

# SABER

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



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JULY /AUGUST 2025

## THE PRESIDENT’S CORNER

Rosey Carter  
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1CDA President 2025-2027



Greetings Troopers,  
It is my absolute honor and privilege to serve as the new president of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division

Association. Thanks to Rich Kaye who completed his term as our president at the Reno Reunion and immediately stepped up to serve as the Chairman of our Finance and Budget Committee. In addition to Rich and me, we had three past presidents attend the reunion – Pete Tattersall, Allen Norris, and Scott Sjule. It was great to see them, and on the recommendation of Allen, we even got a picture together. Pete, Allen, and Scott on the left of the patch and Rich and I to the right – in order of service.



Past Presidents of 1CDA along with current President, Rosey Carter on right

Our 77<sup>th</sup> Reunion in Reno was a great event and I thank everyone who took time from your busy lives to attend and also our 1CDA office team led by Dara and all of the volunteers who made it possible. Highlights for me were the larger gift shop space so each item could be displayed and the break-out rooms surrounding the hospitality space, so it was easy to see everyone coming and going. The hotel did a great job with our service and Reno did not disappoint.

I am a Soldier serving in the Army Signal Corps from 1985 - 2014, retiring as a Colonel. I am a Cav Trooper serving in 1CD from 1999 – 2003 as the Assistant Div Signal Officer (ADSO), 13<sup>th</sup> Sig Bn XO, Division SGS, and Division G6 to include deploying to Bosnia as the ADSO. I am a Veteran of Foreign Wars serving in Desert Shield/Desert Storm and OEF/Afghanistan. I am a Texan who fell in love with the state in spring 2000 and happily retired to Lott, TX in 2015 which is about an hour from Fort Hood’s main gate. I’m a proud mother of a daughter and son-in-law who live in Athens, GA. I became active in the 1CDA in 2016 with the encouragement of CWO Ron Killingsworth who was the scribe for the Association’s HQ/Special Troops column in the *Saber* for many years. I will forever be grateful to Ron for encouraging me to do a little bit more!

I welcome our new Board of Governors Members and the stalworth group who volunteered to serve for another two years. We have elections at the reunion each summer with half the board elected. The primary responsibility is to participate in our meetings each February in Copperas Cove, TX and at the reunion each year. With modern technology, physical attendance is no longer mandatory but highly encouraged so you can meet the other board members and participate in the fraternal aspects of the association. Reach out to Dara Wydler if you are interested in serving.

We are fortunate to be a vibrant and active association. Attendance at our Reno reunion is a testament to this. That said, the foremost conversation at board meetings and other gatherings is how do we remain strong as our Vietnam Veterans are less active. The board will continue to look for ways to reach out to our DS/DS and OIF/OEF Troopers for participation AND I am asking each of you to do your part by finding one DS/DS or OIF/OEF Cav Trooper and introduce them to the association and encourage them to attend the 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion in New Orleans, LA from 8-12 July 2026. If every Trooper who attended the Reno reunion encourages one new Trooper to attend – especially our younger members, then we will be busting at the seams. When you read this Dara will be recently back from her coordination meetings in New Orleans so details on the reunion are forthcoming in future *Sabers*. With the amazing WWII Museum in New Orleans and the other features of the city – it is sure to be a great event.

First Team, Rosey Carter

## DIVISION DOINGS:

**‘A mistake’: Community Reacts to Planned Deactivation of Fort Hood’s Horse Cavalry Unit** by Brent Johnson, 10 July 2025, Killeen Daily Herald

Community leaders and Veterans are reacting to the planned disbanding of the 1st Cavalry Division’s half-century-old Horse Cavalry Detachment, after the Army announced its intention to give up most of its horses, donkeys and mules last week.

“You know, most past members, if you ask them about the horse detachment, the largest comment you will get is, ‘that’s the best job I ever had.’” said retired Army ISG Scott Sjule, who spent a total of 14 years with the detachment and retired as its top enlisted man in 2006.

Speaking Thursday in a phone interview with KDH News, Sjule said the horse-mounted unit acts as the face of the Army in areas where people have less exposure to the Army. “I have personally had many, many people come up to me when I was in the Army, and they said, ‘I joined the Army because I saw you guys at a rodeo in this place or that place,’” he said.

The Copperas Cove resident still remembers riding out into the arena of the San

Continued to pg. 20

## THE DIRECTOR’S CHAIR

Dara C. Wydler  
302 N. Main St.  
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Thank you to all who attended the reunion in Reno, NV. I want to especially thank all the volunteers who helped to support the Association. Without your support, making it all happen would have been hard on myself and the staff. It was truly wonderful to

see members who had not been able to attend the last few reunions, and more importantly the new faces.

Many of you took the time to visit the area in and around Reno (Lake Tahoe, Virginia City, Carson City). This is why destination reunions are so much more fun. New Orleans in 2026 will not be disappointing. Visit the New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau <<https://www.neworleans.com/>> and start making plans with family and friends for your trip next year. Plan your stay and enjoy tours (both historic and ghostly), shopping, music, cultural arts, FOOD, and so much more.

The Association will arrange transportation to and from the WWII Museum on 8 & 9 July. In those two days, I can promise you will not see everything. The museum sits on over 6 acres in downtown New Orleans. Currently, there are six buildings interconnected that encompass the museum. Their expansive collections include more than 250,000 artifacts and over 9,000 personal accounts supporting major exhibits and research. For my lovely ladies, I am promising you another great luncheon. You will have an opportunity to enjoy watching a cooking demonstration, eat the prepared food, and take-home recipe cards to share with friends.

The reunion hotel is the Sheraton New Orleans, 500 Canal St. You can book a room by using the passkey <<https://book.passkey.com/e/51069296>> or by calling the hotel directly, (504) 525-2500. As a reminder, book only one hotel room (unless you are booking rooms for additional family members).

Veterans Day is just a few short months away. You can register online, call the office, or send in your registration from *Saber*. We will still be at the Crowne Plaza Crystal City 9-11 November 2025. There will be beer, wine, soda, and water in the hospitality room. Also, after the ceremonies on the 11<sup>th</sup>, we will end with a reception at the hotel.

I know many members have heard the news about changes coming to the Horse Cavalry Detachment and other ceremonial units with horses. It is not “fake” news and is going to happen. The order has not been officially passed yet. This retired ISG is not to blame and I certainly have no sway over the decisions made in D.C. My answer: write your congressman/woman and tell them how you really feel.

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ADDRESS CHANGE

**Don't Keep it a SECRET, Let us Know About It.**  
To submit by e-mail, send to [memberships@1CDA.org](mailto:memberships@1CDA.org)  
Clip and Mail to 1st Cavalry Division Association  
302 N. Main St. Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703

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Rank and Name: \_\_\_\_\_

New Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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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: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

1CDA EVENT CALENDAR

Nov 9-11, 2025 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Day, Washington D.C.

July 8-12, 2026 78<sup>th</sup> Annual 1CDA Reunion, New Orleans

SABER RENEWAL / DONATION FORM

☐ Renew my *Saber* \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ year(s) @ \$20 per year (6 issues).  
Fill out and return the form below or attach your Saber label so we have your pertinent information.

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Log in>>> Saber Newspaper >>> Saber Subscriptions/Renewals

**Consider making a donation to the Foundation to help a student achieve their educational goals.**

**CONSIDER DONATING TODAY**

SABER

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ARTICLE SUBMISSION

Original, clear copies, typed or printed are accepted via e-mail at [Programs@1CDA.org](mailto:Programs@1CDA.org).

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 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.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:



Dear 1st Cavalry Foundation,

I hope this message finds you well. I want to sincerely thank you for the Foundation Scholarship. It's truly an honor to be a recipient and I am grateful for your support as I continue pursuing my degree in Business Administration at the University of West Florida. Your generosity has lightened the financial load and given me even more motivation to work hard and represent the values this scholarship upholds. Thank you for all that you do.

Respectfully, Ashley Alexander

OTHER REUNIONS:

**12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion, 10-13 September 2025.** Branson, MO. See website for hotel details and registration form. POC: Thomas Crabtree, 432-853-4851.

**77th Field Artillery Regiment Association, 17-21 September 2025.** Colorado Springs, CO / Ft Carson, Radisson Hotel. Hosted by 2/77th FA. POC: John Moran, 937-361-1333. <[johnjanmoran@woh.rr.com](mailto:johnjanmoran@woh.rr.com)>.

**C Co, 1-12 Reunion Muster of Troopers who served 1965-1972, 15-18 October 2025.** Wichita, KS. See website for hotel details and registration form, if issues contact Ron Sauers, <[shakey25@frontier.com](mailto:shakey25@frontier.com)> to send you the form.

**1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Association 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion, 8-12 July 2026.** Sheraton New Orleans, 500 Canal St, New Orleans LA. Reservations Dept: (504) 525-2500, Press 1 or use the provided link to make reservations on-line: <<https://book.passkey.com/e/51069296>>. Do NOT reserve more than one room.

***Have your upcoming reunions posted here!***  
***Email to [Programs@1CDA.org](mailto:Programs@1CDA.org)***

WANTED/LOOKING FOR:

DOC MOHLER LOOKING FOR HIS BATTLE BUDDIES

My name is Clair Bruce Mohler "Doc Mohler." I was a specialist E-4 Medic in the 1/12th Cavalry from 06/21/1967 - 02/15/1968. I was in 1st Platoon of B Company until December 1967 and then spent January and February in 1st Platoon of C Company.

I am looking to reconnect with fellow Soldiers I served with. I am especially interested in reconnecting with Thomas "Jimmy" Dean. If you served with me, or know someone who did, please contact my son, Robert Mohler. He is helping me. Thank you!

Robert Mohler, (717) 371-2767, <[rob@robandjenmohler.com](mailto:rob@robandjenmohler.com)>

LOOKING FOR A LONG LOST BATTLE BUDDY?

If you have been searching for someone that you within 1<sup>st</sup> Cav, try posting it here.  
Submit requests to  
<[Programs@1CDA.org](mailto:Programs@1CDA.org)> for the next Saber!







*Culmination of treasured long lost stories or photos from our members.*

**Send your stories to [Programs@1CDA.org](mailto:Programs@1CDA.org)**

Submission by SGT James Cannon, C/1-8 CAV, 1969

This story is part of the chronicle of my combat tour during the Vietnam War and was written years ago about the days following the loss of four of our platoon Soldiers in a helicopter crash. I have included information from battalion records that are available now, letters home that my mother dutifully saved in a pink ladies shoe box, and memories that were jolted from the attic in my brain. Maybe that combination has to provide a better story

#### **BATTLE CROSSES, OCTOBER 11, 1969**

We were taken to the VIP area at Quan Loi for a shower, clean clothes, clean socks, a hot meal and a cot to sleep on. Two hots, a change of socks and a cot in GI jargon. After a clean and dry but restless night in the VIP area tents, we were told to assemble in company formation after morning chow. We stood under rubber trees in an area large enough to accommodate just under one hundred Troops of C Company, First Battalion, Eighth Cavalry. Our second platoon had been reduced by the casualties incurred during the last few days and we were the smallest platoon in formation, but we stood tall in our clean jungle fatigues and our red stained combat boots. The officers were there in front of the formation with the first sergeant holding the company colors. They turned and called the company to attention as we all faced four M-16s, bayonets affixed and driven inverted almost to the hilt, into the red mud. Helmets with new camouflaged covers were resting on the butt of each rifle and blank dog tags hung from the M-16s shining in contrast to the new black M-16s. A pair of polished boots were at the base, pointing ever forward. None of this combat equipment belonged to the Soldiers because theirs, along with the brave Soldiers, had been consumed in the flames of the burning helicopter. A chaplain offered words of spiritual support and hope for eternal life; then the Soldiers, brothers-in-arms, were briefly allowed to make their own tributes to these fallen Soldiers.

We had lost one of our best point squads, all of them with four or more months in combat. They could have filled a helmet with their medals including a Silver Star, Bronze Stars, and Purple Hearts and a letter of commendation from the battalion commander for being the point squad that captured the .51 cal antiaircraft machinegun. I had spent countless hours with Jose Salinas and Greg Prewitt on OP, nighttime jungle ambushes and foxhole watches. Salinas taught me how to accurately point the claymores for the most effect coverage and how to conceal the trip wire, flares and electrical lines from the claymore back to the hand generator at our foxhole. On nightly defense at firebases, we sometimes sat together huddled under ponchos on top of flooded bunkers wrapped in our wet poncho liners to stay warm and block the mosquitoes. Brothers in Arms.

One brief but intense firefight that I remember, occurred when we were searching a thick, triple canopy jungle area in a platoon sized strength (about 30 men) and met an NVA company (about 100 men) that was passing through the area. Both sides were equally alert but still somewhat surprised at the meeting. Were outnumbered and their AKs, and SKSs began shooting rapidly and their bullets were ripping through the foliage along our position. M-16s, M-60s and M-79s were quickly and intensely returning fire. Larry Prewitt, who at that time was between his first and second Bronze Star, was trying to find a clear opening to shoot his M-79 grenade launcher. The rounds had to travel about 30 meters before they were armed and some of his shots hit tree limbs or bamboo stalks in the thick foliage too close to arm and fell to the ground unexploded like metal goose eggs. One hit a limb high overhead and exploded, raining harmless shrapnel down on us. After the platoon leader chided (my word, not the platoon leader's) him, he crawled over near me and a couple of other Soldiers to get the direction of the enemy position. He aimed his thump gun almost straight up like a mortar and shot through an opening above us. We watched as the round went up out of sight as it reached its maximum height, then fell back down through the trees and bamboo and exploded with its characteristic whump. Without the use of sights or any other guidance except his own knowledge, he had accurately hit an enemy position. Three or four AKs opened up with a vengeance as they tried to eliminate us and the source of the grenades. He fell to the ground from his crouched position, reloaded and fired again, but this time when we heard the thump as he fired, we gave cover fire to protect him from the NVA bullets. This went on for some time as he opened the breech of the M-79, loaded another round and fired, sometimes even before the previous grenade hit the ground. Down the line another M-79 grenadier found the distant and direction of the NVA soldiers. The jungle calmed to its usual quietness as they soon withdrew and followed another path to their objective. After a few long, tense minutes of quietness, we cautiously searched their position but only found expended brass and a few spots of blood. The big trees and bamboo undergrowth was so thick that few, if any, of the hundreds of bullets fired by both sides during that intense encounter, hit their mark. I'm sure some of the shrapnel from Prewitt's M-79 rounds left lasting marks on NVA soldiers.

Bill Godfrey had been a courageous infantry Soldier from the day he joined the company and had walked with the point team through bunkers, and in other intense encounters with the enemy had helped block ambushes. As the squad leader of a point team, he had captured an NVA antiaircraft machine gun. His exploits during just the four or five months he was in Charlie Co would fill a book. Another Soldier would fill his position but no none could replace him. He was an unreplaceable loss to our company and certainly to his family.

I think Bill Adams had been with the company longer than the others, always as a rifleman in a point squad but never in a squad with me so I only knew him casually. Another American son, who had been drafted into this perilous war, had been doing his job as an infantry Soldier to the end.

Company C, now down to ninety-three Soldiers, was ordered to assemble at the

**Continued to 6**

## **OIF / OEF VETERAN 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion News**

SSG Brandy Harvest      SSG Kenneth Pannell  
HHC 1BSTB, 2007-2009      HHC 1BSTB, 2005-2009  
[Luckybme04@yahoo.com](mailto:Luckybme04@yahoo.com)      [KaPannell@gmail.com](mailto:KaPannell@gmail.com)



**This column is a collection of stories submitted from  
1BSTB Soldiers that served during OIF / OEF.**

On 13 June 2007 at approximately 7 a.m., Camp Taji, Iraq was attacked with multiple rockets and mortars. One mortar landed near the Battalion TOC damaging a trailer and another ticket destroyed a women's latrine. Despite the damage and minor injuries to personnel, it was a fortunate situation that produced no fatalities.

On 25 June 2007, the First Brigade Combat Team Commander, COL Paul E. Funk II, came to pay a visit to the First Special Troops Battalion. Upon his visit, he was shown several aspects of what makes the Battalion such a vital entity to the Brigade mission. One of the first things on the agenda for COL Funk was recognition of a few Centurion Soldiers. He presented them with Brigade coins and personally looked into the eyes of those Soldiers and thanked them for their hard work.

The Battalion Commander LTC Dillard and Command Sergeant Major Green escorted COL Funk throughout the Battalion footprint. He was shown Task Force Ironclaw Route Clearance equipment and operations, EOD Escort equipment and operations, along with several other important and key components in the Battalion. COL Funk eagerly shook hands with Soldiers and climbed into vehicles such as the Buffalo and Husky. He was not afraid to get his hands dirty. He was very impressed by the vast amount of knowledge Centurion Soldiers were able to share with him.

Credit to the Soldiers of the 1BSTB Battalion Yearbook 2006-2008 Publication



ATLANTA VIETNAM VETERANS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION, INC  
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## **DOCUMENTARY FILM – VIETNAM WAR**

The Atlanta Vietnam Veterans Business Association Foundation is proud to present a 47-minute documentary film entitled "Truths and Myths About the Vietnam War" with introduction by actor Sam Elliott. The purpose of the film is to honor those who served in the Vietnam War by providing factual information to address the decades of misinformation that have presented a skewed historical perspective of the war – a very important and long overdue film that presents the information and lessons learned that most Vietnam War Veterans want reported about the war. Some of the truth we now know comes from Vietcong and North Vietnamese archives and other disclosures made available over the last 50 years since the war ended.

The film features Medal of Honor recipient Patrick H. Brady and 7 historians including 5 of the 6 historians featured on the Fox Nation documentary films entitled "The Unauthorized History of the Vietnam War" moderated by Bret Baier – and 2 of the 7 historians are Distinguished Fellows at the University of Virginia School of Law.

The film has been seen by a large number of Veterans of the war and generated considerable enthusiasm – many consider the film to be the best ever produced about the war.

We are a very credible Veteran organization and were recently made honorary partners with the Vietnam War Commemoration Office at the Department of Defense.

The film was shown at the National Infantry Museum on March 29, 2024 – National Vietnam Veterans Day and featured during Fox News live television interview on March 30, 2024, with Pete Hegseth. The film was shown on Georgia Public Broadcasting on Memorial Day - May 27, 2024, and again on Veterans Day - November 11, 2024.

We consider the film to be our enduring legacy for future generations.

**To view or download the film, go to the website [AVVBA.org](http://AVVBA.org).**

## **TAPS:**

We were notified of the following deaths:

**BELTSON**, MG (RET) Richard, 1-77 FA, 2-5 CAV, 2 BDE, 1967-68. 15 April 2025.

**BOLLINGER**, MAJ (RET) Brian G., D Co, 2-7 CAV, 1965-66. 8 November 2024.

**CALLAHAN**, SSG Donald O., HHB, DIVARTY, 1968-69. 29 May 2025.

**CLINANSMTTH**, CW4 (RET) David A., 11 AVN GRP, 1964-65. 17 April 2024.

**HOWENSTEIN**, SP4 Richard, HHB 1/77 FA, 1969-70. 8 June 2025.

**MC DEVITT**, SGT Michael J., E Co, 2-5 CAV, 1970-71. 4 May 2025.

**MEYER**, PFC Charles J., HM, 8th CAV, 1950. 10 April 2025.

**OZIER**, CW4 Robert R., 82nd FA, 1955-56; 1-7 CAV, 1956; 1-30th FA, 1968-69. 25 March 2025.

**PHILBRICK**, SP3 Jack F. 2-8 CAV, 1953-58. 12 February 2025.

**SENSKE**, SGT Robert W., 2-7 CAV, 1967-68. 11 March 2025.

**TAYLOR**, SPC Henry W. Jr., D Co, 2-7 CAV, 1969-70. 19 June 2025.

## **ACTIVE-DUTY TAPS:**

We have been notified of the following non-combat Active-Duty death:

**CHAPMAN**, SPC Carl T., A Co, 2-12 CAV, 2025. 1 February 2025.



LRRP/Ranger News



Pete Dencker  
234 Sontag Dr  
Franklin, TN 37064  
615-202-4804  
pdencker@outlook.com



Greetings Brothers,  
Writing this as a follow up to the most recent reunion in Reno. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend so I have included photos and happenings submitted by those who were in attendance. I am, however, making my commitment here - to attend next year's New Orleans reunion!

