant action is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army." Also receiving awards for Bravery with B-1-30th FA included: CPT Doug Williams and SGT E. Wayne Crabtree, who were awarded Silver Star Medals and the RVN Cross of Gallantry with Gold or Silver Stars. Also, SP-4 Charles M. Crane (Medic) & SP-4 Ronald E. Simpson (Asst Gunner) were awarded Bronze Star Medals w/"V" and the RVN Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Stars. Additionally, SP-4 James L. Duke received a Bronze Star Medal w/"V", and PFC Donald E. Stewart and SP-4 Willie L. Nunez were awarded Army Commendation Medals w/"V". While fighting to retake their gun and repel the enemy, B-1-30th FA suffered 25 WIAs but miraculously did not suffer any KIAs. Sixteen of those 25 WIAs have been identified as: 1LT Ziegler; SGT Crabtree; SGT Devlaminck; CPL Lockett; SP-4 Ellington (Medic); SP-4 Bishop; SP-4 Duke; SP-4 Knox; SP-4 Hobson; SP-4 Moran; PFC Bess; PFC Lytle; PFC Ferrell; PFC Carver; PFC Lee, & PFC Rowland (PH w/2 OLCs). B-1-30th FA was credited with 25 enemy KIAs while repelling this attack and were later awarded the US Army Valorous Unit Award (VUA) for their actions on 6 May '69. (Note: Shelby Stanton's book is the only recorded mention of the Hard Chargers ever temporarily losing a gun to the enemy. As he has recorded, the NVA paid a very heavy price for temporary possession of that gun.) That Hard Charger "Spirit" was certainly in evidence on 6 May '69 all the way down to the PFCs on the guns where most of the really dirty jobs got done. You may knock a Hard Charger down but he is going to jump right back up, and in this case either shoot you with his rifle or smack you in the head with an entrenching tool. You just did not want to mess with those brave young men who bravely manned the guns of B-1-30th FA. There was no way in HELL they were going to lose a howitzer to the NVA.

Jim Rowell from 2-8th Cav has written a book about his experiences during this battle. The name of his book is *Granny and the Eskimo ~ Angels in the Clouds*, and was published in 2001. Tragedy struck A Btry again at LZ Grant on 11 May '69, when torrential monsoon rains caused the collapse of A Btry's Commo Bunker which killed CPL Darrell E. Hartman. And on 12 May '69, the NVA gambled that their luck would change after three previously unsuccessful attempts at attacking LZ Grant (Feb-Mar '69). And for a fourth attempt, they tried, and they lost again. The NVA were stopped cold by the fast shooting Hard Chargers of A Btry. Although A Btry suffered 7 WIAs, they quickly repelled this attack and were given credit for at least 11 of the 45 enemy KIAs. The 7 US WIAs from A Btry are identified as: SSG Ponder; SGT Cicinelli (later WIA on LZ Becky 12 Aug '69); SP4 Lowe (later WIA on LZ Jamie 6 Sep & 17 Sep '69); SP4 Yepes; PFC Cross; PFC Kelly; & PVT Campbell. SFC Norman (Skip) Wilfong, A Btry's Chief of Firing Battery, stepped forward once again in the midst of incoming rocket and mortar fire and killed two NVA sappers with satchel charges that were about to destroy a gun crew and its howitzer. For his actions on 12 May '69, SFC Wilfong was awarded his second Silver Star. Note: CSM Wilfong retired in 1980. His decorations included the Silver Star w/OLC, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal w/"V" & 3 OLCs, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Air Medal, and the RVN Cross of Gallantry w/Silver Star. Additionally, CSM Wilfong was appointed as the Honorary Sergeant Major of the 30th FA Regiment from 1998-2001. Also on 12 May '69, men from HHB manning the perimeter at Phuoc Vinh (Camp Gorvad) detected an enemy sapper force approaching the wire in the dark. They immediately took the enemy under fire before the NVA could penetrate the perimeter wire. At first light, a search of the area revealed nine enemy KIAs and several blood trails leading away from the location. On 9 June '69, the HHB Compound at Phuoc Vinh (Camp Gorvad) took several direct hits from NVA 122mm rockets, resulting in the death of SSG John M. Moore Jr., and 4 US WIAs. In a letter MG Wilson later wrote, "I remember the sad and unfortunate occurrence of the loss SSG Moore. The HHB personnel had long complained about the food in our mess hall. So I worked hard to get an excellent Cook and Mess Steward. SSG Moore had just been with HHB a short time, and had already worked miracles with our food. On 9 June '69, an NVA rocket fragment took the life of a great soldier who was also an outstanding Mess Steward." At LZ Joy, on 12 June '69, C Btry came under a heavy mortar and RPG attack followed by a ground attack on their perimeter. The Hard Chargers of C Btry took the enemy under direct fire with their howitzers and stopped the attackers in their tracks. The loyalty of the men to their mission and their overall courage and determination resulted in C Btry inflicting 9 enemy KIA out of a total of 38 enemy KIA found after the battle, while sustaining only 6 US WIA. One of those 6 WIAs has been identified as SP-4 Len Nowicki. Also, SP-4 James Wasney (later SFC Retired) was awarded the Army Commendation Medal w/V for Valor (later WIA on 4 Nov '69 on LZ Ellen). Command of the Hard Charger Bn passed from LTC (later MG) Wilson to LTC (later COL) Jack G. Callaway on 24 July '69. {Note: MG Wilson retired in 1980. His decorations included the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal w/2 OLCs, and the Air Medal w/10 OLCs.}

I want to continue to spread the word that the 30th FA Regiment Association is raising funds to purchase a large ST Barbara Statue to be displayed in Vernor Auditorium at Ft Sill. The statue will be between 24" and 36" high depending upon our fund raising efforts. Please contact me if there are any questions about this project. This is Hard Charger 9G, End of Mission ~ Out!

7th CAV News

Continued from pg. 7

provide not only a name but a unit and a specific date in our own history. GarryOwen!

I'll leave you with one final thought and another request for stories. How many had the privilege to see Bob Hope in person during his hundreds of USO stops

from WWII through VietNam? I was able to attend one of his shows in December of 1969 at Bien Hoi (or maybe Long Bien). Also, please remember my computer glitch and if you have sent me something for *Saber*, please resend it!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, First Team and especially GarryOwen from Michigan!

27th ORD/MNT/MSB/BSB News



Ed Jones
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Oswego, IL 60543-8907
(630) 554-9245
ECJones19@Aol.Com

I am writing today with the hope that our weather forecasters are correct, that in fact today is the last of our November cold spell. We have been lucky in that all we've had is cold. To all of you who have been suffering from cold and heavy

snow I hope that you have had very limited interruption in your activities.

I can't help but think about Jim and Barbara Donahue who live just outside of Buffalo, New York. As of yesterday, they had over four feet of snow with eighteen more inches scheduled for today and tomorrow. Jim and Barbara were in Washington, DC for the Veterans Day activities where there was near perfect weather. Joining them and also representing the 27th was Fred and Bonnie Vath and Ron Stokes. Ron has provided pictures, number one being Fred and Bonnie and number two being Jim, Barbara and Ron. A good time was had by all and the banquet was once again the main event and very successfully handled because of the efforts, as always, of the William A. Richardson National Capitol Region Chapter and Dennis Webster.

Jim has a knack for finding people from his time with B Detachment, '68 - '70. He has recently located then 1LT Tom Watson and SPC John Bardo. Tom is now living in Staunton, Virginia and John lives in Watkins Glen, New York. Both were members of the detachment in '68-'69'.



Fred and Bonnie Vath

available was unable to size them properly so we will have to wait for pictures for now, but look for them in the future. Bill is doing well and is heading from Virginia to South Carolina, where his daughter and son both live.

Also checking in was Phil Sparks, '66-'67. I met Phil for the first time at the



The Donahues and Ron Stokes

If anyone would like to get in touch with Tom or John contact me and I will get you connected. We all appreciate your efforts, Jim, for bringing on board our old friends.

I also heard once again from Bill Jackson, Korea '63-'64. He has uncovered the 27th Maintenance Battalion yearbook, published late 1964. He attempted to scan some of the pictures but the equipment he had

available was unable to size them properly so we will have to wait for pictures for now, but look for them in the future. Bill is doing well and is heading from Virginia to South Carolina, where his daughter and son both live.

Also checking in was Phil Sparks, '66-'67. I met Phil for the first time at the

Division Doings

Continued from pg. 9

them a chance to see what it is like to be deployed, and at the same time, we are helping out our allies and building some strong relationships.

"We have had a long history with the U.S. since our independence in 1991. Most recently, they were the first responders to our concerns about the security climate change here, therefore we are happy to host the Soldiers and their ability to bring such heavy equipment is very significant," he added. "Where you can deploy five tanks, you can deploy 50. So not only is this a symbolic training, it is also logistical."

Adazi was a home base for the mechanized regiment during the Soviet occupation, Liberts said.

"Now we are hosting friendly forces," he added. "This training opportunity has shown our willingness and the openness of our NATO partners and trans-Atlantic partners to contribute to my nation's independence."



SGT Chris Rodgers, SGT Sarah McCoy, and SGT Jason Rodgers reunite at Fort Hood.

Soldiers Reunite at Great Place After 10 Years of Separation by SSG Christopher A. Calvert, 1st ACB PAO

FORT HOOD, Texas—Growing up practically inseparable from her two older brothers, SGT Sarah McCoy never imagined she would be separated for long from her siblings.

Now a Trooper in the Air Cav, she's found herself reunited at Fort Hood, Texas with those she loves the most after more than a decade of separation.

"I never thought I'd be here, especially donning the same uniform as my brothers," she said. "Now, we're reunited after all this time, and it's the greatest feeling."

McCoy, an information technology specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, grew up in Lewisville, Texas alongside her two brothers, Christopher and Jason Rodgers.

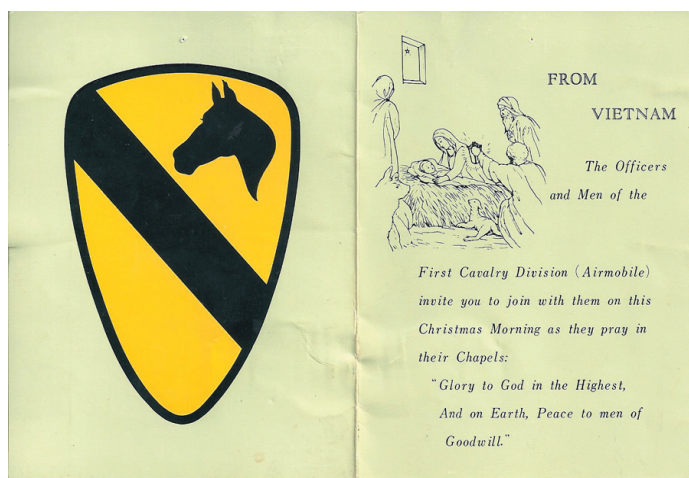
While growing up, the three siblings were practically joined at the hips, she said.

"You could always find us riding dirt bikes and having a blast," she recalled. "Chris and Jason played soccer together throughout middle and high school, and I was always on the tennis team at the same school. We were always a tight-knit family."

Upon graduation, McCoy's oldest brother, Jason, decided to follow in their uncle, grandfather and great grandfather's steps by enlisting in the military in 2004.

"I initially didn't want to join the military, as I never wanted to be separated from my family," said SGT Jason Rodgers, a wheeled vehicle mechanic with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 85th Civil Affairs Brigade. "It was

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1st Cav Division Christmas Card, 1967

much better, but had a minor accident at home that has set him back some. He is doing fine, just needs some more "down" time. John Ramsden and Lydia have returned from yet another cruise in Europe in October and they had a great time. John needed to have cataract surgery on both eyes and had the procedures done on November 4 and November 18. He should be in good shape when the Maryland snows begin so he can take care of the driveways and sidewalks on his streets.

In closing, my wife Lendy and I would like to wish all who have served in this great Battalion a very Merry and Sacred Christmas and our best wishes for a healthy and joyful 2015.

OFFICIAL NOTICE ELECTION OF OFFICERS – REUNION 2015

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

The President has appointed a nominating committee to recommend Life members of the Association for election or re-election to fill the terms of office for the following positions that become vacant as of 13 June 2015:

President Elect/1st Vice President

2nd Vice President

3rd Vice President

Ten Places on the Board of Governors

Two Trustees of the Foundation

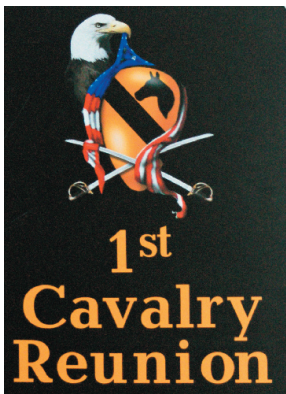
Two Trustees of the Museum Foundation

Any Life member of the Association, including an incumbent, who wishes to be considered by the nominating committee for one of these positions should forward a letter to the Chairman, 2015 Nominating Committee, 302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703, requesting consideration for nomination to the specific office. The Nominating Committee must receive all requests no later than 1 May 2015 to assure sufficient time for processing and full consideration. Requests must be accompanied by appropriate documentation that includes proof of service with the 1st Cavalry Division (e.g., a DD214 or equivalent) and a biographical sketch. The biographical sketch needs to outline the applicant's full name and provide ranks, dates of service and units assigned to in the 1st Cavalry Division. Additionally, it needs to provide the dates and positions for any offices held at National or Chapter level in the Association and similar information for any other veteran's organization the applicant belongs to. Any instances of special support for Association programs should also be included if applicable.

The election will be held during the General Membership meeting at the 66th Annual Reunion of the Association on Saturday 13 June 2015 in Killeen, Texas. Nominations from the floor will be accepted. A Life member making such nomination will be expected to provide the information outlined above on the nominee and in addition provide assurance that the nominee is either present at the General Membership meeting or has agreed to accept nomination to the specified office.

Chicago reunion and challenged him for information and pictures for sharing in the SABER. Phil was with C Det in April of '67 (not exactly sure) at Bong Song when the ammo dump was hit with devastating results. He is still working on a more detailed story but was recently given the Christmas card he sent home in 1967. It was the official 1st Cav Division card. Picture 3 is the outside of the card and picture 4 is the inside. Thank you for sharing, Phil, and am looking forward to more from your time.

Now for an update on the walking wounded. Nelson Cardona was about set to travel to Washington, was feeling



The Crossed Sabers Chapter invites you to join the rest of the First Team family in Killeen/Fort Hood, Texas for the 68th Annual Reunion of the 1st Cavalry Division Association from 10-14 June 2015. Most of the First Team will be home for this reunion and we are planning an excellent event. All Life members and Associate members of the 1st Cavalry Division Association are welcome to attend this special event. As always, family members of our war dead, Gold Star Families, and widows of our members are welcome to join us for this reunion.

Please register early to assist us in coordinating the best reunion possible. Some events will have limited seating available due to the size of available rooms.

All members of the Association must register and pay the Registration Fee in order to attend the reunion. Early registration, December 2014 through 1 May 2015 is \$20 for all members, except those on active duty. Active Duty Troopers pay \$10 to register. Those sending in Registrations post-marked after 1 May 2015 must pay late registration fee of \$40. Family members attending with an Association member, widows of 1st Cavalry Division Troopers and Gold Star Family members that attend do not have to pay a registration fee.

Hotel and RV Park Information: We will be utilizing the Shilo Inn Hotel as the Reunion Headquarters and will hold many of the reunion events that are scheduled this year in the Killeen Civic and Conference Center (KCCC) located adjacent to the Shilo. There are no hotels in the area large enough to hold our group so we will be utilizing two primary hotels and busses to get together for our events.

The Shilo Hotel has guaranteed a room rate of \$101 per night plus tax for up to 125 rooms on peak nights and there is no charge for parking. Call (254) 699-0999 reserve a room. The reservation toll-free number is (800) 222-2244. Make sure that you identify yourself as attending the 1st Cavalry Division Association reunion. The Shilo will provide a voucher for a breakfast in the restaurant, which will be open to support our reunion. The hotel does provide a free shuttle service from the Killeen Airport. Shuttles and rental cars are available at the airport. The hotel is located at 3701 S. W.S. Young Drive in Killeen.

We have also blocked rooms at the newly renovated Courtyard by Marriott, located at 1721 E. Central Texas Expressway. Many of you may recognize this as the address of the hotel which we used to use (Plaza) but this is a much improved hotel. We used the Courtyard Marriott in 2013. To reserve rooms at the Courtyard Marriott call (254) 615-2000 or (800) 321-2211. Again, the room rate is \$101 per night plus tax with free parking available.

Shilo Inn & Suites \$101 (800) 222-2244 or (254) 699-0999

3701 S. W.S. Young Drive, Killeen, Texas

Marriott Courtyard \$101 (800) 321-2211 or (254) 616-2000

1721 E. Central Texas Expressway, Killeen, Texas

There are several other good hotels in the general area in Killeen but if you choose to stay at one of those hotels we will not be able to provide bus transportation for you. All of the hotels provide free parking and there is ample parking at the Killeen Civic and Conference Center.

