

# NEWSLETTER

Volume 91 Summer 2025

## The LRRP/Rangers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division during the Vietnam War

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## LRRP/Ranger Merchandise Price List

|                                                       |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| LRRP Crossed Sabers Pins.....                         | \$5       |
| T-shirts: Black/White (sizes to 4X).....              | \$24-\$26 |
| T-shirts: Recondo: Grey (sizes to 2X).....            | \$25-\$27 |
| T-shirts: Long Sleeve: Grey (sizes to 4X).....        | \$29-\$31 |
| Golf shirts: Black/White (sizes to XL).....           | \$36-\$38 |
| Sweatshirts: (sizes M to 2X).....                     | \$30-\$38 |
| Hats: Black or White.....                             | \$18      |
| LRRP Crossed Saber Pin: .....                         | \$5       |
| Small Cloth Scroll Patch: (H-75 <sup>th</sup> ) ..... | \$5       |
| Large Unit Crest Patch .....                          | \$25      |
| Wooden Nickel.....                                    | \$1       |
| Koozie Can Coolers .....                              | \$3       |
| Seymour's Book: Camping .....                         | \$15      |
| Historical Occurrences Book .....                     | \$25      |
| Decals: Interior/Exterior .....                       | \$2       |
| Recondo Patch .....                                   | \$5       |
| Annual Dues .....                                     | \$15      |
| Lifetime Dues .....                                   | \$150     |
| Shipping Per Order .....                              | \$20      |

Send orders to: Bennie Gentry

Send check or money orders to:

LRRP/RANGERS

1347 20<sup>TH</sup> St. Tell City, IN 47586

The \$20.00 shipping charge covers:

1 sweatshirt or 2 t-shirts.

DONATIONS ARE GLADLY ACCEPTED

If paying lifetime dues (only) make checks payable to

LRRP/RANGER Association

c/o Bill Hornbuckle -Address above

## Nonfiction Books

### By & About LRRP/ Rangers in Vietnam

#### In The Jungle- Camping w/ the Enemy

by Jim "Spanky" Seymour  
Published by Outskirts Press  
Spanky's LRRP missions, 1967-1969

#### Above All Else

by Ron Christopher  
Published by Publish America  
Ron's autobiography as the TL of the first  
mission with 1<sup>st</sup> Cav's LRRP/Rangers

#### One-Zulu

by Curtis "Randy" Kimes  
Published by author  
About one mission, May 7-9 1968

#### Lurps: A Ranger's Diary of Tet, Khe Sanh, A Shau, and Quang Tri by

Bob Ankony  
University Press of America of Rowman and  
Littlefield Publishing Group  
1967-1968

#### Vietnam War Lessons of a Lifetime Charley R Beasley Jr.

Lightning Press  
140 Furler Street, Totowa NJ 07512  
www.Lightning-Press.com

#### Historical Occurrences of the LRRP/Rangers

Published by Author House  
An anthology written by, for & about the 1<sup>st</sup>  
Cavalry's Division's LRRP/Rangers

#### The Ghosts of the Highlands

by Gregg P.J. Jorgenson  
Published by Ivy Books  
This is about the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav  
LRRP/Rangers 1966-1967

#### LRRP Company Command

by Gregg P.J. Jorgenson  
Published by Ballantine Books  
The 1<sup>st</sup> Cav LRRP/Rangers 1698-1969

#### Acceptable Loss

by Gregg P.J. Jorgenson  
Published by Ivy Books  
Kregg's autobiography 1969-1970

#### MIA Rescue LRRP's in Cambodia

by Gregg P.J. Jorgenson  
Published by Ivy Books  
One mission gone bad during the Cambodian  
invasion.

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### **The LRRP/Rangers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division during the Vietnam War**

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#### **President's Column**

**MEMBER ATTENDEES:** Chuck Windham, Stan Freeborn, Howard Shute, Tom Campbell, Larry Curtis, Doug Matze, Wayne Okken, Ken Gallagher, Bennie Gentry, Bob Gill, Patrick J. Lyons, John LeBrun, Alvino Deimes, Jim Faulkner, Terry Park, John David Floyd, Gilbert Ramirez, William F. Hornbuckle, Terry Wanish, Joe Dilger, Jr., Douglas Parkinson.

**GUEST ATTENDEES:** Eric Itle (Howard's Son in Law), Debbie Matze (Wife of Doug), Sue Windham (Wife of Chuck), Conner Simmons, Danita Freeborn (Wife of Stan), Karly (Granddaughter of Stan & Danita), Anita Lyons (Wife of Pat), Rosemary Ramiriz (Spouse), Jackson & Hilary Hornbuckle (Daughter of Bill, David (Son of John David Floyd, Shan Wanish (Wife of Terry), Sandy Gentry (Wife of Bennie) Steve Hemmerling (Brother in law of Ken Gallagher, Allison Hornbuckle (Daughter of Bill), Gabrielle Parkinson, Marie Hornbuckle (Spouse), Travis Earnshaw ( Son-in-Law Debbie & Doug), Holly Earnshaw (Daughter of Debbie & Doug), Benji Earnshaw (Grandson of Debbie & Doug), Mason Earnshaw ( Grandson of Debbie & Doug), Laura Earnshaw, (Travis' Mom), Judie Trumbull, Sarah Moyer (Daughter of Judie Trumbull), Hunter Moyer (Son-in-Law of Judie), Max Moyer (Son of Sarah), Joanne Moyer (Daughter of Sarah).