First, I would like to honor one of our Brothers who did not make it back Francis Kulbatski. This is a unique story as it does not appear that Francis was still assigned to H Company when he was KIA however his name appears on our list of Brothers who did not come home. Thanks Chuck, Tim, Fred, Patrick, Donny and Kregg for getting back to me with regard to my request for information. There seems to be very little information on Francis – other than what took place with the 1/9<sup>th</sup>. Kregg Jorgenson spoke with Glen Senkowski, a pilot with A Troop, 1st of the 9th who, on his very first day in the Troop, flew a Low Bird out to the site where the Blues suffered a horrible hit. For a better description of what happened that day go to *Know Their Story* podcast 105- Glen Senkowski. Glen was there that day and talks about it, Glen did 18 months with Apache Troop and is one of the good guys. The A (Apache) Troop Blues and several pilots and crews suffered heavy losses and casualties in Feb 1969 with the 21to 23-man platoon being brought back to operational strength with new volunteers after that ambush. By Dec 1969 the Apache Troop Blues were hit again when the platoon leader was shot through both thighs and his femoral artery with his RTO KIA, and several others seriously wounded in the Tay Ninh area. I've reached out to Glen and will follow up with additional info once I have it. What I do have from the web.....



Francis Kulbatski



Francis K. Kulbatski was born on March 20, 1948. His home of record is Jersey City, NJ. He had two sisters, Lorraine and Karen, and one brother. He served in the US Army and attained the rank of Corporal (CPL). He was assigned (pad- to H Company for a period of time and then) to A Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. Kul-

batski was killed in action on February 15, 1969, when his helicopter was shot down over Long Khanh Province. On February 15, 1969, a U.S. Army helicopter UH-1H (tail number 67-17727) from A Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division, was transporting Troops in Tay Ninh Province, RVN, when it was hit by hostile small arms fire, crashed, and burned. One of the crewman and four Troopers being transported were killed in the incident. They included helicopter crew chief SP4 Franklin B. Gilbert and infantrymen SP4 James T. Fields, PFC Francis K. Kulbatski, SGT Dennis C. North, and SGT Harold R. Tyson. Gilbert was posthumously promoted to Sergeant.

RENO REUNION 2025 From our (H Co) Vice President

Ladies and gentlemen of the LRRP/Rangers. Thank you to all those members that attended the reunion. Thank you for the board members and general members that also attended. Doug will let us know the exact number of attendees later, but we had more than 30 attending our famous Memorial Luncheon!  
Days before the luncheon we had our usual membership meeting with a quorum enabling us to pass some updates to our by-laws and re-elected the current board



to another term. One item that will be noted by other board members will be having our membership look at the issue of “*Last Man Standing*.” For those of you that want a brief refresher, it is when our unit at some point in time will no longer be able to conduct a reunion or have a business meeting. In the beginning formation of our unit “LRRP/Rangers of the First Cavalry Division during the Viet Nam War,” it was established that only membership was open to the men that were assigned to this unit. We therefore will eventually have a point in time when we will be unable to continue. We must then decide together what happens to our assets. Please give this topic some serious thought! Tom Carpenter and Pete Dencker have put together some ideas that will be sent out to all via email and also be included in the next newsletter.

At our luncheon we opened with the lighting of the candle representing our fallen comrades from Vietnam and paid recognition to the last years fallen brothers. You can see the memorial photo in the newsletter. As a typical luncheon goes, we ate our meals (the food was excellent!) and had our raffle, which was also another success. Thank you for all the contributions made to this event!

The reunion room was always occupied, and wonderful conversations were continuous. The stories were close to the same, but the embellishment’s have grown! Very consistent with prior reunions. Doug did a wonderful job of obtaining a suite for us with the help of the Association. Bill stocked the room very well and Benny had all our merchandise for sale. Our farewell breakfast was just as nice with a guest Brigadier General Waters, the adjutant general of Nevada! He was in the area and being a Ranger, he wanted to have breakfast with us.

Our next reunion in New Orleans will be in July next year. If you are able, it will again be another terrific event to attend. Thank you to all our ladies in attendance at the reunion. We honor you all for your giving, caring and most of all LOVE that supports us all!

HOWARD  
Until next time - RLTV



PURPLE HEART FACTS:

On Aug. 7, 1782, George Washington created the award (originally called the Badge of Military Merit) to give to Soldiers for any commendable action. It was only awarded to a few Soldiers during that time and forgotten about until it was reinstated on Washington’s 200th birthday, Feb. 22, 1932.  
  
Purple Heart Day was established in 2014 to honor and recognize those who have been awarded the decoration.

The Purple Heart is the oldest military decoration still presented to service members.

Purple Heart Day: August 7

NATIONAL PURPLE HEART HALL OF HONOR

<https://www.thepurpleheart.com>  
374 Temple Hill Rd.  
New Windsor, NY 12553  
845-561-1765





5th CAV News

Harold P. "Doc" Truitt  
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Well, if you missed the Reno Division Reunion you missed out. We're beginning to see a few more Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom Vets, and that's a good thing. My personal guess is that because so many rotated through the Division during Vietnam we may never see the numbers that we had when Vets from three major wars came together, but if our younger folks can be allowed to see the value, and that both the Division and the various regiment/unit associations are in fact theirs, maybe the future can be as bright as it ever has been.

Thus, the questions: What do Veterans need, when do they need it and when do they realize that fact? I'm serious enough about his subject that I plan to keep this column short. Please stick with me to the end!

There are a "range" of things that happen to Veterans, not just one or two things, as well as the fact that as humans we do not all deal with things that happen to us in exactly the same way, even if there are deep similarities between us after these things happen. Organizations like our Division Association were set up because Veterans saw and felt the need. Every other Veterans organization came to be in similar fashion. And everyone serves. Some serve multiple purposes, others are quite specific in what they do. Even so we still have Vets who never get help. Some of those need it badly, some get along quite well and function at a level that gives no hint of what they've seen or been through. But every one of us has things that could be helped, burdens that could be lightened if we just looked or asked.

There are several things that can be seen in all Veterans. The one that seems to me to get in the way the most is the universal, (or almost universal) feeling that what we went through was so bad, or so unique that no one who wasn't right there with us could understand. Add that to the fact that most of us don't seek help early. We wait.

We don't want to think about the losses, the pain and the violence and you get a peak at a part of the difficulty we have in knowing what to do and who needs help. Even if we knew more about the "who" of it, trying to figure out what will reach someone in a positive way is still a problem.

That problem is the reason there are so many different Veteran organizations. Each one is a different point of contact, or "light" so to speak and has its own place in the net we want to build. We don't know what will attract or help the next person, only what helped us or someone we know, but we feel compelled to try.

It's difficult for me to get a good picture of how many Vets this Division has. The 1st Cav is big and has been so right along. Truth be told I'm not as sure as I once was that the numbers of Vets out there are that much lower than during my time. The time from Vietnam to Desert Storm makes it clear we had a time with fewer "combat" Vets, but you don't have to have that experience to be part of the Division and therefore eligible for the Association and the regimental or unit organizations.

These groups need our Vets, with or without combat time to understand that they have something to give. You are still part of our history! The presence of everyone out there could be a big lift that is indeed important in reaching those that need us! Reaching everyone, however, is an entirely different thing, and letting them understand how important their contribution could be is something I have no idea how to do.

Folks who do only one stint, be it two, three four or six years, and no combat time can easily look on their time in service as a steppingstone to something else and disconnect themselves. Truth be told, however, the Army is a large group of people with all the failings that may imply. It has its cliques and exclusive groups just like any other large group of people.

An individual who is excluded often sees no reason to look warmly on time in service even if the experience did indeed give them the skills to move on in life in the manner they planned. Even while understanding the need to have access to all our Vets and to hope for their input, I have no idea how to go about this. Since "hope" is not a plan where do we go from here? It is a fact that useful Veterans groups that have much to offer are dying, because of the lack of membership. So, as meaningless as that feels, I talk about it. If I am lucky, you will talk about it as well.

Meeting new people is the best part of any reunion, and there were quite a few folks in Reno I had never met before, some having never been to a reunion of any kind. Seeing how much help a reunion can be while remembering how many years it took for me to get off my bum and go to one is sobering. One man attending his first reunion was a Vietnam Vet facing the last portion of his life. Wheelchair bound and with a few other challenges I couldn't help but wish the tendency to put this kind of thing off was not so strong and widespread.

There are more than a few reasons as we've discussed before including career and family. Even career Soldiers are young enough that retirement does not often mean being out of the work force and children are usually not out of the house. It well may be that to have the kind of participation we need; we must start before the Vet leaves the service.

That is a much more complicated idea than it sounds like when you say it. Only The Army, (or another branch) itself, deciding it is important can bring that about. Since I have been told by some exceptionally reliable sources that people who may still have influence do read these pages, here's to hoping they see this column this time and that they also agree with the premise. That could make the possibility of a conversation on this matter become an actual conversation.

NEW MEMBERS:

MR. ADAMS, BARRY CA 229AHB  
PV2 AGYEI, JASON NY C 1-91BEB  
SSG ALDANA, RAMIRO TX 3-16FA  
SFC ANDERSONWISE, RYAN W. OK B 1-7C  
1LT ANDREWS, JONATHAN TX 1-227AHB  
CPT ATWELL, JAMES VA A 458ENG  
CPT BARNES, CHARLIE FL B 1-227AHB  
SFC BONNELL, MATTHEW TX 1-96TRANS  
PFC BOOKER, ANTHONY OH D 1-91BEB  
SPC DAUGHTREY, WILLIAM TX C 1-8C  
SGT DE ALBA, NATHAN TX HHC 2-5C  
SSG DILL, JAMES TX HHB 3-16FA  
SP4 DOMZALSKI, DAVE OH B 1-7C  
E-3 DUNFEE, JAMES L. IL HQ 1-7C  
SGT EPPERLEY, HAYDEN TX HHC 1-1ACB  
SPC EVERETT, STEVEN PA J 2-7C  
MG FELTEY, THOMAS TX 1-1CD  
SGT GLASS, TERESA VA E 1-27MNT  
SGT GNEIST, ANDREW TX B 215BSB  
CPT GONZALEZ, ADRIAN NC HHC 15BSB  
SGDT GONZALEZ GARZA, ARTURO TX 1-115ABCT  
E-5 GROVE, RANDY DE HHB 2-82FA  
SP4 HALE, CRAIG IL C 1-12C  
SFC HARDISON, DERRICK AZ C 3-8C  
PFC HAZEN, BRUCE PA HHC 1-8C  
SGT KOHL, ARNOLD AZ C 7-5C  
1LT LIGHTFOT, ROBIN MO B 1-8C  
SSG LUNSFORD, NICHOLAS TX 6-56ADAR  
SPC MAC INTOISH, DANIELLE OR C 2-7C  
SP5 MEAHL, JOHN KY 1ACB  
CPT MILLER, CALEB J. TX 1- 1ACB  
CW2 MITCHELL, COREY TX F 1-227AHB  
CPL NERI, JENNIFER J. TX 1-1CD  
PFC NEVAREZ, BRYAN TX E 6-56ADR  
SPC PALUMBO, WILLIAM KY C 1-5C  
SP4 PENNIE, THOMAS PA E 1-5C  
CSM PREUSSER, ROBERT JR SC B 1- 9C  
CW4 RAMSEY, ROBERT TX HHB 1-82FA  
LTC RICE, NATHANIEL TX HHC 1-1CD  
PV2 RODRIGUEZ, ANGEL TX B 4-9C  
PV2 RUIZ-MAISONET, MICHAEL A. FL D 1-7C  
PV2 SALAZAR, NOE CA A 1-9C  
SFC SCAPARDINE, KURT TX 1-9C  
PV2 SERRANO, CARLOS JR CA A 1-9C  
SGT SEXTON JOSEPH PA HHC 2-12C  
MS. SILK, JILL MA 1466 ASSOC 5  
SFC SMALLWOOD, KRISTEN BROOKE TX C 1-27MSB  
PV2 SMITH, BAILEY CA D 1-9C  
SGT STAUL, DANIEL OR 2-162INF  
CW3 STEWARD, MICHAEL GA A 4-615BSB  
PFC STRINGERS, DERICLH A. II GA A 1-7C  
SPC SWAIM, ETHAN VA A 1-7C  
CW3 THOMAS, KENNETH TX A 4-615ASB  
1LT THORNTON, MICHAEL SR TX 1-9C  
PV2 TRUJILLO-CARRARIZA, ADVENIA VA C 1-91ENG  
PV2 VALDEZ, LEVI TX HHC 1- 227AVN  
E-5 VARGAS, JOSE CA E 1-7C  
E-8 VEGA-CRUZ, NELSON PR 1-15S&S  
SPC VETROVEC, NICHOLAS IL HHC 312MI  
E-5 WHITE, JAMES TN G 5-82FA  
SP5 WHITE, WALTER L. GA C 15MED  
PFC WILSON, ADRIAN D. TX 215BSB  
CPT ZINZARELLA, ANDREW TX HHB 3-16FA



WELCOME to the 1CDA TEAM!

**HAPPY 81<sup>st</sup> BIRTHDAY**  
**1<sup>st</sup> CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION**



July 17, 1944

1st Cavalry Division Association  
was formed in the Admiralty Islands  
**FIRST TEAM!**

**HAVE YOUR 5<sup>TH</sup> CAV STORIES  
APPEAR HERE!**  
**CONTACT THE SCRIBE ABOVE**



12th CAV News



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Branson, MO 65616  
432-853-4851  
MMCTLC3@aol.com  
www.12thCav.US



Salute-Semper Paratus! Writing this July 6<sup>th</sup> while watching the rain here in Central FL, my thoughts gravitate to Kerrville, TX and flood devastation in the surrounding area on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. We have numerous Cavalry Brothers and families in the area and we offer prayers for safety and recovery from this event. I am sure the 1<sup>st</sup> Team Spirit is rising up to help those affected and the 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry is in full SEMPER PARATUS MODE, “Courageous-Audacious and Victorious.” Kerrville is one of the cities that Maggie and I are looking at for our return to the area sometime in September. Pray-Tell all will go well for the community at large in recovery efforts.

Now that we are halfway into the year 2025 and most major events are behind us, we can forward to two (2) significant gatherings for the 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Troopers. **20<sup>th</sup> Annual 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Reunion** in Branson, MO, **10-13 September** and **Charlie Company, 1-12<sup>th</sup> Muster of Troopers** who served 1965-1972, in Wichita, KS, **October 15-18**. Visit Charlie Company, 1-12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, Vietnam 1965-1972 website, for updated details and specifics for hotel accommodations.

When you receive this issue there will still be time to make your room reservations for the 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry 20<sup>th</sup> year ‘Capstone’ Reunion. Room rates will be \$110.00 per night for two that includes breakfast. Additional guests per room will be \$10.00 per night and \$9.99 for breakfast. Welcome Reception on Wednesday 10 September will be \$30.00. Banquet will be Saturday Night 13 September \$45.00 for prime rib, \$30.00 for roasted chicken. Our staple show on Thursday 11 September, \$30.00 “Hits of the 60s”, (don’t miss this one this year). Registration forms for the reunion can be downloaded from the Charlie Company 1-12, 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, and Delta Company 1-12 websites. If you have a problem with the download from C Company website email Ron Sauers, <shakey25@frontier.com>, he will send you the form. We are expecting a pretty fair turnout as this is most likely the last ‘get together’ as it has been done since 2006.

60 YEARS AGO-JULY 1965

It all began at Ft Benning, GA February 1963 when 3D Battalion (Airborne), 187<sup>th</sup> Infantry came together with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (Airborne), 187<sup>th</sup> Infantry to form the 11<sup>th</sup> Air Assault (Test), headed by GEN Harry O. Kinnard, decorated WWII Veteran who became the first Commanding General of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division. This initiated the concept of Troop and Equipment movement into battle and around battle fields via helicopter. Patch worn by the 11<sup>th</sup> Air Assault Test was the same as that of the 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division except the tab over the patch was Airmobile. Joined by men transferred from the 2D Infantry Division and members of the 3D Battalion, 187<sup>th</sup> Infantry. October 1, 1963, the Battalion was converted to an official Airborne Division. All men of this units merging were Airborne qualified. As they all became Airborne qualified, a new tab was added

TROOPER'S TALE

Continued from pg. 3

airstrip and be ready for transfer to Firebase Ellen for base defense. I wrote my family that I had eaten enough fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, GI rolls and drank enough milk to last days, but I didn’t. A Chinook helicopter arrived later in the afternoon, quickly loaded thirty-one combat Troops onboard, and flew us to our next destination which was in the middle of the adjoining province. A long distance, but not long enough for me, I was fairly comfortable in a canvas web and aluminum bench seat with cool air blowing in through open doors and windows as I looked down at the rubber tree plantations and bamboo jungle. I had an ominous feeling about what was in store for us as we cut our way through that foliage during the coming days and weeks.

We were on FBS Ellen to continue to build the defenses, patrol the surrounding area and to provide nightly defense for the artillery and headquarters company. These days at the firebase would also allow us to rebuild our company to the expected one hundred thirty-man roster. New arrivals would be assigned to their platoons and other Troopers would return after medical absences. Men returned after a couple of weeks treatment for malaria and other illnesses or after a month of healing for a broken metatarsal, cracked tibia, broken ribs, metacarpal or clavicle. Just a few or the things that broke jumping from helicopters and falling into holes. Shrapnel wounds and some soft tissue bullet wounds healed quickly enough for the Soldier to return to the company in a short time. Wounds into internal organs, through lungs and directly onto bones usually went to Japan or home. Immersion foot dried and jungle rot temporarily healed as were painted purple with potassium permanganate. So, we were at the firebase a few days



rebuilding, healing and preparing for the next combat assault.

The picture was taken at FSB Wescott in Binh Long Province near Quan Loi during mid-September 1969.

You’ll notice the Soldiers stood before a Brigade commander to receive their medals in muddy fatigues and unlaced boots as they tried to dry out.

Three of the Soldiers were killed in the helicopter crash a couple of weeks later. From left to right, Bill Adams, Bill Godfrey and Larry Prewitt, the fourth Soldier had just returned to us after recovering from a gunshot wound a couple of months earlier but I don’t remember his name.

FOR THE  
MILITARY  
COMMUNITY  
AND THEIR  
FAMILIES

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## 7th CAV News



**Jack (Boz) Parente**  
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Greetings, Garryowen Troopers!

Welcome to the Jul/Aug2025 issue of 7th Cav News. This issue opens with some Regimental current events courtesy of 1/7.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
1ST SQUADRON, 7TH CAVALRY REGIMENT  
1ST ARMORED BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM, 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION  
FORT CAVAZOS, TEXAS 76544  
13 June 2025

GARRYOWEN Veterans and Families,

Thank you for your continued dedication and support of the GARRYOWEN Squadron. The past few months have been busy, and we're looking forward to upcoming training and modernization efforts. Below is a brief update on recent accomplishments and a preview of what's ahead.

As many know, the Army recently restructured to better align with future demands. Under this realignment, GARRYOWEN was reassigned from the 1st Cavalry Division's Reconnaissance Squadron to the 1st Brigade Combat Team (1ABCT) "IRONHORSE" Armored Cavalry Squadron. Despite this change, GARRYOWEN Troopers were selected to proudly represent the 1st Cavalry Division at the 2025 Gainey Cup, showcasing the division's strength and their exceptional reconnaissance skills.

