



# SABER

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



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JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2025

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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ICDA President 2023-2025



To the Troopers of America's First Team, Christmas has always been a magi-

cal time of the year for me. The spirit of Christmas encourages selfless giving, compassion towards others, and goodwill towards all. From celebrating Christmas with my KATUSAs at Camp Carroll in Waegan, South Korea in the mid-1970s to doing so with Blackhorse Troopers at Downs Barracks in Fulda, Germany in the late-1980s, for me Christmas has always symbolized the triumph of good over evil. A reaffirmation that in serving our country we further that cause.

On Christmas Day, Americans traditionally relax and enjoy time with family and friends. For many of our Troopers, however, it can be a day of sacrifice and hardship. It was that way 34 years ago.

My most memorable Christmas while in uniform came with the First Team in December 1990 during Operation Desert Shield.

As the Aloha Bowl was taking place in Honolulu (Syracuse defeated Arizona, 28-0) and GEN Norman Schwartzkopf and the combined coalition staff prepared for the coming storm, First Team Troopers celebrated a joyous, albeit improvised, Christmas thousands of miles from their homes in Central Texas.



America's First Team in the Gulf

My friend, MG (USAR, Ret) Jeff Phillips – a Major at the time serving as the First Team's Public Affairs Officer – chronicled that Christmas in the book he co-authored with Robyn Gregory, "America's First Team in the Gulf." The following is an excerpt from that book:

"The success of Thanksgiving hinted at the magic that Christmas would work. The mail center in the Soldier's mall was hit first. Unit trucks left its squat tents piled with parcels. The town of Tinley Park, Illinois, which had adopted the division, sent hundreds of Frisbees, hats and "Any Soldier" cards. Their generosity wasn't unique. Public support from home found its greatest expression in the letters, cards, and parcels

that were eagerly opened in the desert."

"Christmas trees sprouted everywhere, as did sightings of Santa Claus. The trees, made from plywood sheets painted green or camouflage nets draped over wooden frames, where festooned with decorations made of every imaginable bauble, from Christmas cards to dog tags. Young Soldiers who had done little more than cruise the local mall the previous Christmas, carefully hung each decoration on their homemade tree, which radiated back the warmth of cherished memories, and guarded hopes."

"Christmas dinner rivaled Thanksgiving. In the early afternoon as it ended, the wind rose and the sky grayed in the biggest sandstorm yet. It blew nearly all day, howling and flapping the canvas tent walls. It was a day to stay indoors, to enjoy friends and the booty brought by the mailman: cookies, Game Boys, all manner of munchies, new cassettes, chips and salsa for the die-hard Tex-Mex crowd, books, and candy by the pound."

I'll never forget that Christmas, especially the UH-60 that landed at my TOC loaded with somewhat melted ice cream ... no one seemed to notice, however, as it was hastily devoured by the Soldiers on duty. As the sun set on that momentous day, little did we know that in less than a month Operation Desert Storm would commence with the beginning of the air campaign.

I hope you and your families had a very Merry Christmas. As we look forward to the coming New Year, my wife and I wish you all a healthy, happy and prosperous 2025.

We're looking forward to seeing you in Reno at our 77th Annual Reunion in June. The 1st Cavalry Division – Courageous, Audacious, Victorious! Until we meet again, God bless you all.

First Team!  
Gambler 6, out.

## HORSE DETACHMENT by CPT Daysha N. Wells, DVM, MPH-VPH Commander

The Horse Cavalry Detachment started off the New Year big by leading the U.S. Army's 250th anniversary float "This We'll Defend: 250 Years of Service" at the 2025 Parade of Roses in Pasadena, California. Additionally, the Horse Cavalry Detachment will represent the U.S. Army and 1st Cavalry Division in the 2025 Inaugural Parade for President-elect Donald J. Trump. The New Year will remain busy through February and March as HCD prepares for performances at the San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo and the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.



The Horse Cavalry Detachment is always open to the public! Please come visit us at 69007 Trooper Loop Fort Cavazos, Texas for a barn tour or come by at 1000 hours on Thursday for our regularly scheduled mounted cavalry demonstration. We appreciate the support that this amazing community extends to us, and we look forward to our many continued partnerships supporting local civic events. Please check out the link of the 1st Cavalry Division Association's website to make it easier to request the HCD to support an event in your area. We do ask that you have the request turned in for consideration 120 days before the event so that we have enough time to prepare. Please call (254) 287-2229 with any questions. Follow us on Facebook (1st Cavalry Division Horse Cavalry Detachment) for the most up-to-date information on current engagements, upcoming events, and ceremonies.