If you are coming in a Recreational Vehicle there is an RV Park directly behind the Killeen Civic and Conference Center. The fee is \$20 per night and they provide electric, water and dump facilities. Contact the KCCC at (254) 501-3888 for additional information. If you are active duty or retired military the West Fort Hood Travel Camp would also work but it is several miles from the KCCC and they do not take reservations. The RV Park in Belton is still open but is no longer a KOA facility.

Reunion Event Overview: The 68th Annual Reunion will run from Wednesday, 10 June through Sunday morning, 14 June 2013 and is full of events and time to visit with one another.

This year we will be running our usual events and have again included a Golf Tournament (four-person team, best-ball scramble) that will provide support to our Scholarship Foundation on Wednesday. The golf tournament will be held on the Courses of Clear Creek on Fort Hood. We are seeking sponsors to help off-set costs to maximize our income for the Foundation and its scholarship programs. We will have some teams from the active duty Troopers and hope that many reunion attendees will also want to play and enjoy this event. We have also added back into our schedule a Texas Barbecue that will be on post on Friday afternoon.

As usual, we will also have our Welcoming Mixer, War Era Lunches, Unit Lunches, Gold Star Family Breakfast, Purple Heart Breakfast, Ladies Tea, Sweetheart Dance, Annual Association Banquet, Group Breakfast and Memorial Service. We will have meetings of the Chapter Presidents, Foundation and Museum Foundation Trustees, the Board of Governors and our General Membership meeting. During our General Membership meeting on Saturday morning, we will hold elections for the Association and both Foundations and select the location for the 2018 reunion. We have bids from several Chapters to host the 2018 reunion and will have specific details to provide at the reunion.

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

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

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

The Crossed Sabers Chapter Souvenir Shop will set up a store in the Shilo Hotel to sell all kinds of First Team merchandise including shirts, hats, Stetsons, pins, decals and other items too numerous to mention. The Souvenir Shop will also be open in the 1st Cavalry Division Museum during the reunion. A Reunion T-shirt may be ordered and the order form is located on this page.

We will have the 2nd Brigade Combat Team in the process of deploying to Korea and the 3-8th Cavalry is already there but we will have Troopers from all of our units at Fort Hood during the reunion. The Division leadership is coordinating a special event on the evening of Friday, 12 June entitled "Spirit of the Cav" and other events on post during that day as well. Busses will transport reunion attendees from the two hotels and KCCC to Fort Hood on Friday for a vehicle display, visits to the 1st Cavalry Division Museum and a Demonstration by the Horse Cavalry Detachment. Visits to some of the unit areas will also be available and you can get a first-hand look at today's Army. Coordination for additional events is also being done. If you haven't been to Fort Hood for a reunion, make sure you attend and see the great Troopers of today's First Team.

Transportation: The Killeen-Fort Hood Regional Airport (GRK) is a modern airport with jet service from Dallas, Houston and Atlanta. Airlines with flights to Killeen include American Eagle, United and Delta Airlines. The Austin-Bergstrom Airport with other major airlines is located approximately 78 miles from Killeen and airports in Dallas are about a three hour drive away.

The following rental car agencies are located in the airport: Alamo, Avis, Budget, Enterprise, Hertz, National and Thrifty Car Rental. Airport shuttle and taxi service is also available at the Killeen Airport.

AMTRAK offers services to Temple, Texas (25 miles away) if you wish to travel by train. Rental cars and bus service from Temple are available.

Trailways bus service is also available to Killeen.

If you don't like scheduling your own flights on the internet or don't have a regular travel agent, there are two reputable travel agencies that we recommend you contact. Both of the travel agencies below have worked with us in the past. You will be able to contact them within the next few weeks to make your travel arrangements.

Casa Blanca Great Escapes Travel Service, 1200 Lowes Blvd., Killeen, TX 76542 (866) 833-0327

All Country Travel, 250 Cove Terrace, Copperas Cove, TX 76522, (800) 226-1990

Please check with the Transportation Security Agency (TSA) prior to packing for your trip if you are flying to the Reunion. The rules on what can and cannot be taken on the aircraft change regularly.



Road construction is always a factor and I-35 the main route from Dallas to San Antonio has numerous construction sites. There is also quite a bit of work on US 190 in Killeen and the entrance to Fort Hood. Please check the Internet for road conditions and delays and drive safely on your way to the reunion and back home.

The Best Part of the Reunion: As always, the best part of any reunion is the people that attend. The 1st Cavalry Division Association reunion brings in Troopers from every era of the First Team's history. Troopers that rode horses, fought in the Pacific with MacArthur, occupied Japan, fought in Korea, or stood watch on the DMZ will spend time with the Sky Troopers of Vietnam and the Troopers from Operation Desert Storm, Fort Hood, Bosnia, and the latest combat veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan. The equipment and terrain might be different, but the common bond of serving with America's First Team binds us together. Saddle up and join us in Killeen in 2015!

Cut off date to pre-order your shirt is 15 March 2015

68th Annual 1st Cav Reunion T-shirts

Pre-order Yours Today!!!!

<p>Adult Sizes Only</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> S</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> M</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> L</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> XL</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2XL</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 3XL</p>	<p>Please indicate quantities in boxes</p> <p>\$17.95 each (Add \$2.00 for 2XL & 3XL)</p> <p>\$17.95 (\$19.95) each + S/H =</p> <p>Total _____</p>	<p>Front Design</p>  <p>Back Design</p> 
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Shipping Chart:
 1 Shirt @ \$6.00
 2-8 Shirts @ \$12.00
 8+ @ \$17.00

*To have the merchandise shipped, please use the chart to determine rates. No shipping for merchandise if picked up at the reunion.

Please check box if you plan to pick up shirt @ Reunion

<p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____ Zip _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p> <p>E-mail _____</p>	<p>Description: 90/10 Black with Pocket. Logo on the pocket as well as full-color imprint on the back.</p>
---	--

Check Enclosed

Visa M/C Discover

Card Number _____

For Visa Card, CVD # _____

Expiration Date (MO/YR) _____

Signature _____

Reunion T-shirts will not ship prior to 01 May 2015

Please mail the order form back to:
Crossed Sabers Souvenir Shop
PO Box 5774, Ft Hood, TX 76544

To view artwork in color, or to order online, please visit our website @ www.crossedsabers-chapter-giftshop.com

68th Annual 1st Cavalry Division Association Reunion

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10

0900-1330 Golf Tournament
 1300-1800 Registration Desk Open
 1300-1800 Souvenir Shop Open
 1300-2400 Reunion Room Open
 1500-1630 Chapter Presidents Meeting

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

0900-1800 Registration Desk Open
 0900-1800 Souvenir Shop Open (Closed noon to 1300 for lunch)
 0900-2400 Reunion Room Open
 0930-1030 Foundation Trustee Meeting
 1045-1145 Museum Foundation Trustee Meeting
 1330-1500 Board of Governors Meeting
 1600-1800 Welcoming Mixer (Hors d'oeuvres/Open Bar)
 2000-2400 Sweet Heart Dance (Supports the Scholarship Foundation)

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

0700-0830 Purple Heart Breakfast
 0900-1730 Registration Desk Open
 0900-1800 Souvenir Shop Open (Closed noon to 1300 for lunch)

FRIDAY, JUNE 12 - Continued

0900-2400 Reunion Room Open
 0900-1600 Events on Fort Hood (Museum, Horse Detachment, etc.)
 1200-1400 War Era Luncheons
 1700-1830 Texas BBQ
 1900-2030 Spirt of the Cav

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

0700-0830 Gold Star Family Breakfast
 0900-1100 General Membership Meeting (Elections & 2018 Reunion Site Selection)
 0900-1200 Registration Desk Open
 0900-1600 Souvenir Shop Open (Closed noon to 1300 for lunch)
 0900-2400 Reunion Room Open
 1000-1130 Ladies Tea
 1230-1430 Unit Luncheons
 1745-1845 Cocktails (Cash Bar)
 1900-2200 Association Banquet

SUNDAY, JUNE 14

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

1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 68th REUNION - 2015 REGISTRATION FORM

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

I will attend the 1st Cavalry Division Association 68th Annual Reunion at the Shilo Inn and Suites, Killeen, Texas, June 10-14, 2015. Cancellations must be received by 5:00pm Tuesday, June 2, 2015 in our office (254-547-6537) for a refund. **Seating at all functions is limited.** Hotel cancellations must be done personally with the hotel.

Register early.

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

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

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

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY, STATE & ZIP _____

NICKNAME _____

GOLD STAR FAMILY MEMBER _____

Telephone # (____) _____

Preferred Unit(s) order (1) _____

(2) _____

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

(2) _____ to _____

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

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

and the following persons, please specify relationship. (Family members only.)

Name	Nickname	Age (Children)
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

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

My E-mail is: _____

I am staying at: Shilo Inn ___ Courtyard Marriott ___ Home ___

Local ___ RV ___

Other _____

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

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

FUNCTION	NO. OF TICKETS	COST	TOTAL AMOUNT
Registration Fee (Member Only)		\$20.00	\$ _____
Postmarked After May 1, 2015		\$40.00	\$ _____
Active Duty (Must have Active Duty ID Card)		\$10.00	\$ _____

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10

Golf Tournament _____ \$75.00 ea. \$ _____

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

Welcoming Mixer _____ \$25.00 ea. \$ _____
 Sweet Heart Dance _____ \$ 8.00 ea. \$ _____

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

Purple Heart Breakfast _____ \$21.00 ea. \$ _____
 War Era Luncheons
 World War II Veterans _____ \$25.00 ea. \$ _____
 Korean War Veterans _____ \$25.00 ea. \$ _____
 Vietnam War Veterans _____ \$25.00 ea. \$ _____
 Gulf War Veterans _____ \$25.00 ea. \$ _____
 Iraq/Afghan War Veterans _____ \$25.00 ea. \$ _____
 Texas BBQ _____ \$23.00 ea. \$ _____

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

Gold Star Family Breakfast _____ \$21.00 ea. \$ _____
 Ladies Tea _____ \$16.00 ea. \$ _____
 Unit Luncheons _____ \$25.00 ea. \$ _____

I wish to attend lunch with: (Circle one)
 5th Cav 7th Cav 8th Cav 9th Cav 12th Cav Artillery
 Engineers HQ & Special Troops LRRP/Ranger Silver Wings

Reunion Banquet

Adult _____ \$42.00 ea. \$ _____
 Child (12 years and under) _____ \$22.00 ea. \$ _____

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

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

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 14

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

And a little extra to help cover expenses? \$ _____
 Please renew my SABER Subscription (\$10 per year) \$ _____

New Life Membership (\$10) RANK _____ \$ _____
 Last four of SSN _____ DOB _____
 (Don't forget the Registration Fee)

Grand Total \$ _____

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

EXP Date _____

Card Number - Print clearly

Print Name on Card

Signature - Credit Card Payment Only Date _____

99th FA News

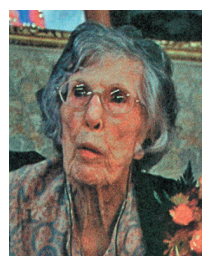


Jim Miller
819 West Howard St.
Winona, MN 55987-2642
(507) 454-4224
jimarmil@hbc.com



It is with a sad heart that I have to report the passing of two members of the "Greatest Generation" who were part of the 99th

FA Bn family. Gerard K. Schear passed away August, 5, 2014 at Monmouth Medical Center, Lakewood, New Jersey at the age of 94. He was one of the early members of the 99th moving from Fort Bragg, North Carolina to Camp Carson and Camp Hole, Colorado and to Fort Bliss, Texas when the 99th FA Bn become part of the 1st Cav Division in 1943. He went with the 99th through the battles of WWII being discharged in November, 1945. He then enlisted in the U.S. Air Force where he retired as a MSGT In 1980. I had corresponded with Gerald by mail and phone and was always interested in his stories of his life's activities. Farewell, Gerald and thank you for your service to our country.



Ellen K. Jacot
on her 100th
Birthday

Another well-known member of the 99th FA Bn family, Ellen K. Jacot, passed away on September 4, 2014 in Tryon, North Carolina just shy of her 102nd birthday. While Ellen didn't serve in the 99th, she was an important member of the 99th FA Bn family doing her part on the home front while her husband served in the battles with the 99th in WWII. Ellen was a big fan of the *SABER* especially the 99th column, and she had attended 99th and C Btry reunions. You may send condolences to Sandra Taylor, 625 Wilderness Road, Tryon, NC 28782

I will certainly miss these two members of our 99th FA Bn family. They were faithful readers and offered a great deal of information from the WWII era.

Our column in the last issue of the *SABER* contained information of the sinking of the Japanese ferry the *Toya Maru* on the 60th anniversary of that tragic event. I have obtained some further information and conversations concerning that article and the event.

I talked with Allen Passmore who tried his hardest to obtain a place in the advance party that sailed on the *Toya Maru* so that he could find housing for his family. He added the fact that there is a memorial for those who lost their lives in the sinking. However, it is for the entire body of 1,500 lives lost in the tragedy and is in Japanese. I think it would be something for the Army, Division, and the Association to consider placing a memorial for those 1st Cav 99th FA Bn Troopers who lost their lives at a place in northern Honshu.

Along that theme, I shared many e-mails and phone calls with 61st FA Bn columnist Gordon Cress, Peter O'Brien, 61st FA Bn, Jim Otheiser, 99th FA, who was taken off the *Toya Maru* before she sailed, and Frank Goedkin, the lone survivor in the 99th FA advance party on the *Toya Maru*.

Frank Goedkin lives in northern Iowa and I live in southern Minnesota so we're not too far apart. Frank suggested we get together next summer seeing that winter is fast approaching this part of the world and if it's anything like last winter, we old timers don't want to be gadding about on the roads. So look for some more info about that tragic event and some present day photos of Frank and me.



Unidentified troopers at Camp Crawford.

Crossed Sabers Chapter Souvenir Shop

P.O. Box 5774
Fort Hood, TX 76544-0774
Phone: 254-532-2075
FAX: 254-532-6490

To view our on-line catalog visit:

<www.crossedsabers-chapter-giftshop.com>

The Crossed Sabers Chapter Souvenir Shop is a non-profit organization. Net income is distributed to the Association for application to the Scholarship Program and other ongoing programs as needed, to the Soldier Travel Fund which allows active duty soldiers of the Division to attend away Reunions as guests of the Association, to the 1st Cavalry Division Museum and to fund other activities for the Troopers and families of the 1st Cavalry Division Association. The manager, Michelle Pinhero, accepts telephone orders with payment by MASTERCARD, VISA or DISCOVER credit cards or you can order on-line using credit cards.

Printed catalogs are available for \$3.00 from the Association, 302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703. Make your check out to 1st Cavalry Division Association.

Division Doings

Continued from pg. 11

a tough choice that impacted us all, but I decided I wanted the structure and way of life that the military could provide."

A year later, Christopher graduated and followed his older brother's path into the Army.

"I saw what Jason had done, and how it benefited his life," said SGT Christopher Rodgers, a track vehicle repairer with Company D, 6th Squadron, 9th U.S. Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team. "I wanted the same for myself. I needed a lifestyle change – a direction."

While originally not planning on joining the military, it was while attending Christopher's graduation from initial entry training that McCoy had a change of heart, she said.

A change that, ultimately, led her to follow the same path as her brothers before her.

"I went to Chris' graduation and I liked what I saw; I liked the discipline," she said. "The next thing I know, I was talking to a recruiter, and my junior year of high school I signed up for delayed entry."

On an entirely different subject I got an e-mail from longtime friend and fellow Hqs Btry wireman, Rich Van Giesen on November 1st in which he mentioned the battle at Unsan, North Korea which occurred 66 years ago on that date. For those of us who were there, it is hard to forget. He also mentioned another wireman who I can remember quite well: James Mahoney. Mahoney (we didn't use first names in those days) was from Boston and never let us forget it. He ended up being one of my "Spirit Forward" wire team in Korea. Now that I look back on that group, it seems as though we were all kind of free spirits as well as good soldiers. I wonder who decided to send us to the front lines?

Anyway, one pitch dark night we were ordered to a wire laying assignment and Mahoney was given the assignment of leading us out of the position with a blacked out flashlight. You remember; it was a flashlight with a dark lens with a small slit for light in it. It was a very muddy path with deep ruts in it. Well, Mahoney slipped and fell. Even though I was standing on the passenger side running board of our 3/4 ton wire truck holding on to the windshield frame, there was no glass, I didn't see him until the front wheels had run over his legs. When I yelled at the driver, he backed up and finished the job.

Though Mahoney was in a lot of pain, he seemed happy to have a sure "Home Run" injury. I guess he did because we never saw him again after the medics took him away.

I lost two of my small crew in that incident: Mahoney and the driver who couldn't get over the fact that he had run over him both forward and in reverse. It was a bad night for the Spirit Forward wire team.

If any of you Mulepackers know of the whereabouts of Jim Mahoney, let me know.

Boy, this old age business is funny. I can remember those names and the incident, but I forget someone's name moments after I meet them now. Well, I've got a lot of my hair and most of my teeth and can get around pretty well (I've walked in two cancer fund raiser walks this summer; one 1-mile and one 5-mile) so I guess I shouldn't complain.