Building on this momentum and the new force restructuring, we have placed strong emphasis on developing our Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) Corps and retaining our Troopers. This year's Leader Professional Development (LPD) has centered on leadership philosophy, training methodology, and mentorship, ensuring that our junior Soldiers are developed with purpose. A major milestone in this effort was our recent NCO Induction Ceremony, during which CSM Mansfield brought together all the NCO's to foster unity and reinforce our leadership culture.

These initiatives have directly contributed to GARRYOWEN leading the IRONHORSE Brigade in Soldier retention and standing out as a top performer within the 1st Cavalry Division. We are proud to have exceeded our FY25 retention goals with one quarter remaining.

Currently, three of our Troops are undergoing Operator New Equipment Training (OPNET) on the M2A4 Bradley Fighting Vehicle. With training soon expanding to include the M1A3 SEPv3 Abrams main battle tank.

In addition to modernization, members of Diablo Troop are currently enroute to Washington, D.C., to represent the unit in the Army's 250th Birthday Parade. We sent 12 tanks and their crews to proudly represent both GARRYOWEN and the 1st Cavalry Division. Looking ahead, we are preparing to bid farewell to LTC John Dolan, who has led the Squadron with distinction throughout this period of reorganization. His leadership has been instrumental in positioning GARRYOWEN for future success. Concurrently, we welcome LTC Brandon Essiet as our incoming Squadron Commander. His experience and leadership will be instrumental as we continue to modernize and evolve our force structure.

Further on the horizon, to FY26, GARRYOWEN will send Troopers to participate in the Cambrian Patrol in Wales, United Kingdom. This internationally renowned 10-day exercise is known for its rigorous physical and mental demands, testing leadership, endurance, and tactical expertise across some of the harshest terrain in the British Isle.

We are proud of all that has been accomplished and remain focused on what's next. Thank you for your support of the GARRYOWEN Squadron. Seventh First!

JOHN P. DOLAN, LTC, AR - JUSTIN P. MANSFIELD, CSM, AR



Karl Three-Six Swenson and Jack Boz Parente at The Wall

John Guillory has written an extraordinarily detailed account of a brutal RVN firefight that his unit, C2/7, found themselves embroiled in the beginning of January 1969. This became known as the Battle of LZ Sump. It's a long story packed with minute-to-minute details and is the result of decades of work and research. This short, edited excerpt is a brief sampling of the project:

>The CO calls the platoon leaders to the CP, points at his map and says, "We will move west to the clearing, operate from there, and be extracted tomorrow morning." All the platoon leaders are looking at each other thinking, "This plan is total bullshit."

By 2:15pm on 10Jan we are entering the clearing known as LZ Sump. I tell 2-5 and the squad leaders to get

everyone into the ground. Then I give SGT Foreman one of the new handheld radios and tell him to put out an OP just inside the tree line. The look on his face was like I had asked him to slap his mom. He was not thrilled by what had been going on over the last few days, and he didn't want to put his men at risk, but this was not the time to lose sight of defense.

At 2:39pm I pass near Johnny's radio, and I hear SGT Foreman saying, in a pleading voice, "2-6, there's NVA all over the place out here and they're telling us to surrender," and then I hear either Foreman or Ted open with their M16s. Then AK and machine gun fire erupts from every direction. I dived to the ground between Doc Trip and Johnny. We're lying face down on flat ground, the only thing between us and the AK fire is knee high grass. All our weapons and the radio are about ten feet behind us (huge mistake). Any time I move, a bullet hits the dirt next to my head, so close that the dirt it throws hurts when it hits my forehead. I have this theory about survival that says, "always protect your head, a wound anywhere else is survivable, but not the head." I start clawing feverishly

at the ground to dig even the slightest bit of a hole to put whatever of my head in it as I can. Then an RPG whooshes past my head, then another whooshes past me, glances off the ground, corkscrews in the air and then explodes the second time it hits the ground. There are so many RPG's flying around, it looks like a quarterback's warm up prior to a football game. We hear an RPG explode and then I hear Bernie's pleading voice repeatedly screaming, MEDIC! Doc Trip hands me his .45 pistol and says, "I gotta help Bernie." As Doc begins to get up, I grab him by his shirt and forcefully say, "no Doc, you're gonna get killed." He pulls free, pops off the ground and runs to our left front. I look toward the tree line and fire all eight rounds in the .45 pistol, hoping to cover Doc's movement.

AK and machine gun rounds are kicking up the dirt all around Johnny and I as we lay there. In my head, I'm thinking, "I'm done, we're done, there's no way out of this." As bad as it has been in other firefights, I've never felt like this, like this is truly the end of me. Being raised as a Catholic and seeing too many Father Flanagan movies, I feel that at any second, I will be shot in the head. I will feel an instant of pain and then feel the coolness of heavenly air in the clouds and hear harp playing angels ... and that is the honest to God truth. Then I hear the Vietnamese voices telling us to surrender.

I jump up, spin around, take a couple of strides and on the ground in front of me is an M16. In the same motion that I grab it, I'm pushing the selector to automatic and put a magazine of 5.56mm in the three advancing NVA soldiers, and they go down. I spin away again, run and dive over this two-foot-high fallen tree, landing on my left shoulder. Then I look up and see Lou Urso, a mortarman from the weapons platoon, positioned behind the log and firing away with his M16 like he was on a mission, which he was. We make eye contact, each with a "what's next" look on our faces. Then I half stood up, raising my head over the top of the log. I yelled "throw your frags."

At the same instant that I landed behind the log, I hear Bernie plead, "2-6, HELP ME, 2-6, DOC IS DEAD, AND I HAVE NO HANDS." My brain takes a split second to process what I just heard, "he said Doc Trip is dead." My brain said no way, but I knew the answer was yes. Lou covered me and I went to help Bernie. I ran and then slid, like I'm trying to break up a double play at second, as I reached Bernie. An RPG had hit the end of Bernie's M16 and exploded. Doc is lying there next to John Lindale and Ron Thrasher who are seriously wounded. Amazingly though, before Doc was killed, he bandaged Thrasher's burnt face and Lindale's arm, shoulder, and hip wounds. Metal fragments from the RPG blast had shredded Bernie's hands up to his forearms, and the blast had burnt his face. Doc had used Bernie's sling as a tourniquet on his right arm, and his belt as a tourniquet on his left arm. Doc positioned his body between his wounded men and the enemy fire. Michael A. "Doc Trip" Fontaine sacrificed his life so others might live. To read the complete version of LZ Sump email me at <bozparente@gmail.com>.

A while back **Ralph Jones** of the **Proud Americans** of 2nd Bn, 32nd FA, sent me an outstanding writeup and file of info on the Battle of Fire Support Base Illingworth and the 3-battle "baiting operation" that had a huge cost, with 42 KIAs and 137 WIAs. The immense crater in the photo was created when the enemy reached a 400-round stockpile of 8" and 175mm ammo and detonated them in a blast that was seen from 10 miles away. Illingworth was a 2/8th firebase commanded by COL Michael Conrad and I don't intend to poach on "Top Gun's" turf, but all the news about B2 Spirits dropping the mighty GBU-57s on Iranian nuclear enrichment facilities somehow reminded me of this photo.



LZ Illingsworth

It also reminded me of the time Echo/Recon 1/7 choppered into a 60-meter clearing created by the M121 Daisy Cutter. This was a SNAFU of the highest order and demonstrates how even the best laid plans can go up in flames:

**It was all supposed to happen fast.** First would come the 10,000-pound M-121 Daisy Cutter quickly followed by our early morning insertion, one bird at a time, into the flattened 60-meter clearing that the gigantic explosion would create. We would then saddle up and move out ASAP. Well, everything went according to plan except for the very last part. Moving out from the newly cleared landing zone proved impossible. The bomb had cleared the landing zone of all the brush and trees as advertised, but it had deposited all that debris into a thick ring of jagged wooden shards, brush, and splintered trunks that created an impenetrable palisade. Chainsaws and axes were flown in but after hours of work our labors proved useless. Since we were hopelessly behind schedule, in desperation we asked for a load of demo. This proved effective in clearing the obstruction, but it started a raging fire from which we were lucky to escape with our lives. The moral to this story is that the biggest bomb may or may not be the best solution to a difficult military problem, but they don't work worth a crap when you need a quick LZ in heavy bush.

**And speaking of fires, Stan Weinstein** from Glen Cove, Long Island, 7th Cav HQ & HQ S-3 Sergeant, 1953-1955 sent in these shots of a massive fire in Camp Haugen, located on the Japanese island of Honshu, that wiped out the barracks on 31Jan, 1955. Thanks, Stan.

Thanks to John Guillory, Ralph Jones, Stan Weinstein, Tom Foor for the LZ Phyllis info, and all that supplied material for this issue and future issues of 7th Cav News. I would also like to offer a special thanks to **1LT Alexander R. Kong** for his outstanding writeup on 7th Cav current events, and to Michael Dooley for the story of Top Capshaw's dog and the romantic monkey. I'll save that for the next issue. Garryowen! Boz, out.

**Share your 7th Cav Stories!**





## 8th CAV News



**James "Top Gun" Dotson**  
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www.8Cavalry.org



Hello everyone. Summer is upon us, once again.

It's time to get out and enjoy life. Many modes of transportation offer special rates and fares for Veterans. If you are handicapped and flying, let the airline know that in advance, they will roll you to the gate. Speaking of airports, several of us Cav guys had to fly to Dallas and then on to Reno. There were a lot of Cav patches, Veterans, and active duty at the Dallas Airport that day. Let me say this from jump street, the airlines cannot control the weather and the Dallas weather that day was horrible, causing delays one after another. Some of us spent 12 hours in Dallas that day. At times, the airline reps seemed so rude and to not care about their customers. Groups of us had to change gates several times. I'm not going to say the airline's name, but their logo is a big AA. It wasn't all bad though. Suddenly, Cav patches were everywhere: on caps, shirts, and carry-on bags. So many of those Black Stetsons looking good. At first, we saw 10 Veterans gathered around one of the departure gates. Some of these folks had known each other from previous reunions but most of us had not ever met. Thanks to the brother from Nashville taking some Gentlemen Jack to a buddy in Reno. Smooth stuff. Larry Hempfling was speaking to folks about what we were doing, going to the Cav reunion when a young active-duty Trooper caught his attention. As it turns out he is LTC Nimmons, Commander of 3/8 Cav at Ft. Hood. He was headed to Reno where he was the main speaker at the division banquet. All wanted to know more about the modern Cav, he gladly spent time together with us and fielded a thousand questions. We invited him to join us at our 8th Cav luncheon. He accepted, joined us for lunch, and answered a thousand more questions. If anyone worries about our Troops today, spend a little time talking with this young man.

Reno reunion was another fantastic opportunity to meet up with some old friends and hopefully make some new ones. The hospitality room stayed busy with a ton of good chatting among the different units on hand. At the reunions there are so many things to do, at times we must pick and choose. A big shout out to Dara and her crew, they work so hard to make the reunions go off so well. We all missed Tina, and Tina we hope all is well. I've got to give a huge shout out to Dennis Webster. We are so thankful to have him at these reunions. If you want your people to be seated together he's the man. Never seen him upset. Mike "Mouse" McGhee gave him the nickname, Cool Hand Dennis. Thank all of you that were able to be there.

The 8th Cav luncheon had a good turnout. There were Troopers from 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Cav in attendance. Our president Tommy Harris called me about a week before hand and asked if I would fill in for him. I agreed and told him I would do my very best. We had a very supportive group that made me feel like I knew what I was talking about. Since our association only votes on even years, there were no elections. The meeting was very informal; everyone had a chance to talk about any issues or concerns on their mind. Our financial officer, Paul Braun, spoke about what funds we have available and said we have a substantial amount of money on the books. Being a non-profit organization we can only have so much. So let's do what that money is intended to do. We decided to take suggestions on what some of this might help Veterans. We voted on the proposals before us and all were unanimous in favor of. We will have a financial report in the *Saber* in September. I invited Bill Pickle to join the board, thank you Bill for accepting the position. Good meeting brothers.

## A Good Mission

Back a few years ago the division reunion was held in Dayton, Ohio. I got very sick and had heart surgery. Luckily, the hospital I was sent to was excellent and I was well taken care of. I mention this because of a Cav brother who I seem to run into everywhere. My guardian angel? When I returned home after my treatment in Ohio he called me checking on my health and saying prayers for my return to health. We talked about Army times and what we did afterwards. He became a minister and knew what he wanted to do going forward. He began going to the Philippines and Cambodia and did so for 18 years. His dream was to start a church in Vietnam. A young man in Vietnam asked for help to build a church so in 2007 his dream of building a church was gaining speed. His other hope is to build a place to house 134 kids. This is a great opportunity to show a Veterans desire to help the country he served in. At this past meeting, the 8th Cavalry Association voted to provide some funding to this great endeavor. The brother heading this is Gary Sites HHC 2/8, 66-67. Gary spent much of his tour in Vietnam working with Vietnamese militia. All proceeds go directly to his church and anything you can give will be appreciated. The address is North Country Baptist Church c/o Gary Sites at 11260 Kiousville Palestine Road, Mt. Sterling, Ohio 43143. For more information contact Gary Sites 740-506-1713.

## POWs Frank Sanvito and Floyd High, Jr.

I met Paula Dotson and her husband in St. Louis at the POW museum. She told me about her dad, Frank Sanvito, being a POW and I asked her to write it down for me so I could share it with you. She included the story of Allen High as they are connected.



Frank Sanvito

Francis A. Sanvito grew up in Hudson County, New Jersey, the son of Italian immigrants. Floyd Allen High, Jr., grew up in Virginia and Ohio, in a family that had been in the USA for several generations. Yet these two young men from very different backgrounds shared an experience that would stay with them the rest of their lives.

Francis A. Sanvito (Frank) enlisted in the Army March 5, 1940, shortly after turning 21. He was initially an Aircraft Mechanic First Class and was assigned to the 50th Recon Squadron, 11th Bomb Group, 7th Air Force at Hickam Air Base in Hawaii. On December 7, 1941, he survived the Japanese attack on Pearl

Harbor and Hickam Air Base. After the attack he decided to become a pilot, and in August 1942 he shipped out to California for flight training. On June 21, 1943, he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant and after 9 months of additional training he piloted a B-17G in a single ship "formation" to Foggia Italy. Floyd Allen High enlisted in the Army Air Corps in November 1942 at the age of 18. By January 1944 he was a Staff Sergeant and the on-board engine and upper turret operator on B-17 bombing missions over Italy.

On March 29, 1944, Frank and Allen (Floyd went by his middle name) were part of the 10-man crew for B-17G serial #42-97152 on a bombing run: Frank as co-pilot and Allen as the flight engineer and upper turret operator. Allen was a substitute for a regular crewmember who had spent the night on guard duty. The purpose of the mission #169 was to bomb the railyards at Turin, Italy. Shortly after they dropped their bombs on the target the #152 plane was hit by intense flak and they lost 2 engines, causing them to lag behind the formation. As a straggler they became an easy target for the German fighters that attacked. When they lost a third engine to the fighters the pilot, LT Ed Wronkosky, gave the order to abandon ship. All ten crew members bailed out to safety and landed near the town of Cairo Montenotte in the Liguria region of Northern Italy. The plane crashed just West of Dego, Italy.

Frank and Allen both received serious wounds from shrapnel as they exited the plane and parachuted to the ground. Some townspeople saw Frank land and took him to a home in Cairo where "Mamma Coletta," as Frank called her, tried to nurse his wounds. When the townspeople learned that his mother had come from a town not far from Cairo, they treated him as family. However, they realized the wound was too serious and he needed hospitalization.

When Allen hit the ground, he could not run to hide, due to his injuries. Not long after he touched down a German soldier arrived and held Allen captive at gunpoint until a truck pulled up to take him from his touchdown point. Both Frank and Allen were treated for their injuries at the hospital in Cairo Montenotte, which was controlled by German forces, and were put in the same hospital room. Since Allen was a substitute on the crew, they did not immediately recognize each other and at first spoke very little, each fearing that the other was a German plant trying to gather information. Within a day or two they realized that they were both Americans.

After a month Frank and Allen were transported to Stalag Luft III in Sagan, Bavaria (now Zagan, Poland) and placed in barracks #159 in West Compound. Although they received humane care from the Luftwaffe, the food was poor and at times scarce, and the barracks were very cold in winter. As time went on, they would listen to the BBC news on a makeshift radio the GIs had put together. When not in use, the radio was disassembled, and the components were taken to various locations in the camp. In that way the Germans could not find the radio, or at least not all the parts, during an inspection. By early winter 1944 the POWs learned that the Russians were advancing close to Stalag Luft III. The POWs figured they would be moved to prevent the Russians from liberating them, so many of them began to prepare for the move. Allen assumed that a march was coming, so he started walking around the compound to get himself in



Portion of Frank Sanvito POW Card

shape and kept his shoes repaired with cardboard from packages.

During a terrible blizzard on the night of January 27-28, 1944, the Germans evacuated the camp and marched the POWs to Spremberg, Germany, where they boarded cargo railcars for Stalag 13D in Nuremberg or Stalag VII-A in Moosburg. According to Allen, it was the coldest winter on record in Europe

and you had to keep moving to stay alive. The POWs took turns getting into warm buildings when they stopped in towns. The march was just as hard on the Germans as it was on the POWs, so they helped each other survive.

Frank and Allen were sent to Moosburg, where they were "greeted" by infestations of fleas, lice, and bedbugs. In April those who were initially sent to Nuremberg were again evacuated and marched to Moosburg. By the time they arrived the infestations were controlled.

On the morning of April 29, 1945, Stalag VII-A was liberated by the U.S. Fourteenth Armored Division. By that time it was reported as Germany's largest POW camp, with estimates of the camp population at liberation ranging up to 110,000 prisoners from many countries and of every rank and branch of service. Before leaving the camp, Allen went into the office and grabbed the records the Germans had prepared on him.

After liberation, both Frank and Allen returned to their homes and families. They rarely spoke about their POW experiences, and did not communicate with each other until four decades later when an Italian gentleman named Giancarlo Garelo contacted each of them. On March 29, 1944, Giancarlo was a young boy walking home from school for lunch when, in his words, "hell broke loose above Cairo." Due to thick clouds, he did not see the dogfight that disabled #42-97152, but he did see ten white parachutes falling above the hills that surround

**Please contact the scribe to share your  
8<sup>th</sup> Cav stories!**  
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Turning the Corner  
Task Force Baghdad  
by James Dietz  
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Operation Iraqi Freedom  
Task Force Baghdad Print  
As a commemorative to the division's tour of duty, this painting by James Dietz captures the essence of a street scene in Baghdad with Cav Troopers and the equipment they used in the effort to help the Iraqi people "turn the corner" on the road from tyranny to democracy.



Liberation of Baqubah  
Oct 2006 - Dec 2007  
Iraq  
by Joe Kline  
28" x 20"  
\$40

Deployed to Diyala Province, Iraq in September 2006 with 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. 1-12 CAV assumed an area of operations of over 300 square kilometers. The battalion pursued an aggressive campaign of counter-insurgency operations focused on securing the war torn provincial capitol. Determined to strike at the heart of the insurgency, 1-12 CAV established permanent combat outposts in the most dangerous parts of Baqubah: Buhriz, Khatoon, Old Baqubah and Tahrir. From these outpost 1-12 CAV conducted aggressive, near-continuous combat operations to destroy the insurgency. The Liberation of Baqubah was in keeping with the proud history of the 12th Cavalry Regiment.

scene in Baghdad with Cav Troopers and the equipment they used in the effort to help the Iraqi people "turn the corner" on the road from tyranny to democracy.