HOT TO TROT!

Respectfully, CPT Daysha Wells, DVM

## THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

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"New year, new beginnings, new opportunities," (Anonymous).

As we begin 2025, planning for the Reno, NV reunion continues. I have scheduled the Ladies Luncheon (previously referred to as the Ladies Tea) with Studio 775 Reno <<https://studio775reno.com>>. The best part

is...they will come to us at the resort. If you are on the fence about attending the luncheon, reconsider. I promise you will have tons of fun.

The President's Reception will be held pool side at the resort. How should you dress, why casual of course! We will be on the Serenity Deck which includes the cabanas and loungers. Members will also have access to the hot tubs and both pools. Hope to see everyone there!

The Board of Governors will meet on February 21-22. We will start off with a mixer on the 21st followed by the mid-year meeting on the 22nd. The meetings are open to all members of the Association.

By now everyone should have received their copy of the 2025 Calendar, if not, please reach out to the office to have a copy mailed out. Additionally, to keep this program running we only ask for donations. These donations go towards next year's calendar.

And finally, in the book of life, may each page be written with the ink of love, and may the chapters be filled with stories of laughter and support. Cheers to a New Year surrounded by the warmth of family and the embrace of true friends. The Association Staff wishes all our members and their Families a year filled with happiness, health, and prosperity.

Hope to see everyone Reno!!!

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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)  
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 302 N. Main St. Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703

Last 4 #'s of your SSN \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tel: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rank and Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 New Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**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**

Feb 21-22, 2025	Board of Governor's Mixer & Hybrid Meeting
June 11-15, 2025	77 <sup>th</sup> Annual 1CDA Reunion, Reno, NV
July 7-12, 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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**Your "In Memory of" acknowledgements will appear in the HONOR ROLL section of the *Saber***

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. Honor Roll privileges do not include calendar donations nor *Saber* renewals.

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

## 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:

I express my most sincere gratitude for this scholarship. To some, it may seem like some small thing, but on the contrary, this is the recognition and remembrance of my grandfather, Tommy Dorsey. Sadly, he passed away this past August from cancer and did not live to see me pursue my dreams of Geology Ph.D, but he was there for me, cheering me on my whole life. Even so, that stubborn and loving old man still managed to find a way to keep cheering me on from the gates of heaven.  
 This scholarship enabled him to do so, reminding me of how he has provided for my family and me in every way, both financially, emotionally, and even spiritually, and for that, I am eternally grateful.  
 Thank you, and Godspeed to each and every one of you, for the love you have enabled my hero to grant me a hug from home, one last time.  
 Jonathan Dorsey



As a recipient of the 1st Cavalry Division Association Scholarship for the 2024-2025 Academic year, I plan to use the grant to support my graduate education. As a current graduate student in Communication Sciences & Disorders at Baylor University, the 1st Cavalry Division Association Scholarship has graciously provided me an opportunity to continue my graduate education in hopes of becoming a certified Speech-Language Pathologist.  
 Grayson Horton

Dear 1st Cavalry Division Association,  
 I would like to express my sincere gratitude for awarding me with this \$1250 scholarship. It is an incredible honor, and I am truly grateful for your dedication to helping students like me succeed throughout their education journey. The money provided by your association will support me financially so that I can pursue clinical hours or research instead of working to pay for tuition and continue my volunteering at the Children's Hospital of Alabama. All of these opportunities that have been afforded to me and that are to come are thanks to this scholarship. This money will go a long way as I progress towards medical school. Again, thank you for helping me succeed in my educational journey and believing in my potential.  
 Sincerely,  
 Jace Howard



Continued to pg. 5

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

## Trooper's Tale



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

**Send your stories to [Programs@1CDA.org](mailto:Programs@1CDA.org)  
No Name Firebase, September 1969  
by SGT James Cannon, C/1-8 CAV, 1969**

There was actually a firebase in Vietnam named No Name FSB, but this wasn't that base. I just can't remember the name of this base. C Company had been in the field somewhere in Binh Long Province, RVN, for almost two weeks and we were ready to get out of the jungle for even a few days, or at least, that's what we thought. I hadn't had a map in my hands since I had been assigned to Charlie company two months earlier and literally had no idea where I was, except that I was in the jungle near the Cambodian border.