I've included a photo of two of my wire team and me testing out our new 3.5 inch Bazooka anti-tank rocket launcher. Each of the four wire teams had a weapon for perimeter defense of our positions; two had Bazookas and two had .50 caliber machine guns. We had the new Bazooka which we needed because the old smaller ones were not effective against the Russian T-34 tanks the Communists were using. Howard Hayes is manning the Bazooka, Earl Cooper, my first driver, is loading it, and I'm directing fire. I showed this to a lady friend of mine, and she said, "My God, that's a barren place." I never thought about it, but it was, and if it wasn't, both sides did their best to make it that way with fire power. I've been going back and looking at pictures from Korea and it is a dismal looking place. Of course now South Korea has rebuilt and is a modern country. I don't know what North Korea looks like and I really don't want to go find out; going there once was more than enough thank you.



Some of the *SABER* columnists have been kicking things around on the e-mail circuit and a question they have for me is: "Who is going to replace you when you go to operate that switchboard in the sky?" I couldn't answer because I don't know of anyone who wants to or can. We have to keep in mind that the Army deactivated the 99th and 61st FA Battalions in 1957 so our young guys are 80. If any of you "young" people would like this job, please get in touch with me. I've said that I'll do it as long as my fingers keep working, but...

Please keep all the 99th family members who have gone before us in your prayers along with those who are suffering, and those young Troopers who are serving our country now. CSMO FIRST TEAM Jim.

OTHER REUNIONS

2-32nd FA, Proud Americans, 29 March-1 April 2015. Best Western Hotel & Convention Center, Lawton, OK. Contact Ralph Jones, PO Box 498964, Cincinnati, OH 45249, <rjones2u@hotmail.com>.

15th MED Association, 14-20 April 2015. Oxford Suites, Boise, ID. Contact Mike "Smitty" Smith, <mvando@msn.com>, info at <www.15thmedassociation.com>.

Aerial Rocket Artillery, 6-10 May 2015. Hilton Garden Inn, Columbus, GA. Information at <www.araassociation.com/2015-reunion.html>. Contact Jesse Hobby <jesse-hobby@hotmail.com>, or Bruce Wilder <bwilder@charter.net>.

Society of the First Infantry Division, 17-21 June 2015. Westin Lombard Yorktown Center, Lombard, IL. Information available at <www.1stID.org> or contact the Society at (215) 654-1969.

After being stationed at several duty stations around the world, Chris and Jason found themselves together at Fort Hood in 2009; however, McCoy just missed the opportunity to accompany them as her unit, the 4th Infantry Division, was moved to Fort Carson, Colorado the same year.

It was during this time that tragedy struck the family.

"I was diagnosed with the rare blood disease paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria (PNH)," said Jason. "The doctors told me I had five to 15 years to live. It was a tough time for us all."

While Jason was undergoing chemotherapy, Chris was there by his side, although just a month away from deploying to Egypt.

Doctors soon found through blood tests the cure Jason needed was standing right in front of them, Jason explained.

"Doctors found that Chris' bone marrow stem cells were the perfect match to be donated to me," Jason said. "The bone marrow stem cell transplant the doctors performed ended up being accepted by my body. It worked out perfectly – my brother saved my life."

Chris said that although the donation procedure was painful, it was something

Continued on pg. 21

CHAPTER INDEX

CENTRAL SAVANNAH RIVER AREA CHAPTER

Pres: John Rangel, Jr.
POC: Gary Quinn
395 Harlem Grovetown Rd.
Harlem, GA 30814-4525
(706) 513-5858
Meets on 2nd Sat. of mo., 1400 at Ryans Steak House on Peach Orchard Rd., Augusta, GA (Mar., June, Sept. and Dec.)

COLUMBIA-WILLAMETTE CHAPTER

Pres: Terry Low
16560 S Harding Rd.
Oregon City, OR 97045-9679
(503) 210-5558
E-mail: tangolima2505@comcast.net
Website: www.Hood2Hood1stCav.webs.com
Meets 1830 3rd Wed of ea. mos. at the Village Inn, 1621 NE 10th Ave., Portland, OR 97232. No meeting in Dec.

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

Pres: Keith Moyer
48 Boretz Rd.
Colchester, CT 06415-1009
(860) 537-1716
E-mail: kpmoyerco@hotmail.com
Website: www.ConnCav.com
Meeting info in newsletter and on web page.

CROSSED SABERS CHAPTER

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

FIRST CHAPTER

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

FLORIDA CHAPTER

Pres: Leo 'Doc' Williams
3098 Golden View Ln.
Orlando, FL 32812-5947
(407) 277-5763
Facebook: Florida Chapter 1st Cavalry Division Association
Meets quarterly at different locations around the state.

FLORIDA TROOP A "LAKELAND AREA"

Pres: Walter C. Smith
5090 Ironwood Trail
Bartow, FL 33830-8946
(863) 904-8875
E-mail: tarbucket67@yahoo.com
POC: Verlin Buck Rogers
(863) 858-3559
E-mail: vrogers8@tampabay.rr.com
A Troop is currently without a meeting location, please contact Buck for meeting info.

FLORIDA TROOP B "BAKER TROOP"

Pres: Bill Franklin
473 Kimberly Dr.
Melbourne, FL 32940-7773
(321) 255-0868
E-mail: swfwf@aol.com
POC: Frank Alverson
12468 Boney Rd.
Jacksonville, FL 32226-1983
(904) 757-7009
E-mail: mcalverson@comcast.net
Meets qtrly for dinner at area restaurants in Melbourne, Merritt Island area, usually on Tues. evening.

FLORIDA TROOP C

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

FLORIDA TROOP E "BLACK HATS"

Pres: Juan Kellogg
607 SE 47th St. Apt. 7
Cape Coral, FL 33904-5506
E-mail: juankellogg@embarqmail.com
Contact: Johnnie Robertson
(239) 600-1273
Website: http://www.seahog.org/cav/index.html
Meets 4th Sat. ea. mo. from Sept.-May 1:00pm. at Biggys Place, 3701 Fowler St., Fort Myers, FL 33901

FOLLOW ME CHAPTER

Pres: Robert Dodson
Meets 1900 4th Tues. ea. mo. Veterans Ctr., 1000 Victory Dr., Columbus, GA. No meeting in December

FORT KNOX AREA CHAPTER

Pres.: Thomas Ken O'Barr
12210 Valley Dr.
Goshen, KY 40026-9501
(502) 228-8032
E-mail: ko42@bellsouth.net
POC: Larry A. Whelan
2103 Winston Ave.
Louisville, KY 40205-2535
(502) 485-1270
E-mail: lawhelan@att.net
Website: www.lcda.org/fort_knox.html
Meets 3rd Sat. of mo. at 1100 at the Barker Masonic Lodge, 705 Main St., West Point, KY.

JUMPING MUSTANG CHAPTER

1-8 Cav
Pres: Maurice Waters
18543 Rancho Vista Dr.
Ramona, CA 92065-6011
(760) 789-5136
E-mail: mewaters2002@yahoo.com
POC: James C. Knafel
5510E - 500 South
Columbia City, IN 46725-7621
(260) 244-3864
E-mail: jjknafel@gmail.com
Website: www.JumpingMustangs.com

KETTLE MORAIN CHAPTER

Pres: Dick Schwarten
W152 S7917 Mystic Dr.
Muskego, WI 53150
(414) 422-8555
E-mail: DickNSue@wi.rr.com
POC: Harold Bourne
6415 Carolann Dr.
Brown Deer, WI 53223-1519
(414) 255-7829
Meetings held at 3 month intervals with a banquet dinner in Dec. when elections are held.

GERALD F. KINSMAN CHAPTER

Pres: Owen Levine
77 Clubhouse Dr.
Leominster, MA 01453-5170
(978) 534-6284
E-mail: sonny01453@comcast.net
Meets yearly.

JAMES J. MASON WEST MICHIGAN CHAPTER

Pres.: Ron Kloet
POC: Bob Anderson
9030 Conservancy Dr. NE
Ada, MI 49301-8822
(616) 682-5446
E-mail: rj.anderson2243@comcast.net
Website: jjmwmc1cd.com
Meets on 3rd Thurs. of Feb., Apr., Jun., Aug., Oct., and Dec., at 7pm, at the Grand Valley Armory in Wyoming, MI.

LAST FRONTIER CHAPTER

Pres.: William H. Martin
8050 Pioneer Dr #1304
Anchorage, AK 99504
(907) 274-6479
whm3rd@alaska.net
Contact for meeting info.

LOS ANGELES/ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER

Pres: John Guillory
780 Mandevilla Way
Corona, CA 92879-8251
(951) 278-3740
E-mail: fisheye1@sbcglobal.net
Vice Pres: John Burgner
228 South Hacienda St.
Anaheim, CA 92804-2569
(714) 535-0737
E-mail: jburgner@sbcglobal.net
Meets 0900 on 3rd Sat. of mo. at Brea Veterans Club, 735 S. Brea Blvd., Brea, CA

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

Pres.: John LeBrun
932 3rd St.
Blaine, WA 98230
(360) 393-6645
E-mail: caabnranger@yahoo.com
Website: www.lrrprangers.com
Full chapter meeting during Reunions

WILLIAM A. RICHARDSON NATIONAL CAPITOL REGION CHAPTER

Pres: Gene Russell
7923 Jansen Dr.
Springfield, VA 22152-2413
(703) 220-5322
E-mail: enrussell@msn.com
Website: lcda.org/national_capitol.htm
Meets 3d Sat. of the month Jan.-Apr and Sep.-Oct. 0900 at the American Legion Post 176, 6520 Amherst Ave., Springfield, VA. Breakfast available prior to start of mtg. Jun meeting is at WRAMC and Nov. meeting at the Assn. Vets Day gathering.

NEVADA CHAPTER

Pres: J.H. "Mac" McCracken
(702) 595-1253
E-mail: LuckyMac7@cox.net
Meets the first Saturday of the month at 10am at American Legion Post 8, downtown Las Vegas, Nevada. Call for directions.

NEWYORK/NEWJERSEY CHAPTER

Pres: Bob Arbasetti
973A Thornbury Ln.
Manchester, NJ 08759-5296
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NORTH CAROLINA - TARHEEL CHAPTER

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

NORTHWEST CHAPTER

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Meets 1200 1st Sat. of even months, contact William Koepp or Ric James for meeting location.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER

Pres: Robert Stauffacher
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(719) 683-2837
POC: Paul Lemieux
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Woodland Park, CO 80866-6548
(719) 687-1169
E-mail: lemieuxpe@love.com
Meets 9am 2nd Sat. of mo. at Retired Enlisted Assn. Chapter 1, 834 Emory Cir., Colorado Springs, CO.

SHERIDAN'S CAVALRY CHAPTER (Greater Chicago Area)

Pres.: Bruce Peterson
614 Burch St.
Sugar Grove, IL 60554-9297
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E-mail: petersob@mchsi.com
Website: www.sheridansfirstcav.com
Meets at the American Legion Post #1084, 322 E. Maple Ave., Roselle, IL 61072 at 1pm.

SOUTHEASTERN COLORADO CHAPTER

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E-mail: campos@centurytel.net
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Meets 1st Sat. of each month at 10am at the Holiday Inn Express in LaJunta, CO.

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LRRP/Ranger News



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ing, and legislation that was signed into law by President Bill Clinton in 2000, The American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial was dedicated on Sunday, October 5, 2014. It is located just off The National Mall, across Independence Avenue from the U.S. Botanical Gardens, at 2nd Street SW and Washington Avenue SW, at the base of the Rayburn House Office Building, and within view of the U.S. Capitol. It's made of granite slabs, glass panels, and a single flame flanked by a reflecting pool made in the shape of a star. It has quotes from disabled veterans from all branches of military service engraved on it. The quotes are "emblematic of the disabled veterans' journeys and tell their stories. They show injury, healing, and rediscovery of purpose," says Barry Owenby, project executive of the memorial. One of the quotes is from George Washington. It reads: "...Nothing could be a more melancholy and distressing sight than to behold those who have shed their blood or lost their limbs in the service of their Country."



The American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial, Washington, DC

on to urge Americans who see veterans who maybe have a prosthetic arm or leg, or maybe have burns on their face, to go up to them and say "Welcome Home

and Thank you." Hello from the nation's capital. I'm happy to report that there is a new monument in town. After more than 16 years of planning and fundrais-

Speaking at the dedication, President Obama acknowledged the fact that America has not always supported its veterans and said "Memorials such as this one are a step toward fulfilling a solemn and critical obligation. In the United States of America, those who have fought for our freedom should never be shunned and should never be forgotten. When our wounded veterans set out on that long road of recovery, we need to move heaven and earth to make sure they get every benefit, every bit of care that they have earned." He went

and Thank you."

The planning for the memorial goes back to 1993 when Jesse Brown was Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA). As a corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps, Brown was badly wounded while on patrol near the port city of Da Nang, Quang Nam Province, South Vietnam. While secretary of the VA, he initiated the planning for the memorial, and in 2002, a design committee was formed to select an architect to design and build it. Michael Vergason Landscape Architects was chosen in a run-off with several other architectural firms. The memorial is dedicated to the living and the dead.

On a different note, I received the following email from Walter 'Spanky' Seymour, Kirkland, Washington (1967-69). "Hi everybody. My apologies for not attending this year's reunion. Now that my book is out, I want to thank you all - it's selling! No marketing or publicity, just word of mouth and personal referrals. I will recover all publishing costs! In fact, sales have actually jumped ever since readers started posting reviews of it online. I think the reviews make the reading public curious and sales go up. Spanky"

I received the following email from Jim Ross. Apopka, Florida (1967). "To All, I just finished watching the Smithsonian Channel's episode entitled *The Real Story* which is a segment focused on Oliver Stone and his epic Vietnam movie, *Platoon*. Some of you, like me, may have received one or more emails from a young British investigative reporter seeking our comments on Stone and

his claim that our unit was the inspiration and background to his screenplay. The documentary and Stone in an interview, relate that he had a close and almost spiritual relationship with SGT Angel Elias (KIA) Tuscon, Arizona, who was his inspiration and model for actor William Defoe's screen character. He mentions that Elias was killed by "accidentally detonating a booby trap." The documentary does a very good job describing Elias and his Native American background,



L to R: Ken Easter, Angel Elias (KIA) - with cast on foot, and John Cripe, LZ Betty, Quang Tri Province, February 1968

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Hello once again fellow Sky Troopers. The leaves are gone and my retirement summer of 2014 is now just a pleasant memory. I realize you will be reading this sometime in December, but it's still October as I write and Halloween is less than a week away. Recently, while attending an event in Philadelphia, a former trooper, David Flynn, asked if I knew anything of the 228th Chinook crash in October of 1968 at Camp Evans. I did, but not that much, just what I heard in conversation at reunions. I was at Camp Evans in January and February of that year. Not a pleasant memory as the Tet Offensive exploded just after I arrived. Camp Evans was established by the 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines in late 1966 as part of Operation Chinook. The camp was located to the west of Highway 1, approximately 15 miles northwest of Hue, the old Imperial Capital of Vietnam. The camp was named after Marine Lance Corporal Paul Evans, 26th Marine Reg., who was killed during Operation Chinook, December 27, 1966. In January of 1968 Camp Evans was taken over by the 1st Air Cavalry Division. So I decided to do a little net research for information into the crash. On 7 October 1968 a USAF C-7 Caribou (#63-9753) that had just taken off from the Camp Evans airstrip collided with a 1st Cavalry Boeing CH-47 Chinook (#66-19041), A/ 228 Combat Support Aviation Battalion, resulting in the death of all passengers and crew (25) on both aircraft. The Official Accident Summary states: "The US Air Force C7-A departed Camp Evans from runway 36. The last radio transmission after receiving tower clearance was "Rolling." This aircraft was observed to break right prior to reaching the end of the runway. He continued a climbing turn to a heading of approximately 130 deg. The CH-47 helicopter had departed LZ Nancy only a few minutes before on a heading of 170 degrees, in a shallow descent. This is a scheduled daily passenger and mail shuttle and would have entered traffic on a right base leg for landing at the Camp Evans ASP pad, the regular stop for this shuttle and is located east of the centerline of runway 36, approx 1000 feet south of the approach end of that runway. He had not yet called the tower for clearance, though his UHF radio was on tower frequency. It is estimated that the CH-47 was cruising at approx 95 - 100 knots. The two aircraft converged at an altitude of approx 1100 feet at a relative angle of approx 40 degrees. The cockpit section of the C7-A contacted the rear rotor of the helicopter. The C7-A started a right bank, probably a last minute attempt to avoid the collision. When the two aircraft collided, at least one of the rear rotor blades sliced thru the cockpit section of the airplane on an angle from the top of the copilot's windshield down to the bottom of the pilot's windshield, killing both instantly and destroying all engine controls. At the same time, one of the rotor blades, or debris from the cockpit, struck the left propeller of the Caribou C-7. One of the blades was severed from the propeller and passed through both sides of the fuselage of the airplane. The left propeller then separated from the engine and fell to the ground. The Caribou made a steep descending right turn and struck the ground on a heading of 340 degrees. The aircraft disintegrated, all personal aboard perished, there was no fire. The Chinook, at the moment of the collision lost all of its rear main rotor blades. Once these blades were broken and destroyed by the collision, they chopped into the top of the helicopters fuselage before finally separating from the hub. They dislodged two sections of the synchronizer drive shaft which also fell to the ground. At this time, neither rotor system could provide any thrust and the helicopter became a free falling body. While it was tumbling toward the earth, the rear rotor mast and pylon separated from the fuselage and landed 150 meters short of the fuselage. The fuselage tumbled to earth and impacted on a heading of approx 120 degrees. It landed on its top left side in a nose high attitude, with near zero forward speed. It exploded on impact. Two troopers fell out of the helicopter as it tumbled thru the air. They were fatally injured on contact with the ground. Those remaining in the helicopter died in the crash."