1<sup>ST</sup> CAVALRY DIVISION PRINTS

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## 1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION HISTORIAN

**Dennis Webster**  
513 Louise St, Copperas Cove, TX 76522  
254-220-2164  
Dennis.Webster7@gmail.com



This issue's article is going to go a little differently than previous articles. Many of you may have recently seen the Army's 250th Birthday Parade in Washington, DC. It doesn't matter whether you supported the idea of a military parade or not, what happened was the visualization of the Army's history. You may have noticed First Team Troopers marching in Vietnam Era uniforms carrying M-16 Rifles and sporting the large 1st Cavalry Division Shoulder Sleeve Insignia. Much of our history is reflected in the insignia we wear on our uniform and the distinctive unit insignia is one such item. I don't have space to list all of the unit's DUI in this issue but will do all the Cavalry, Aviation, and Artillery units currently in the 1CD and get the rest in future articles.

A Distinctive Unit insignia (DUI) is a metallic heraldic badge or device worn by Soldiers in the United States Army. The DUI design is derived from the coat of arms authorized for a unit. DUIs may also be called "distinctive insignia" (DI) or, imprecisely, a "crest" or a "unit crest" by Soldiers or collectors. The U.S. Army Institute of Heraldry is responsible for the design, development, and authorization of all DUIs.

It should be noted that the 8th Cavalry DUI has a directional element and is produced in mirrored pairs: one facing left and one facing right.

### The DUI of the 1st Cavalry Division



**Description:** A metal and enameled device 1 inch (2.54 cm) in height consisting of a gold-colored Norman shield with a black horse's head couped in sinister chief, and a black bend charged with two five-pointed stars.

**Symbolism:** The device is a miniature reproduction of the 1st Cavalry Division's shoulder sleeve insignia with the addition of two five-pointed stars. The Division Commander and the Division Staff wore the distinctive insignia design from 1922 to 1934 as a shoulder sleeve insignia.

**Background:** The distinctive unit insignia was originally approved for the 1st Cavalry Division on 25 August 1965. It was redesignated for the 1st Air Cavalry Division on 5 August 1968. It was redesignated for the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) on 10 September 1968. The insignia was redesignated for the 1st Cavalry Division on 24 May 1971.

### The DUI of the 5th Cavalry Regiment

**Description:** A gold color metal and enamel device 1 7/32 inches (3.10 cm) in height consisting of a coat of arms blazoned as follows: **Shield:** Or a cross Moline Sable, on a chief embattled of the last a Maltese cross Argent. **Crest:** On a wreath of the colors (or and sable) a bundle of five arrows Sable armed and flighted Gules, tied with a rattlesnake skin having five rattles Proper; the device enclosed within a motto scroll arcing over the top of the shield and inscribed "Loyalty" on the dexter side and "Courage" to sinister in Black letters.

**Symbolism:** The shield is yellow for Cavalry. The cross Moline symbolizes the charge of this Regiment on Longstreet's Troops at Gaines Mills in 1862; a charge which saved the Union artillery and which is characterized by the Regimental historian as "its most distinguished service." The cross Moline is supposed to represent the iron pieces of a mill stone (moulin, the French word Mill). The chief is for the Puerto Rican Expedition of 1898. The original name of the island was San Juan, named for the old knights of St. John who wore a white maltese cross on a black habit. The partition line is embattled to suggest the castle on the Spanish arms. The crest is for the Indian campaigns of the Regiment; the number of arrows corresponds to the numerical designation of the organization.

**Background:** The distinctive unit insignia was originally approved for the 5th Cavalry on 19 January 1923. It was redesignated for the 5th Cavalry Regiment (Infantry) on 16 December 1953. The insignia was redesignated for the 5th Cavalry on 10 July 1959. It was amended to revise the symbolism on 23 June 1960.

### The DUI of the 7th Cavalry Regiment



**Description:** Within a gold and enamel horseshoe 1 1/4 inches (3.18 cm) overall, showing seven nail holes, heels upward and the opening between the heels closed with a blue ribbon bearing the words "GARRY OWEN" in yellow letters, the crest of the coat of arms of the Regiment (on a wreath Or and Azure a dexter arm embowed vested Azure the hand in a buckskin gauntlet Proper grasping an old-style United States

Army saber Argent hilted Or). **Symbolism:** The color gold, or yellow, is symbolic of the Cavalry service, yellow being the color of the facings on the old blue uniform at the time the Regiment was first organized. The horseshoe is adapted from the Regimental coat of arms, the seven nail holes alluding to the unit's numerical designation. The gauntlet and saber at the "Charge" position are also adapted from the coat of arms and represent the "Cavalry Charge" and the battle heritage of the Regiment. "Garry Owen" is the name of a song which became a favorite of General Custer and once was used as a battle song in the Indian Wars.

**Background:** The distinctive unit insignia was originally approved for the 7th Cavalry Regiment on 29 June 1924. It was redesignated for the 7th Cavalry Regiment (Infantry) on 16 December 1953. The insignia was redesignated for the 7th Cavalry Regiment and amended to revise the description and include a symbolism on 4 February 1983.

### The DUI of the 8th Cavalry Regiment



**Description:** A demi-horse issuant rampant Argent with a band fessways Or charged with eight mullets pierced of the second, surmounting a ribbon scroll Sable with the regimental motto "HONOR AND COURAGE" of the second.



**Symbolism:** The eight mullets show the regimental number and Cavalry tradition ascribing the origin of the pierced mullet to the rowel of a spur. This is further indicated by the horse.

**Background:** The distinctive unit insignia was approved on 10 January 1927. It was amended on 10 January 1967, to correct the description.

### The DUI of the 9th Cavalry Regiment

**Description:** A gold color metal and enamel device 1 1/8 inches (2.86cm) in height overall: An Indian in breech clout and war bonnet, mounted on a galloping pony, brandishing a rifle in his right and holding a single rein in his left-hand, all-in gold, displayed upon a five-bastioned fort in blue edged with gold.



**Symbolism:** The five-bastioned fort was the badge of the Fifth Army Corps in Cuba, of which the Ninth Cavalry was a part. The yellow outline is for the Cavalry, and the blue for active service in the Spanish-American War. The mounted Indian represents the Indian campaigns of the Regiment.

**Background:** Originally approved for the 9th Cavalry on 22 Oct 1925. Redesignated for the 509th Tank Battalion on 23 May 1951. On 31 July 1951, the symbolism was amended. The distinctive unit insignia was redesignated for the 9th Cavalry on 1 Oct 1958.



### The DUI of the 12th Cavalry Regiment

**Description:** A gold metal and enamel device 1 5/32 inches (2.94 cm) in height consisting of a shield blazoned: Or, a cactus Vert. Attached below and on the sides of the shield a gray scroll inscribed "SEMPER PARATUS" in gold.

**Symbolism:** This Regiment was organized at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, in 1901, and spent its first two years at that post. The cactus shows the birthplace of this Regiment, as well as its service on the Mexican border. The motto translates to "Always Ready."

**Background:** The distinctive unit insignia was approved on 22 October 1957.

### The DUI of the 17th Cavalry Regiment

**Description:** A silver color metal and enamel device 1 1/8 inches (2.86 cm) in height overall consisting of a hurt wavy of six voided similarly or superimposed by a silver winged spur.

**Symbolism:** The winged spur is emblematic of cavalry and speed. The blue ribbon alludes to service with the American Expeditionary Forces.

**Background:** The distinctive unit insignia was approved on 28 June 1923. It was amended to revise the description and symbolism on 15 September 1987.



### The DUI of the 227th Aviation Regiment

**Description:** A silver color metal and enamel device 1 1/8 inches (2.86 cm) in height consisting of a silver hawk with wings displayed and elevated perched upon the center of a silver draped scroll inscribed with "POUVOIR" in black letters; behind the hawk a scarlet broad arrow point up its left blade passing in front of the hawk's left wing.

**Symbolism:** The hawk is symbolic of courage and aggressiveness in flight. The pheon represents the unit's armament and assault capability. The motto translates to "Can Do."

**Background:** The distinctive unit insignia was originally approved for the 227th Aviation Battalion on 4 January 1967. It was updated on 20 September 1973. The insignia was redesignated for the 227th Aviation Regiment on 30 June 1987.

### The DUI of the 16th Field Artillery Regiment

**Description:** A gold color metal and enamel device 1 5/16 inches (3.33 cm) in height consisting of the shield, crest and motto of the coat of arms.

**Symbolism:** The field is red for artillery. The dancetté fess is for the hills and mountains with which the regiment's history is connected (King's Mountains, North Carolina; Hill 304 near Verdun; Hill 295 north of Septsarges, France; the Landskrone, Rhineland; and Mt. Rainier, Washington). The black is for the battle losses. The three stars are for the three major operations of World War I in which the regiment took part. The horse's head indicates a mounted regiment and the ivy leaf is taken from the 4th Division shoulder sleeve insignia.

**Background:** The distinctive unit insignia was originally approved for the 16th Field Artillery Regiment on 21 February 1923. It was redesignated for the 16th Field Artillery Battalion on 12 May 1941. It was redesignated for the 16th Armored Field Artillery Battalion on 2 February 1951. It was redesignated for the 16th Artillery Regiment on 28 July 1958. The insignia was redesignated for the 16th Field Artillery Regiment on 6 December 1971.



### The DUI of the 82d Field Artillery Regiment

**Description:** A gold color metal and enamel device 1 3/16 inches (3.02 cm) in height consisting of a shield blazoned: Gules, on a fess wavy Argent an artillery projectile in pale point down Sable; on a canton Or, a dragon passant Tenné (for the 1st Cavalry).

**Symbolism:** The field of red is for Artillery, the dragon on the canton is from the arms of the 1st Cavalry, the parent organization. The first hostile shot fired by the Regiment was

across the Rio Grande in clearing Juarez of the Villaistas in June 15-16, 1919. This is shown by the projectile on the wavy fess.

**Background:** The distinctive unit insignia was originally approved for the 82d Field Artillery Regiment on 20 April 1927. It was redesignated for the 82d Field Artillery Battalion on 1 May 1942. It was redesignated for the 82d Artillery Regiment on 27 October 1958. The insignia was redesignated effective 1 September 1971, for the 82d Field Artillery Regiment.

### The DUI of the 56th Air Defense Artillery Regiment

**Description:** A gold color metal and enamel device 1 3/16 inches (3.02 cm) in height overall consisting of a shield blazoned: Gules, four searchlight beams radiant from middle base Or; on a chief Sable a winged projectile of the second. Attached



Continued to pg. 22



15th MED/15th FSB/15th BSB

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Enjoy the following 15th  
MED Trooper Stories from  
the 1CDA Oral History  
Publication Project:  
DANIEL L. TOOTHMAN  
CPT, Retired (1967 - 1987)

My year with the 1st Cavalry Division was the most formative of my life. I served as a helicopter ambulance pilot, and it was a profound experience that I will never forget. I graduated flight school on December 17, 1968, and within three weeks, I was reporting for duty in Vietnam. During flight school, I had trained to be a helicopter gunship pilot, but when I arrived in-country, I was reassigned to the 15th Medical Battalion of the 1st Cavalry Division. At first, I was hesitant about flying medevac missions instead of gunships, but I soon realized the vital importance of our work. The 1st Cavalry Division had a fierce reputation, and I was proud to be part of such an elite unit. Over time, I grew to love my role as a medevac pilot, and I formed deep bonds with the crew members I flew with. Even now, over 50 years later, I still maintain close connections with many of my former comrades. We make it a point to attend the annual 15th Medical Battalion reunion, where we can honor the shared experiences that forged an unbreakable camaraderie. The Army instilled in me the value of strong leadership and the importance of harnessing the talents of my team. Though I was passed over for promotion due to a lack of a college degree, I took pride in being a skilled and experienced aviator, logging nearly 29 years of flying time with the service. My time with the Division was a true privilege. The Army provided me with incredible opportunities, from flying medevac missions to serving as an installation aviation safety officer. Most importantly, it connected me with lifelong brothers-in-arms, whose bond and shared sacrifice I will always cherish.

CW2 HUGH M. “MAC” MCCLURE  
CW2, Honorably Discharged Veteran (1967 - 1970)

I volunteered for the first medevac mission, eager to be part of the vital work they did. Throughout my year in Vietnam, I flew with the 15th Medical Battalion, 1st Air Cavalry Division. Along the way, I earned a few accolades - a couple of Distinguished Flying Crosses, a Purple Heart, and a Bronze Star. The real reward was in the job itself. Those medevac missions were no easy feat. We’d often have to navigate into perilous landing zones under heavy fire. I went down four times myself, but each time I managed to get the wounded Soldiers safely extracted. Seeing those young men - now old Veterans like me - make it home, that’s what mattered most to me. The toughest mission I remember was the one to rescue comedian Martha Raye. We got the urgent call, flew into the hot LZ, and there she was - a piece of shrapnel lodged in her backside. I’ll never forget packing her wound and flying her to safety. Afterwards, she tracked me down stateside, and we became fast friends until her passing. That helicopter, the mighty Huey, was truly a godsend. It could take a beating and still get those wounded Troops to the aid station in time. Sometimes we’d be in and out in just 15 minutes, stabilizing them before the real work began on the hospital ship.

Seeing those battered young Soldiers smile as we pulled them from the battle, that’s what made it all worthwhile for me. Being a pilot, not an officer, was my sole focus. The warrants flew, that’s all I cared about. I flew through heavy fire and dire circumstances, bringing those Troops home. It was the most rewarding job I could have asked for.

TIMOTHY J. “TIM” KIRWAN  
SGT, Honorably Discharged Veteran (1968 - 1976)

I can still vividly recall my time as a door gunner in Medevac. It all started when I was sent over as a PFC firefighter crash rescue, ending up in the 15th Medical Battalion. They had initially thought they might need us for crash rescue helicopters, but that plan didn’t pan out. We found ourselves as duty Troops - drivers, CQ runners, that sort of thing. I got tired of that pretty quickly and told them I wanted a transfer. They said the only options were infantry or becoming a door gunner, so I chose the latter. As a door gunner, our main responsibility was providing protection for the Medevac flights. We had strict orders - we could only shoot if we were fired upon first. Otherwise, we were just there to wave back if the locals waved at us. We saw some pretty messed up stuff down there. Later on, my friend Cindy told me about the 1st Cavalry Division Association back in 1992. I found out some of the other guys I’d served with were already members, so I joined up too. I’ve enjoyed going to the reunions and reconnecting with that community. When I look back on my time serving, I’m most thankful that everyone I knew made it out alive. We did a lot of good work out there, and that’s what I’m most proud of. It wasn’t always easy, but we stuck together and looked out for each other.

KENT S. NABARRETE  
COL, Retired (1976 - 2006)

As a young officer fresh out of ROTC at the University of Hawaii, I felt a deep sense of obligation to serve my country, following in the footsteps of my uncles who had fought in World War II and my father in the Marine Reserves. When I was assigned to Fort Hood, I’ll admit I was a bit skeptical - I had envisioned Texas as nothing but desert and cactus. My time with the 1st Cavalry and in various other roles on that base proved to be a career-defining experience. My first few months were a whirlwind, as I took command of Charlie Company, 15th Support Battalion on a Friday and by Monday we were deploying to the National Training Center. It was non-stop training and field exercises for the next 70 days. At times it was grueling, but I cherished the opportunity to put my skills to the test and lead my Soldiers. What really solidified my affection for Fort Hood, though, was my subsequent assignments - serving as the executive officer for the Evacuation Hospital and then commanding the Medevac unit. These roles allowed me to truly excel, applying my medical expertise to support our Troops. The chance to deploy to Desert Shield and Desert Storm was both challenging and immensely rewarding. In the end, I spent nearly six years at Fort Hood, and it remains one of the highlights of my military career. The people I served with, the missions we accomplished together - it all added up to something greater than myself, which is exactly what I had been seeking. The camaraderie, the shared purpose, the sense of being part of something bigger - that’s what made my time at Fort Hood so special. It was the turning point that shaped the rest of my career.

**Contact the scribe to share your 15<sup>th</sup> MED stories!**  
**If you were ever a part of 15<sup>th</sup> MED, join their Association <[www.15thMedBnAssociation.org](http://www.15thMedBnAssociation.org)>**  
**SUPPORT YOUR UNIT LEGACY!**

FORT CAVAZOS REDESIGNATED AS FORT HOOD by U.S. Army Public Affairs, June 16, 2025

FORT HOOD, Texas — Fort Cavazos has been redesignated as Fort Hood in honor of Distinguished Service Cross recipient COL Robert B. Hood for his extraordinary heroism during World War I. The installation has received official orders to implement the change and is in the process of carrying those orders out as directed. An official ceremony will be held at a later date. Updates will be provided as they become available.

COL Hood received the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions in battle. Amid intense shelling near Thiaucourt, France, then-Captain Hood directed artillery fire under enfilading machine-gun fire. After his gun crew was lost to enemy fire, he rapidly reorganized and returned fire within minutes, restoring combat capability.

The installation is currently updating the online presence, including Facebook and the website, and will update physical signage and materials at a later date.

At this time, further queries should be forwarded to the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs Media Press Desk at <[usarmy.pentagon.hqda-ocpa.mbx.mrd-press-desk@army.mil](mailto:usarmy.pentagon.hqda-ocpa.mbx.mrd-press-desk@army.mil)>.

The Secretary of the Army will take immediate action to implement these redesignations, which are in accordance with Section 1749(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020.

In addition, the other Army installation name changes are as follows:

FORT PICKETT  
(formerly Fort Barfoot)

Named in honor of Distinguished Service Cross recipient  
1LT VERNON W. PICKETT

for his extraordinary heroism during World War II. While pinned down by enemy machine gun fire, Pickett crawled forward and destroyed two enemy positions with grenades. After being captured, he escaped from a transport train with fellow POWs and rejoined his unit before being killed in action.

FORT GORDON  
(formerly Fort Eisenhower)

Named in honor of Medal of Honor recipient  
MSG GARY I. GORDON

for his valor during the 1993 Battle of Mogadishu, Somalia. Gordon volunteered to be inserted to defend wounded crew members at a helicopter crash site and held off an advancing enemy force, protecting the pilot after exhausting all his ammunition.

FORT LEE

(formerly Fort Gregg-Adams)

Named in honor of Medal of Honor recipient  
PVT FITZ LEE

for his heroism during the Spanish-American War. During a coastal assault in Cuba, Lee voluntarily disembarked under direct enemy fire to rescue wounded comrades from the battlefield.

FORT POLK

(formerly Fort Johnson)

Named in honor of Silver Star recipient  
GEN JAMES H. POLK

for his gallantry in action as commanding officer of the 3rd Cavalry Group (Mechanized) during operations across Europe in World War II. Then COL Polk led reconnaissance and combat missions under fire, spearheading Third Army advances as part of Task Force Polk. He later served as commander in chief of U.S. Army Europe.

FORT RUCKER

(formerly Fort Novosel)

Named in honor of Distinguished Service Cross recipient  
CPT EDWARD W. RUCKER

for extraordinary heroism in World War I. Flying deep behind enemy lines, then-1LT Rucker and his fellow aviators engaged a numerically superior enemy force in a daring aerial battle over France, disrupting enemy movements and completing their mission against overwhelming odds.

FORT A.P. HILL

(formerly Fort Walker)

Named in honor of Medal of Honor recipients  
LTC EDWARD HILL, 1SG ROBERT A. PINN  
AND PVT BRUCE ANDERSON

for extraordinary heroism during the Civil War. Then-Capt. Hill, Pinn and Anderson executed significant actions separately at Cold Harbor, Virginia; Chapin’s Farm, Virginia; and Fort Fisher, North Carolina, in support of the U.S. Army.