**BUSINESS:** At our meetings in Reno, we decided to hold future board and membership meetings on Friday so that members will be able to attend the 1CDA meeting usually held on Saturday. We also changed the number of members necessary to establish a quorum from 15 to 10 and revised the treasurer's duties to include "The treasurer will be responsible for complying with all local, state, and federal laws, regulations, and rules to include compliance with requirements of The First Cavalry Division Association." All other treasurer's duties remain the same. We also decided to stop ordering merchandise. Bennie will sell and ship from the existing inventory.

**VOLUNTEERS:** 1CDA had requested volunteers to help at the reunion. Thank you, Howard Shute, Terry Parks, Marie Parks, and Debbie Matze for your assistance. 1CDA greatly appreciated your help.

**2026 REUNION:** Sheraton Hotel in New Orleans, July 8–12, 2026, 504-525-2500. We will get registration forms out as soon as we have them and hopefully in the last newsletter before the reunion.

#### **MESSAGE FROM 1CDA:**

Team,

I am MSG Patoka with 1CD public affairs. We are looking at interviewing veterans of the division to tell the many stories of our division, while highlighting the history and legacy. We can setup a phone call if you would like.

Contact: [adrian.t.patoka.mil@army.mil](mailto:adrian.t.patoka.mil@army.mil)

#### **BONNIE ECHTERLING**

I am including an email received by Pete from Rebuilding Together Southlake. I have no additional information therefore use the contact information included in the email if you want more.

From: Eric Van Proyen <[dsptch001@gmail.com](mailto:dsptch001@gmail.com)>

Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2025 8:41 AM

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### The LRRP/Rangers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division during the Vietnam War

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To: Pete Dencker <pdencker@outlook.com>

Subject: Re: Bonnie(Mike)Echterling project Rebuilding Together

Thank you Pete. Looking forward to working with your organization. I have included a link to pictures of the house to show you the scope of the project.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/EE6J8F82y4D22k387>

On Tue, Jul 22, 2025, 7:06 AM Pete Dencker <pdencker@outlook.com> wrote:

Eric – first – thank you so much for what you and your organization are doing to help Veteran families. Mike and Bonnie were instrumental in not just the newsletter but in getting the post-Vietnam H Company organization and reunions formed and running – although at our age I'm not sure "running" accurately describes our current capabilities –

Give me a few days – I'll get with the group and see what ideas we can come up with

Best - Pete

Pete Dencker

Co H. (Ranger), 75th Infantry (Arborne)

pdencker@outlook.com

615.202.4804

From: Eric Van Proyen <dsptch001@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, July 21, 2025 7:45 PM

To: pdencker@outlook.com

Subject: Re: Bonnie(Mike)Echterling project Rebuilding Together

Good evening Pete. I have officially been assigned to lead the crew that will be working on Bonnie Echterlings house. I know Bonnie and Mike played a large roll in the formation of your newsletter. I could really use some help with doing something special for Bonnie and for paying tribute to Mike in some way. If your organization is not who I need to be addressing could you please point me in the right direction. Thank you again for your service.

On Sun, Jul 13, 2025 at 9:45 PM Eric Van Proyen <dsptch001@gmail.com> wrote:

Good evening Pete. My name is Eric VanProyen. I am the Vice President of Rebuilding Together South Lake County (RTSLC). <https://rebuildingtogethersouthlake.com/>

Bonnie has applied for assistance from our group to have much needed work done on her house. Bonnie has had to let some house repairs get set aside while she took care of Mike's needs during his cancer treatment.

I am looking for some help and direction on a proper way to honor Mike's service along side of fixing their home. I am not a veteran but am a patriot. I hold much respect for the men and women who have served our country. Mike gave his life for our country even if it took 50 years to happen.

We will be working on their home on September 20 this year. It is a one day event but we will have close to 20 people working all day fixing or replacing various things around her home.

Any ideas you have would be greatly appreciated. Is there any other groups that I can contact for help in this area? My phone number is 219-765-2524 if you would like to ask me any questions.

Thank you for your service. I hope to hear back from you.

My phone number is 219-765-2524 if you would like to ask me any questions.

Thank you for your service. I hope to hear back from you.

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### **The LRRP/Rangers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division during the Vietnam War**

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#### **WITH A HEAVY HEART**

It is with a heavy heart that I conclude my column:

Gary (Gair) Anderson passed away on July 10 according to information I received. I could not locate an obituary for him. I had been informed that he was hospitalized and his condition at that time seemed to be worsening. I probably first met Gair at the Colorado Springs reunion in 2002. I remember him as our “wine connoisseur” who brought an assortment of wines to the reunions for wine tastings.

Gary Lorenz passed away on July 8. He had been in touch with me and informed me that he was in the latter stages of COPD. Gary and I shared a mission which might have been his first as I recall. Along with his back pack, M-16, ammo, grenades, etc., he brought a camera. He took numerous pictures during the mission, which concerned me. I was not in a position to respond, so it was likely one of my first missions also. I remember his “permanent” friendly smile and personality then as well as at the reunions he attended.

Mike Echterling was buried in Arlington National Cemetery on June 3. My wife (Debbie) and I attempted to attend, but arrived too late for the ceremony due to traffic conditions. We did visit the grave site. Sam Dixon attended and offered to provide more information in the newsletter.