Helicopters picked us up in flights of three from an opening in the jungle that we had enlarged with our machetes and e-tools. The transfer took a while since the helicopters could only carry six combat loaded Soldiers at a time. We were only ten to twelve kilometers from the unknown firebase and there were less than one hundred Soldiers left in the field that day because of the usual hazards of being in a tropical jungle for two weeks. Even without combat wounds, we always had infected cuts and insect bites and malaria or jungle viruses that reduced our ranks as quickly as the Soldiers could be healed or replaced. So, the move went quickly compared to previous transfers.

The Huey helicopters arrived at FSB Becky or Betsy, or another forgotten feminine name, and landed outside the perimeter of the base. By squads we crossed the berm and were assigned to our defensive bunkers that had already been built into the berm surrounding the base. This was not a very large firebase, only three 105mm howitzers and a basic field kitchen with a refrigerator, and a first aid tent. A headquarters bunker had been dug deep into the center of the base with its tall antennas reaching up high enough to ensure comms to all of the companies in the field and brigade headquarters. The antennas looked like lightning rods for mortar attacks to me. On the artillery side, they were forward observers, fire control officers and ammo bunkers, but still, the base was not that impressive. The clearing between the defensive berm and the tree line was closer than any other base I had been on, so enemy soldiers could be on us very quickly from their jungle hideouts. Another infantry company from our battalion had been there before us as security during the construction of the base and as labor for building bunkers and filling sandbags. They had carefully placed trip wires and flares out ahead of the berm, then set up Claymore mines aimed to cover all of the open area. Everything would be double checked by Charlie company Soldiers before dusk and the Claymore mine electrical lines would be plugged into their respective chargers.

We improvised showers with a tank made of fifty-five-gallon barrels cut in half lengthwise and mounted on angle iron supports with simple on-off valves for shower heads. A five-gallon jerry can full of water was heated over a measured amount of hot burning C-4 and the hot water was poured into the barrel by a couple of guys wearing gloves. Gravity provided the water pressure. Two Soldiers, naked except for their boots, would stand on wooded artillery pallets, open the valves, get wet, soap up and step aside, then two more would soap up before quickly rinsing. How could any NVA sniper resist a shot like that? We could not use the potable water brought to the base in blivits for drinking and cooking, so we used rainwater we collected or water from nearby streams. Scrubbing off the stench and mud and jungle smell was refreshing but a hot meal in a mess tent was at least one notch better. Clean jungle fatigues and socks and a few towels had been flown in from our rear area company supply in large OD green laundry bags. Nothing matched or seemed to be the same size, so we improvised by cutting off pant legs and sleeves or whatever else was necessary. No one wore rank or insignias.

Connie ... or Carole? No, I don't think so. The first morning we were on the base my platoon was selected (ordered) to patrol the area around the firebase and search for enemy soldiers, or bunkers and camps where they had been. We were in thick hardwood with heavy underbrush, so our movement was slow and we did not find any sign of the enemy. I suppose there was a good reason to build the firebase at this location, probably to provide artillery cover as the infantry searched within the ten-kilometer range of the 105s based there, or to block the NVA from moving through this area which was near a branch of the Ho Chi Minh Trail. By the afternoon of that first day, we were back to the base for hot chow, then bunker duty that night.

Cheryl doesn't sound right either. After the nightly rain, we sat on top of the bunker under the poncho shelter that protected us and the machine gun from most of the rain and enjoyed any cool breeze that passed our way. A couple of generators that provided a limited amount of electricity for lights in the mess tent, medical tent and headquarter bunkers, rumbled on behind us. Suddenly, we heard a loud explosion near one of the bunkers across from the base from us. It didn't sound like a Claymore mine, or a hand grenade tossed off a bunker toward movement in the tree line, but then it's not always easy to differentiate those sounds at a distance. Another explosion inside the firebase and closer to me cleared my thoughts and was quickly followed by shouts of "incoming, incoming," that spread throughout the base. We dropped down off the top of the bunker into the relative safety inside and looked out of the port through the dark night toward the trees. The report of AK-47s and return automatic fire from M-16s had us at full alert now. The Soldier next to me in the bunker and I saw the flash of a B-40 (RPG) just as the rocket cleared its tube. It was not far back in the darkness of the trees, and we could see the reddish exhaust flame coming directly toward us. My perception of time was altered during combat situations but I'm sure this happened in the blink of an eye. Instinctively, we dropped to the floor of the bunker and as we heard the roar of the rocket zooming over our bunker. It impacted behind us onto the mess tent and exploded. Whether that