2025 REUNION ICDA MEMBER ATTENDEES

James Alexander, Lonnie Alexander, Terry Armstrong

Robert C. Baker, Cynthia Ballinger, Basil Bell, Jerry Berggren, Russell Bernhard, William Bilo, Melvin L. Blackford, Butch X. Bottimore, Edmund Boucher, Patrick Boudreau, Terence M. Brain, Paul Braun, James Burton,

John A. Cahill, Michael A. Campbell, Rosey Carter, Michael D. Carter, Albert H. Carton, George Cesena, James Chin, Gerald Clement, Arthur Colbert, Boyd Cornelison, Barry K. Corno, Raymond Craig, Gary Crapser, Lawrence M. Curtis

Gary Decouteau, Alvion Y. Deimes, Raul N. Diaz, Joe Dilger, William Dooley, James G. Dotson, Keith Druckrey

Scott Emmart, George Engebretson, Douglas Evans

James Faulkner, David R. Fawcett, Douglas Fields, John David Floyd, Stanley Freeborn, Al Freeland

Kenneth Gallagher, David Garcia, Richard Gauthier, Charles J. Gibson, Donald M. Gibson, H. Wayne Givens, Paul Goad, William J. Grogan, Albert Guarnieri, David Guenther, Dennis G. Guthrie

McArthur Hall, Walter Harris, Gary P. Hauser, Bob Heintz, Michael S. Heinze, David L. Hendrickson, Timothy Hodge, Ryan Hodge, Thomas Holcombe, Michael Hoopaugh, Charles Hooper, Brad Hopkins, William F. Hornbuckle, James Horne, Larry Hubbard, Jon Hunter

Thomas R. Idema

Bert Johnson, Patrick Jones, James Jordan

Rich Kaye, J.D. Kirby, David Kirk, Thomas W. Kjos

Jim Landrum, Frederick H. Lang, Carl Lawrence, John LeBrun, James E. Loman, Terry Low, David A. Lutgen, Roger Lutz, Patrick J. Lyons, Fred Mac Lennan,

Terrell W. Macy, Charles J. Maguire, Douglas B. Matze, Roger May, Jimmie McBride, Kirk McCullough, Charles McGregor, Jerry McNelly, Robby McPhail, Thomas J. Mendez, Glenn Merritt, Kirk Metcalf, William J. Miller, Mark Moberg, Terry Moon, Brian Murray

Patrick Nardi, David Neff, Nevada Honor Guard, Ronald Q. Nichols, John Nimmons, James Noel, Allen Norris

Karl D. Oestreich, Wayne Okken

Leslie L. Palmer, Terry Park, Jack Pellington, Eloy C. Pena, Elizabeth Pepe, J. Shawn Perry, Terry W. Peterson, Mark A. Piasecki, William Pickle, Jeff Pitzen

Al Rackley, Kevin Raftery, Stanley A Rajski, Gilbert T. Ramirez, Anthony Rancatore, Ronnie Rash, Kimberly Rescorla, Daniel Roberts, Ed Robinson, James V. Rohret, Louis Rosales, Dennis Rydgren

Clyde E. Savage, Richard Sherwood, James Shores, Howard S. Shute, Scott Sjule, Gary L. Stites, Martell Swain

Pete Tattersall, Raymond Temple, John E. Thompson, Lynn Titus, Phil Truitt, Judith Trumball

Gary L. Ullom

Richard J. Van Deurzen, Jose Vargas, John Vincent, Michael Voulo

Jon Wallenius, Terry Wanish, Maurice Waters, Dennis Webster, Neal Whet-sel, Jay S. Whitney, John Peter Wilch, Terry Williams, David B. Williamson, Charles Windham, Bruce Wright

Jerome Zdancewicz

Finally, all the beautiful wives and guests!

1ST TIME ATTENDEES

Barry Adams, Sangodogbon Akinsoga, Kenton Ashworth, Franklin L. Bayer, Kevin Brew, Rock D. Byers, Michael A. Cooke, Larry E. Dawson, James L. Dickerson, Richard Fraiser, Lonnie Gaddy, Shannon Gibson, David Hart, Charles Kinnie, Richard Krenzer, Lee Livingston, Clair Mohler, John Nistler, David A. Palmer, Matthew L. Rico, Samuel Rocci, Dennis Shaw, Randy N. Simmons, Edward B. Surritt

STAFF:  
ICDA: Dara Wydler, Karleen Maloney  
GIFT SHOP: Tisha Blakley

Thank you to all our valuable  
volunteers,  
We could not have done it  
without you!



Above: Desert Storm Vets first time  
Reunion attendees L-R Darryl Gaddy,  
Dave Palmer, Mathew Rico



Past Presidents and current President on right at Reunion, 2025



MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
Reno, Nevada  
14 June 2025

The meeting of the membership of the 1st Cavalry Division Association was called to order by the President of the Association, Rich Kaye, at 0910 hours with a quorum present.

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting and led the members present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. A moment of silence was held for those members we have lost throughout the year.

The minutes of the 2024 meeting of the membership of the 1st Cavalry Division Association held in Louisville, KY on 22 June 2024 were approved as written. Minutes were published in the July/August 2024 *SABER* and posted on the bulletin board at the reunion for the past three days. The reading of the minutes was waived. A motion to accept the 2024 minutes was made. The motion carried.

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

**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President:**  
Rory Malloy

**Executive Foundation Trustee:**  
Scott Sjule

**Trustee-Foundation:**  
Mike Vuolo

|                            |                |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Board of Governors:</b> |                |
| Cindy Ballinger            | Roger May      |
| Donnie Davis               | Cliff Meade    |
| Richard Hernandez          | Elizabeth Pepe |
| Timothy Hodge              | Karl Swenson   |
| John Lebrun                | Mike Vuolo     |

The President aske the floor for nominations. With there being no further nominations, Scott Sjule made a motion to elect the committee’s nominees by proclamation, second by James Noel. Motion carried.

The Finance and Budget Committee, Dave Lutgen, provided a financial report on the Association. His report covered the first quarter starting 1 January 2025 and ending 31 March 2025. He reported that the current assets of the Association were \$2,774,495, up by \$4,615. The liabilities for the Association are \$63,272, an increase of \$2,536. The fund balance of the Association is \$2,711,223, an increase of \$2,078. The Market Value of our investments is \$5,323,012, a loss of \$166,947. The unrealized earnings from investments are \$2,611,224, a loss of \$227,581. The Association currently owns \$1,754,179 in high-grade bonds, which produced an annual income of \$73,524. The Association contributes \$12,000 to the Foundation each year. The Chairman of the Committee reported to the membership that the association was in good financial shape. Allen Norris made a motion to accept the Association’s financials, second by Mike Vuolo. Motion passed.

The Executive Trustee of the Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division Association, Peter Tattersall, provided a financial report on the Foundation for the year starting January 01, 2025, and ending 31 March 2025. The Foundation is made up of two segments, the Foundation (Base) and the Ia Drang Scholarship Fund. The total assets of the Foundation are \$3,152,005, a decrease of \$38,142. The Foundation (Base) assets are \$1,476,725, an increase of \$5,400. The Ia Drang portion of the assets is \$1,675,280, a decrease of \$43,542. Liabilities, which are payments for the administration of our accounts, are \$7,500. The fund balance, or net worth of the Foundation, is \$3,144,505, down \$38,142. The Foundation portion of the fund balance is \$1,469,225, an increase of \$5,400. The Ia Drang portion of the fund balance is \$1,675,280, down \$43,542. The Market Value of the Foundation’s investments as of 31 March 2025 was \$2,902,870, an increase of \$24,272 from last year, or 0.80 percent. The Ia Drang share of their securities is \$1,949,921, up \$10,179 or 0.50 percent. The Foundation Base had unrealized earnings of \$1,536,435. The Ia Drang Fund has unrealized earnings of \$289,761. The Foundation Base has high-grade commercial bonds in the portfolio, which are valued at \$865,084. The Foundation bonds produce an annual income of \$33,935 providing an annual yield of 3.90 percent. The Ia Drang bonds are valued at \$785,648, producing an annual income of \$34,214, a yield of 4.30 percent. The Foundation provides scholarships to the children of those killed in action and the children of those that are 100% permanently disabled, and Active-Duty Troopers and their spouses. The Ia Drang fund provides scholarships to grandchildren of Troopers in specified units that were active participants in the battles. Rosey Carter made a motion to accept the financials, Tim Hodge second the motion. Motion passed.

Scholarship grants given out for the 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr of 2025 are broken down below:

|               |             |                            |
|---------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| • 100% / KIA  | 46 Students | \$69,375.02 (\$179,325.02) |
| • Ia Drang    | 32 Students | \$43,750.00 (\$152,400.00) |
| • Active Duty | 0 Students  | \$0.00                     |

The Executive Director, Dara Wydler provided the membership with a briefing on Association Programs:

- 2025 Reunion: Currently there are close to 400 members and guests attending the reunion.
- 2026 Reunion: July 8-12, 2026; New Orleans, LA; Banquet will be held at the WWII Museum; the Ladies Luncheon will be a demo

cooking and meal; Jefferson Parrish representatives will attend the Chapter President’s meeting offering information for smaller group reunions.

- 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Day 2025: 9-12 November 2025, Crystal City Crowne Plaza. A reception will take the place of dinner, while the hospitality room stays the same. The cost to attend will remain \$50.

The Executive Director briefed three possible locations for the 2027 Reunion. Those locations up for consideration were Dallas/Fort Worth, San Antonio, and Columbus, GA. The President asked for a show of hands vote when each location was announced. By unanimous vote, Columbus, GA will be the location of the 2027 Reunion. The date will be determined by the Executive Director.

Rich Kaye explained the process of how reunions are planned. In the past Chapters (along with their Conventions and Visitors Bureau, worked together in finding a suitable location for the reunion in their city. However, with chapters closing, the onus has been left to the Executive Director to find suitable cities that can support our annual reunions.

Dennis Webster reminded the group that those attending the banquet need to have seating arrangements done prior to the event. Please see him after the meeting.

Rich Kaye briefed the members attending the meeting on the cost of continuing to print the Saber 6 times a year. Additionally, he explained that the Association is footing the bill for the annual calendar and requesting support in the form of donations from those who receive the item. However, each year we spend more and receive less in calendar donations. Members were reminded that there was a QR code on the back of their reunion booklet pertaining to possible options for both the *Saber* and Calendar. They were all asked to kindly take the 1-minute survey using their smart phones.

Rosey Carter briefed the members on the Chapter President’s meeting. She specifically highlighted that the Board of Governors voted to amend the current Hospitality Room SOP.

Gary Hauser asked if it were possible to move the unit luncheons to another day. Two large meals (lunch and the banquet) is entirely too much for most members.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Gary Williams, second by Shannon Gibson. The meeting adjourned at 1010 hours.

Dara C. Wydler  
Secretary

SILENT AUCTION PRIZE WINNERS

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Terry Armstrong | Vietnam Bayonet donated by <b>Ricky Drew</b>  |
| Cindy Ballinger | T-shirt Quilt sewn by <b>Sue Killingsworth</b> & 1CD Cap donated by <b>Kevin Raftery</b>                      |
| Bert Guarnieri  | 1-7 Cav Flask donated by the <b>Campbell’s</b>  |
| Mike Heinze     | Meat Brand donated by <b>1CDA</b> & Red Smoke Vietnam Photograph (Silver) donated by <b>Fort Knox Chapter</b> |
| Rich Kaye       | Vietnam Bayonet donated by <b>Ricky Drew</b>  |
| Cathy Lutgen    | Quilt sewn by <b>Sue Killingsworth</b>  |
| Roger May       | Crossed Sabers Survival Kit donated by <b>Crossed Sabers Chapter</b>  |
| Carol Noel      | Vietnam Coin donated by <b>Howard Shute</b>   |
| Terry Peterson  | Red Smoke Vietnam Photograph (Gold) donated by <b>Fort Knox Chapter</b>                                       |
| Al Rackley      | Vietnam Era Poncho Liner donated by <b>LRRP Rangers Chapter</b>   |
| Howard Shute    | American Liberty 2023 Silver Medal donated by <b>LRRP Rangers Chapter</b>                                     |
| The Sjule’s     | Jim Beam Decanter donated by <b>Ricky Drew</b>  |
| Dara Wydler     | Angels Envy Bourbon donated by <b>Harold Truitt</b> & 1CD Flask donated by the <b>Campbell’s</b>              |

*Thank you to all who participated and donated items.  
All proceeds go to the Active-Duty Scholarship Fund.  
Total raised was just over \$1900.*



CHAPTER NEWS  
UPDATES

We invite all of our Chapter Presidents, VPs or POC's to contribute any photos, news, or updates about your Chapter, to be **posted here in the Saber!** We would love to hear updates from all of our Chapters spread across the United States. **WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO USE THIS PLATFORM TO SHARE YOUR BULLETINS.**  
Submission deadline to appear in the next Saber is **Tuesday, September 2, 2025.**  
Please send to [Memberships@1CDA.org](mailto:Memberships@1CDA.org)

COLUMBIA -WILLAMETTE CHAPTER



On May 1<sup>st</sup>, Jim and Charlene Johnson, Barry Corno, and Steve Kernek visited the junior history class at SW Christian High School for our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual oral history hour at this school. We represented mortars, artillery, and infantry experiences in our talk about surrogate conflicts springing from the East-West Cold War. Korea, Nicaragua, and Vietnam are 3 examples, our shared experience limited to the Vietnam conflict. Charlene's presence with us highlighted the service of those left behind, wives and loved ones.

On May 22nd, Jim and Charlene Johnson, and Steve Kernek visited Sunset High School's 2025 "Honor by Listening Day" for all history classes, freshmen – senior. Again, it was a joy to have Charlene with us to represent the service rendered by those left behind. The library was mobbed, hearing from some 60+ aging Veterans and serving recruiters.



CONNECTICUT CHAPTER



Back L-R: Len Lapsis, Tom Uznanski, Steve Carter, Rich Magner, Frank Infante, Glen Bentz, Keith Moyer  
Front L-R: Tom McBriarty, Al Johnson, Paul Marling, Paul Eaton  
Next General Meeting is **Saturday, October 18, 12:30 pm, Manchester American Legion**, 20 American Legion Way, Manchester, CT 06040. All members, prospective members and guests are invited no matter what branch of service. Call president Keith Moyer for details, 860-885-4330 or email [kpmoyerco@hotmail.com](mailto:kpmoyerco@hotmail.com).

NY/NJ CHAPTER



Our Chapter Historian, Tom Lee reports that the National Vietnam War Museum has accepted the donation and will display the historic 1st Cavalry Division (Air Assault) welcome home banner. The banner was created and donated by chapter member Tim Millar and his wife. It was proudly displayed at the Vietnam Veteran welcome home parades held in New York and Los Angeles in



Final Banner

1985, Chicago in 1986, and at the 1st Cavalry Division Reunion in Las Vegas in 1986. The banner was also displayed at the 30th Anniversary of the NY/NJ Chapter in 2016. The banner is a symbol of the pride Soldiers who served with famed 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) for their combat service. It is significant because so few Vietnam Veterans were welcomed home or recognized for their sacrifice and service to their country when returning from the war.

The NY/NJ Chapter will hold our next meetings on **September 20** and **October 25**, starting at **10:00 am** at the **Elks Lodge** in Ridgefield Park, NJ. Guest speakers TBA. Our meetings are open to all service members regardless of branch, division or unit assignment. We welcome spouses, relatives, friends and interested parties. There are no dues to attend. Coffee and a buffet lunch is served and a donation to the chapter is requested.

Interested persons are encouraged to contact Robin Bartlett, Chapter President to be added to the email list. Send an email to [rbbartlett01@gmail.com](mailto:rbbartlett01@gmail.com) or call 201-856-7530. Join us to greet old friends and make new ones. Robin Bartlett



Chapter banner displayed at the 30th Anniversary of our chapter in 1996

SHERIDAN'S CHAPTER

Sheridan's Chapter (greater Chicago Area) is saddened to report the loss of another of our Troopers. Robert W. Senske, (HQ, B & C Co 2/7 Cav, 1967-68), passed away on March 11, 2025. He was one of the first members of the Chapter, joining in 2003. "Bob" was an active member of the Chapter and will be greatly missed by the membership.

Sheridan's Cavalry Chapter participates in the Unaccompanied Veterans Military Honors Ceremony at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, IL. This quarterly ceremony remembers those Veterans buried each quarter without receiving honors due to having no next of kin, homelessness, etc.

The April 14, 2025, ceremony honored 41 Veterans, buried from January-March 2025. In addition to the ceremony held on July 8, the final ceremony of the year is scheduled for October 9, 2025.

Remaining 2025 meetings for Sheridan's Cavalry Chapter are **August 9 (picnic), October 11, and December 6 (Christmas party)**. All meetings and events are held at Roselle American Legion Post #1084, 344 East Maple Ave., Roselle, IL 60172.

HAVE YOUR CHAPTER NEWS  
UPDATES POSTED HERE!

SEND US YOUR CHAPTER PHOTO!

Feel free to send us your Chapter Updates and a photo so it can appear in the next issue!  
Tell us a little bit of what your Chapter is doing.

Send your submissions to:

Karleen at [Memberships@1CDA.org](mailto:Memberships@1CDA.org) or  
Tina at [Programs@1CDA.org](mailto:Programs@1CDA.org)

IF YOU DO NOT BELONG TO A  
LOCAL CHAPTER

We encourage you to link into your nearest chapter!  
Reach out to the president & meet new  
Cav brothers/sisters!

Refer to the Chapter Index found on next page.



CHAPTER INDEX

**CALIFORNIA  
CENTRAL COAST**  
Pres: Barney B. Jones  
P.O. Box 444  
Pebble Beach, CA 93953  
(831) 917-5952  
Email: firstcav-cc-chapter@outlook.com

**COLUMBIA-WILLAMETTE**  
Pres: Terry Low  
16560 S Harding Rd.  
Oregon City, OR 97045-9679  
(503) 210-5558  
Email: tangolima2505@comcast.net  
Website: www.Hood2Hood1stCav.webs.com  
Meets 1200 2nd Thurs of each month at the Elmer's Restaurant, 10001 NE Sandy Blvd, Portland, OR. No meeting in Dec.

**CONNECTICUT**  
Pres: Keith Moyer  
48 Boretz Rd.  
Colchester, CT 06415-1009  
(860) 885-4330  
Email: kpmoyerco@hotmail.com  
Facebook: CTCav  
We meet quarterly. Email me for info. All new & prospective members welcome.

**CROSSED SABERS**  
Pres: Tony Cole  
(254) 394-2891  
Email: Olesarge19d@outlook.com  
Facebook: 1st Cavalry Division Association Crossed Saber Chapter  
General membership meetings Mar & Oct.  
Stable Calls: 4th Thurs of each month, 6pm, except Nov, Dec and the month of the Association Reunion. Stable Calls at various locations in Central TX area.

**FLORIDA'S FIRST COAST**  
Pres: Jesse Crimm  
4445 Silverwood Ln  
Jacksonville, FL 32207-6241  
(904)534-8899  
Email: thecrimms@gmail.com  
Meets at noon on 3rd Tues of every month. Locations alternate between westside & southside Jacksonville. Call 904-534-8899 to be notified & placed on mailing list.

**FLORIDA TROOP E  
"BLACK HAT"**  
Pres: Juan Kellogg  
607 SE 47th St., Apt. 7  
Cape Coral, FL 33904-5506  
Email: juankellogg@embarqmail.com  
Website: www.seahog.org/cav/index.html  
Meets 4th Sat each month from Sept.-May 1:00 pm at Mission BBQ, 12984 S. Cleveland Ave, Fort Myers, FL 33907

**FORT KNOX AREA**  
Pres: Thomas Ken O'Barr  
12210 Valley Dr.  
Louisville, KY 40026-9501  
(502) 228-8032  
Email: ko42@bellsouth.net  
POC: Robert W. Griffin  
64 Tabor Lane  
Elizabethtown, KY 42701-6158  
(270) 737-5908  
Email: lyngriffxx@windstream.net  
Facebook: 1st Cavalry Div Fort Knox Area Chapter  
Meets 3rd Sat of the month at 11am at Camp Knox Masonic Lodge #919, 1158 N. Dixie Hwy, Radcliff, KY.