Dave Klimek was buried in Arlington National Cemetery on June 5. One of his sisters (Joanne Klimek Malstrom) arranged a breakfast at a nearby IHOP. Two other sisters, friends, and relatives attended the breakfast and the burial. His friends and neighbors in Florida reflected that Dave was kind and loved by all. Among those who also attended were Jesse Coulter, who was a Vet Center counselor to Dave dating back to 1989, Bob Stewart who was his best friend and helper over the last two years of Dave’s life, Terry Smith, Sam Dixon, Debbie and I. Dave and I became close friends at NCOCS. His bunk was beside mine. We later met again in Oakland, CA and flew on the same plane to Vietnam. We probably sat next to each other. Shortly after arriving, we attended a recruitment presentation by CO H and volunteered. Dave was assigned to another unit before being transferred to CO H. By then I was stateside from a friendly fire shrapnel wound. Years later we would be reunited at a reunion. He became like part of our family. On several occasions, on his way to Florida to visit his dad, he stopped by to visit with us. He graduated from West Virginia University with a Bachelors Degree in Engineering and a second Bachelors Degree in Mining Engineering. He was awarded an Air Medal, two Army Commendation Medals (for valor), Two Bronze Star Medals, and a Silver Star Medal.

John LeBrun informs us that David E. Hanson passed away on May 30, 2025. Very little information was included in his obituary.

We have recently learned that Bob Gill’s treatments are no longer effective. He is in Hospice Care at home. He served four years as our chapter’s third President. Over the years Bob became well acquainted with the children and grandchildren (now grown-ups) who attended the reunions. He affectionally became known as “Uncle Bob” to them. Our thoughts and prayers are with “Uncle Bob” and Pat.

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## The LRRP/Rangers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division during the Vietnam War

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### Vice President's Column

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

The reunion in Reno has been completed and we have had a lot of time to remember the passing of David Klimek and Michael Echterling both being buried at Arlington National Cemetery just before our reunion. The reunion luncheon was again dedicated to our fallen comrades from our past and present. The numbers at the reunion were not as high as we had hoped but was still well attended. The luncheon honored our ladies and special recognition was given to others for their dedicated help and kindness they have showed this unit in the present and past reunions. We also had several First Cavalry guests at our luncheon from the Division HQ. It seems we have the best reunion in town. We want to thank all those in attendance for their support and generosity for our fund raiser.

The luncheon meal was one of the best we've had with everyone in full agreement. This reunion was one of the best I've attended from past reunions. Wishing one and all to think about the 2026 REUNION in New Orleans and attending!

Our business meeting went well with some minor changes to our By-Laws. A copy was distributed to all members with active emails as soon as I got home to distribute them. Any questions please ask any board member what they were. The unit also had two items up for auction at the Cavalry's silent auction and they were bid on and won. Several topics of discussion were brought forth by members about the possible transition of our unit's funds and merchandise when we as a group will no longer be able to have such meetings because of our age and health. This will be a continuing topic that will arise so input from all of you will be critical so that a solution that the majority can accept! Please give it serious consideration, we have two options at this point one being the First Cavalry Division or the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. No decisions have been made but future discussion will happen. See below "Where do we go from here?"

The Unit's current officers were reelected for another term. Our gratitude and thanks go out to them for continued support. Our special thanks to Pete Dencker for his sincere ability to post and email our wonderful newsletter. Please if you have any change in your or anyone whom you know status please notify me at

[howard.shute@hotmail.com](mailto:howard.shute@hotmail.com) or 412-215-1556 of any changes! Hope all of you enjoy your summer, stay as healthy as the doctors say! See you in 2026 or the next newsletter!

SUA SPONTE

HOWARD

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### The LRRP/Rangers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division during the Vietnam War

Reunion 2025



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### Chaplain's Box August 2025

Jim Regan

We're pretty much through the Summer, and most of us had to "Weather" some harsh storms. Not just the wind and rain type, but "stormy" episodes in our lives. I'm more convinced, every day, that, **GETTING OLD AIN'T FOR SISSIES !!!** Staying in touch with your Buddies, checkin' on them, is becoming more important. Now, even more so than before, we see a need to check on our Widows. Seems as if we have overlooked them in the past. They have their own brand of struggles. Like just getting by, paying the bills, or keeping up the home, so that they are safe and sound. I'm no Crusader Rabbit, but we need to do a better job. Sometimes we hear about their situations too late to recover. Sooo, take a look around, make a "Buddy Check" on that Widow , or in fact Widower. We may have a couple of those guys, I'm sure.

Take care, stay cool/warm and dry. Pick up that phone. look through the most recent Roster and pick out a Buddy to call/write a note to. Ya may just be that bright spot in someone's day. Keep the faith, pray for our Leaders. Life won't get easier, but I've found that a little " Quiet/Prayer Time " every morning has become a good/better way to start my day. Try it, ya may " get hooked" as I did. Love and prayers to all. Jim Regan RLTW/L&P

PS: I've attached a " Tale" about Phone calls (in the "from the field section)

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## The LRRP/Rangers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division during the Vietnam War

### Treasurer's Report

LRRP/Rangers  
of the Vietnam War Association  
2025 Reunion in Reno, Nevada

Balance in LRRP/Ranger Assoc. Account prior to Reunion 5,553.23

#### Income and Expenses from the Reunion

##### Income( +)

|                                       |    |          |
|---------------------------------------|----|----------|
| Merchandise/ shipping paid by members | \$ | 1,128.00 |
| Annual Dues paid                      | \$ | 45.00    |
| Donations                             | \$ | 440.00   |
| Lifetime Membership Dues (1 x 150)    | \$ | -        |
| Proceeds from Reunion Raffle          | \$ | 1,245.00 |
| Total Credits                         | \$ | 2,858.00 |