**Continued to pg. 20**

## 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 the 5th of February 2007, The Mad Dog Platoon, HHC 1BSTB, spotted a vehicle suspiciously parked on the side of the road while out on an EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal). They were on an escort patrol to a PIED, (a box or cement block set in the middle of the road, like a median, that is filled with projected items to explode). Their attention to detail and keen situational awareness triggered their immediate reactions of the entire team.

First, SSG Anderson notified Centurion Mike of the suspicious looking posture of the vehicle. Centurion Mike subsequently notified the BDE. The team remained on site maintaining observation of the vehicle until they were relieved by the landowning unit. Once the landowning unit arrived, the EOD team he was escorting moved forward to interrogate the SVBIED (Suicide Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device). Upon approach, the vehicle detonated with no damage to coalition forces or to civilian bystanders. The keen vigilance and focus of the Mad Dog Platoon resulted in a potentially catastrophic incident being avoided. The quick thinking of the Soldiers of that team represents the warrior focus which allowed the First Team to continue to fight and be successful.

EOD conducted around 750 missions. Mad Dog Platoons mission was to provide escort security in order to move safely to and from sites for the EOD team as they responded to incidents in the 1BCT AO. They also went on various CLP (Combat Logistics Patrols) missions to different FOBs to pick up parts for vehicles and drop off or pick up personnel. It all was dependent upon their mission. They always get the mission completed and in a timely manner. The escort teams ensured the safety for EOD and everyone else who moved about the 1BCT AO routes.

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

### NEW MEMBERS:

2LT ASTORGA, NICOLAS TX C 115BSB  
E-4 BEASLEY, LARRY FL 15ADMIN  
2LT BENDERKOVIC, JOHN PETER IV TX  
E-4 BORSOS, JIM NM B 1-9C  
SSG BRANTLEY, DONALD TN HHC 1-1ACB  
SSG BRASSEAU, CAMERON LA HHB 3-16FAR  
CPT BROOKOVER, GREGORY TX 3-ABCT  
PV2 BROUSSARD, CAMRYN TX HHC 3-8C  
SP-5 BURCH, JINIQUEKA FL B 1-51FSB  
2LT BUSBY, BENJAMIN IL HHB 3-16C  
SPC COLE, JEFFREY IN HHC 1-1CD  
MR. COOKE, MICHAEL A FL B 1-20ENG  
E-2 COOPER, EDWARD L. IN E 27MNT  
SFC CUMMINGS, MICHAEL WA A 3-8C  
SGT DAVIS, DARRELL TX B 1-27BSB  
E-6 DOBKINS, MACK AZ C 1-17C  
SGT GADDY, LONNIE AL HQ 3-3FA  
SGT GARR, ALLEN WA HHC 1-15TRANS  
SGT GARZA, IZEK TX D 1-7C  
CPT GATES, COREY TX HHB 1-82FA  
CW2 GINOS, GEOFFREY VT A 2-20ARA  
SPC GONZALES, RUDY I TX 3-3CR  
SPC HEDENBERG, MICHAEL MO D DISCOM  
SGT HERRINGTON, JOHN TX B 1-USARPAC  
SSG JACOBS, DEZERAY MN HQ 1-9C  
2LT JOSEPH, JAMES TX C 1-215BSB  
SPC KEITA, LAMINE TX C 1-8C  
SP4 KOWALCZYK, JULIAN IL A 1-12C  
SP5 LONG, ASHLEY AR HHC 1-8ENG  
SSG LONG, JONATHON TX B 2-5C  
E-5 MATHEWS, GUY TX B 2-27AHB  
PV2 MC CONNELL, CARSTEN OR 2-5C  
1LT MC KENRICK, AIDAN TX 1-12C  
LTC METZGER, JEFFREY AZ HHC 3-227AVN  
1SG MEYERS, JUSTIN TX C 1-DIVARTY  
SFC MORENO, NIKITA TX C 1-3BEB  
SFC MORENO, SALVADOR TX E 2ABCT  
SGT MORRIS, CHRISTOPHER TX D 7-17C  
MAJ MULLANEY, BRENNAN NC A 4-9C  
2LT MURPHY, BRIAN TX 6-9C  
PFC NAUMAN, KEITH TX 2-82FA  
CPT NORDSTROM, MARC OR HHC 115 BSB  
PFC O'BRIAN, REID NY 6-9C  
PV2 O'BRYAN, ZACHARY OH C 6-9C  
SGT PORTER, JEREMY TX A 1-27MSB  
PV2 REYES, JASMINE TX C 553DSSB  
LTC (RET) ROVANSEK, JOSEPH VA B 2-19FA  
SFC (RET) SKAARUP, JOHN TX B 1-8C  
MSG VANN, JOSEPH TX C 20ENG  
CPT WATSON, ALLAN WELLS TX 1-1CD  
MR. WHITTINGSTALL, CLIFF TX  
CW2 WILLIAMS, CLIFTON OR B 1-9C  
E-4 WINKELMAN, WILLIAM RICHARD PA B 1-21C  
2LT WRIGHT, IAN TX 2-82FA  
2LT YE, DANIEL MD HHC 3-8C  
CW2 YOUNG, DEBRON TX 7-17C