C7A Caribou at An Khe, VN

Blame for the collision was pointed at both sides. Bottom line is an AF Caribou struck a 1st Cav, 228th Chinook on a beautiful, non-IFR day. A tragic accident, one of many that occur during time of war. An excerpt, from the United States Air Force in Southeast Asia-Tactical Airlift, page 475 reads, in part: "Prior to 1968, three serious operational problems defied effective solution, all requiring better coordination between the U.S. Army and the Air Force in the field. First, flying officers of both services testified to the danger of mid-air collision near forward airstrips. This was the result of uncontrolled flying, incompatible radio equipment, and the absence of commonly accepted procedures for Army helicopter and Air Force transport operations at shared airfields. A midair collision between a (STOL) Caribou and a Chinook near Camp Evans on October 3, 1968, cost twenty five lives and tragically illustrated the problem." The Army had control and command of the Caribou aircraft since it was introduced to Vietnam in August 1961 under the ARPA project when #57-3080 was sent there for testing. There were only five Caribou companies when the 11th AAD formed. This unique aircraft was part of Army Aviation for five years, until 1966 when the Air Force took the CV-2 from us in a trade off of sorts. Unitization by the AF did not compare with the Army's role for this aircraft in Vietnam. But that's another story (*SABER*, Silver Wings May-Jun 1998). Well I guess you know where I'm going with that statement. So let's move on to some

eyewitness accounts.

Joe Potvin, A/227th AHB. "I was sitting in POL hot refueling and watched the C7-A take off to the North from the active runway. We were facing north so I lost sight of the fixed wing after it made a hard right break which I'm sure kept it either inside of or over Hwy 1. The Air Force jocks thought the Evans area was pretty dangerous so they max performance takeoffs out of there to limit exposure. The next thing I knew was my crew chief was at my door telling me he had just watched the C7 run into a Chinook, at about the same time the tower frequency lit up with calls for assistance from any helicopters in the area. We buttoned up and headed for the crash site, you could see smoke coming from the CH-47 crash site but the C7 was harder to find. I landed next to the C7 wreckage (a polite term meaning big a-hole in the rice paddy) and did a quick walk around with my crew chief. There wasn't a thing left. It was all buried in the rice paddy (no standing water but still wet). The biggest thing I saw was one of the mangled engines. "Chief and I looked at each other, went back to aircraft and left the area. Not a pleasant sight. By that time many more troops were arriving and it was clear we were only in the way. I don't think any of us wanted to stay around and sift through the wreckage looking for parts."

Gene Lassiter, 228th, 68-69. "I was already at BN HQ when this happened. I remember LTC Paquette, who commanded from June to December 1968, in a rage because the AF type who commanded the Caribou unit tried to blame the Hook for the crash. It turned out that the Caribou driver was horsing around and pulled a steep climb and turn immediately after take-off. If I remember right, the blade of the Hook took out the cockpit of the Caribou and it was thought that the plane was otherwise flyable, but of course had no hands "at the wheel." The 228th flight surgeon was one of the first on the scene and I'll never forget his face when he came back. We were all pretty sick." Dave Greene, B/227th. "The mid-air between the hook and the Caribou happened the day before I was to DEROS (from Evans to An Khe). I was watching the Caribou take off ('cause I was to ride it the next afternoon), when it turned through the downwind leg of traffic. It clipped the back rotor of the hook. It lost about 15-20 feet of wing, but the rotors probably went through the cockpit too. It pitched up to a stall and then nosed over straight down. The hook started to spin, throwing bodies out the back of the aircraft. God, what a horrible sight to witness such a tragedy. It was hard to get on that plane the next day."

The list of 1st Cav personnel killed in the accident: SFC Dawson Clement 31G40 Tactical Commo Chief CH-47, WO1 Ronald L. Conroy 062B Copilot CH-47, SP-4 Larry L. Costley 67U20 CH-47 Crewmember CH-47, SP-4 Donald J. Cramer Jr. 05B20 Comm. Specialist C-7A, SP-4 David J. Dellangelo 11B20 Infantryman C-7A, SP-5 David A. Disrud 4C20 Welder C-7A, SP-5 Allen E. Gomes 94B20 Cook C-7A, SP-5 Dale G. Granger 31E20 Field Radio Repairer C-7A, PFC Joe J. Hibbler 11B20 Infantryman C-7A, CW2 Thomas E. Johnson 062B Pilot CH 47, PFC John W. Lucier 71F20 Postal Clerk CH-47, SP-5 David B. Perreault 94B20 Cook C-7A, SP-5 Jerry L. Pierce 67U20 CH 47 Crewmember CH-47, SP-4 Dennis D. Reese 67A1P OH-6 Crew Chief CH-47, SP-4 Michael D. See 91B20 Medic CH-47, PFC Robert D. Tomlinson 11B20 Infantryman C-7A, SSG Charles J. Wallace 67Y40 AH-1G Maint NCO CH-47, PFC Dennis A. Wirt 11B20 Infantryman C-7A, SSG William R. Young 45B40 Small Arms Artillery Repairer CH-47. David, I hope the above enlightens you as it did me. I'd be happy to hear from anyone who can add personal information. Okay, let's pull pitch and get to some rotor-wash. I received a five page letter from Ron McKiddy, the brother of SGT Gary Lee McKiddy, 1-9th, crew chief/gunner, who was KIA, 6 May 1970, after his Loch was hit and went down. Ron was proud to share some family news with us, Lee's brothers-in-arms.

Ron's son Bryan left the Navy Seabees. During his next to last assignment, in Afghanistan, he was attached to the 2-75th Rangers and earned a citation for actions when their camp came under attack. Ron's nephew, 1LT, Shane McKiddy is now a pilot after schooling at Mother Rucker, Alabama. His current duty station is Wheeler Army Air Field in Hawaii. Oh Ron, that's a tough one to endure! I salute and congratulate all. On a sad note, he recently lost both parents, Edgar and Betty, a month apart. Ron is also recovering from a knee replacement.



Edgar and Betty McKiddy, Ft. Hood, 1999 ceremony.

I recall during the 1999 1st Cav reunion, members of Company C, 19th officially designated the dayroom of their barracks in Building 31009, "Sgt. Gary Lee McKiddy Hall" and how proud the parents and family members were to be there.

Ron, my condolences, get well, and thanks for updating Lee's fellow "Silver Wings" troopers.



Phila Union League event. Dennis / Hank

On a beautiful bright day in early October I had the honor of spending a rewarding and informative half-an-hour with LTC Dick Cole at the Sussex Airfield in lower Delaware. He is one of the last four surviving Doolittle Raiders. At 99 years of age he is a little frail but sharp as a tack and feisty as he talked of that day, April 18, 1942 when 16 B-25's flew off a carrier to bomb Tokyo. A gleaming silver B-25 was sitting in front of the Sussex hanger and rides were available. I asked if he was piloting the aircraft. His reply, "I wish!" Last May, all four surviving Raiders were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal by President Obama. The other three men range in age from 92 to 94 years old; LTC Edward J. Saylor, the engineer-gunner of Aircraft No. 7; and SSG David J. Thatcher, the engineer-gunner of Aircraft No. 7., and

Continued on pg. 17

15th MED/15th FSB/15th BSB



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I got a call from Bill McClain who was in A Co. 15th MED '67-'68. Bill said the last *SABER*'s mention of A company's CO CPT Donald Barton's wife passing was not

true. Donald Barton called the 1st Cav Association, as well and spoke to Executive Director Dennis Webster about it, and also got an application sent out to formally join the 1st Cav Association. Apparently he thought he was a member. Bill said Dr. Barton was the one who had encouraged him to join.

Bill McClain was the executive officer of A Co., 15th MED under CPT Barton. Bill said he went to A Company from being the MSC officer in 2-8 Cav. He said because he was due to make captain he had to get transferred. Bill was also in the 1st Cav in Korea when they got their colors switched and became the 2nd Infantry Division.



L to R: 1968 A Co 15th MED 1SG Weber Borrell, SFC Groves, SFC Kenneth Clayton.

I got e-mail from William McCarron <mccarron_william@yahoo.com> who wrote: "Mike, we have never met, but I am seeking assistance in finding some information on a Medic who was killed in Vietnam. His name was Walter L. Wonnacott and he was from Downey, California.

He is listed on the Wall as being assigned to C Company, 15th MED Battalion; however, I believe he was with B Company, 1-8th Cav

when he was killed. In fact, he may have been flown into the battle the same day he was killed.

"I was the XO of B Company. From the information I have so far ascertained, B Co., 1-8th was engaged with the 22nd NVA Regiment in the village of Gia Duc 1, Binh Dinh Province on December 28, 1966. The battle started around 12:30 in the afternoon as B Company approached the village. They immediately took casualties, including the head Medic, Maurice Waters, who was shot as he went to the aid of some wounded, including a Medic he did not recognize. Several of us believe this may have been Wonnacott.

"One of our troops who did not know who the individual was said he had been shot in the throat, and was bleeding severely. The wounded individual said he was a Medic, he was from California, and was a biker, before he died in our troops arms.

"After some research I did find out that Wonnacott had arrived in Nam in October, 1966 and he and another Medic had been assigned from the 15th MED to the 1-8th. They both were subsequently assigned to D Company 1-8th. In early December a levy came down requesting one of these Medics was to be reassigned to the 1-7th. They flipped a coin and Wonnacott lost and left for the 1-7th. The individual who stayed in D Company said he and Wonnacott arrived in country together and that Wonnacott was from Downey, California and had been a Hells Angel prior to his Army service. He also said he was heavily tattooed.

"I found an annotation in the Daily Staff Journal for the 28th that B Company had requested two Medics during the battle. I also checked all other combat units in the Cav to see if any of them had been engaged on the 28th. Only the 1-8th had contact on that day. This makes me and several others believe that Wonnacott may have been reassigned to our company, but was killed almost immediately.

"I know it is probably a long shot, but I was wondering if you could poll members of the 15th MED to see if they knew Wonnacott and if he was in fact reassigned to B Company on that day. I have run out of ideas on how to find out anymore about Wonnacott. Any info you come up with would be appreciated. Thanks in advance. Bill McCarron <mccarron_william@yahoo.com>, (678) 546-8532."

If anyone in 15th MED in 1966 remembers anyone with the description of Walter L. Wonnacott, please let us know. A heavily tattooed biker type should have been noticed.

Randy Brewer <randelljbrewer@bellsouth.net> MEDEVAC CE '67-'68 e-mailed about Ralph Tutrani (I may have misspelled it Tutroni) mentioned in the last *SABER*: "Hi Art and Mike, I remember Ralph Tutrani very well and was even instrumental in getting him into a gunner's position in MEDEVAC. He was the chaplain's assistant (remember the big church at Evans that got blown away?) and came in our tent at A Co. Camp Evans. He was hell-bent on getting a ride in a Huey, so I got one of the pilots to let him fly beside me one day on a routine mission. After that, there was no stopping him.

"He was bound and determined to become a gunner and flew with us every chance he got. He brought the chaplain over and introduced all of us to him. He got the chaplain to agree to the transfer and flew with a gunner and learned

how to take care of the M-60's.

"He was very proficient at it, and took it very seriously. So, he moved into our tent at A Co. and the chaplain was a frequent visitor. We had built a bar in the tent, with a poncho liner over the top and an OH-13 tail rotor on the wall. Ralph became the bartender.

"My birthday was July 18th, '68 so a party was put together inviting MEDEVAC E.M. and pilots, along with some 15th MED personnel, and the chaplain, of course. Ralph even got the field organ that had to be pumped by foot from the church and played really well at the party.

"It was raining like a tall cow on a flat rock that night, so the chaplain drove his Jeep into the ditch in front of the tent, so as not to have to walk all the way from the parking lot. Got the mess SGT to bake a cake and had beau coupe booze of all types with Ralph behind the bar.

"Two MP's came driving by, one an E-4 and the other a PFC. They came busting in the tent screaming, 'Somebody stole a Jeep,' seeing the chaplain's Jeep outside.

"The chaplain, who was pretty 'high' by this time, jumped up and said in a loud voice, 'WELL, IT AIN'T IN HERE!' The chaplain was a major, there were a couple of captain pilots, lieutenants, and warrant officers out the ying-yang. The MP's looked at each other realizing they had made A VERY BIG MISTAKE, apologized, and slowly backed out the door. Their faces about as red as the red cross on the aircraft. We laughed until tears ran down our faces, but the poor MP's didn't think it was such a joke.

"No one ever told me Ralph was hit in the hand later on. As I said, I knew John Alling Jr. very well and have photos of him. (RIP). His family was able to contact me a few years ago and I told them we were really good friends and that he was a great crew chief. I also made copies of all the photos I had of John and sent them to his family, but sadly, no longer have addresses for them.

"As I said in the *SABER*, I was not around Gary Dubach long enough to get to know him, except that he was very young and appeared to be a good crew chief, and I only had that single photo of him.

I do have two photos of Ralph Tutrani taken on my 22nd birthday- July 18, 1968. SO THAT OTHERS MAY LIVE Randy Brewer- crew chief MEDEVAC 458/578 '67-'68. P.S. The photos in the current *SABER* are so blurred, I cannot recognize any of them. Sorry."

Art Jacobs sent: "Here's another picture of Ralph (he's pouring me a beer) at one of those parties in the EM tent. I will never forget his rendition of 'Light My Fire' on that organ he wrangled from the chaplain.

"That's Norm Roberge in front, and poor Jerry Dick to my left. This picture was taken no more than a day or two before my three hoist mission shoot-downs, and Jerry taking that bullet to the head.



Have a drink on me-L to R standing: MEDEVAC gunner Ralph Tutrani, pilot Art Jacobs, gunner Jerry Dick. Down in front Norm Roberge. July 18th, 1968.

"Ralph called me a few years back. He's living in NYC and said he married a former Playboy Bunny. Cheers, Art"

A reminder, the 2015 15th MED Assn. Reunion - It is posted on the Website. Just click 2015 Reunion in blue on the main index page. You can also click the pull down menu on Reunion and click on it there.

The 2015 Reunion Information: Location: Boise, Idaho, Dates: Apr 14/15 to 20th, 2015. Reunion Coordinator is Mike "Smitty" Smith.

Email: <mvandco@msn.com>

Oxford Suites, 1426 S. Entertainment Way, Boise, Idaho 83709, Telephone - (208) 322-8000. Mention 15th Medical Battalion. If any problems ask for Klea Gentle. All reservations due by 3/26/2015.

Room Rate: \$94.00 a night which includes a full hot breakfast and an evening reception five minutes from airport, and they have a shuttle.

The hotel has allowed satellite days if someone wants to come early or stay later.

Note: Working on the Registration Form. When it is finished it will be posted on the Website and sent to the Membership.

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

FIRST TEAM! Garryowen,
MEDEVAC 1-7\1970
SO THAT OTHERS MAY LIVE

Silver Wings News Continued from pg. 16

LTC Robert L. Hite, the copilot of Aircraft No. 16. A "Wings" salute to all. Also in October, I accepted an invitation from Dennis Ryan, VN, 1967-68, 9th Inf Div to dinner at the Union League of Philadelphia to hear LTC Charlie Plumb talk of his 2103 days as a Prisoner Of War in North Vietnam. The Union League of Philadelphia is proud of their Veterans Initiative program. Since their founding in 1862, the Union League has supported our military service members, veterans and their families and there is no better way to exemplify their motto, Love of Country Leads, than to participate in this new initiative to help local veterans back into civilian workforce.

My thanks to Dennis Ryan for the informative and inspiring evening, and the limo to and from Philadelphia. A wonderful event! I received a call from Dave Scoon, a seasoned Arty trooper, from West Olive, Michigan. He was responding to a request found in the Sept/Oct column from

Leo Miller, requesting a crossed cannon emblem for his display and checking to see if I received some nose-art photos he recently sent. Unfortunately I did not receive the photos and I appreciate the resend. Dave can be reached at 616-994-0371. Thanks for the responding to Leo's request.