##### Expenses (-)

|                                                        |    |          |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----|----------|
| Purchase of Raffle Prizes (donated)                    | \$ | -        |
| Hospitality Room drinks and snacks purchased (donated) | \$ | -        |
| Final purchase of merchandise by Bennie                | \$ | 498.00   |
| Cost of mailing purchases to members                   | \$ | 106.00   |
| Payment for tips for bell hops to load merchandise     | \$ | 40.00    |
| Grand Sierra Resort (GSR) Hospitality Room cost        | \$ | 815.76   |
| Total Debits                                           | \$ | 1,459.76 |

Net Proceeds from Reunion \$ 1,398.24

New Balance in LRRP/Ranger Assoc. Account \$ 6,951.47

Note that \$5,000 has been invested in Certificates of

|                                                             |    |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----|-----------|
| Deposit that will mature July 27, 2025. Interest not shown. | \$ | 5,000.00  |
| Total Funds                                                 | \$ | 11,951.47 |

Prepared by:

Bill Hornbuckle

Treasurer

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## The LRRP/Rangers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division during the Vietnam War

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### Where do we go from here?

This is a topic that has been discussed a number of times over the past 5(?) years but at the last reunion Tom Campbell and I were asked to provide some discussion topics that would help us decide the best direction for the last man standing.

**Draft 13 June 2025 – from Tom Campbell**

Subject: Resolution of issues associated with Members of Company H(Ranger)/Company E, 52nd , 52nd Inf (LRP)

In reviewing certain issues related to closing out our organization, they appear to belong to three general sub-groups:

- a. Membership of individuals in various Ranger-related Organizations (e.g. H, 75th, 75th RRA, Mountain Ranger Association, etc)
- b. Memberships of H/75, E/52 under the 1st Cav Div Assn 75RRA etc
- c. Resolution, disbursement/distribution of “stuff”

1. Money held in our account

2. Memorabilia not already distributed, donated etc (paintings, prints, banners, photo books/photos, books, etc

Note: Our battle streamers were transferred upon deactivation of H/75 on Aug 14, 1972 to the US Army Institute of Heraldry. They were subsequently transferred to the 2nd BN, 75th (Ranger) on their activation on 1 Oct. 1974 (Ft Lewis, WA.

- d. Merchandise our organization has purchased and not yet sold.

Discussion:

- Several of our members also belong to the 75th RRA, Mountain Ranger Assn, etc.
- These are all honorable, well managed popular associations
- Our members can apply for membership in one or more of these associations if they so desire. Membership in these organizations is not mutually exclusive. Our members can make such decisions on their own as individuals

(?) above:

- HQ DA authorized established LRRP Companies in Vietnam at the Division/Separate Brigade level in July 1966 (the 1st Cav formed what became E 52nd LRRP. In January 1969 the Division/BDE LRRP unites were redesignated as various lettered companies under the 75th

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Ranger Regiment (this was an administrative organization at the DA level; it had no operational control over the Vietnam Ranger Companies. Operational control remained with the Divisions/Brigades. The 75th Ranger Regiment was created as an operational command and control organization in Feb 1986.

- Members of E 52nd/H 75th were selected from various 1st Cav line units based on their skills, experience and performance in Vietnam, volunteers who had heard of the unit, and from the 1st Cav Personnel Replacement unit. Selectees were screened, trained if selected and made members of the unit if they successfully completed training.
- Membership as a unit under the 75th RRA could be requested by our organization, however the 75th RRA would have to consider the cases of all other like type units – a very complex issue!
- Comments and recommendations from our members
  - Where do we want our money to go?
    - 1st Cav Museum
    - 75th Ranger Regiment, 2nd Bat
    - US Army Museum
    - Other
  - Where/when do we want to end our H, 75th/E, 52nd merchandise purchasing?  
Where/when do we want to dispose of unsold items.
    - Board – establish “drop dead” dates

#### Subsequent Actions

- Get all decisions in writing and distribute to the recipients
- Tom Campell in coordination with Pete Dencker will create and distribute an initial draft of the comments and recommendations to members for comments. A final draft will be prepared and distributed prior to the 78th reunion in New Orleans. A vote will be made and the decision captured in writing.

#### From Pete Dencker

I want to offer my recommendation regarding the future of H Company treasury dollars, artifacts, basically anything that's left after we've all left the planet. I believe this will be part of the agenda for next year's reunion.

Honestly, I believe there's only one choice that make sense – although we haven't been that connected over the years. That choice is the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. Yes I might be somewhat biased as I was on the 75th board for 4 years – and I write for their magazine - but I truly believe that this is the one organization concerned only with units of the 75th Ranger Regiment old and new, the only organization that lobbies for them, and the only organization that keeps their history and accomplishments alive for the

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## The LRRP/Rangers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division during the Vietnam War

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benefit of the young Rangers serving in the Regiment and basically anyone interested in the history of the 75th Ranger Regiment. Our history and accomplishments would never get lost here.

I know the 1st Cav association has been great to us at reunion time - but their focus is the Cav. Yes they've provided some monetary benefits for the reunion - but the reality is that once we're gone, their concern for all things "Ranger" will also be gone - my sense is we'll be a footnote to their history and web site but not much more – unlike the 75th RRA where the Vietnam Companies (along with Rangers throughout history) are front and center.