**JAMES H. UNRUH  
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA**  
Pres: Michael T. Mazzaro  
Cenpenn Chapter. 1CDA  
P.O. Box 10033  
Lancaster, PA 17605  
(717) 389-1000  
Email: cenpenn1cda@gmail.com  
Meets 1800 2nd Tues of each month, except Nov, Dec, and Jan at Lititz VFW Post 1463, 14 N. Spruce St., Lititz, PA 17543

**JAMES J. MASON  
WEST MICHIGAN**  
POC: Bob Anderson  
9030 Conservancy Dr. NE  
Ada, MI 49301-8822  
(616) 682-5446  
Email: 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.

**JUMPING MUSTANGS**  
Pres: Wayne Volk  
3106 Nebraska Drive, Unit 2  
Bismarck, ND 58503  
(701) 226-9929 or (701) 527-1262  
E-mail: lois.reinhardt@midco.net  
POC: James C. Knafel  
5510E - 500 South  
Columbia City, IN 46725-7621  
(260) 244-3864  
Email: jjknafel@gmail.com  
Website: www.JumpingMustangs.com

**KETTLE MORaine**  
Pres: Fred Douglas  
2742 E. Main St, Lot 5  
East Troy, WI 53120-1379  
(262) 379-9930  
Email: FDouglass@centurytel.net  
POC: Michael Lorber  
4819 Longwood Dr., Mt. Pleasant, WI 53403-9769  
(262) 554-8310  
We meet quarterly on 2nd Sat of Mar, Jun, Sept at 12pm at the Bunker in Waterford, WI. Election of officers are the 2nd Sat of Dec at 12pm at Meyers Restaurant in Greenfield, WI.



**LOS ANGELES/  
ORANGE COUNTY**  
Pres: John Guillory  
780 Mandevilla Way  
Corona, CA 92879-8251  
(951) 283-7458  
Email: manhunter6869@yahoo.com  
Vice Pres: Scott Alexander  
5310 Silver Canyon Road A  
Yorba Linda, CA 92887  
Email: salexander48@hotmail.com  
Meets quarterly (Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct) 0900 on 3rd Sat of month at American Legion Post 132, 143 S Lemon St., Orange, CA 92866

**LRPP/RANGER of the 1st Cav  
Division during the Vietnam War**  
Pres: Doug Matze  
9623 Springhouse Dr.  
Chesterfield, VA 23832-9304  
(804) 790-1955  
Email: Doug.Matze@lycos.com  
Website: www.lrrprangers.com  
Full chapter meeting during Reunions.

**NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY**  
Pres: Robin B. Bartlett  
63 Burlington St.  
Norwood, NJ 07648-1515  
(201) 856-7530  
Email: RBBartlett01@gmail.com  
Facebook: New York New Jersey Cavalry  
Instagram: NYNJcavalry  
Meets quarterly at Elk Lodge 25 Cedar St, Ridgfield Park, NJ, 10am-1:30pm. Free coffee & buffet lunch. Send email to be added to mailing list for updates on upcoming meetings.

**NORTH CAROLINA  
TARHEEL**  
Pres: Johnny Parker  
10915 Tradition View Dr.  
Charlotte, NC 28269-1411  
(704) 517-5445  
Email: shagon19@gmail.com  
Contact for Membership: Don Gibson  
803 McDonald Church Road  
Rockingham, NC 28379-8529  
(910) 417-9104  
Email: dtbjgibson@gmail.com  
Meets 2nd Sat of Mar, Jun, Sept & Dec.

**SHERIDAN'S CAVALRY  
(Greater Chicago Area)**  
Pres: Rich Hildenbrand  
(630) 665-8183  
Email: rich.hildenbrand@outlook.com  
Temp POC: Donna Pacanowski  
6043 W. 59th St  
Chicago, IL 60638-3553  
(312) 401-0548  
Email: dnnpcnws9@gmail.com  
Facebook: Sheridan's Chapter 1st Cavalry Division  
2025 meeting dates are March 8, May 10, August 9 (picnic), October 11, and December 6 (Christmas party). All Meetings and events held at Roselle American Legion Post #1084, 344 East Maple Ave., Roselle, IL 60172.

**WALTER H. WESTMAN  
NORTHLAND**  
Pres: James D. Wright  
12781 Able St. NE  
Blaine, MN 55434-3261  
(763) 757-7140  
Email: 1stCav-MN@comcast.net  
Facebook: Walter H Westman-Northland Chapter 1st Cavalry Division Association  
We meet quarterly, locations change each time to different areas of the state. Call for updated information.

**WILLIAM A. RICHARDSON  
NATIONAL CAPITOL REGION**  
Pres: Linda Jantzen  
3913 Ridge Road  
Annandale, VA 22003  
(210) 849-9036  
Email: signalinda88@gmail.com  
Facebook: 1st Cavalry Division Nat'l Capitol Region  
Meets 3rd Sat in Jan-May off Jun-Aug. Meets again Sept-Dec. Nov meeting held in conjunction with 1CDA Veterans Day gathering.

Send us YOUR Chapter photo, so it can appear in the next issue!

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GOT CAVALRY HISTORICAL QUESTIONS?

Did you know we have a 1CDA Historian?

Reach out to **Dennis Webster** with any questions, or information regarding 1st Cavalry Division history!


**Dennis.Webster7@gmail.com** or **254-220-2164**



From the  
Director's Desk

Office of 1CDA

WE SUPPORT



The mission statement for *Soldier for Life* is to connect Army, governmental, and community efforts to build relationships that facilitate successful reintegration of our retiring Soldiers, Veterans, and their Families in order to keep them Army Strong and instill their values, ethos, and leadership within communities.

Soldiers start strong, serve strong, reintegrate strong, and ultimately remain strong as Army ambassadors to their communities. The 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Association (1CDA) and its members will help to ensure Veterans connect to resources and their communities as they make the important transition from Active, Reserve, Guard or become civilian leaders. The 1CDA stands ready to help prepare those Soldiers to thrive as civilians and Veterans.

**Why is this important to the Association?**  
The *Soldier for Life* concept helps Veterans ‘bridge the gap’ from the service through reintegration into their communities. The 1CDA has 25 chapters across the US to help facilitate veterans during their reintegration and beyond. It is here that their Army Story becomes a legacy that perpetuates the proud traditions of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division. “Once Cav, Always Cav.... First Team.”

IF YOU'RE VISITING  
FORT HOOD

If you’re visiting Fort Hood, be sure to visit the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Headquarters (Bldg. 28000). They have a free 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Walking History Tour. The tour is outdoors. It starts at the south entrance of Heritage Hall (1<sup>st</sup> Cav HQ) and walks around Cooper Field. Open to the public. If you want to watch from the comforts of your home, check out this link:

<<https://youtu.be/zE5npJiKpUo>>

You can also still visit the Horse Cavalry Detachment for a barn tour, they do their weekly Cav Demonstration on Thursdays, 10am at the stables, but call to verify 254-287-2229. They are located behind the National Mounted Warfare Museum, which is now open!

National Mounted Warfare Museum hours are Tuesday thru Saturday from 10am-5pm, 254-286-5684. No visitor pass is required for The Detachment nor the Museum, as they are not on post.

COMMEMORATE A  
FALLEN COMRADE

with our **Brick & Paver Campaign**  
Buy a brick to be engraved & placed by  
Heritage Hall at Division Headquarters

BULLETINS:

As of 1 January 2025

Every member received 1 calendar in the mail. There will now be a \$10 charge for each additional calendar requested.

1 July 2023

Saber price increased to  
\$20/year or \$75 for 5 years.

1 January 2022

ALL Bounced Checks will incur a \$25 fee.

The next *Saber* newspaper is the  
September / October 2025 edition.  
Deadline for submissions of your stories or photos is  
**Tuesday, September 2, 2025.**  
Please email to [Programs@1CDA.org](mailto:Programs@1CDA.org)

**Be a Saber Writer**  
**CARRY ON YOUR UNIT LEGACY!**  
**Share YOUR Stories**  
**Still looking for a 9th CAV SCRIBE**  
**Consider writing for the Column**  
Email for details: [programs@1CDA.org](mailto:programs@1CDA.org)

TROOPER'S TALE COLUMN

Do you have a long lost 1st Cav Division story to tell, perhaps you want to share an old photo of you and your battle buddy?

Share your treasured thoughts with your 1st Cavalry Division Association Family and they will appear in the Trooper's Tale section of the *Saber*!

Email to [Programs@1CDA.org](mailto:Programs@1CDA.org)

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

DONATION CHECKS

When sending in multiple donations to either Association, Foundation and IaDrang, we ask if you could please do it by writing out separate checks to each entity.

It will make the banking process smoother since they are all separate bank accounts.

*Many Thanks!*

USEFUL VETERAN ASSISTANCE INFO:

<<https://www.archives.gov/>> National Archives & Records Administration, Veteran service records

<<https://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center>> Central repository of personnel-related records for both the military and civil services of the United States Government. 314-801-0800

<<https://www.veteranmedals.army.mil/>> U.S. Army Veteran Medals

<<https://nvf.org/>> National Veterans Foundation: crisis management, information and referral needs of all U.S. Veterans and their families. 310-642-0255  
Vet-to-Vet toll-free helpline: 888-777-4443

<<https://nationalresourcedirectory.gov/>> Dept of Veteran Affairs, The National Resource Directory is a searchable database of resources vetted for Service members, Veterans, family members and caregivers. 800-342-9647

<<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>> Veterans Crisis Line 800-273-8255

<<https://www.dav.org/>> Disabled American Vets is a non-profit charity that provides a lifetime of support for Veterans of all generations and their families. 877-426-2838

SPECIFICALLY FOR TEXAS VETERANS

<[www.TVC.texas.gov](http://www.TVC.texas.gov)> Texas Veterans Commission advocates for all Texas Veterans, assisting with: VA Claims, Employment, Education, Entrepreneurship, and VA Healthcare Advocacy. 254-238-7124

<<https://www.texvet.org/>> Informative resource guide for Texas Veterans and family members. 512-341-4924



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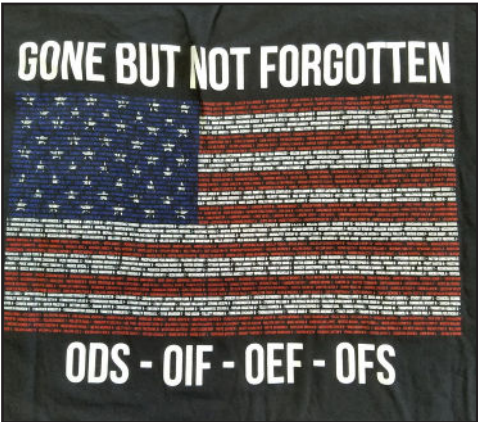
BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!  
We are restocked with Tribute & Vietnam Shirts  
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TRIBUTE SHIRTS

Description: 100% cotton black shirt  
Front: white Cav patch on upper left breast  
Back: says "GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN" and lists the  
names of our fallen Troopers from ODS, OIF, OEF, OFS in  
red, white and blue.



Front



Back Design

1st Cavalry Division Shirts Order Form

Short Sleeve Shirts \$23 each  
Long Sleeve Shirts \$26 each

FREE SHIPPING

TRIBUTE SHIRTS (fallen Troopers from ODS, OIF, OEF, OFS)

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|              |   |    |     |     |     |
|--------------|---|----|-----|-----|-----|
| Short Sleeve | L | XL | 2XL | 3XL |     |
| Long Sleeve  | M | L  | XL  | 2XL | 3XL |

CIRCLE YOUR PREFERRED SIZE

VIETNAM SHIRTS ("Remembering 5,618" Cav Troopers)

Description: Gray shirt w/black Cav patch

|              |   |   |     |     |     |
|--------------|---|---|-----|-----|-----|
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VIETNAM SHIRTS

Description: 100% cotton grey shirt  
Front: Cav Patch with years 1965-1972 written above, Vietnam  
written across the Baldrick  
Back: "Remembering 5,618" with Color image of Memorial  
Wall & Flag



Front



Back Design



## ENGINEER News



**Steve Richey**  
P.O. Box 250  
Wildomar, CA 92595-0250  
(714) 931-3123  
D9Dozer@verizon.net

Yesterday, we bombed Iran's nuclear facility 300' under the ground. I would have preferred we give those bunker busters to Israel and let them do it, but since we were the only ones with this bomb, the Iranians would have known where it came from, and

we'd be on their list for retaliation. No one called me and asked me what I preferred, and it seems there's only one man in Washington making decisions these days, some of which, I totally agree with. I talked with COL Suydam today and he laughed and said, "I'm glad I don't have any responsibilities anymore. Some of the choices would be difficult to make."

I want to thank John Hirte. He's MAJ Hirte's son. MAJ Hirte and I were in Nam at the same time. John now pretty much runs the Vietnam 8th Engineers website on Facebook. He's doing a great job. I'm one of the administrators, but just a figurehead. John does all the work and does it very well.

I spoke to Kent McCutchen the other day. His phone number is 812-739-4301. The man could use a few calls from you all who were in Nam. He's encouraging everyone to buy a brick for some walk they are building at Ft Hood. It's back to Ft Hood now. Kent is great. His memory of events he managed to live through during the time we both were in Nam is amazing. So many of the guys we knew in Nam are no longer alive. I see the pictures of the guys on Normandy Beach in France and wonder, is there anything in Vietnam built to honor the American Soldiers who fought there. We weren't that welcome while we were there, by the Vietnamese or our own country, and certainly not by the people running the country now.

I live near Los Angeles, 80 miles southeast. I don't dare go downtown LA these days. If I go there and would defend myself against the "protestors," I'd go to jail, and they most likely wouldn't. It's a good place not to go near. I used up most of my luck in Nam.

I would like to say hello to Roy Wood. He brought the engineering equipment to Nam for the 8th. He's a great man to talk with. I also want to mention CPT Jack Hunter. He's also a great guy to visit with. He lives in Tennessee. He told me he lives 40' from a lake to fish in. Way to go CPT Hunter.

I talked to Mike Lapsansky in Philly the other day and I talk with Dave Morken in Kingman often. Both were surveyors. Mike and Dave both went in on the combat assault of Shakey's Hill. Lousy dangerous place. David Cassita was 20 miles away when they blew the NVA cache there. He said he could see the explosion clearly that far away. I miss the giant explosions. The arc lights used to drop some nice bombs, but my personal favorite was when the EOD blew up three months of defective ordinance placed in a bomb crater. I was sitting on the tongue of a water buffalo, and the concussion nearly knocked me over. The hot metal flew upwards and fried the moisture in the air, so the shards of hot metal looked like the hat on a court jester.

I'm going to quit rambling now and print some of the book, "*I Remember: Skybeavers II*"

***I Remember: September 1969 – Everything Changed in Skybeaver World***  
**Marty Suydam remembers:**

September 3, 1969, Phouc Vinh, Republic of Vietnam with the mist rising off the rice paddies, I ate breakfast with the Battalion Staff. It was my 26th birthday. At our 6am breakfast meeting, COL Broumas asked me if I was going to fly with him that day, "...another day to excel." I said I thought not, I had things to do at our home base in Phouc Vinh. We had been doing reconnaissance for several days of a Special Forces camp, Bu Gia Mop, abandoned a few years earlier. The division was preparing to retake the area, but reconnaissance missions had to keep a low profile so as not to show intent to the enemy. In the end, it wasn't a happy birthday at all, except I was alive and all those that went out that day did not come back. Those that died that day were: SGT Mark Alford, MAJ Ron Britz, LTC Andre Broumas, SP5 Michael Collins, CPT Mac Genwright, WO David Hanna, CPT Norman Nesterak, WO William Tittle.

**Steve Richey remembers:**

I was talking with Mike Lapsansky today. He's great. He went into Shakey's Hill in a combat assault the first day. He told Smith that building an LZ there was impractical due to the trees and hills. They were only there for about a day, long enough to blow up the cache of weapons they found there. It was a hot LZ, lots of enemy shooting at them. He told me that Shakey's Hill got its name from the first guy killed there, a George Gonzales or Hernandez. He was in the infantry and every time they were action or there was incoming, the guy would shake uncontrollably and got the nickname Shakey. Since he was the first guy killed, the place got the name Shakey's Hill.

Mike told me while he was there, just eight hours or so, a helicopter came in with mail and he had a care package from his mom and grandmother. In it was a loaf of Italian bread and a Kielbasa, which he calls Kielbasy -- the bread was totally moldy, and the Kielbasa had mold on it also, but Mike knew it was just the outside, so he scrapes the mold off, wipes the skin of the kielbasa down, cut it in chunks, and offered to some of the others. They all refused, knowing the mold had been scraped off, so Mike ate the whole thing himself. That's a real Soldier's story.

They were getting small



Figure 7-12 LZ Shakey's Hill Sign

arms fire, mortars, a lot, and in the middle of it all, he tells people in charge not to build an LZ there, which they didn't, and then proceeded to eat his moldy Kielbasa.... Arrrggghhh!

**Howard Buchanan remembers** (adapted from *Saber* Newspapers Jan-Feb 2009):

... that as the 1st Cav came out of Cambodia, he and a LT Mitchell were assigned to build firebase Grunt. Grunt had the specific mission of covering the withdrawal from Cambodia and was presented with a difficult location in terms of engineering requirements. However, "Blackjack 6" [BJ6] was in the area for solutions. Now who is Blackjack 6 you readers may wonder. Well, none other than the Battalion CO with his 05 entitlement of a Huey and CSM sidekick. Buchanan and Mitchell first encountered difficulty with bamboo thickets. Solution? Call BJ6 for an airdrop of bangalore torpedoes. Later, as the first issue of chain saws wore out, more were needed. Solution? BJ6 brings in another airdrop. If that weren't enough, the Caterpillar Dozer threw a track on the side of a hill. Solution? BJ6 brings in the BMO, a warrant officer and a couple of more dozer operators with their 60-inch pry bars. These Troops plus the 12B's already at Grunt and a little determination got the dozer reassembled. Buchanan recalls that afterward they draped ponchos over themselves, dropped in the mud, and slept.

**I Remember: The Big Gun Ambush\***

**Kent (Mac) McCutchen remembers:**

In late 1970, after Cambodia, we were closing an FSB that was next to a wood line. A sergeant directed me, using my Case 450, to clear a trail and open an area just large enough for a single 105mm howitzer overlooking the garbage dump. They would leave the dump open to draw the NVA in and ambush them. They baited the dump with some rations and 55-gallon drums.

I was told not to leave any tracks, so I traced my path out on the tracks I used to get in on. He told me not to tell anyone what I had done. I slung out before I got to see if the ambush had worked.

**Kent (Mac) McCutchen remembers:**

Few Skybeavers, were awarded Air Medal qualifying flights on the CH-54. The rare exception was for Skybeaver tractor operators. There were only seats for the pilots and crew chief (the latter responsible for the sling operations). Accommodations in the cockpit were a tight fit.

However, there were occasions when it was important to have the operator arrive with his equipment. Transport of the Case 450 tractor was such a case. Work could start immediately and not wait for another helicopter to deliver the operator.

When an operator rode along, he had to sit on the stairs leading up to the cockpit with a full view, through plastic, looking back and down. No harness or seatbelt.

I remember watching the crew chief use grease pencil on the plastic windows to log load weights. We were flying along and out of nowhere, the sound of a round going by. He looked all around, then wrote on the glass: "We just got shot at!"

**Marty Suydam remembers:**

By the beginning of November and throughout December 1966, we supported many combat operations by helicopter-lifting heavy equipment (bulldozers, road graders, road scrapers, front loaders, and mobile cranes) to remote locations. Up until this time in the war these equipment items had been moved over ground. The testing done by the 11th Air Assault Division, predecessor to the 1st Cav, had been accomplished on flat, hard stands. To fit within the lift capability of our helicopters, most heavy equipment had to be sectionalized using various stands. Doing this became a real test, we hardly ever had enough flat, stable ground to break a road grader into two parts. Regardless, we got good at it. We also had a rude awakening when finding the huge static charge generated by the helicopter when you were about to hook up the sling to the helicopter's hook and you became part of the electrical ground path (figure 8-3)<sup>1</sup>.