Chuck Stevens, A/227th AHB, 1965/66 called and spoke of the forthcoming, November 1-5, 2014 reunion in Savannah, Georgia. At the time of his call there were approximately 150 former troopers from the 227th companies that served in Vietnam (65-71) attending. Chuck promised an AAR and some reunion photos for the next "Silver Wings" column. Chuck, thanks for the call and update. With that, I shall conclude this Wings sortie. I'll have my AAR of the activities in DC for Vet's Day in the next issue. Until then, I want to wish all of you a wonderful holiday season. May the meaning of Christmas be deeper, its friendships stronger, and its hopes for peace brighter as it comes to you this Joyous New Year. Until next time, 'Clear right!'

20th and 79th Artillery Regiment News



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"You won't believe what happened on the way to the forum!" I believe that is a way to ease the tension when one has committed an error and does not have a reason, or at least a good excuse. I missed the last issue because I was out-of-country with no cell service and no internet service. Poor prior planning on my part? Yes, I should have had it in before I left on August 14th. Now, by the time you read this I will have been back in Florida for the Veterans Day and Thanksgiving Day celebrations. Please note my email has changed to <wbwilder@yahoo.com> there is no charter.net service in Florida so I had to make changes. Hopefully, I am back on schedule for future issues.

I just had contact with Russell Warriner, the founder of the ARA Blue Max Association over 20 years ago. Russ served as President of the Association for 14 plus years and brought the membership to 566 by the time of the 2008 reunion at Fort Rucker, Alabama. I had lost contact with Russ until I found him living in New England again. A few more years passed and then I found him back in central Florida. In the meantime, Russ has been active doing what he always did – remembering the Vietnam Veterans and providing information and assistance whenever and wherever needed. In 2012, he organized a POW/MIA Recognition Program through the local VFW Post 7997 in Old Orchard Beach, Maine, from which grew the "Maine Heroes Fund" providing assistance to veterans and their families. Several members of C/2-20th (1968) were present for the POW/MIA Recognition Weekend: Mike O'Conner (POW Feb. 4, 1968 – until release in Operation Homecoming, Feb. 12, 1973), Troy Comer, Tom Johnson, and John "Wes" Cozart. One of the AH-1G Cobra helicopters (520) crewed by Russ in C Btry was brought on a flat bed trailer by new owner COL (Ret Larry Russell, B/227, 1st Cav, Executive Director, Celebrate Freedom Foundation in Columbia, South Carolina. A big "Attaboy" goes out to Russ for his continued service to his community and fellow soldier and for coordinating this important event! If you happen to be in the vicinity of Old Orchard Beach, check the community calendar for the next POW/MIA tribute in September 2015.



AH-1G Cobra 520 assigned to C/2-20th ARA 1st CAV

A special note about Terri Warriner. Terri was rushed into emergency open heart surgery shortly after their arrival in Florida. Her surgery was successful and after rehab she is recovering nicely. Prayers and best wishes go out to Terri and Russ. I'm sure they would appreciate an email from their friends.

We said farewell to one of our members on July 7, 2014. Cecil W. "Chip" Parker died on July 7, 2014 in Dallas, Texas. Chip is survived by his wife, Vickie Fuller Parker, one son, one step-daughter, one step-son, and five grandchildren. Chip had a

long successful career as President of Precision Dialing Services, and was also a member of Dallas Elks 71, MOWW, and the VHPA. Chip was with us on the deployment to Vietnam from Fort Benning in 1965. He will be remembered for his heroism as a helicopter pilot in headquarters, 2-20th ARA, his leadership in business, as "Papa" to his grandkids, as a role model to his family and friends, as larger than life to all who knew him. Chip graduated with Flight Class 65-8W. I met with Chip in Plano, Texas back in 2011 at our son's home. He wanted to talk about the future of the ARA Association and how we could get Joe Galloway, co-author of *We Were Soldiers, Once and Young*, with LTG Hal Moore, to attend one of our reunions as guest speaker. Chip and many more of us were actively engaged in the Battle of Ia Drang and he thought it appropriate that Joe should speak to our membership. Perhaps one of our scheduled reunions might match a time when Joe could attend. Chip was honored by being invited to the White House for the presentations of the Medal of Honor to MAJ Bruce Crandall and CPT Ed Freeman for their bravery at Ia Drang. Chip was a real patriot and loved his country. He will be missed!

Talking with Jesse Hobby last month I learned about an article written by Al Smith III, then a CPT in F/79th in 1971-72, call sign Blue Max 17, life member of ARA Association. The article was about his successful landing after the loss of the tail rotor. I have included the article below because it shows what a qualified pilot can do with an aircraft in an emergency situation.

And Now the Rest of the Story: I'm hoping that I can put all the bits and pieces into some sequence that will give a reasonable rendition of the "longest short flight I ever made." I arrived with the Blue Max F Btry. 79th ARA on 27 November 1971 and was put to work in short order. By 9 December I was settled in. They made me the Armament Officer followed by Section Leader, Huey IP, IFE. After that I had a Cobra check out with "Iron Mike" Galloway which got me up to speed on the armament changes after 3 plus years. I found that the ECU was a real blessing.

About a month after arrival, I was assigned to give a firepower demonstration to a group of new guys just coming in country so they would have an idea of the capabilities of our aircraft in day and night operations. The GIF was along for the ride and was a short timer.

After clearance with Range Control, we made a clearing orbit at about 1200 feet and rolled hot for the first run. We were on target. We called for another pass at 2500 feet, rolled in hot at about a 70 degree dive. First pair was on target, second pair was burning in the outboard pods... then released... both on target. Noted a little "thunk" as the second pair launched. Eyeballs were scanning the gauges, EGT was rising, WTF?

I called a right break and fed in some pedal for trim and the pedal went to the floor. GIF jumped on the pedals and his went to the floor also. If mine went to the floor then his had to do the same thing. Duh! I leveled out and just waited to see where we would be if we waited a few seconds before thrashing around.



Log book entry... "Tail Rotor Missing."



I asked the GIF to call Ben Hoa AFB to declare an emergency and give our position and ETA.

Luck was with us so far. We settled with about a 20 degree starboard yaw, nose tucked down about five degrees and a port roll about five to seven degrees, EGT continued to climb, and I kept reaching for the jettison switch and kept pulling back. Finally reached up and started the clock. EGT was still rising.

Getting closer to the fence, I was trying to make as shallow a touchdown as I could. Cleared the fence... pulled the stick back... collective coming down smooth... throttle coming back... aircraft yawing port... left skid makes contact... skids touchdown... cyclic neutral... steering with throttle... aircraft started yawing starboard... followed the starboard turn with forward cyclic... holding on with a death grip... three little skips to port and it settled upright after a 160 dg turn... I jumped out ASAP, ran around the left side of the aircraft... grabbed the fire extinguisher and told the GIF on the way by to shut the engine down.

As I came around the rear of the aircraft and looked at the hole in the vertical fin and realized that the T/R and gearbox were missing and then saw the gash from the T/R strike, my knees started to tremble... "just a little"... and then just a little more when I saw the mess with the annular ring slashes and cowl cuts as the T/R made its way toward the engine oil reservoir, swash plate and pitch change links.

In closing, I would like to say that I was a little concerned about my memory after 42 years and it took me three days of wrestling with it to get it right.

Al, thanks for taking the time to write the article. I think your memory is excellent. Hard to forget an incident such as yours!



18th Aerial Rocket Artillery Reunion in Columbus, Georgia, May 6-10, 2015.

It's hard to believe that it's been almost 50 years since the first Aerial Rocket Artillery unit was deployed to the Republic of Vietnam as part of the 1st Cavalry Division (Air Mobile). It's also hard to believe that it's been over 50 years since those

first ARA units, C Battery (ARA), 2nd Battalion, 42nd Artillery and the follow on unit 3rd Battalion, 377th Artillery (ARA), 11th Air Assault Division were activated and began planning and working out the concept of ARA that we all came to know in RVN as members of the 2-20th Artillery (ARA), 4-77 Artillery (ARA), F Battery/79th Artillery (AFA), F Battery/77th Artillery (ARA), and 77th Field Artillery Battery (Provisional) (ARA). The ARA reunions include all ARA units from three Divisions and all separate batteries; therefore, the three patches above.

So, now we're going back to the Columbus/Fort Benning area for a 50 year celebration and we hope you will make plans to join us for the Annual ARA Reunion. We have some great plans and hope to see you there.

Where We Will Be Staying: Headquarters for the Reunion will be the Hilton Garden Inn located at 1500 Bradley Lakes Blvd, Columbus, GA 31904, phone (706) 660-1000. You can access their website at <www.columbus.gardeninn.com> to view the hotel and check out its amenities. When making reservations use group code "ARAA".

We have tentatively reserved 75 rooms – 40 Standard King Bed, 40 Twin Queen Beds, and five King Bed Junior Suites. The King and Twin Queen Bed Rooms are \$109.00 plus tax (16%) and the King Bed Junior Suites are \$129.00 plus tax. The rate is good for three days prior to and after the reunion if you wish to come early and/or stay late. The cutoff date for reservations is April 15, 2015 but our group rate will be honored after that based on availability.

The hotel is providing our hospitality suite which has a private patio and two complimentary breakfast buffets for each room daily. Parking is free. I think everyone will be pleased with the hotel because it is in a quiet, resort-like setting with a lake and beautiful landscaping.

What We Will Be Doing: We have lots to do, or you can do as little as you

Continued on pg. 21

82nd FA News



"Can and Will"
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Echo Battery, 82nd Artillery (Aviation), An Khe, Vietnam CPT Forrest Hearn Story (Part 4)

Now here we go with Part 4 of the Forrest Hearn Story. This Soldier has so much to add to the war effort of the

early days of the Vietnam War, it is difficult to portray. He flew both rotary wing and fixed wing aircraft and his most historic feats early in this war were carried out while flying rotary wing UH-1B gunships. He was an integral part of the November 1965 battle in the Ia Drang Valley of Vietnam. There is so much to write about but we have to move on to another part of his Vietnam saga. As we mentioned in the first part, literally day one, Forrest was shot down on a mission. He was not in Echo Battery at the time but like all the other advance party arrivals, they were farmed out into other outfits to learn the tactics and rules of engagement in this new war. Forrest was flying a UH-1B Gun Ship and was hit hard. He managed to control his battle damaged chopper and using the unique means of landing a disabled helicopter, auto-rotated belly downward into the safest place he could quickly locate in the jungle. His chopper was destroyed and other than a few bruises and cuts he thought he was fine.

He and his crew were evacuated to medical facilities and later released to further

flying duty. Now remember this was 24 August 1965. The Battle of the Ia Drang Valley was in November 1965. He continued to fly well after the Ia Drang Valley battles. Some months later he began having difficulties with numbness in his hands and arms and some pains in his neck. They had a new Flight Surgeon and he felt a need to check out his problems. He reported to the new Flight Surgeon and after a good examination he suspected that CPT Hearn may have a neck injury. He was ordered to fly to Qui



Remains of Forrest Hearn's downed UH-1B Gun Ship

Nhon to a Field Hospital where there was more advanced medical care where he could have X-Rays and properly diagnose any problems. So the grand old soldier he was, rounded up his crew and he jumped into his helicopter and flew to Qui Nhon. Yes, he flew to Qui Nhon, not as a passenger but piloted his chopper to Qui Nhon to get his neck looked at. Oh, and not to mention he flew the DIVARTY Commander on every mission during the Ia Drang Battle in November.

Anyway, extensive examinations and X-Rays were performed on CPT Hearn. Suddenly the doctor came in yelling, "You have a broken neck, lay down." "Now settle down Doc this injury was done in August and here it is April and I just flew here one hour ago, so I do not understand the immediate danger." The Flight Surgeon immediately grounded CPT Hearn and the process of medical evacuation was in order. He was medically evacuated to Japan, then Manila, then to Brooke Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Surgery was performed immediately and cervical laminectomy C2-C6. "Now I have a broken neck." CPT Hearn spent the next 42 days in a ward at Brooke Medical Center and had recuperated enough and was given 30 days convalescent leave. He enjoyed his 30 days and upon return to Brooke Medical Center he was confronted by the Personnel Warrant Officer to explain where his new assignment was. "My response was, I do not want a new assignment, I just want out, I have had enough." The personnel warrant said "You best listen for a minute." "During all of your medical issues you were selected for below the zone promotion to Major and I have the promotion orders in my hand." That was a game changer for CPT Hearn. Three years from Captain to Major. Not bad. Little did he realize that after the Vietnam War, promotions would slow down considerably. He was a Major for seven years before he made Lieutenant Colonel. He was an LTC for six years. But considering that he started out from the bottom of the enlisted ranks and while involved in the Korean War, he went from a Private to Sergeant First Class and then to Master Sergeant and was given a Direct Commission to 2nd Lieutenant, and all of this was at the ripe old age of 21. I can see him now.

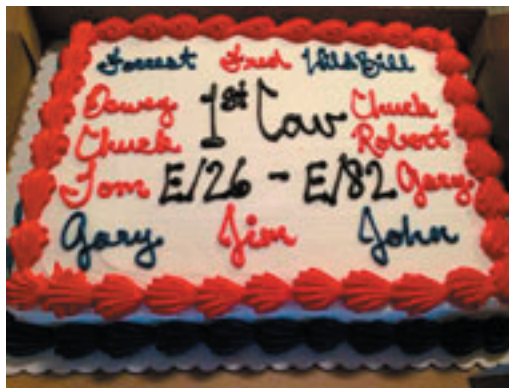
Captain Hearn did well after he returned to duty. He was reassigned back to the Primary Flight School at Fort Wolters, Texas. He went on to various assignments and ultimately retired from the Army as a Lieutenant Colonel. During his fabulous career he rubbed shoulders with a lot of notable soldiers. How about MAJ Bruce Crandall, and CPT Ed "Ed Too Tall" Freeman? He was flying the DIVARTY Commander during the Ia Drang Valley Battle and MAJ Crandall and Captain Freeman were earning the Medal of Honor. There was also another young 2nd Lieutenant by the name of Walter J. Marm, who was awarded the Medal of Honor for his bravery during the Ia Drang Valley battles. CPT Hearn also became very close friends with GEN George Patton, the son of the famous WWII, 3rd Army Commander. As evidenced by the recent reunion in Biloxi, Mississippi, of the "Old Soldiers" who were those that went to Vietnam as part of the advance party, he was in good company. CPT Hearn also earned a Purple Heart for wounds he received in Vietnam.

Stand tall and proud "Old Soldier", you deserve it. Thanks for your Service. Most of this info came from Forrest Hearn, but the AAR's of 1st Bn, 7th Cav have the details. COL Forrest Hearn can be contacted at <fhearn33@cableone.net>

LTC (RET) Forrest Hearn Has A Reunion In Biloxi, Mississippi: LTC Forrest Hearn put together a reunion of an original group of Army Aviators that entered the Vietnam War in August 1965. They were all a part of the Advance Party. Remember these guys trained together in the 11th Air Assault Division and most of them ultimately ended up in the 1st Air Cavalry Division and awaiting on the arrival of the rest of the division in September 1965. The reunion was held



Biloxi, Mississippi Reunion



Reunion Cake

at Forrest Hearn's home in Biloxi, Mississippi from 12 thru 14 August 2014. Words from LTC Hearn says it all "One of my greatest thrills and cherished moments to see these friends after 50 years, they were all my heroes from the past"

Standing L to R, Fred Dunaway, LTC, US Army Retired; Dewey King, LTC, US Army Retired; Chuck Brazeale, LTC, US Army Retired; Chuck Weber, Airline Captain, Retired; Jim Franklin, CW4, US Army Retired, Airline Captain, Retired; Gary Webb, Airline Captain, Retired; Wild Bill Fraker, Colonel, US Army Retired; Gary Jones, Major, US Army Retired; Seated: Forrest Hearn, LTC, US Army Retired; Tom Hardy, LTC, US Army Retired; and John Cisney, Major, US Army Retired.

Forrest had a lot to do for the reunion. There were cookouts, time outs for exchanging war stories and just take a look at this cake that Forrest had made for this occasion.

Agent Orange Spraying in Vietnam: I have been reading

about some new information regarding Agent Orange used in Korea during the Korean War. Any Cav Veterans that may have been subject to this might contact the VA for further details. There is still a lot of research going into the Herbicide agents used in Vietnam. So guys check with the VA in this regard also. Our Vietnam Veterans are still dying at a rapid pace and lots of them in their 60's have not had any contact with the VA or the benefits they may have been eligible for. The VA is under a lot of pressure and you guys that have been turned down before, this just may be your opportunity to get on the band wagon again. Good Luck.

Now, does anyone that has flown in Echo Battery, 82nd Arty, as a pilot, crewmember, or even a passenger, remember any of our Hueys that was equipped with a spraying mechanism that may have been used for herbicidal spraying? I have vague memories of something and I remember the awkwardness of the mechanism in the berms. I cannot determine what it may have been. May just be wishful thinking. Phuoc Vinh was the center of what was a bowl shaped area that was heavily covered with up to triple canopy forest. Ungodly amounts of the defoliant were dispersed in our AO. I am not sure but it seems that the figure of eight million gallons of the defoliant agents Orange, White, and Blue were sprayed in this area alone. The most significant thing I remember was the bad taste that lingered in my mouth when the spraying was done. We drank, swam, and bathed in the water. Our food was washed and cooked in this water. No wonder so many people were affected by the spraying. I can personally remember seeing an AF plane spraying the stuff and we flew through it once and the bitter aftertaste as we passed through the contaminated air. If my memory serves me correctly, we moved our Ammo Bunker in our Battery AO and we cut the tops out of barrels that may have been used to deploy and store the Agents Orange Defoliants.