The 75th RRA is always working on things to better the organization that is specifically concerned with Rangers – old and young and their children (scholarships) . I've put some information in the Newsletter to keep everyone in the loop, I've attended all of the Unit Director meetings representing H Company and also put the minutes of those meetings in the Newsletter. The 75th RRA is currently working on a long list of things - but of particular interest to us is the push to get Congress to finally approve the Congressional Gold Medal for Ranger Companies that served in Vietnam – it looks like this is going to happen in the very near future. They are also working on getting approval for members of the lettered companies in Vietnam that earned a CIB and who most likely went through a tough training program with their Vietnam Company to be awarded a Ranger Tab (stateside version). Also in the works is a "coffee table" type book with stories of the Vietnam Ranger Companies (I've submitted E/H Company information and pictures from Jim James to An Loc). These are just a sample of the things the organization is working on

I've tried to get H Company to attend the 75th reunions (as opposed to the Cav reunion) but the 75th RRA has not been able to help out financially so that never happened – although I know some of you have gone on your own. I think the opportunity to join with and talk to Rangers from the other lettered companies from RVN is one of the highlights of the Ranger reunions – I'm always amazed at how much we have in common. It's also surprising how much the younger Rangers - who are also present at these reunions look to us as hero's.

I honestly believe the history of E/H Companies is best served by partnering with the 75th Ranger Regiment Assn>

Thanks - Pete

### Notes From The Field

The Phone call – from Jim Regan

Back around spring of 1979, forty plus years ago, I got a late night phone call. It was from an ol' buddy, Doc, who had served with me in Panama and Vietnam. We had kinda stayed in touch over the years. Well, Doc starts tellin' me about how he will be going into the hospital for heart surgery in the morning. He was really nervous and I could tell that he had been drinking. After calmin' him down, he promised to go to bed. Said good night, and got ready to turn in myself. Well, around midnight the phone rings again. You guessed it, Doc! Now he is ranting and raving, about how no one cares about him. I ask where he is and he gives me

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### The LRRP/Rangers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division during the Vietnam War

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the run around. Finally, he tells me that his girlfriend had thrown him out, and he was in a motel. I got the address from him, and once again he calmed down a bit. Hung up and sure enough it rings again. Doc is sobbing, uncontrollably. He abruptly ended the call. I'm still fully dressed since I did not get a chance to go to bed yet. I call my boss, the Bn. Commander, and tell him that I have an emergency, and need to get to El Paso ASAP. Told him about my buddy and the boss says, "Take off Sergeant Major. I'll notify the Duty Officer to put you on Emergency Leave immediately. Take your time and call me when you get to El Paso."

Took off in my pickup, heading for El Paso, from Fort Hood, TX. As I drove on that lonely Interstate, it seemed as if my headlights were not enough to cut through the darkness. Exceeding the speed limit, all the way, I get to El Paso, and the motel just after daybreak. The manager there, gives me the key for Doc's room. I go down the hall, knock on the door, no answer. After a few times of knocking, I let myself in with the key. Slowly entering and looking left to right, I see Doc. Propped up, in a sitting position, on the bed, Table lamp lighting the scene. Oh no!

He's sitting up with a shot gun propped up by his feet, finger on the trigger, and the muzzle tucked underneath his chin!!! I slowly walk towards the bed, and Doc begins to speak to me. He tells me that nobody cares about him, and he is going to end it all. When I finally get within arm's length, I reach out and ever so slowly take the shot gun away from Doc. Clearing the weapon, I sit, and Doc is crying, laughing, and hugging on me, all at the same time.

Getting him dressed is a problem, so I get him up and walk him to my truck, in his underwear. The drive to Ft. Bliss' hospital is short, and I march Doc into the emergency room. Here's where it gets good. Back in '77, while attending The Sergeants Major course at Ft. Bliss, I had run into an old acquaintance, a Major Rogers. He had left the Mountain Ranger Camp in Georgia, (He and I had worked together in Operations shop), studied to be a doctor and was assigned at Ft. Bliss' Hospital. (That's another story.)

Well the folks in the ER are especially helpful and get Doc settled on a gurney. I don't "tell all", but ask them to please get Dr. Rogers down here. Not long afterwards, here comes Dr. Rogers. I tell him about the phone calls to me and then told him what I found when I got to the motel. I knew that the Doctor was a Vietnam veteran and I had served with him in the "3" shop at Dahlonaga, GA. He guarantees me that Doc will be well taken care of and begins telling the ER folks what to do. Doc is now wheeled to the "Special" ward and put in a private room. Like us, me and the Doctor, Doc had had several tours in Vietnam, with Ranger and Special Forces units. Doctor, now Major Rogers, guaranteed that Doc would get the best of care

I stayed in touch with Doc, and he made great strides in his rehab, going on to live out the rest of his life, with his girlfriend. A Cancer set in and overwhelmed him. He's now with many of his Comrades and friends, at Arlington.

Today, I prompt for all of us to be reaching out, and don't wait to make that call. It may save a life.

Jim RLTW/L&P

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## The LRRP/Rangers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division during the Vietnam War

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### Greetings from the Northwest

Greeting from the Pacific Northwest. For those that didn't attend the annual reunion in Reno you missed a great event. The hospitality room was excellent; the lunch and breakfast were for sure one of the best we have had. Was great to see and chat with everyone as well. As some of you know I have been working with Karleen to develop a web page that is free and will remain around long after we are gone. The Cav, thanks Dara, has allowed us to use their site for this purpose. You can log into the site using [lcds.org/history/infantry-link/](http://lcds.org/history/infantry-link/) and then click on ranger. Please if you have suggestion, pictures or corrections let's get them known and added to the site. The reunion in New Orleans is shaping up to be a well-attended event. If you are thinking of attending please call and make a reservation now as they will probably fill up fast. I'm sure the information is in someone else's email so won't include here. Hope to see you all in New Orleans.