## LRRP/Ranger News

Pete Dencker

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Thomas Sprinkle

Greetings Brothers!

I would like to dedicate this issue to Thomas Sprinkle. Thomas was born on September 25, 1946, in Webster Massachusetts. He was killed in action on July 7, 1968. Thomas was buried in Forest Hill Cemetery, Piqua Ohio. I can't find any additional information on the web about Thomas, but as we approach the holidays, let's keep Thomas and his family in our prayers.

Speaking of the holidays! I'm guessing that this edition will hit the streets right after Christmas and New Years, so let me be the first to wish everyone a Happy New Year. I know there are many still deployed, and many that will remain deployed over the Christmas holiday. Having spent Christmas 1970 in RVN, I understand the emotions that go along with separation from your loved ones on probably the happiest and

holiest day of the year. But somehow, we get through it and drive on. So, to all my Ranger Brothers, take a moment to think about those in harm's way, who couldn't be home to celebrate with their loved ones. Merry Christmas to all wherever you are!

Some history: The North Vietnamese Army and the Viet Cong utilized Laos and Cambodia as crucial supply routes during the Vietnam War to support their military operations against South Vietnam and U.S. forces. One of the most significant supply routes was the Ho Chi Minh Trail, a network of trails and roads, both above and below ground that extended from North Vietnam through Laos and into Cambodia. These trails and roads enabled the transport of essential supplies, including food, ammunition, and military supplies directly to forces operating in South Vietnam and at the same time these highways were critical for the movement of enemy troops, allowing for quick deployment in response to battlefield needs. This strategy was key to their war effort.

The NVA and VC established bases and sanctuaries in Cambodia, and in Laos, where they could regroup, train, and prepare for operations without direct interference from U.S. forces. Cambodia, under Prince Norodom Sihanouk, maintained a policy of neutrality early in the war, which allowed North Vietnamese forces to operate relatively freely, however this neutrality was increasingly compromised by the presence of North Vietnamese forces. In March 1970, a coup led by GEN Lon Nol overthrew Sihanouk, who was out of the country at the time. The new government, sought to solidify power and combat the growing influence of the communists, and resulted in an invitation for U.S. military assistance to address the perceived threat from North Vietnam and the Khmer Rouge insurgency. Laos provided a more extensive and less monitored route system compared to Cambodia. The mountainous terrain however, made it difficult for U.S. air strikes to target supply lines effectively. More concerning but not as easily addressed, the Pathet Lao, a communist movement in Laos, supported the NVA's efforts, further solidifying the use of Laotian territory as a staging ground.

The coup by Lon Nol ultimately led to directly to the April 1970 full scale invasion when US and South Vietnamese troops officially crossed into Cambodia for the purpose of dismantling the NVA sanctuaries and disrupting their supply lines. The 1st Cavalry Division along with H Company 75th played a key role in this incursion. H Company Rangers played a significant role in our effort in Cambodia.