It is difficult to sit here at this time and think back that we were in Vietnam and fighting a war. During that war we lost well over 50,000 warriors as war casualties. Just think of the numbers that we have lost as a result of the defoliants. One casualty as pertains to Echo Btry regarding the death of a SP-5 Ed Lemp, whose death was listed in his obituary as being the effects of Agent Orange. SP-5 Ed Lemp was one of the earlier soldiers that went to Vietnam and was the Crew Chief of a Huey flown by then CPT Robert Holland. Bob went on to retire from the Army as a Colonel and listed SP-5 Ed Lemp as his Crew Chief. CPT Holland was part of a group of personnel to arrive in Vietnam in August 1965. SP-5 Lemp arrived in Vietnam in September 1965.

I am sure we could go back and check the records of those that have already passed and we could find many, many more of those that passed were victims of Agent Orange poisoning.

Condolences: Yeah, another month and no known losses.

Other News: The extremely hot weather in the Northwest US caused great losses and difficulties for the residents there, especially in Washington State. This particular part of the state is known for its very low rainfall during any year and the wildfires that scorched the region were really brutal. It was a continuous effort to keep them under control. Finally some rainy weather moved in and helped extinguish the massive brush fires from the area. One of our Woodpecker Fixed Wing Pilots, Carl Buick, lives in Wenatchee, Washington and the parched territory and wild fires was of great concern for him. He is a volunteer fireman was diligent in his efforts to help the communities of the area to fight the fires. Good job Carl.

I just wanted to mention that I had a great conversation with Retired Command Sergeant Major Thurman Cousins. He was Echo Battery First Sergeant for about a month before he was reassigned to 1-77th Arty in August '69. We took a little trip back to Vietnam and fought a couple of the big battles when we were there. He is doing well now. His brain tumor has grown approximately two centimeters, but his doctor did not seem concerned at this time.

Why, some are even calling it war." He responded, "Look, I did not write the regulations." I couldn't believe what I was hearing. If I had lost it and killed everyone, I probably would have been decorated. "Sir, let me get this straight. I just had an engine failure with a full load of fuel, a full load of troops, downwind at 400 feet - maybe only 300. I did a 180 into a confined area, saved the aircraft and 10 people - and I get a major accident?" "That's about it," he replied.

God Bless, Welcome Home

5th CAV News

Continued from pg. 5

sir, how can you call that an accident?" He continued, "Because there's a dent in the bottom of the tail boom. It has to be replaced. The reg says that if any major component is replaced, it is a major accident and goes on the pilot's permanent record." The major was quoting peacetime regulations. I replied forcefully, "Sir, have you heard? This is Vietnam. People are being killed here.

ENGINEER News



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Page Filler: Being determined to equal the infantry in words submitted for publication, I will cram in every pending this, that, or the other into this year end issue. I am told that some

subscribers actually read *SABER* cover to cover so here goes. Or as the Horse Detachment might say, "saddle up."

First Up: From our resident MG, Ret: "Thinking about the current state of things as they pertain to our great Country leads me to believe that we older folks might be able to lend some encouragement to serving soldiers and other young patriots.

"We old folks have seen this sort of situation before - the President and the Congress having no significant experience with (and essentially foreswearing) reasonable foreign policies. The President and the Congress essentially turning their backs on the defense establishment...no coherent mission analysis, no plans, dramatic reductions in funding, dramatic reductions in structure, dramatic reductions in end strength, disrespect for military leadership.

"The general populace consumed with self-interest, callous toward America's soldiery, offering only "Thanks for your service"-type babble, but no real support or understanding or appreciation for sacrifice and selfless service. In my own personal experience, this was also what the landscape looked like in the mid and late 1950s after the Korean War and in the 1970s after Vietnam. America has a habit of falling into these 'eras of stupidity' periodically. What was different in those earlier times was that some people understood that we would be at war again...or that we actually were at war in an unpublicized, low-key, long-term way. That particular realization---that we ARE at war---seems to have escaped much of our current leadership.

"My point is: This is not to say that all is lost. America has never been militarily proactive - it's always taken a slap in the face or a kick in the pants to get us alert, aware, and mobilized. But...once America realizes that we are under attack and, perhaps, existentially threatened, our still huge reservoir of self-preservation instinct, creativity, inventiveness, energy, and downright pluck will kick in. Contemporary versions of George Mason, Patrick Henry, and John Adams will emerge. The electorate will realize that their wonderful state cannot be preserved by someone who merely looks good on TV, speaks in sound bites, and hands out "free stuff" and patronage...but by someone with true intelligence, vision, experience in crisis management...and love of Country. All this occurs only after a severe test---not 9/11, not some beheadings and not simply attacks on our allies---but a violent, deadly, destructive attack on the Homeland. And, it's coming...we dread it, we sense it, but we know in our secret heart that it's being planned somewhere right now!

Somehow America has survived these crises in the past...and we will survive this one, the threat posed by world-wide Islamic extremists (supported in part by misguided fools and traitors from among our midst). We are in the midst of a fight worth winning...and we should play our roles as communicators and cheerleaders to the fullest."

And Let Me Add: This business of America's being forgetful of lessons learned from conflicts imposed upon us is a cyclical occurrence. For a better summary than mine, go to the Wall Street Journal, weekend edition for September 6, 2014, Review Section, lead story. (My summary) We have been sold that we can have both guns and butter. Well, you can as the Johnson era proved, but at a price. Unfortunately, that price is almost invisible to even the thinking man and surely invisible to the ole boy having a couple of tall ones before driving home. The price you ask? Try seventeen trillion dollars of national debt. Think of it like this: If every single person and company in the USA worked every hour of every day for a year for nothing else than to pay off that debt, we wouldn't. In other words, the debt exceeds the Gross Domestic Product. Some call this condition bankruptcy. You see, there are only three ways a government can buy and pay for services, products, and entitlements. One is the imposition of high individual and corporate taxation rates, Sweden. Second is the assumption of future debt the proceeds of which are redistributed in the present, America. Third is the use of both, Argentina. And you wonder why the Tea Party screams?

Military Quiz: (1) Had GEN Euwell followed GEN Lee's orders to the letter, to what city would those of us living in the CSA be sending our taxes? (2) We all know that 300 Greeks held off the Persian hoards for a day or so. But what occurrence led to the Greeks eventual defeat? (3) Name the two islands where Napoleon was twice exiled. (4) Name the specific damage caused to the Bismark that led to its eventual sinking. Answers by email or phone must also include a brief summary of your service. Winners will receive a monetary reward at the 2015 Reunion, if present.

He Wants to Hear From You: Camp Evans sticks in one's craw. Maybe it was the mud. Maybe it was the hill top view. Maybe it was having to pack up everything and move to Phouc Vinh. David Christen had a belly-full of all those things in 1968 and now would like to commiserate with those who shared those experiences. David was in S-4, HHC shoveling out all those C-rats and bullets and chainsaws as fast as the rest of you could consume or break them. Call David at 218-841-2498 or start up an email at <toni.christen947@gmail.com>.

How Marriages Last: You might well wonder how and why my wife has endured me for 45 years and six months as you are reading this epistle. It's simple guys, just show occasional flashes of brilliance. Like the other day, I had been assigned the task of fixing the lower pan drawer on our stove. After some dozen years of usage, the drawer suddenly slipped off horizontal and looked kattywhampus. (Where did that term come from I wonder?) So, as she trotted off to one of her girl lunches, I sighed and took up the task, got a flashlight, yanked the dang thing all the way out and began my examination. Soon enough the culprit was spotted, a simple loose screw holding the slide retainer. Fixed that easily enough with a Phillips head. Well, naturally that led to a general degreasing of the oven, a scrubbing of the stove top, and a vacuuming of the kitchen floor. When she returned to find me lounged on the sofa and working a level one sudoku puzzle, I explained the complexity of this man task and the subsequent additional improvements made. I was a hero. You see, it wasn't the turning of the screw. It was the telling of the story that made a hero.

Don't Crane Your Neck: But look at the pictures below. David Williams contributed a memory or two by email. David, by his own admission, was a jack of

all trades and master of none as an engineer. He was a blaster of bunkers, painter of equipment, tar sprayer, and yes even a crane operator, MOS 62/20.



20 Ton Crane



David Williams



David's Crane

Don't Come Empty Handed: The next Annual Reunion will be at Fort Hood or should I say Killeen, Texas? Whichever, start now gathering whatever documents you may have with other people's names and home of record, orders, TDYs, rosters, group awards, and you name it. Why? So many of you are looking...looking for lost friends and buddies. There are those of us such as John McGuire who are willing to help or can conduct searches.

<mcguijo@gmail.com> But even

John needs something to work with, a starting point other than Smith from Alabama. Thus, help yourself and others by bringing copies of whatever you may have that could assist in name searches. Ok, Ok, I will try to compile them into an excel document but would eventually turn them over to the library/museum at Fort Hood. Phrased another way, you ain't getting any younger and neither are the buddies you are looking for. Now is the time to seriously help yourself and others in search plans. Now is the time to start contacting your buddies to encourage their attendance, seriously. Surely your car insurance guy has one of those giveaway calendars. Get one. Mark off June 2015 just for Killeen. Hey, does anybody know how to implement Skype? How great would it be for our Hawaii or Alaska buddies to be able to attend an Engineer Round Table without the expense of the air ticket? Think about it. And just to keep you stimulated, here are some more pictures from the Chicago convention where we are demonstrating our skill as culinary experts.



2014 8th Engineers



Engineers 2014 Chicago

Your New Business: Step out with a foot forward and with a helping hand from, of all places, the Web.com golf tour. That tour, you may know, is the AAA ball league for the big show, the PGA tour. As your faithful reporter, it was my duty to attend the Jacksonville event. As it turns out, Web.com is specifically supportive of veterans seeking to start private business. Among the specific start-up imperatives were: (1) There is no silver bullet but you must have a clear sense of purpose. (2) Ask yourself why should potential customers choose me. (3) Stay connected to your passion. (4) Be community focused. (5) Know your cash flow. Insist on technology to provide daily if not hourly data. (6) Embrace relevant change. (7) Always ask what can I do to-

day to make my business better.

Book Review: *One Million Steps* by Bing West. Mr. West completes an Iraq-Afghan trilogy by literally walking with the 3rd Plt, K Co., 3rd Bn., 5th Reg Marines. Among the revelations presented are: (1) These grunts were not fighting a high tech war supported by drones and laser guided bombs. They searched for, engaged and fought straight up, 5.56 vs 7.62. (2) These guys are not stupid. All had at a minimum a high school diploma and came from intact family backgrounds. (3) They did not linger back. Every day, every day they tromped out of base camp into the wasteland of Helmand Province. (4) Making friends with villagers doesn't work especially when they know you will be withdrawn in a year. To succeed, the enemy must be found and killed. (5) They fought and won at their level despite the handcuffs of engagement rules, a flawed strategy, and time being on the other side. Does this sound familiar? Like from 45 years ago?

Did I Make It? Did you have to find an appended paragraph on a subsequent page? More importantly did any of this make sense? If so contact me. If not contact me.

545th MP COMPANY



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545th Military Police Company and The Generals (As of July 21, 2010):

Since World War Two, the 545th Military Police Company has been the darling of the generals and was specifically called upon by name to perform missions and duties which were often times out of their regular Area of Operations. This highly decorated unit is often the topic of discussion amongst the generals and their staffs, much to the chagrin of other Military Police units and to the pride, tradition, and history of the 545th!



GEN Douglas MacArthur

"No greater record has emerged from the War than that of the 1st Cavalry Division – swift and sure in the attack, tenacious and durable in defense, and loyal and cheerful under hardship. It has written its own noble history. My personal connection with it in many moments of crisis has especially endeared it to me. The 545th MP Company is the finest, bravest, and most noble Military Police unit in the Pacific Theater" GEN Douglas MacArthur

"We refer to the 545th MP Company as the First Team's Finest because that's exactly what they are!" MG William C.

Chase, CG 1st Cavalry Division 1945 – 1949

"The 545th MP Company, or the First Teams Finest as we refer to them in the Division, has accomplished some extremely difficult missions in an extremely difficult part of the world – I am very proud of them and pleased to call them my MP Company." MG Hobart R. Gay, CG 1st Cavalry Division, Korean War 1950 – 1951

"The First Team's Finest can always be counted on to get the job done and that is why I have personally called upon this proud and glorious unit on numerous occasions." GEN William C. Westmoreland, Vietnam, 1965 – 1970



MG Hobart R. Gay

"Whatever those men in the 545th MP Company do - they do with gusto!" MG John J. Tolson, III Commanding General, 1st Cavalry Division 1967-1968

The 545th MP Co is the finest MP unit I have ever had the honor to have under my command "Those good old boys from the First Teams Finest will get it done every time. I remember them well from Vietnam when I was a very junior officer in the 1st Cavalry Division." GEN Tommy Franks, Iraq, OIF II



GEN Tommy Franks

"I just had to have a photo taken with one of you MPs from the famous First Team's Finest," said GEN Richard Myers, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff while shaking hands with 545th MP, SSG Rodriguez in Baghdad in 2004.

As you can plainly see, the 545th MP Company has been no stranger to Generals and in fact the generals often sought our unit out. When GEN Peter Pace was the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs (he is a Marine General), he was once asked who the First Team's Finest were and he responded "Why everyone knows that is the 545th MP Com-

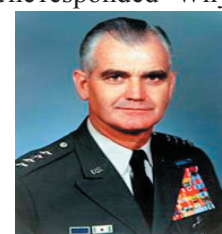


GEN Richard Myers and SSG Rodriguez

pany!"

GEN Westmoreland's aide once called the 1st Cav Provost Marshall in Vietnam, LTC Pearson, direct and asked specifically for the 545th MP Company to assist with putting down a riot in the Long Binh jail. When LTC Pearson inquired what orders was he getting and from what HQS the reply was VO (verbal order) Westmoreland. That was enough for the 1CD G3 and our PM. We were on our way within less than 30 minutes.

The 545th MP Company is proud of its history and especially proud to know that down through years, we have always had good relationships with the generals of all branches of the military service.



GEN William C. Westmoreland

20th and 79th ARA News Continued from pg. 18

want. You can take in all of the scheduled activities, tours, and attractions, or you can make your own schedule, or you can just hang out with friends and catch up on what's been happening since the last reunion.

Wednesday, May 6 is check in day: get briefed, meet old friends, and make new ones. To enhance our meeting and greeting, we have also planned for dinner in the hospitality suite. The meal will consist of: green salad, BBQ pork with sandwich buns, potato salad, cole slaw, baked beans, banana pudding, peach cobbler, and iced tea. Cost for the meal is \$20 per person and includes gratuity and tax. If anyone needs a special entrée due to health/religious reasons please contact the reunion host(s) for accommodations. After the meal you can hang out in the hospitality suite, the hotel bar, or on the patio.

Thursday, May 7 will kick off our main activities. After breakfast at the hotel we will depart for a day at Fort Benning which will include a self-guided tour of the National Infantry Museum, lunch with the troops, a tour of the post, a display of modern military equipment (armored fighting and support vehicles) and combat simulators. After returning to the hotel you may choose to have dinner on the town or at the hotel and then hang out and socialize in the hospitality suite, the hotel bar, or the patio.

Cost for this day's tour is \$30.00 which covers bus transportation, admission to the museum, and lunch with the troops. We are using bus transportation because the post does not allow tour groups having more than three POV's, and getting everyone to the same place at the same time is sort of like herding cats.

Friday, May 8 is another day of planned activities. After breakfast at the hotel we will again board buses and proceed to the world famous Callaway Gardens <www.callawaygardens.com> for a tour of the gardens and the butterfly center. From there we will journey to Warm Springs arriving in time for lunch at the Bulloch House <www.bullochhouse.com> and then tour the Little White House <www.roosevelttrerehab.org> which was Franklin D. Roosevelt's home away from Washington, DC. We will then return to the hotel and you will again be on your own for dinner.

Cost for this day's activities is \$40.00 per person which covers bus transportation, lunch and admission to the Little White House.

Saturday, May 9. Breakfast will be at the hotel and will be followed by Board of Directors and Association Business Meetings. There will also be the Ladies Meeting and activities. There are no planned activities after the business meet-

Division Doings

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he had no second thoughts about.

"Donating bone marrow felt like getting hit by a freight train for a week straight," Chris said. "I would do it again every day, all day, just for the slightest chance to save my brother. I'm glad that I could be there for him, as he's always been there for me."

Shortly after receiving the great news, McCoy had the opportunity to change duty stations and elected to serve at Fort Hood, and finally reunited with her brothers after a decade of separation.

"I reenlisted to come back and join my brothers," she said. "It's been so long since we've all been together. It was such a great feeling to see each other alive and healthy."

"Now that we're together again, we have that family support. Our kids will now have a much easier time when one of us deploys, because they have another aunt or uncle to cover down and take care of them."