John LeBrun [caabnranger@yahoo.com](mailto:caabnranger@yahoo.com) 360-393-6645

### THE BEAUTY OF FAILURE

By: Former U.S. Army Sergeant David Joseph Klimek

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This is an excerpt from a book by David Klimek – the entire book was on a drive given to Howard Shute – by David's parents at his funeral. I am working to find out if it has been published, if not we will find a publisher for it. This is a short excerpt from what looks to be almost 200 pages. Will keep you posted on the status of this – enjoy!!

“At 1400 everyone was taken to the repelling tower to make at least (1) jump from thirty feet. Everyone in the CAV is required to be airmobile qualified, therefore, rappelling from a simulated helicopter skid is required training. After everyone qualified, we were dismissed for the day.

At our evening training (2) reps from the 75th Rangers gave a short briefing. Company H was the Ranger unit of the 1st CAV and they were here at the training center to recruit people. Anyone who was interested was told to report to the briefing shed. I was one of fourteen people who went to find out more. Here's the scoop they gave us. After you join you go through a twelve-day course that is full of harassment and some very rough training. They make you do a daily five-mile run in less than an hour while carrying a thirty-pound bag of sand in your rucksack. You must rappel free-style from a helicopter from one-hundred and fifty-feet. After you finish training, you go out on (4) missions to be graded for acceptance into their company. Afterwards, you are allowed to wear their black beret and their Ranger Airborne tab of Hotel Company. Once the speaker was finished, only I and another shake and bake from Virginia signed up for the Rangers. I barely knew him at the NCO Academy because he was in another barracks, but I knew we would be good friends after that night.

Now I know I want to be a LRRP/Ranger with the 1st CAV. They go out on five-man teams and operate

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### The LRRP/Rangers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division during the Vietnam War

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on (5) day recon missions. I was sure there would be some danger, but they said they hadn't lost a man for a long time. Most of the time the object of their missions was not to make any contact with the enemy, just scout the area and report any movements or findings.

I figured my folks would probably be mad at me for trying to join the Rangers because I was taking a bigger risk, but their mission was not to contact the enemy. They worked as scouts that “ranged” areas to the north, east, west and south (news) and reported enemy movements along with collecting other data. But the real reasons why I wanted to join the Rangers was I wanted to be one of the best in the United States Army, and I wanted to be recognized as a man who could be proud of himself for the rest of his life. Heck, I didn't even know if I could get in. They said I was going to have to go to Cambodia with the infantry first, and if I didn't get hurt and still wanted to join, I could try to transfer then.

#### INTO THE SUSPENSE POOL

Our classroom training the next morning was a repeat of what we learned in the NCO Academy, so the NCOs were not required to attend the entire session. Only the first part was mandatory. It covered the official view of the war. After it was over, I went back to the barracks. I met some new friends and one of them gave me a Cavalier newspaper to read. Cavalier was the official newspaper for the 1st CAV. It told you what everyone in the division was doing over here.

The weather has been hot and rainy for the past couple of weeks. Lately, it had been well over a hundred degrees, and the humidity was more intense than any I had ever felt back home. It doesn't help that a multitude of flying bugs kept eating away at us. I couldn't figure out where these mosquitoes and the other bugs were coming from, but if this was any indication of what it was like at a base camp, I couldn't begin to imagine what it would be like in the jungle. The monsoon season was due to begin, and we were told that the weather would gradually cool off until it started. Once the monsoon season arrived it would last for several months. No man-made machinery would be able to operate during that time. Only the infantry could operate. Nothing can stop the infantry, not even the rain which usually begins at the 1730 formation.

That afternoon's training covered the use of basic infantry weapons and the use of the field radio. Since I had already gone through this training many times, I stayed toward the rear and helped give instructions until we broke into groups. I knew some of these men were not going to the field, but it was still important to know how to fire every weapon and use the radio just in case. Before we left our instructor scared all of us by telling us (5) stories about soldiers who forgot to take their weapons with them when they went to perform a task. It was a simple lesson - never go anywhere without your weapon.

That's all we talked about during our smoke break and then we were taken through a simulated Hanoi village to learn the proper procedure to cordon and search a village. I have also done this exercise many times during training in the states. Our final class gave instructions about how to search a bunker complex which was what we would be doing in Cambodia. We learned to never, never touch anything because it might BOOM on you.

That evening, I spoke to some of my new friends who had just come off perimeter (green line) guard duty. They finished training a week ago and were now waiting for an assignment to a unit. There was an abundance

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of people who had finished training like me, and we stayed in what was called the “suspense pool”! When I was in the suspense pool, I felt a little bit spooky because all I was doing was waiting for a unit to get hit. Then I would go in as a replacement. All of us spent our time wondering what it would be like in the jungle with the rain and the bugs and the other stuff. Nobody could understand why the invasion into Cambodia was planned to begin in the monsoon season. There must have been a good reason.”



**David receiving a Silver Star from Gen Burton**

## The LRRP/Rangers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division during the Vietnam War

### From Richard Modolo

LRRP 1st Cave

E Co 52 Inf

Stories from Camp Evans, 1968

The other night at dinner with a few lodge brothers, one mentioned that he had been in the army and had found his old green army scarf. I replied that I too, still had mine, some place safe in the house. The next day, I pulled an old photo album, and as I was reviewing some of my old army photos, there was team A1, and a few of us were indeed, wearing the green scarfs, or cravats, as they were really meant to be. I think I wore my scarf, so it was ready, if needed. Fortunately, I never need to use it. The cravats were in a pouch, that was attached to your backpack harness. Not to mention we needed that space to carry other items of equipment, like smoke.