Figure 7-20 Skycrane Cockpit

**Please contact the scribe to share your Engineer stories to appear here!**



1CDA Oral History Publication Project with Publishing Concepts

AARON E. KALLOCH  
LTC, Retired (1990 - 2013)

I’m proud to have served my country in the Army. It was an incredible journey that opened my eyes to so much more than I ever could have imagined growing up in a small town in Maine. When I arrived at Fort Hood in 2003, I was tasked with converting the third brigade to the new Force 21 structure. That led to deployments to Fort Polk and then Kuwait, before we headed to Baghdad and the Green Zone in 2004. Being the mayor of all the FOBs in the Green Zone was a unique challenge, but the real highlight was my time as the S3 operations officer for the 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry. That deployment, with all its intensity and uncertainty, was the defining moment of my career. We fought through some of the toughest battles but also ensured a secure election that many had doubted would be possible. It was an incredible experience, both exciting and dangerous. The following years brought their own challenges - leading the transition to the modular brigade combat team, orchestrating CTC rotations, and managing the RSOI process for the surge brigades in Kuwait. Through it all, I was driven by a sense of duty and pride in serving my country. I’m most thankful for the opportunities the Army provided - to see the world, work with people from diverse backgrounds, and transition into a career in military education. It was a remarkable journey, one that I’m proud to have been a part of.

ABEL H. “RZ” RODRIGUEZ, SR.  
SSG, Retired (1977 - 1994)

I joined the Army in spring 1974, right out of high school. I was living in a small town outside of Chicago, and with a girlfriend who was pregnant, I knew I needed to make a change. On New Year’s Eve, some friends of mine showed up in military uniforms, and something just clicked. I decided to enlist, and the recruiter helped me get into the 1st Cavalry Division. It was a big adjustment, being away from home for the first time. My buddy in the Air Force used to tease me about having to console crying kids, but I took it all in stride. I came from a military family, so I knew what to expect. At first, I wasn’t sure about military life. With a family to support, the stability and opportunities the Army offered were exactly what I needed. I ended up doing 20 years, serving in a variety of roles, from air traffic control to radar operations. My advice to new recruits is to really focus on that ASVAB test score. The higher score you get, the more options you’ll have for rewarding careers in the military. The Army helped me get my high school diploma and boost my test scores, which opened the door to some great training and assignments. Overall, the military gave me the direction and support I was lacking. It straightened me out and set me on a path to a fulfilling career. I’m grateful for the opportunities it provided, and I’m proud that my family has continued that legacy of service.

AL J. CONETTO

CPT, Honorably Discharged Veteran (1964 - 1970)

I was initially inspired to join the Army with the intention of making it a career. During my time in the service, I had many significant experiences, including completing jump school and spending 17 months in Vietnam as a platoon leader, company commander, and battalion S4 and assistant G2 briefing officer. Being part of the 1st Cavalry Division Association was a natural fit for me, and I quickly learned to appreciate the unique capabilities of the division, especially with the abundance of helicopters. As a company commander, I am most proud of the exceptional soldiers I had the privilege of leading. I also have fond memories of my time with the 173rd Airborne, but the 1st Cavalry Division will always hold a special place in my heart. While I did not get heavily involved with the 1st Cavalry Division Association, I did attend a few reunions. Looking back on my time serving our country, I am grateful for the opportunity to have been a company commander in Vietnam. It was a role that I found easy and fulfilling, thanks to the support of my excellent battalion commander and the exceptional Soldiers under my command. I also had the chance to serve as a platoon leader in both the States and Vietnam, and I was fortunate to have great enlisted men and sergeants who made my job easy. If anyone is considering joining the 1st Cavalry Division Association, I would highly encourage them to do so. It’s a wonderful way to stay connected with fellow Soldiers and honor the legacy of this exceptional division.

ALAN W. KNOTTS  
MSG, Retired (1987 - 2008)

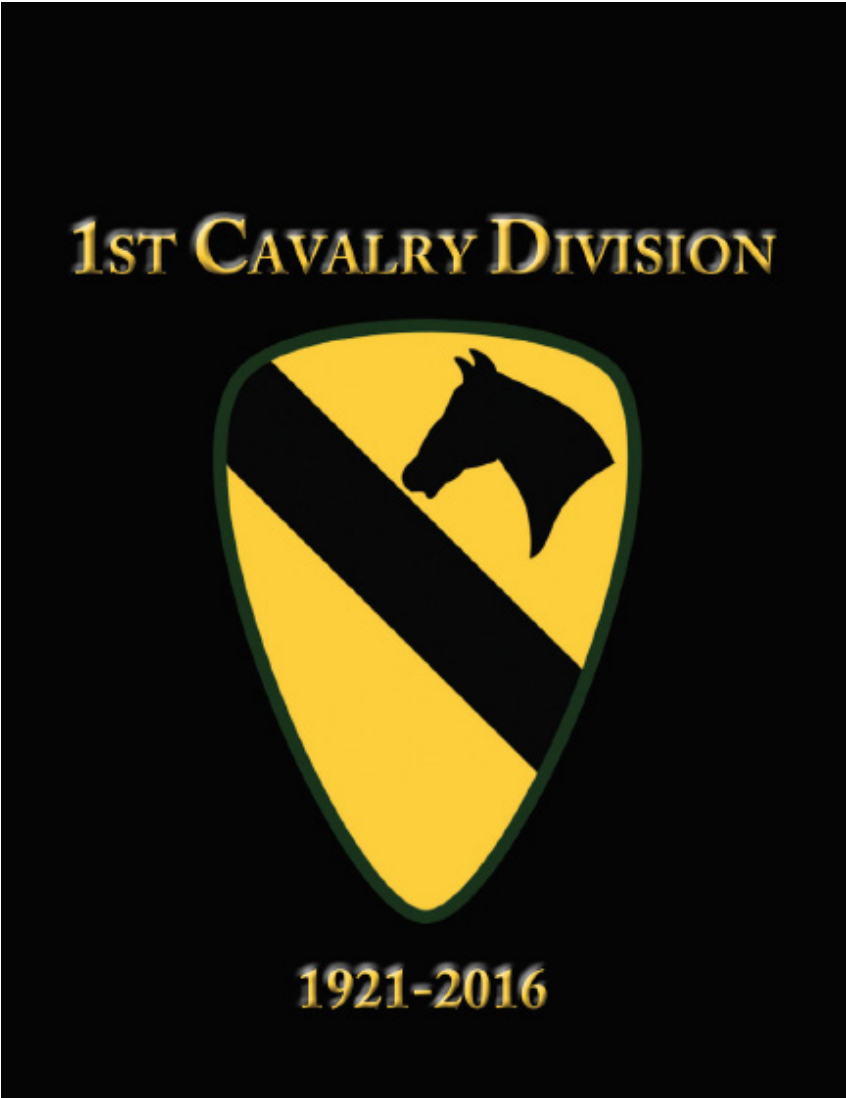
When I look back on my life, I never imagined joining the military. I was five years out of high school, working a job, and about to get married. I felt stuck in the same situation and wanted a change. So, in 1987, I decided to take a chance and join the Army. That first decision changed the course of my life. I quickly realized I enjoyed the military lifestyle and decided to make a career out of it. My first duty station at Fort Lewis, Washington with the 4th or 23rd Infantry was a formative experience. I was a combat signaler, learning the ropes of communications. After 15 months, I went on my first overseas tour in Korea. Over the next decade, I kept moving around, with four different units at Fort Hood, Texas. I served in the 6th of the 37th Field Artillery, the 27th MSB, and deployed to Iraq with the 64th CSG. My final tour was as the brigade communication chief for the 1st Cavalry Division during a 15-month deployment to Iraq. That was the most rewarding, as I was able to put all my experience to use without losing a single Soldier under my command. The Army gave me opportunities I never would have had otherwise. I had no intention of making it a career, but over time I grew to be proud of my service. Reaching the rank of Sergeant First Class, surpassing my own goals, is something I’m thankful for. The camaraderie, leadership, and lifelong friendships I made are what I cherish most. The Army gave me a sense of purpose and a path to better my life. I wouldn’t trade that for anything.

FIRST TEAM HISTORY BOOK

Our final shipment has arrived. Limited-edition, commemorative 1st Cavalry Division history book. This is the same history book we offered in 2019.

- Includes a detailed history of the 1st Cav Division from WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Bosnia, the Gulf War, and the War of Terror, including its founders, training, engagements, responsibilities today, and more.
- Historical overview of the 1st Cavalry Division Association.
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FIRST TEAM HISTORY BOOK

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## DIVISION DOINGS

Continued from pg. 1



Antonio Rodeo in 2005. It was the height of the Iraq War and the Horse Cavalry Detachment joined Army Chief of Staff GEN Peter Schoomaker, 60 new enlistees and country music superstar George Strait for an induction ceremony.

"I personally think they're making a mistake," he said of the Army's move to abandon most ceremonial horse units, adding that he had been connecting with his fellow 1st Cavalry Division Association members about it. "There's a lot of members and other folks around the country that feel the same way, and there's a lot of letters and things going to Congress and Congress people and saying, 'Hey, you need to take another look at this.'"

The Army announcement singled out ceremonial "military working equid" units at Fort Hood, Fort Sill, Fort Huachuca, Fort Riley and Fort Irwin as destined for deactivation within the next year. Only the two caisson platoons, used for military funeral honors, will keep its horses.

One former Herald military editor and horse owner had strong feelings on the matter after covering the 1st Cav Horse Detachment in the early 2000s.

"Not having them in the parades, not letting people connect with the military, I think that's a mistake," Debbie Stevenson said. "Because when we're going to need their support the most — the connectivity there, particularly with the younger generation, is going to be gone." Stevenson, now a Salado-based real estate agent, said she has been riding horses her whole life and at one point was invited to mount up and ride with the Horse Cavalry Detachment on one of its horses. She pointed to the 2021 demise of Fort Hood's MWR-run community stables, the Hunt and Saddle Club, as another rejection of good community relations.

"I very rarely criticize the military, because I, you know, I've always given them the benefit of the doubt," she added. "But I think this is not very well thought out at all. I think this is cost cutting for the sake of cost cutting without thinking about the role and just the community relations aspect of it."

Local government leaders have responded in a mourning tone. Killeen Mayor Debbie Nash-King, a Veteran of the 1st Cavalry Division, responded in a statement: "We truly cherish the moments we've shared with the 1st Cavalry Division Horse Cavalry Detachment, creating unforgettable memories alongside these majestic horses. Every community event where they have graced us with their presence has been truly special. While we recognize that this transition is part of a federal initiative, we are fully prepared to support the Army in any way that we can. The absence of these remarkable animals and the unique spirit they brought to our lives will be deeply felt, and we are sincerely grateful for their service."

Harker Heights Mayor Michael Blomquist, also a retired Army officer, said in an emailed statement that the detachment is "more than just a military formation." "We will deeply miss their stirring presence. Every Soldier who proudly served in the Horse Detachment, every leader whose promotion or honor was underscored by their dignified appearance at a change of command, and every wide-eyed child who, upon seeing their performance, dreamed of becoming a cowboy or a Soldier, all will carry the indelible memory of that experience."

"These are not merely recollections; they are stories to be told, experiences to be shared, and in their telling, they will continue to feed the very history, legend, and lore that bind us as Texans and as Americans."

### New Training Concept Aims to Revolutionize Army Gunnery

by SPC David Dumas June 5, 2025

FORT CAVAZOS, Texas - The 1st Cavalry Division command team held a Standard Armor Base of Training (SABOT) Forum with the First Team's armor leaders at Palmer Theatre, Fort Cavazos, Texas, June 4, 2025. Under the Army's Transforming-in-Contact initiative, the Division is implementing an armor training standardization concept to revolutionize how the Army trains armored Troopers and leaders. MG Thomas Feltey, the commanding general of the 1st Cavalry Division, and CSM LeVares J. Jackson, command sergeant major of the 1st Cavalry Division, provided a leader discussion forum Wednesday for future armor training procedures and execution.

SABOT aims to deliver the Army with armored brigade combat teams a program that makes gunnery training an everyday event rather than a 6-week sprint. "How do you think you'll perform on the ACFT if you don't train for it until 6-weeks from the test?" MG Feltey asked the audience. "You'll do poorly, and it's the same with gunnery. We cannot excel at firing line if we do not train for it every single day."

As a part of SABOT, the First Team will build, rigorous, standardized training methodology which includes oral exams, tests, and added evaluations. The structure is designed to encourage Soldiers to conduct self-study, on top of the training they execute, so vehicle commanders can become the masters of their platform, and free Master Gunners to run the commander's gunnery program.

"If you train something to standard the first time you will never forget it," said

MG Feltey. "If you are held to that standard, you will never forget and will be perpetuated into teaching other people." The standards-based approach is an effort to increase 19 series expertise across the armored combat teams through application of the Readiness Level (RL) Progression training method used by Combat Aviation Brigades. During the forum, the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade described how they can maintain pilot certification and interchange crews across the Army through RL Progression and provided a demonstration of how they think standardization would look and sound in the armored brigade combat teams. SABOT also aims to allow units to maintain readiness through transferable readiness, as crews are no longer tied together through a gunnery progression. Instead, crew members at the same level of qualification from anywhere in the Army, after a brief "check ride," can join a crew at the same readiness level progression.

The division's comprehensive Transforming in Contact initiative is called "Pegasus Charge," built across organizing, equipping and training the division. This forum was the first step towards the beginning standardization concept and revolutionizing the armored brigade combat team training methodology with a new and in-depth training concept to better prepare for future gunnery operations.

### First Team Conducts Retreat Ceremony

by SPC David Dumas  
June 4, 2025



FORT CAVAZOS, Texas - Serving as the Deputy Commanding General of Maneuver, BG Robert Born was bid farewell by the 1st Cavalry Division with a retreat ceremony on June 3, 2025, at Cooper Field, Fort Cavazos, Texas. A long-standing military tradition that honors the flag and the country, a retreat ceremony marks the end of the official duty day and serves as a formal way to lower the nation's flag.

When conducting the retreat ceremony, a member of the 1st Cavalry Division Band plays the bugle call, known as 'Retreat,' promptly at the end of the duty day. Troopers of the Honor Guard slowly lower the nation's flag while all others in attendance

pay their respects, rendering a salute.

Born served with the First Team for two years, starting back in June 2023. His service will continue in Fort Meade, Maryland.

"I want to thank the Troopers and Leaders of the 1st Cavalry Division and 3rd Cavalry Regiment for letting me ride with you for the last two years," said Born. "You have a grit and toughness not surpassed anywhere in this great Army. I am truly better for my time in this great division."

### The First Team Troopers Complete the 1st Cavalry Division Best Squad Competition

by Julian Winston June 4, 2025

FORT CAVAZOS, Texas - The 1st Cavalry Division held a Best Squad Competition on Fort Cavazos, Texas, May 27-30, to select the team that will go on to represent the division in a follow-up competition being hosted by III Armored Corps (III Corps) later on in the year.

Infantrymen from the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team and 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, were selected to compete based on their physical readiness, marksmanship, depth of knowledge, and their ability to perform a wide range of tactical and technical skill subjects.

Leading up to the competition, the selected First Team Troopers underwent rigorous training in order to excel on the challenges presented by the competition, which started on May 27, 2025.

By the time the competition concluded on May 29, the teams from both brigades had executed the following: A U.S. Army Fitness Test, weapons qualification range operations, both day and night land navigation, vehicle identification, written exam, and concluded with a 12-mile ruck march.

"It is a perfect opportunity for service members to demonstrate their physical strengths, mental agility, and overall readiness," said MSG Thomas Campbell, the 1st Cavalry Division master gunner and noncommissioned officer in charge of the competition. "During the better part of a week, I watched these two squads push themselves to accomplish great things."



On May 30, a day after the final event concluded, the winners of this Best Squad Competition were selected by the First Team command team to represent the division going forward. "I was very proud to see the overall outcome of what they accomplished," said Campbell. "I am excited to see how the 1-8 Cav squad performs at the III Corps competition."

The chosen team from 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, are slated to compete in the Best Squad Competition being hosted by the III Armored Corps from June 7-12, 2025, at Fort Riley, Kansas. A wide range of III Corps' subordinate units will participate in that competition for the chance to represent the Phantom Warriors in the U.S. Army Forces Command's Best Squad Competition later in the year.



**545<sup>th</sup> MP Co News****Lawrence Gardner Ketron**

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The 545th MP Company of the 1st Cavalry Division (AIRMObILE) To the reader community: I have been asked to author a series of articles about the experiences of

the men of the 545th MP Company of the 1st Cavalry Division (AIRMObILE). I joined the company in July of 1964, shortly after its inception at Ft. Benning, GA, as the 11th MP Company of the 11th Air Assault Division (TEST). The men still alive in the original company of 1964-1966 are now in their late 70's and early 80's and wanted their stories documented while they could still remember them.

**WHICH ORDER SHOULD A PRIVATE OBEY? – By Bob Dean**

One day in the spring of 1965 six of us from the 11th MP (we had not yet become the 545<sup>th</sup> MP of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry) were detailed to the gun range for M60 machine gun familiarization. We were accompanied by one of the LTs. By the time we got back it was after 1900 hrs. The mess hall was holding chow for us. To speed thing up the LT said to just wipe the guns down with a rag for the night. He would have a detail clean them the next day. (I suppose his wife was holding chow for him at home.)

We were in the process of doing that when one of the SGTs noticed what we were doing. He got quite upset, telling us that was not proper. We told him what the LT had said and he replied that the LT had not told him about it, therefore we had to do it by the book. The LT was only about 30 feet away. We suggested he go check with him. He said, "If the LT wanted him to know, he would have told him." So we started breaking down the guns as ordered. About this time the LT came into the armory to find out what was taking so long. He's now upset with us for not following HIS order. We explained what took place. He then asked the SGT to step outside for a chat. We finished up and went to chow, and so did the LT. The SGT kind of disappeared for a day or so.

**THE ENEMY GOT THE FIRST PUNCH**

While COL Hal Moore and the 1/7 Cav were trying to make contact with the PAVN, the night of November 12<sup>th</sup> the PAVN/VC made an unscheduled call on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Headquarters at the tea plantation. Things had been rather quiet there up to that point. Each evening a unit was flown in to provide security for the brigade headquarters. The little group of MP's had settled into their area. As was mentioned in the May/June article there was no secrecy about our location and dispersal along both sides of PL14. Civilians traversed the road at will. As per usual, the security unit set up their shelter halves in a neat row at the head of the hollow above the springs. Was a great place to take a shower.

One of the MP's, Charles Adcock, had somehow wrangled permission to drive into the airbase at Pleiku. While there he visited the PX and returned with a package of new glowing white underwear. Before sunset for the benefit of the other MP's, Charles donned his new underwear and strutted around making comments about the rest of us wearing our home dyed red dust infused dirty underwear. He wore his new duds to bed that night.

The MP group settled in shortly before midnight. Your author heard the first mortar round leave the tube and had rolled into his foxhole before it landed. The MP's seemed to be targeted, but the enemy gunners were overshooting their mark with most of the impacts just beyond us in the bushes. One of your author's most vivid memories of the night was seeing the streak of white underwear as Charles hightailed from his shelter to his foxhole. This is always brought up in our reunions since we started having them in 2000. Of course your author was thinking that maybe the shallow readymade foxhole that he had claimed could have been a little deeper (which was deeper before sunset the next evening, felt like the posterior was protruding). Your author's foxhole was positioned close to the head of a drainage ditch. The thinking was that, as he laid there, if an enemy should pop up out of the ditch, there would not be much time to react. After the firing was over, the late good old SGT Jim E. Lee popped up out of the head of the ditch where he had been covering it.

As the mortar barrage died down, an unknown number of enemy were running up the airstrip. A couple of them made the mistake of heading in the direction of the MP's but were stopped short of their goal by the two Pathfinder's who were closer to the airstrip than the MP's were. They dropped both enemies.