McCoy said her parents are overjoyed to have the opportunity to see them all together, just in time for the holiday season.

"Our parents love that we're so close and tell us all the time they're so proud

ing until 5:00 PM. At that time we will proceed by POV to the National Civil War Naval Museum <www.portcolumbus.org> for a private tour and our final banquet.

Menu for the banquet is: Prime Rib au Jus with twice baked potatoes and julienne vegetables and includes house or Caesar salad, rolls and butter, iced tea, dessert. Cost is \$30.00 per person (includes gratuity and tax). Again, if anyone needs a special entrée due to health or religious reasons please contact the reunion host(s) for accommodations.

For those who plan to come early and/or stay late or just want to do your own thing, Columbus and the local area have much to offer. For an overview go to <www.visitcolumbusga.com>. We can arrange for a tour of the Springer Opera House, Georgia's official State Theater, and you may also take in a show if you desire. You may also take in a guided tour of Historic Columbus or do a walking tour on your own. Visit the Coca-Cola Space Science Center. Run the longest urban Whitewater Course in the world (if you are adventurous). Uptown Columbus has a variety of dining and shopping attractions. On Mondays and Tuesdays there are mass air drops at Fort Benning. Within driving distance (one hour) is Andersonville, the notorious Civil War Prison which is also home to the National POW Museum. You may also want to visit Providence Canyon (also known as the Little Grand Canyon). Located in Lumpkin, Georgia, it is the largest example of erosion in the eastern United States.

Your reunion committee is Bruce and Patti Wilder and Jesse and Gloria Hobby. We hope you give serious consideration to attending this special reunion. Fifty years ago is now history – history about a special Airmobile Division going into combat with newly developed and tested tactics and techniques. We were an innovative chapter in the history of guerrilla/jungle warfare and helicopter aerial rocket artillery. There are no more like us. We need to honor and preserve the memory of the contributions we made as individuals and collectively as Aerial Rocket Artillery (ARA). I urge you strongly to make plans now to clear your calendars for May 6-10, 2015 as we celebrate our heritage. As one of the First Team members to step foot on the sands of Qui Nhon Beach in September 1965, I call for you to assemble on May 6, 2015, at the Hilton Garden Inn to receive your new "Fire Mission." For additional information you may contact either Jesse at <jesse_hobby@hotmail.com> or Bruce at <wbwilder@charter.net>. I hope to see you there!

I wish for you all a safe and joyful holiday season and may God continue to bless us. Armed Falcon 28D out.

of us," McCoy said. "They always wanted us to better ourselves, and have been supportive the whole time we've been in the military. My mom said, looking at us now, she feels she must have done something right, and she can't wait to see us all come down for Christmas together."

First Team Welcomes New Band Commander by SGT Angel Turner, 1st Cav. Div. PAO

FORT HOOD, Texas — It is often times during ceremonies and various performances in the Fort Hood area, the sound of the 1st Cavalry Division Band resonates across the crowd.

But unlike other events at which the band performs, this ceremony was for two of their own.

MAJ Derrick Shaw assumed command of the 1st Cavalry Division Band during a change of command ceremony at the Spirit of Fort Hood Chapel, here November 14.

"I am honored to be a member of the 1st Cavalry



MAJ Shaw rehearses with the First Team Band.

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HQ and Special Troops News



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Greetings to all you fine troopers of the great 1st Cav Division Association. After one of the least hot summers I can

remember, fall has arrived – my favorite time of the year. I hope this finds all of you well and enjoying life. I certainly hope you all went out and voted in the November elections. You have no right to complain if you did not get out and vote!

I have recently been elected to the Board of Governors of the 1st Cav Division Association. There will be a board meeting at Fort Hood, Texas, in February 2015. If you have any gripes, complaints, comments, or commendations you would like me to pass on to the board members, please email them to me.

I'm sure most of you know CSM (Ret) Jerry Eller. Jerry is involved in every aspect of the 1st Cav Div Association and is a hard charging force in the association. Jerry had open heart surgery just after the reunion in Chicago and is recovering and suffering through the physical therapy. Please keep Jerry in your prayers and drop him a line to let him know you are thinking of him. He was the CSM for DISCOM before he retired. He is the one you see at the reunions with a bunch of yellow tags hanging off his name tag because he has a position on every part of the association. I wrote and told him I was always told CSM's did not have a heart, but had a thumping gizzard! I guess I was wrong because they found his heart when then opened him up. Best wishes, Jerry, and may God bless you with a quick recovery!

I heard from Ziggy Borowik who was with the 1st Cav when they shipped over from Fort Benning. Ziggy said, "My name is Zygmunt (preferably Ziggy) Borowik I was with the Cav at Fort Benning and went over with the Division in August 65. My unit was Co A/13th Signal. I am a life time 1st Cav Association member, and have been for a number of years, and read the *SABER* from cover to cover. I guess it's time to come out from under the rug and e-mail you. I was always surprised that no one from the Signal Battalion has really written anything about our unit. I know there used to be a column for the 13th Signal in the past. Anyway I went over with the Division from Benning, I believe on the USNS Patch (stopped in Hawaii) on our journey to Nam. I was a Radio Operator and assigned to the 3rd Brigade most of the time, when not in An Khe. I always went with the Brigade when they went on any operation. I recall some places like Happy Valley, the Tea Plantation, Plei Me, Pleiku, Kontum, the Ia Drang Valley, and all over the Central Highlands. I also spent some time on Hong Kong Mountain overlooking beautiful Camp Radcliff. I went over to Nam with a bunch of great guys mostly from Pennsylvania and Ohio. I live in New Jersey and spend a lot of time at the Lyons VA Hospital there with a group of Vietnam Vets from all eras and units (lots of Cav guys. I just read the latest *SABER* and the 27th MNT column mentioned that there might be a Roster available for all the troops that went over with the First Shift as I called it in 65. As we are getting into the September or maybe even the October of our years, I would really like to know if a roster is available. My memory of names that I served with at Ft. Benning with the 11th Air Assault and 1st Cav is not great, and it would be great if those names were available. It's been 49 years since I took that long ride to beautiful, tropical Vietnam and the year I spent there - many memories. I would really appreciate any help you can give me in trying to reunite, if possible, with my brothers from that time in my life. Please include my e-mail <ziggybo@verizon.net> phone contact (973) 927-2909 or 3 Chesler Terrace, Succasunna, NJ 07876. I know we are all on borrowed time and not getting any younger and my memory not what it was. Ron, thanks for any help and I'll try to write more often. Garry Owen to you....The 1st Cavalry Division is still the best. God Bless."

If any of you served with Ziggy, were with the 13th Signal, or rode on the USNS Patch, please email or drop a letter to Ziggy. Thanks for writing. I am not aware of the existence of a roster but there must be a record of those who shipped over on the USNS Patch somewhere.

I also received an email from LTC (retired) Sam Ault. Sam wrote, "I was LT Artillery Officer with the 1st Cav in Vietnam and I am now a retired LTC and live in Savannah, Georgia. Since DIVARTY does not have a column in the *SABER*, I thought I might send you a short story of my first two months in Vietnam at the close of year 1968. When I arrived in Vietnam on Election Day, November 5th 1968, my first assignment was as an Artillery LT at the 1st Cav Division Artillery section in Phouc Vinh. DIVARTY was located near the entrance to the military base. Convoys would come down the main road which ran behind the TOC. There was a T intersection on the road, where they would make a right turn, passing the entrance to DIVARTY, and out the main gate in to the town of Phouc Vinh, on their way to Bien Hoa. I was the DIVARTY Ammunition Officer. My duty hours were overnight, as an expenditure report was due to MACV at 2 AM nightly. During the day, when I got up, I would be tasked to do other duties. After that 2 AM Report my duty was to man the S4 Shop overnight. The CAV inherited the base from 1st Infantry Div, I think. Bunkers and buildings were in disrepair. Sandbags had to be replaced in some areas. The DIVARTY Commander wanted a new refurbished mess hall with an Officers Mess, so he gave the mission to MAJ Rey, the S4, and wanted it completed by Christmas Day. So we had six weeks to get this project completed. Working in the S4 was a larger

Division Doings

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Band, excited to be the commander and eager to have fun making great music with our great Soldiers, musicians," said Shaw, an Atlanta native. Shaw joins the division following his previous assignment as the deputy commander of the United States Military Academy Band at West Point, New York.

"This is a band with a lot of character and a long history, and I'm looking to be a part of that," Shaw said.

Shaw, who has over 15 years of service, took the company guidon from LTC Jesse Phillips, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, signifying the transfer of authority and Shaw's acceptance of command. Phillips, who oversaw the ceremony and welcomed the new commander to his team, joked that Shaw had some big shoes to fill during his tenure.

than life Chief Warrant Officer CW3 Byrd. MAJ Rey gave the mission to him. I was tasked to supervise the project. One day in early November, CW3 Byrd and I staged two 2½ Ton Trucks at the DIVARTY gate. Mr. Byrd did not want to register with the convoy as we were only headed in the general direction of the convoy. As each truck made the right turn, they were required to make a right turn after stopping. This enabled us to slip out of DIVARTY and into the convoy. As we made our way toward Bien Hoa we came to a SeaBees base where we dropped out of the convoy. Upon entering to base several sailors were standing around. Until Mr. Byrd let it be known he was wanting service. 'Don't just stand around like idiots, fill this order!' A Sailor came over to him and got the list. The sailor turned to walk away and Mr. Byrd yelled: 'Don't you salute officers?' The sailor turned around and saluted. We backed our truck up to the loading dock and it began to get loaded. When they were finished, we asked them where the refrigerators and stoves were. They gave us a building number and pointed down the row of buildings. The empty truck was driven down to the building. There was nothing going on outside so he backed the truck up to the dock and Mr. Byrd went inside. The large bay door opened, and forklifts moved everything we need into the truck. We thanked them and pulled both trucks out of the compound and pointed toward Phouc Vinh. An hour later the convoy appeared and we let half the convoy pass by, then eased back into the line of vehicles."



First team Division Arty entrance Nov 68

"When we arrived at the base we turned into DIVARTY while the convoy went to the dispersal point. We had accomplished all of this without one requisition. By Thanksgiving the mess hall was coming together. One of the items we got was a freezer full of steaks. We had cookouts regularly and by Christmas Day 1968 the Mess Hall was dedicated. The DIVARTY Commander was very merry on Christmas Day. DIVARTY had a Q4 Radar section. The Q4 could determine the location of a mortar by seeing the round trajectory. They were set up on the other side of Phouc Vinh Base Camp. You had to circle the airport in order to get to them. Every day the S3 would send someone to the Q4 Section and give them a direction to place the radar overnight. One day in early December, I was sent to the Section with the orders from DIVARTY S3. When I arrived and entered the Section Office I met an NCO manning the desk. I passed the orders to him and started to leave. He said 'What is your rush LT? Don't you want to see our trained monkey?' I was open to see the monkey so I was taken into the next room and saw a monkey on a pedestal. The monkey climbed down and came over to me. He climbed up my uniform and sat on my shoulder. Then he bit me on the ear. I grabbed the monkey and slung him to the floor. The monkey screamed and got back on his perch. A dog came out of hiding and growled at me. Meantime the monkey came down again and crept up behind the dog and grabbed the dog's balls. The dog screamed in a painful bark and ran away. Then the monkey tried to climb up my uniform again but I pushed him away with my boot. The whole routine began again. The Q4 Section was laughing their asses off. By the first week of January 1969 I was sent to Tay Ninh to become a Forward Observer in the 2-19th FA. From there I was never to see DIVARTY again."

Thanks for the memories, Sam. If you want to contact Sam his email is <redleg27@aol.com>.



LT Sam Ault with Division Arty Nov 68

There are many things going on in the active duty 1st Cav Div. Units of the "First Team" are scattered around the world and many are in harm's way. Don't forget to keep sending those "care packages" and keep our active duty troopers in your prayers.

Sue and I wish all of you a very merry Christmas and all the best in the New Year. May God bless and keep all of you until we meet again. It is not too early to start planning to attend the annual reunion at Fort Hood in June 2015. None of us are as young as we once were and we need to renew old acquaintances while we can. Attendance at the reunion is very reasonable and Sue and I always have a great time meeting and talking with fellow troopers of the 1st Cav

Div. Dennis Webster always does a great job with the meetings and meals. So, get off that couch and get your reservation sent in. Remember, you can also take your children with you to the reunion.

Well, troopers, that's about it for this issue. Keep your heads down, pray for our nation, be kind to those you come into contact with and hope to see you at Fort Hood in June.

"During my initial counseling with Derrick, I mentioned that you are replacing a legend... a Cal Ripken, Michael Jordan or Bret Favre per say," Phillips said. "Do not try to walk in those shoes or on that path but strike out on your own and forge a path that you see fit as you bring a different perspective, experience, and expertise to the fight." Phillips was referring to Chief Warrant Officer 5 Jeanne Pace, the outgoing commander, whom Phillips thanked not only for her work with the division band, but for her more than four decades of service to the U.S. Army.

"Chief Pace has been what all troopers, officers and leaders should strive and want to be, a true professional," he said. Pace summed up her time spent with the division in a few words — pride and honor.

"What a privilege it has been and a distinct honor to be allowed to help lead [these Soldiers]," Pace said. "These are some of the most creative and talented

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21st FA News



John Parker
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Hello "Tube Troopers", I hope everyone had a great summer. Fall is upon us and comes the seasons for the holidays. November brings Veterans Day and we can honor all veterans. Take pride in having served in one of the US Army's

greatest Divisions, the 1st Cavalry Division. I also served in the 82nd Airborne Division before my tour in Vietnam, but there's something special about the unit you served in during combat.

As I have written before, the 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War will begin in 2015. Many civic groups and clubs are joining to become partners to sponsor events over the period 2015-2017. This program is under the Department of Defense; Public Law 110-181 SEC. 598 of the 2008 Defense Authorization Act. The website is <www.VietnamWar50th.com>. Go to this website to explore all the facts and any events planned in your area. I attended one of the miniature Vietnam moving walls in Ft. Mill, South Carolina. As I was looking at the displays there were some copies of letters from home written during the Vietnam War. Some were very moving as I read them, but in the mix of letters was a 1st Cavalry Division patch. On the front of the handout is a picture of a soldier. The caption stated it was PFC William H. Roberts, standing guard at An Khe. He was in HQS 1st Bn, 21st Arty., 1st Air Cavalry Division (Airmobile). I haven't heard, but I would think that the 2015 Reunion in Ft. Hood would be associated with the 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War. Speaking of the Reunion, it's June 10-14 2015. We all say maybe next year, but the years seem to slip away. If you ever attend one, you'll not want to miss another. Believe me I have been there.

keep reaching out to find people you served with. I will be glad to help in any way I can to find someone you wish to contact. My circle is within the 1-21 FA. To seek help about other units I suggest you contact the writer of the unit you are seeking help for.

In the 1-21 FA mail bag comes this from, Thomas Foor. Thomas is a member of the 1st Cavalry Division Association. He served in Vietnam, with B Brty., 1-21 FA, 12-68 to 12-69. He stated that he met up with Tom Fowler, through the *SABER*. They both served on LZ Phyllis where Tom Fowler was in the 1-7 Cav. Both Thomas Foor and Tom Fowler exchanged photos and action reports on the action at LZ Phyllis and Hill 54 over a nice lunch. Tom was wounded on LZ Phyllis and was medevaced to Walter Reed. Tom Fowler has connected with other Skytroopers of the 1-7 Cav. and is writing a history of LZ Phyllis and Hill 54. It would be interesting to know what part B Brty. 1-21 played in any action. I hope Tom Fowler or one from his group share any information about this action so I can pass it on to the Tube Troopers of the 1-21 FA.

Pulling this from the mailbag from Paul "Fuzz" Fesmirez: The action was near LZ Buttons. Paul told me about an incident with a LT Michael Herman Thomas. Three guns were on a hip shoot at the base of Nui Ba Ra, near LZ Buttons. Many of us remember The Black Virgin Mountain, right? The guns that had been out for several days and were waiting on a tow and escort back to LZ Buttons. At dusk, a group came into the artillery position firing their weapons into the jungle. LT Michael Thomas was with the 5-7 Cav. Paul said he remembers



(L-R) Ed Kaiser & Freddie Gibson, B Brty 1-21 FA Quain Loi

LT Thomas coming over to his gun position and asked him where he was from because he sounded like he had an Arkansas accent. Paul is from West Tennessee, and LT Thomas was from Hot Springs, Arkansas. The after action report is very good reading if anyone is interested. Go to <www.vvmf.org/wall-of-faces/51684/MICHAEL-H-THOMAS> and read the third message by Andrew J. Hudson. LT Thomas was KIA the day after Paul Fesmirez had this encounter. In that action, SGT Donald Skidgel was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroism in the engagement. As a post note, LT Michael H. Thomas was a very popular student in his high school in Hot Springs, Arkansas. He lost by one vote for senior class president to fellow classmate, William Jefferson Clinton. Again, I wonder what part did the 1-21 FA have in this engagement? If anyone has information, pass it on to me.