The attached picture is five of the six members of Team A1, one the first teams to go north to Camp Evans. The LRRP team I had been on, was working the Bong Song area, when the word went out, the division was looking for volunteers to go north to Camp Evans. The 1st Cave was moving north, and would be taking command of the Marine base, Camp Evans. I seem to recall two, or three LRRP teams volunteering to go; if you were chosen, you got to pick your team members and your call sign. Our call sign was "A1". We flew into Hue, in January 1968, just before North Vietnam began their 68 Tet Offensive. We convoyed to Camp Evans, and we were in the last convey to arrive at Camp Evans, before the highway was shut down, due to the Tet offensive.

It was said, "Camp Evans was surrounded", and we were being resupplied via air drop. We were under mortar attack, every day. For the most part, the LRRP patrols were still able to get in and out of Evans, though we walked out. Sometimes we walked out late in the day, and others we would bring up the rear of a company moving out on patrol. After a day or two with them, we would split off and go on our own way. More about those stories to follow in later articles.

When we first arrive at Camp Evans, there was no area set up for us. We would be attached to one company location or another, until we finally ended up being attached to the 227 Aviation Group. We made that area our home, away from home.

A1's team leader was The Saint, (Santigan) and just as we were preparing to go out on our first patrol, The Saint informs me, that he has 30 days leave shortly, and going to become a door gunner. All of a sudden, I became the Team Leader. The Assistant Team Leader, and the below was taken just as we returned from a LRRP Mission, Camp Evans.



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## The LRRP/Rangers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division during the Vietnam War

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### From Dave Seifert

#### Radio Relays

“Driving Batman.” “Bright Shores.” “Major Moose.” “Slashing Talon.”

Do any of these sound familiar? If they do, then you were on a mission with a Team from H Company, 75th Ranger Co. 1st Cav Division... sometime between August '70 and February '71.

These were some of the call signs that your TL and RTO used to talk to radio relay “Yankee”. “Yankee” was one of I think three radio relay stations that connected our Teams in the field, back to Ranger HQ in Phouc Vinh. I believe the other two were X-Ray and Zulu. As were all the relays, Yankee was on a mountain, Nue Chou Chin, just above FSB Mace. Remember?

I was there because of a heat stroke. Not sure why any of the others were there. Guys like Mike Ryan from Iowa. Cassidy from Missouri. Scottie Peterson from some place out east. South Carolina maybe. Tom Jarosz from Nebraska maybe.

As you know, whenever a team was inserted, one of the very first things the TL needed to do was establish a radio contact with the Radio Relay. Without that, the mission doesn't happen. Remember? Sometimes you needed to get the “whip” antennae out for the PRC-25 (aka the Prick-25). Remember?

Once inserted, commo checks happened every hour, 24-7. Situation Reports, aka “Sit Reps.” Remember? Among other things, the Sit Reps including the team's location, using a map grid system, encrypted with a “Whiz Wheel” that changed numbers I think every month.

I remember more than several times when a Team came in contact. CONTACT! CONTACT! CONTACT! We learned that going though in-contrary Ranger Training. Remember? One of those contacts was when Omer Carson was killed. Radio relays immediately notified the main TOC in Phouc Vinh. Usually a Pink Team was sent to the contact area. The Pink Team usually consisted of a Cobra gunship and a LOCH (Low Observation Helicopter?).

I also remember how we had to beg, borrow and steal to keep the generators going so our radios worked. We stole a generator off the LZ that someone was too late in getting to. We slept in a tent, two or three of us on a rotating 8 hour radio shift. I think.

The mountain top had I think just one shitter. Sometimes not available because one of the stoner shit-burners didn't pull the shit drum far enough away from the ammo box walls before he lit it on fire. Shitty deal. Oh well.

Anyway, hope this memory of mine sparked a few memories for you.

Dave Seifert H Company, 75th Infantry Rangers, 1st Cavalry Division. Phouc Vinh, RVN. 1970-71.

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## The LRRP/Rangers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division during the Vietnam War

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### From 'Doc' Richard (Dick) Sweeney LRRP / RECONDO '67-68

I've been looking for my old roster.....

One contact I'm trying track down is Cpl. Cline or Kline, a LRRP and Pathfinder who hailed from WI. While I attended to Roy Beer under fire, I think it was Roy - there were several shot up that day (Signal Hill 4/20/68) Cpl. Cline knelt over me providing cover fire - then had his finger shot off! The bullet lodged in his magazine - he took my CAR 15 and continued to cover me - meanwhile Mike Gooding rushed to our open down slope position providing enough fire that allowed us to retreat to a less exposed position....

Thanks,

### Mission Highlights

I wanted to get some stories of E/H Company Teams in action into the newsletter – Started putting some old Patrolling articles I wrote about missions that I thought I would include for your reading pleasure. I don't only want to use stories I've had in Patrolling **so hopefully stories there are stories you've been meaning to do something with but to this point haven't** - that I can include in upcoming issues. We're not getting any younger and my passion for getting as much history about our time and our exploits in RVN has not gone away – we all owe to our families to give them one other thing to remember us by.