That day before the attack, the late Delmar Egan and your author had acquired a couple of hammocks with the idea of hanging them from some saplings just beyond our foxholes. That idea was scrapped because the saplings were not strong enough. The next morning we checked out the location that we had picked. Lots of impact holes and shrapnel lying around.

Total US losses were 7 KIA, 26 WIA. One of the losses was the Soldier that stayed at the end of the airstrip (spring hollow) where he refueled aircraft from fuel bladders. The opinion of your author has always been that the losses were due to command failure to properly deploy the security Troops. From what I have observed it seems that information about this incident is hard to find. The next evening your author took a walk down by the springs. The people in charge had taken a hint. There were American voices to be heard in the hollow. The barn door was locked after the horse was stolen.

The next day four more MP's were sent to join us. One in particular, Lincoln, when he heard about the attack, started digging a spider hole, straight down and did not quit until it was so deep that he could not see out of it.

**AND THEN ON THE 14<sup>TH</sup>, THE 1/7<sup>TH</sup> MADE CONTACT WITH THE PAVN!**

At this point the MP's became busy taking care of PAVN prisoners as they were brought into the brigade headquarters. As per our usual procedures the MP's brought prisoners to the MI (military intelligence) personnel and guarded them during the process. After it became known that the PAVN executed wounded US Soldiers, it became difficult to treat the prisoners according to the Geneva Conventions, but we did. One day when a prisoner that had been wounded was being treated by one of our doctors, your author made an unkind comment to the doctor about the treatment. The doctor set your author straight that his job was to treat Soldiers regardless of the Soldier's affiliation.

By the time a prisoner got to the MP's they were usually hungry and thirsty. The MP's had to be very careful to limit their intake of C-rations. After a diet of mostly rice, they could not handle the rich food. Could not handle plug tobacco either. One day, Charles Allen pulled a plug out of his pocket and proceeded to

cut off a chew. A prisoner made a motion indicating that he would like a chew. Allen cut him one off the plug of which the man partook. Did not take very long before the man turned about three shades of green.

It became evident that the PAVN soldier knew very little about first aid (and probably had little access to first aid supplies). One day one was brought in that been shot through the knee. The front of the knee looked like there was pencil mark on the skin. The back of the knee was gone. His friends were trying to support him while he painfully tried to walk. Your author showed them how to use the Boy Scout carry by making a chair out of their forearms and hands/wrists. He was then able to make it to a helicopter to become an ARVN prisoner.

One night after we had accumulated about 13 prisoners, it was decided that they needed to be flown to Pleiku and turned over to the ARVN's. Charles Adcock, Charles Allen, and your author were selected for this job. One prisoner was a SGT that had resisted interrogation and could not be trusted. A Chinook was provided and we loaded our prisoners, had them lie down whereby we ran a cargo strap over them and tightened it. The SGT resisted being stretched out on the floor and when Charles Allen put him down, he started to come up growling, whereby Charles threw him down. The crew chief then got excited, hollering, "Don't shoot him in here!"

We landed outside the fence at the airbase to await the arrival of ARVN troops from II Corps to take our prisoners. Caused a big stir amongst the Air Force types. Everyone wanted to come out and gawk at the prisoners. The flood light operators were lighting up the area for the gawkers. One of the onlookers was an Air Force sergeant who was strutting around allowing that he hated the prisoners and if he had a rifle, he would just shoot them all. We got tired of listening to him, whereby I offered him the use of my rifle. He shut up and left very quickly. When the ARVN troops finally arrived, the three guards held a conference to decide what the next step should be. Spending the night outside the wire did not seem to be a good choice. The 504<sup>th</sup> MP battalion had some men stationed there, so when we inquired about accommodations, we were offered spare bunks in the MP barracks and showers.

**YOUR AUTHOR HAD ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT THE ARMY AND AIR FORCE WERE ON THE SAME SIDE IN THIS CONFLICT BUT LEARNED DIFFERENTLY THE NEXT MORNING.**

One of the 504<sup>th</sup> MP's offered to take us to breakfast the next morning. He led us to the mess hall where we followed him through the chow line. As your author stood there waiting for his food to be placed on his tray, the cook, in a very hateful manner, asked if we were in the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav. Wearing regular fatigues with no rank or insignia, home dyed underwear, regular leather boots and such, it was rather obvious that we were. He then hatefully said, "I don't feed members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav." Our host MP was embarrassed; we were stunned. Over the years your author has replayed that incident in his mind with the different actions that could have been taken. One was to stick my rifle up his nose and order my tray filled. Being 13,000 miles from home with the US Army being the only means of transportation tempered the response. The thought has always run through you author's mind that if the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav had not been there, Pleiku would have been overrun by the PAVN and the good cook might have been lucky to get a ball of rice per day. The group then left the airbase looking for a 1<sup>st</sup> Cav unit where we could get a meal and transportation back to the tea plantation. C-rations seemed to be the order of the day. Don't remember how the group got back.

**Please contact the scribe to share  
your 545<sup>th</sup> MP stories here!**

**Continued to pg. 21****8th CAV NEWS****Continued from pg. 8**

Cairo. He was keenly interested in aviation and kept a journal regarding the incident.

Years later Giancarlo was a pilot for the Italian Navy and, after resigning, became a pilot for Alitalia, the Italian national air carrier. He continued researching the March 29 incident and in the 1980's began contacting the ten crew members. He sent them details about their last mission and photos of the crashed plane, which landed almost intact.

In 1989 Giancarlo met up with Frank and his wife in Italy and took them to the crash site and the town of Cairo Montenotte, where Frank was still remembered and was greeted with great warmth. Some of the townspeople who had helped him were still living in Cairo. Mamma Coletta, unfortunately, had already passed away. Allen declined to return to Cairo.

Many years later, Frank wrote in a letter, "We did not hate the Germans! We hated the philosophies which their leaders practiced. I have carried no hatreds with me because of that war." Allen expressed a similar sentiment to his son Ken: that he never had any hard feelings toward the Germans and, although conditions in the camp were tough, he was never physically abused.

Thanks to Giancarlo, Allen and Frank reconnected, began attending POW reunions, and started discussing their last bombing mission with their families and friends. But some experiences, especially the POW camps, were saved for their private conversations when the two of them got together.

**In Closing**

Brothers, this will be my last column for the *Saber*. I enjoyed writing to you very much and appreciate all the stories, help and input from all of you. Larry Hempfling will be taking over and writing the next issue. Please give him the wonderful support that you have all given me.  
Honor and Courage,

**RENEW your SABER today!**  
**Have you checked your expiration date  
on your Saber label lately?**



AIR CAV NEWS



LTC (RET) J. Shawn Perry  
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(254) 458-0428  
Stetsonlife1cda@gmail.com



Hello, Brothers and Sisters!

What an unforgettable experience at the 1st Cavalry Division Association's Annual Reunion in Reno this June! The joy of connecting with fellow members, especially those from the western U.S. who hadn't attended our recent gatherings, was truly special. The event buzzed with camaraderie, and the Silver Wings Luncheon offered a perfect setting to forge new friendships and share stories. For our first-time attendees, your presence made this reunion even more memorable, and I'm thrilled at the prospect of seeing you again next summer in vibrant New Orleans for another round of fellowship and celebration!

Some Aviation attendees at this year's reunion include:

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| John Wilch       | Sam Rocci        |
| Peter Tattersall | Larry Dawson     |
| Kent Bringham    | Lafayette Deafoe |
| Mike Shores      | Neil White       |
| Barry Adams      | Shawn Perry      |
| Jim McBride      | Elizabeth Pepe   |
| Gary Decotea     | Bill Pickle      |
| Phil Worsley     | James Dickerson  |



Things have been busy for our Division's aviators. Over the past six months, the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade has demonstrated its commitment to combat readiness, global partnerships, and innovation. From February to April 2025, the brigade played a pivotal role in Operation Atlantic Resolve, supporting NATO's eastern flank. During Exercise Combined Resolve at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Germany, units like the 2-227th General Support Aviation Battalion honed rapid deployment and joint operations with allied forces, enhancing interoperability. The brigade completed its mission in April, transferring authority to the 1st Armored Division's Aviation Brigade after a nine-month deployment, showcasing its ability to sustain high-tempo operations abroad.

Back at Fort Hood, the brigade conducted extensive training to maintain combat edge. In June, rail operations ensured equipment readiness for rapid global deployment, while joint live-fire exercises with AH-64E Apache helicopters demonstrated precision and lethality. The brigade also integrated unmanned aerial systems, with SGT Brandon Schiller securing first place in the U.S. National Drone Association's VelociDrone competition, highlighting innovation in modern warfare.

Recognition ceremonies underscored the brigade's high standards. Soldiers like SGT Alexander Reece, honored as Soldier of the Quarter, and CPT Jeffery Mehaffey, awarded for leadership, exemplified dedication. Community engagement, including family day events, strengthened morale. These efforts reflect the brigade's versatility, readiness, and commitment to supporting both national security and allied partnerships, solidifying its role as a cornerstone of the 1st Cavalry Division's global mission.

Stay safe, everyone, and keep the spirit of the 1st Cavalry Division strong. I'd love to hear from you—whether it's a story idea or topic for the Saber, or just a quick note to say hello. Feel free to reach out anytime! Thank you for your service, dedication, and unwavering commitment to our nation. God bless America and see you at the next reunion!

Clear Right!  
Shawn

**Please contact the scribe to share your Aviation stories here!**

**HISTORIAN**  
Continued from pg. 10

below the shield a gold scroll inscribed "NIGHT HIDES NOT" in black letters. **Symbolism:** The shield is red for Artillery. The searchlight beams and the winged projectile denote the character of the parent organization (506th Coast Artillery) (AA), while the winged projectile on the black chief alludes to the motto "Night Hides Not," signifying that the night does not hide the enemy from the artillery fire of 506th Coast Artillery, from which this unit descended.

**Background:** The distinctive unit insignia was originally approved for the 506th Coast Artillery (AA), Organized Reserves on 12 March 1929. It was redesignated for the 56th Coast Artillery on 30 October 1941. It was redesignated for the 56th Field Artillery Battalion on 29 December 1950. The insignia was redesignated for the 56th Artillery Regiment on 19 December 1958. It was redesignated effective 1 September 1971, for the 56th Air Defense Artillery Regiment.

1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WASHINGTON D.C.  
VETERANS DAY RECEPTION

Crowne Plaza Washington National Airport Hotel, 1480 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Virginia. Call 703-416-1600 to get your reservations and tell them you are with the 1st Cavalry Division.

Due to low attendance at the last several Veterans Day events, again just as we did last year, there will be a reception event with finger foods rather than a sit down dinner. The hospitality room will continue with beer, wine, and snacks. The cost will change to \$50 per attendee to help cover beer, wine, and finger food. Once our numbers begin to beef back up, we will go back to planning a dinner to close out the weekend.

- For accountability, please submit the order form along with your money to the 1st Cavalry Division Association, 302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703.
- Full payment must be received no later than **31 October 2025**.
- We can accept all credit cards – ensure that your card number and expiration dates are written correctly and legibly.
- Provide your name, address, unit you served with and the name(s) of your guests with your payment.

Wreaths will be placed at the World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam Memorials as they are each year on Veterans Day, 11 November. The ceremony conducted at the World War II Memorial begins at 0900, the ceremony at the Vietnam Memorial begins at 1300 hours, and the Korean War Memorial ceremony is at 1500. Join us in D.C. for Veterans Day.



16<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL VETERANS DAY RECEPTION

\$50 per TICKET

Tuesday, 11 November 2025

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ UNIT: \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST NAMES: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ # Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Check: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME ON CARD: \_\_\_\_\_

CREDIT CARD # \_\_\_\_\_

EXP DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV # on back: \_\_\_\_\_

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Mail to: 1st Cavalry Division Association  
302 N. Main St.  
Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703

**FIRST TEAM**

**You can fill out the above Veterans Day Reception form and return in the mail**  
or go to our website, <www.1CDA.org> Click on the button to download the form, print the form, fill out and mail with payment to the Association office in Copperas Cove, Texas.





WANT TO SEE YOUR NAME UNDER HONOR ROLL SECTION?

Honor Roll privileges are given to members who make a donation of \$50 or more to the Association, or scholarship donations to the IaDrang or the Foundation.  
**THANK YOU!** to our members who graciously donate to YOUR Association!  
We appreciate your generosity, we could not do it without our members!



HONOR ROLL

As of July 1, 2025

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| ADAMS, W. Howard                          | \$100 |
| CPT BAYLESS, Charles                      | \$100 |
| MAJ CARONNA, John J.                      | \$50  |
| IHO CPT (RET) William Couser              |       |
| SP4 DAMPMAN, Richard                      | \$200 |
| LTC (RET) FISHER, Charles M.              | \$50  |
| IMO SGT Ronald Rondazza                   |       |
| SSG FOSTER, James E.                      | \$50  |
| IMO James Monroe, 1 <sup>st</sup> Cav MOH |       |
| SGT GENECKI, Peter E.                     | \$100 |
| CPT HALL, Sanci                           | \$50  |



|                               |       |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| LTC (RET) RICHARDS, Harold B. | \$50  |
| IHO Ia Drang                  |       |
| COL (RET) SMITH, James A.     | \$200 |
| IMO COL James (Pete) Booth    |       |
| CW4 SOMMERS, Jerry            | \$100 |
| IMO MAJ Jim Giles             |       |
| LTC (RET) ZABICKI, William B. | \$125 |

In Memory of Donald O. Callahan

|                        |       |
|------------------------|-------|
| E.J. and Rita Schwager | \$50  |
| Ms. Maureen Levine     | \$150 |
| Mr. Peter Brady        | \$30  |

Thank you for the generous donations from our dedicated Troopers!

Editor Note: Honor Roll privileges do not include calendar donations nor Saber renewals.

IaDrang & Foundation are both a tax exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in accordance with the IRS under section 501(c)(3), Charitable Organizations, Code Section 170.

U.S. ARMY CELEBRATES 250 YEARS OF SERVICE  
IN THE HISTORIC ARMY 250 PARADE IN WASHINGTON D.C.  
JUNE 14, 2025

The parade featured approximately 6,700 Soldiers, 150 vehicles, 50 aircraft, 34 horses, two mules and one dog to highlight the Army's 250 years of service to the Nation.



1CD Soldier in a Bradley Fighting Vehicle



1st Cavalry Division's Horse Cavalry Detachment marching in the Parade

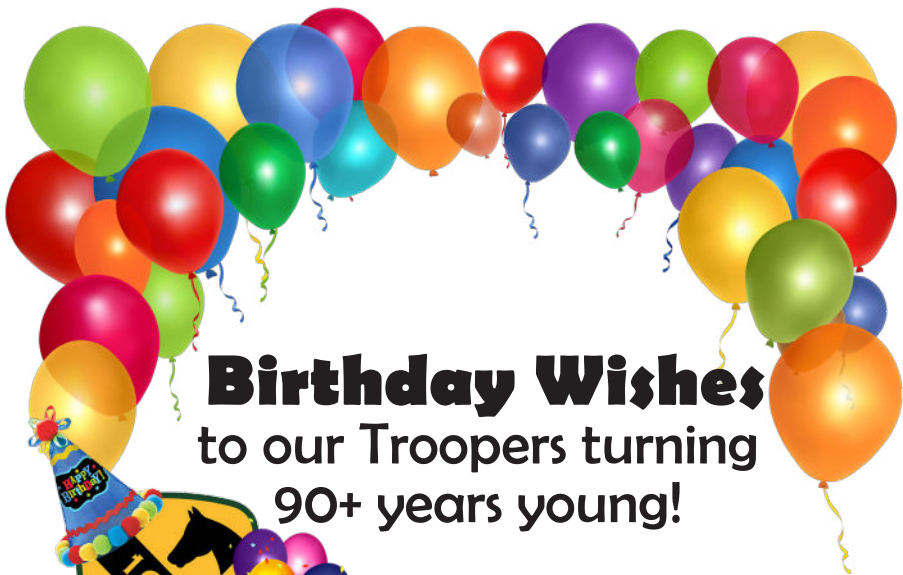


1CD Band



1CD Soldiers ride in a M1 Abrams Main Battle Tank





**Birthday Wishes  
to our Troopers turning  
90+ years young!**



**JOHN B. SWIFT**  
turned 92 on 7/07/2025

**JAY F. HIDANO**  
turned 98 on 7/11/2025

**SALVATORE ALTOMARE**  
turned 94 on 7/30/2025

**EDWARD F. KRAMER**  
turned 94 on 8/09/2025

**CHARLES E. EHREDT**  
turned 94 on 8/15/2025

**JOHN N. KRIER**  
turned 93 on 8/17/2025

**RICHARD W. ROGERS**  
turned 94 on 8/19/2025

**ASA R. TALBOT**  
turned 90 on 8/19/2025

**WILLIAM B. SCHORN JR.**  
turned 94 on 8/21/2025

**ISMAEL VELASQUEZ**  
turned 93 on 8/21/2025

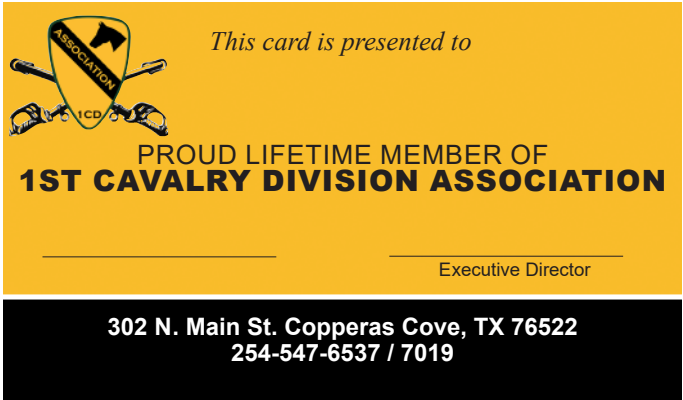
**WEBER J. BORRELL SR.**  
turned 92 on 8/23/2025

**LEONARD R. CASEY**  
turned 93 on 8/23/2025

**DOUGLAS A. CHUBB**  
turned 94 on 8/25/2025

**JACK K. STERNE**  
turned 91 on 8/27/2025

**Replacement Membership Cards**



We have revamped the Lifetime Membership cards! If you would like to order one, please fill out the order form below. Due to spacing issues, we are going to type in your name as it appears in our database. There is no space for your rank.

The new cards are NOT available for Associate Members, the new cards are only available for our Life Time Members. On the back of the card it says:

1st Cavalry Division Association is a non-political, non-profit 501(c)19 fraternity for Soldiers and Veterans currently serving or have served in 1st Cavalry Division.

The Association is a group of Soldiers and former Soldiers from Private to 4-star Generals who share a bond of service with the FIRST TEAM who are dedicated to supporting the Division and each other.

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**AWARD WINNING DOCUMENTARY:  
THE LONGEST MONTH**

*Four hard-hitting stories from the deadliest period in U.S. Army Aviation since Vietnam. Actual footage from the events and interviews of the Soldiers who were there, bring these intense and touching stories of courage and sacrifice to life.*



"The Longest Month" is a documentary film dedicated to telling the story of the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade Soldiers that participated in the events during "The Surge" in OIF 06-08.

Some of these interviews took place at the 1CDA Headquarters in 2019.

The Longest Month is an unscripted documentary, covering events that took place in Iraq during February of 2007 at the beginning of what is commonly known as "The Surge."

This documentary examines the actions undertaken by members of the 1st and 4th Battalions, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry

Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, as described by the Soldiers involved in these events. More helicopters were shot down in Iraq during this time period than any time since the Vietnam War.

The Longest Month chronicles four events that exemplify the challenges faced by these individuals to not only complete their missions but survive the unprecedented 15-month deployment.

Produced by: Dan McClinton and Directed and Edited by: Kenn Christenson

If you wish to read the story behind this documentary:  
<<https://www.hollywoodintoto.com/longest-month-movie-us-veterans/>>

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