I wish everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas. The website <www.abrty121.com> is back up and running now. Still have a few more tweets to do then you should be able to go there, leave a comment, and I'll be adding more pictures. If you have a picture for either the newsletter or website send it to me. Have a Happy New Year and I'll be with you in 2015. GarryOwen TubeTroopers.



SGT John Parker A-Brty 1-21 (front) & Johnny Vaughn

When I started my search to find contacts with other Redlegs that I served with, one of the first sites I stumbled into was one for Co. D, 1-8 Cav. <www.webebbiers.com/Vietnam>. I served as the Recon Sergeant for part of my tour. At that point, I decided to search for my old battery and soldiers I served with. That lead me to where I'm at now; in contact with a group of wonderful troopers from the 1st Cavalry Division. I send a few pictures to the administrator of the 1-8 Cav website which he posted. Last month I received an email from SGT Johnny Vaughn. He was the squad leader, 3rd squad, 3rd platoon when I was in the 1-8 Cav. There was a grunt, Richard Fowler, from my home state of North Carolina in 3rd squad. We became friends and I visited

him once after Vietnam. Years passed, I finally again made contact with him and pledge to meet up again. I also gave him the email of his old squad leader and hope he'll be able to contact members of his old company. So you just have to

LRRP/Ranger News

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as well as interviewing his daughter."

"Stone says that SGT Barnes, played by Tom Berenger in the movie, was also a real character who was an RTO. He said that Barnes was shot several times and kept coming back. He said he was just as bad emotionally and frightening as the film's character."

"Stone notes that he left the Cav and was then with the 25th Infantry Division as a grunt. Later at the end of the interview, he further notes that he came back to the Cav to finish his tour of duty. While with the 25th ID, he was involved in a major battle with two NVA Regiments that overran his firebase. That was the inspiration for the final battle scene in the movie. He said they called in "snake and nape" dangerously close and fired canister beehive rounds at zero elevation inside their own perimeter. At one point in the interview, Stone said that he was running across the firebase and was hit with a 105 battery beehive round that knocked him unconscious. The documentary gives a very good description of the beehive round and of the flechettes that were disbursed from it. They showed a live fire demo of this in the documentary. Hell of a way to get "pinned" down." The segment will mostly likely be shown again on the Smithsonian Channel. Best to you all! Jim."

The battle that Jim is referring to was the Battle of Fire Support Base (FSB) Burt - Soui Cut, involving the 2nd Battalion (Mechanized), 22nd Infantry; 3rd Bn., 22nd Infantry; and 2nd Bn., 77th Artillery; 3rd Brigade, 25th ID. FSB Burt was located approximately 98 kilometers northwest of Saigon in War Zone C, in the vicinity of Tay Ninh, and 12 kilometers from the Cambodian border. On the afternoon of January 1st, 1968, four battalions of the 271st and 272nd Regiments of the 9th Viet Cong (VC) Division launched a human wave attack against the FSB in an attempt to break thru the perimeter and overrun it. The VC were repelled with the help of supporting artillery and helicopter gunships from the 187th and 188th Assault Helicopter Companies. As Jim noted above, at one point during the fight, the artillerymen lowered the tubes of the 105 howitzers and fired directly into the attacking VC. The fighting lasted through the night and into the pre-dawn hour of the next day when the VC abandoned the battlefield, leaving behind more than 400 dead North Vietnamese Army (NVA) and VC soldiers. American losses were listed at 23 killed.

I also received another email from Jim on a different subject. "To all: I am curious as to what percentage of the guys in our unit suffer from lower back problems. I had back surgery many years ago, but in the last six or seven years I have had to deal with chronic debilitating pain in my lower back. It can get so severe that I have to be treated with epidurals at a local pain management clinic. I also take hydrocodone medication for it, which allows me to function beyond

the sciatic nerve torture of pain down my leg. I submitted paperwork to the VA many years ago describing why I thought that this could be service related, but as anticipated, they denied it offhandedly. I contended that jumping off chopper skids from seven or eight feet in the air with a rucksack weighting as much as 80-85 pounds on my back contributed to this problem. Those PRC-25 radios, together with ammo, grenades, several gallons of water, claymore mines, spare radio batteries, M79 rounds, meals, poncho liner, etc., weigh you down, and when you hit the ground, you hit it like a pile driver. That's okay when you're a young man, a mean fighting machine, but we're paying the price for it now. Humping up and down the mountains of the Central Highlands for six or seven days at a time without rest, didn't help either."

"I would appreciate hearing from you on this. I would like a roll call of guys, say with at least a dozen missions or more under their belt, as to whether you suffer from the issues I described above. Jim."

On a different note, October 3rd marked the 40th Anniversary of the activation of the modern 2nd Bn., 75th Ranger Regiment, the unit that our unit, H Co., 75th Rangers, traces its lineage to. To honor the occasion, the battalion held an anniversary celebration at Joint Base Lewis McChord, Tacoma, Washington. Things kicked off with a Pointe Du Hoc Foundation-sponsored reception at 1800 hours on Thursday, October 2nd at the American Lake Club on North Lewis of Joint Base Lewis McChord. On Friday, the 3rd, State of the Battalion and battalion orientation briefings were given at Evergreen Theater, and afterwards, the battalion and company areas were opened so everyone could walk through the areas, view Ranger static displays, take part in weapon shoots and Stryker vehicle rides, and observe Ranger competitions. Guest speaker, GEN Stanley McChrystal (Ret), led the Honorary Member of the Battalion ceremony inducting six past Rangers into the battalion's new memorial. This was followed with a battalion BBQ.

With more than 400 past Rangers attending the events, the celebration proved to be a resounding success, and most importantly, helped to re-establish contact with our units storied past. (Many thanks to CPT Steven Gilbert, Battalion S5, 2nd Bn., 75th Rangers, and SSG Kristopher Newville, 2nd Bn., 75th Rangers, for providing this information.)

By the way, photos of the celebration are posted on the 2nd Ranger Battalion's Facebook page, located <<https://www.facebook.com/pages/2d-Ranger-Battalion/329120013844832>>. In addition, information on the activities, including the names of the Rangers inducted into the Battalion Memorial, is available at the following website: <<http://whoozin.com/XXT-PGW-79UJ>>. And finally, I'm happy to report that Jim Regan, Lexington, Kentucky (1968-69) was one of the inductees. Congratulations Jim.

RANGERS LEAD THE WAY.

Division Doings

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individuals I've had in all my bands."

In keeping with one of the band's missions of building morale, "Cav Country" the band's country group, will soon head to Afghanistan to perform for deployed Soldiers.

The Fort Hood community can hear Shaw and the rest of the band perform throughout the year. One event upcoming is the band's holiday concert December 10 at Harker Heights High School. *U.S. Cavalry Soldiers, NATO Allies Demonstrate Commitment in Iron Sword 2014* by SSG Keith Anderson, 1st BCT, PAO.

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HONOR ROLL

Acknowledgement of generous
donations from the following troopers:

**UP TO \$25**

SFC ANDREWS, Robert J.
SP-4 BADER, Dan
SGT BAGGOTT, Charles E.
CSM (RET) BAKER, Robert A.
SP-4 BARRIENTOS, Robert S.
SP-4 BECK, Frederick L.
SGT BERNARD, Michael F.
LTC (RET) BESECKER, Kenneth H.
SGT BITTER, James C.
SGT BOWMAN, John W.
CPT BRAZIL, Daniel S.
SGT BROTHERS, Robert
SP-4 BRUMMETT, Jr., Bewel J.
SP-5 BUKOWSKI, Lawrence J.
SP-5 BURKHART, Raymond H.
SGM BRZYSKI, Francis J.
COL CARTER, Rosemary M.
LTC (RET) CASEY, Leonard R.
SP-5 CHRISTEN, David E.
SP-4 CLAY, David L.
E-6 CORONA, Edward
SP-4 CRAWLEY, Thomas W.
SP-4 CRECELIUS, David
E-4 CRUZ, Arthur P.
E-5 DAVID, George M.
SGT DAVIDSON, A. Dave
COL (RET) DELAVAN, Patrick N.
COL (RET) DEVANNEY, Thomas M.
COL (RET) DIALS, Thomas A.
SGT EBERSBACH, Robert F.
SP-5 FIORELLA, Calsidonia
LTC (RET) FISCHER, James C.
SP-5 GATEWOOD, Richard L.
SGT GIBSON, Charles J.
SGT GILREATH, Gregory
SP-5 GOLIO, Dominick J.
MSG GOMEZ, Joseph L.
CW3 (RET) GREENE, William S.
SGT HAGINS, Carl R.
CPT's HALL, Sanci M. and Brian T.
MRS. HARAGEONES, Helen
In Memory of my husband, COL A.J. HARA-GEONES
MAJ (RET) HARDIN, Robert E.
SGT HARSHBERGER, Leroy E.
SP-5 HAUVER, Harold R.
PFC HILLYER, Raymond C.
CSM (RET) HOETKER, John A.
PFC HOLLAND, Donald J.
SP-4 HOUSKA, Gary A.
SGT JACOBS, Jr., Albert W.
SGT KLEIN, Jerold A.
CW2 KRULL, James A.
SGT LANG, Eugene
MSG (RET) LAWRENCE, Carl H.
In Memory of KIA's SGT Joseph CRAIN, SGT Eddie SCOTT, SP-4 Robert KING, PFC Richard NOVOTNY, 12 February 1967, A 2-5 CAV
SGT MARTYN, Ronald K.
SP-5 MC BRIDE, Jim R.

COL (RET) McCANN, John R.
MAJ (RET) McDONNELL, James J.
SP-5 McKINNIE, William Lynn
SP-4 McKNIGHT, Sr., Phillip W.
PFC MEYER, Charles
SGT MOONEY, Mark A.
E-5 MOORE, Jack L.
SFC MORRIS, S.J.
CPT (RET) MULFORD, Peter L.
SP-4 NIXON, Robert M.
SP-4 NOVOSIELSKI, Joe
LTC (RET) OGLE, Glenn A.
E-5 OPITZ, Peter J.
SFC (RET) PASCO, Karl E.
SGT PATCHEN, Steven R.
1LT PATTERSON, Thomas H.
CSM (RET) PENCE, Larry D.
MAJ PILLOT, Harry
PFC PINO, Alex A.
1LT PRINDLE, Paul R.
SGT RICHARDS, Jerry R.
CSM (RET) ROMINGER, Sr., James R.
SP-4 SANCHEZ, Samuel C.
SP-4 SANDBERG, Donald R.
SFC (RET) SANDERS, Charles L.
PFC SCHAD, Edward J.
SGT SCHILTZ, Richard A.
SP-4 SEAMAN, Ronald L.
1LT SEEBA, Sr., Walter J.
SGT SELECKY, Andrew E.
SGT SHAW, Harold E.
1LT SHEA, Michael C.
PFC SHELDEN, Fred D.
SSG SHIELDS, Tony
SGT SKIDMORE, James D.
SGT SMITH, Thomas W.
MRS. SMOYER, Nancy
SGT STOREY, Dennis C.
SP-4 TARPEY, William R.
SGT THORNTON, Koblar D.
SP-4 VAN DEURZEN, Richard J.
SGT VIGIL, Joseph J.
SFC (RET) VILLAFANE, Carlos F.
SSG WATSON, Teddy E.
CW3 WHIGHAM, Charles E.
SGT WILLET, George E.
LTC (RET) WILLIAMS, Billie G.
CPL WILLIAMS, Norman D.
SMGT (RET) WITTS, John M.
CSM YOUNG, Darriel R.
TSG ZLOKOVICH, Louis R.

\$26 - \$50

SP-4 ANDERSON, James Preston
SP-4 ARENA, Salvatore A.
MS. BIRD, Shannon
SGT and MRS. BROWN, Ray and Peg
In Memory of SGT Jim CAYLOR III, a caring leader.
CPT BROWNELL, William
SFC BURZENSKI, Chester J.
SP-5 DURDA, John H.

SGT FRANKS, Floyd E.
SP-4 HERNANDEZ, Lawrence N.
COL JUDGE, David J.
SSG (RET) LOHAUS, Sr., Wayne R.
MRS. PARKER QURESHI, Anne
In Memory of my Father, Clifford C. PARKER, who served in the 1st Cavalry Division during World War II
SP-4 REINSCH, David J.
CPT SCOTT, Dennis P.
SP-4 SELLECK, Patrick J.
MAJ (RET) SPENCE, William R.
SGT (RET) SULLIVAN, Michael P.
In Memory of COL (Ret) Carle E. DUNN, Commander 362nd Aviation Company
LTC WHETSEL, Neal C., Jr.

\$51 - \$100

COL (RET) BROUILLETTE, Douglas S.
LTC BURROW, William O.
CW2 (RET) COGUT, Theodore L.
DERR PASS GOLF COURSE and MRS. KINNEY, Donna M.
In Honor of POW/MIA Recognition Day
SGT HENRY, Alfred C.
In Honor of the 1st Cavalry Division Association
SGT HENRY, Alfred C.
In Memory of SSG William "SGT Pete" PETERSON, 11/15/67, C Company, 1-7th Cav.
MS. MARTIN, Carole A.
SGT OLHEISER, James M.
In Memory of 1st Cav, Battery B, 99th FA, whose lives were lost on the Toya Maru ferry when it sank on 26 September 1954 in the Tsugaru Straits during Typhoon Marie.
MR. POOL, Robert
In Memory of CSM Basil Plumley

\$101 - \$500

ANONYMOUS
A salute to the 1st Cavalry Division on Veterans Day
MRS. MARTIN-TREDWAY, Anne
DR. RICHARDSON, Francis, Jr.
In Memory of Echo Company 1st/7th CAV, Hill 54, March 17, 1969
MAJ (RET) SWIFT, John
TROOPERS from the 11TH PATHFINDER COMPANY, Vietnam, 1965-1972
SP-4 WAGNER, Bruce K.
WALTER H. WESTMAN NORTHLAND CHAPTER
LTC (RET) ZABICKI, Bill
In honor of the heroic 2-7 CAV troopers in defense of FB Jay, 29 March 1969, RVN

The First Team Family Cares!
We are grateful for your support of the Association's D Troop Program and for supporting the Foundation and Museum Foundation.

Division Doings**Continued from pg. 23**

PABRADE, Lithuania (Nov. 17, 2014) -- U.S. Cavalry Soldiers joined soldiers from eight other nations to complete the inaugural Iron Sword 2014, a multinational combined-arms exercise involving nearly 2,500 military personnel in the Republic of Lithuania, November 2-14.

Soldiers from B Company, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, and Soldiers from C Troop, 1st Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, joined soldiers from Canada, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, Luxembourg, and the United Kingdom for the Lithuanian Land Forces exercise.

"The theme of this exercise is to train together and ensure we achieve interoperability while conducting military operations," said MG Almantas Leika, commanding general, Lithuanian Land Forces. "Besides this, we are building and developing trust and confidence amongst our Soldiers, commanders and units. We are strong when we stand united."

Fort Hood, Texas-based Soldiers from 2-8th Cavalry in Bradley Fighting Vehicles, and Vilseck, Germany-based Soldiers from 1-2nd Cavalry Regiment, in Strykers, conducted hasty defense and attack maneuvers, dismounted patrols and other missions, alongside infantry units from the Canada, Estonia, Hungary and the U.K., an air defense unit from the Czech Republic and reconnaissance units from Luxembourg and Germany.

The exercise, organized under the NATO Military Training and Exercise Program, is designed to strengthen multinational military cooperation and interoperability.

"This exercise has become a true symbol of our flexibility, solidarity and unity," said Juozas Olekas, Lithuanian Minister of Defense. "Iron Sword demonstrates the resolve and commitment of all those allies contributing to the neighbors of NATO and collective defense."

In 1990, Lithuania became the first Soviet republic to declare independence, and became a full member of NATO in 2004. Iron Sword 2014 is the first large-scale NATO exercise hosted in the Baltic nation of nearly three million people that borders the Russian Kalingrad Oblast to the southwest.

"Being in a former Soviet republic, and training in military installations and ranges that were used by the Soviets has been an interesting experience," said SSG Dusin Vinyard, section leader, B Company, 2-8 Cav. and native of Hutto, Texas. "Knowing how hard the Lithuanians fought for the freedoms they now have makes me appreciate freedom more, and shows how important this training is."

Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskait attended the closing ceremonies for Iron Sword 2014, and addressed service members and attendees.

"Collective defense is the basis of the united and strong NATO," said Grybauskait. "The Wales Summit agreed on concrete collective defense measures for the Baltic States. This exercise is a good proof that NATO is placing special focus on our security and taking concrete measures to ensure it."

Iron Sword 2014 also served to certify units of the Lithuanian Land Forces for standby for the NATO Response Force, in 2015 and 2016.

U.S. Soldiers participated in Iron Sword 2014 as part of the larger U.S. Army Europe-led Atlantic Resolve, a multinational combined-arms exercise involving the 1st BCT, and host nations, taking place across Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland to enhance multinational interoperability, to strengthen relationships among allied militaries, to contribute to regional stability and to demonstrate U.S. commitment to NATO.



2-8 CAV Bradley and Hungarian BTR-80's in Lithuania.