Ranger Team 75, August 1971

On the afternoon of 3 AUG 1971, Team 75 of H Company (Ranger), 75th Inf., of the 3rd Brigade (Separate), 1st Cavalry Division was on a long-range reconnaissance patrol in Long Kahn province. The patrol was acting on specific intelligence concerning a possible sampan docking sight surveilled during a previous mission led by SGT Jim Faulkner (Also of H Company), a notably successful Team Leader.

The patrol consisted of five American Army Rangers and one former Viet Cong Kit Carson scout. The team included Team Leader SGT Terry Wannish, Assistant Team Leader SGT Daniel J. DeMara, Jr, RTO SP/4 Wayne Okken, Rear Scout SP/4 James Dickman and Lt Mike Davidson.

SGT Wannish was walking point and saw numerous footprints in the mud on the side of a stream indicating a possible sampan docking site. The Team located a hide site on the opposite side of the stream in the heavy jungle about thirty feet from the stream bed.

Late in the afternoon, several sampans arrived at the docking site. Before dark, the Team counted 120 Viet Cong and/or North Vietnamese Army soldiers get off sampans and make camp near the bank on the opposite side of the stream. A number of enemy soldiers used the stream for bathing. The Team remained

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in their hide site throughout the night. Shortly after dawn, the enemy reloaded the sampans and left the area.

The Team then crossed the stream and set up a 18 claymore ambush on the side of the stream that the enemy had used the previous night anticipating that another group might come through that night. The Team concealed themselves in the dense brush in the center of their camp area about 40 feet from the stream.

The VC/NVA did in fact return that night in numbers similar to the previous night.

Company SOP was to make commo checks every fifteen minutes over the full time of deployment, day and night. During the night the enemy could be heard speaking in a normal tone of voice, and the Team, concerned about being compromised suspended the normal commo check procedure, opting instead for breaking squelch twice if everything was OK. The Team made a more complete situation report on the morning of 4 AUG after the enemy left the camp site and after the Team crossed the stream and moved back to their original hide site. At the time H Company was OPCON to the (1st Cav) Brigade S-2 and based on the reporting over the past few days, the Brigade staff began preparations to support a possible Team initiated contact that night.

The patrol area—a four click grid square with a surrounding one click buffer zone—was typically outside any US or ARVN artillery support. Air/ground fire support normally came first from an Air Force Forward Air Controller (OV-10 Bronco aircraft, who typically used the call sign “RASH”). RASH was airborne 24/7 and a Team could usually expect fire support within several minutes of a request. Helicopter gunship support from Blue Max 229th or Bravo 1/9th Air Cavalry usually arrived within 10 to 15 minutes. At that time the H Company rear was co-located with Bravo 1/9th at a Thai fire support base (Bearcat), south east of Bien Hoa, and the close proximity of this living arrangement was responsible for an intimate and important working and personal relationship between the Rangers and the 1/9th support units.

As night fell, a pink team (OH-6 LOH and Cobra gunship) was airborne and masked beyond a nearby hill just out of range to eliminate any aircraft noise prior to any impending contact. The Blue Lift platoon of the Air Cavalry squadron, a heavily armed light infantry force, was on standby at the closest fire base. RASH, and everyone else, had the Team’s location plotted. The deputy brigade commander was airborne in his command and control Huey with the pink teams.

As light began to fade, once again a group of at 100+ enemy pulled into the same unload site and began to set up camp for the night. At full dark, SGT Wannish blew the clacker for the claymores located in the main camp area. Several minutes later, there was additional movement by the enemy and SGT DeMara blew a separate set of claymores on an avenue of approach to the right front. H Company SOP was to lie quiet after blowing the claymores to let the enemy think they might have run into an automatic ambush, a technique used frequently by regular Infantry units at that time. As the remaining enemy survivors and wounded began moving in the contact area, the Team used grenades which would not reveal any specific friendly location to the enemy, neutralize any additional movement and at the same time instill fear into any remaining survivors.

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### **The LRRP/Rangers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division during the Vietnam War**

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At that point the Team's air support arrived on station. The AF RASH began rocket fire and machine gun fire. Bravo 1/9 pink teams brought in danger close 3.5-inch rocket, 30mm cannon and mini-gun fire. The ongoing relationship and mutual confidence between the Ranger Team and the 1/9th pink teams were instrumental in allowing for this very close-in air support.

After the air support had sufficiently worked the area, SGT Wannish, SGT DeMara and Lt Davidson had just begun to move into the kill zone to review the damage and look for any remaining survivors when the deputy brigade commander in the command and control aircraft, concerned about other potential large groups of enemy soldiers in the area ordered an immediate extraction by McGuire rig. The pink team aircraft were very low on fuel (One of the Bravo 1/9 Cobra pilots later explained that he landed back at the firebase with 2 minutes of fuel on board) and this created questions regarding fire support in the event additional contact materialized.

The Team was extracted by McGuire rig without further incident. The following morning, at first light, the Team returned to the contact site accompanied by the 1/9th Blue platoon as security to see what, if anything could be recovered. Despite the enemy working through the night to remove bodies, wounded and intel, there were approximately a dozen bodies remaining (initial estimates of enemy KIA were multiple times that number, some estimates as high as 100+), along with numerous blood trails, body parts and a large amount of material that proved to be of significant intelligence value.

There were no friendly casualties. Sgt Wannish and his Team reported to the Brigade S-2 for a debriefing upon their return to Bien Hoa and subsequently received impact awards for their actions in August 1975.

That's it for this issue – hope to have another out prior to Christmas –

**Until Then – RLTW**

**“For those who’ve fought for it life has a flavor the protected will never know”**

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