This is a story about Ranger Team 52, a mission tragedy, but a story of gallantry on the part of the Team members, and the supporting units, particularly the 1/9th, that participated in the recovery of the remaining members of Team 52. I would be remiss if I didn't mention up front that much of the following will paraphrase the in-depth story of Team 52 featured in Gregg Jorgenson's book "*LRRPs in Cambodia/MIA Rescue*" along with comments from Ron Andrus, a surviving member of Team 52. Jorgenson's book is a must read for anyone that wants a detailed picture of this mission along with a detailed timeline of how things transpired. The book is readily available and easy to find on Amazon.

The weather was closing in as well as darkness for Team 52 and after finding freshly dug bunkers and fighting positions team leader (TL) Deverton Cochran made a last-minute decision to move to a position about 100 meters away from his initial stop point that appeared to offer better cover and concealment for his Team (Carl Laker - ATL, Royce Clark - Medic, Ron Andrus - RTO, and Dwight Hancock - Rear Scout). RTO Andrus had previously provided a sitrep to the Ranger Relay station on Nui Ba Den, and the Ranger relay on FSB David about 5 miles away. He wasn't scheduled to provide another sitrep for another hour. Cochran began slowly moving his team toward the new position. RTO Andrus was unaware that by moving, the combination of the weather and terrain would make the radio useless, until they could get to a point where they could utilize the long whip antenna.

Cochrane was feeling better about this new location but as they approached, he suddenly heard voices and saw enemy Soldiers scrambling into their bunkers and bringing their weapons to bear. They were right on top of the enemy, and everyone began firing. Andrus attempted to call in the contact but had no comms. He immediately removed his rucksack looking for the long whip. After finding the antenna and attempting to get it in place an enemy grenade exploded in close proximity wounding him. Despite his wounds Andrus returned fire but his attempts at communicating with the radio relay yielded nothing. At this point it was up to the Team alone. The contact continued and Cochran faced with point-blank enemy fire, attempted to move the Team back to a position with better cover.

Soon after, heavy machine gun fire resulted in Cochran being hit. Andrus was reaching for Cochran when another explosion resulted in Andrus being hit in the wrist, which was followed by an armor piercing round that found its way through the radio finally stopping in Andrus' chest. Although severely wounded he was still able to function. Andrus recalled, "I was next to Cochran and with his raspy voice he was still able to order me to pull back. I wasn't able to tell how bad he was wounded because he had his hands around his throat." He was

still alive at that point but his wounds were severe and his chances of making it looked doubtful. "I think I was then able to carry Clark a short distance where I met up with Hancock." Attempts at comms, however, were still useless. Laker the ATL continued moving the team back away from the bunker complex and the heavy fire. Clark, after neutralizing an enemy Soldier who was climbing out of a bunker was hit shattering his leg. Hancock, the rear scout was responding with grenades as Andrus and Clark crawled out of the site. As they began to move back, Andrus backward crawled to Laker's position, "I tried moving him, I grabbed his shoulder, saw that the nature of his wounds left no doubt about whether he was still alive." He knew from his earlier encounter that Cochran was most likely dead.

At this point it was assumed that enemy Soldiers would soon be leaving their bunkers and begin an assault to capture or kill whoever was left, so the three remaining team members continued their efforts to pull back. Hancock was carrying Clark because of his severe wound while Andrus covered their move. At one point Hancock had to put Clark down but then again picked him and carried him along their E&E route with Andrus trying to cover their trail. By this time it was getting dark and the NVA appeared to lose track of the remnants of the Team. The NVA, who probably expected a normal response to the initial contact which would involve gunship, and artillery support finally realized that was not coming. The remaining Team members moved almost another football field in length, with Hancock doing his best to cover their movement but at that point because of the severely wounded Team members they could go no further. Of the original members of the Team, two were dead, and two severely wounded, only Hancock remained unscathed. After enough time had passed with no response from the firebase, the remaining team members knew they had to find a good cover position as it was only a matter of time before the NVA came looking for them.

Meanwhile at the radio relay on Fire Base David, Don Spaulding was unaware of what was happening in the field as he had not received a comms check from Team 52. He waited a period of time prior to again attempting to contact the Team, after repeated unsuccessful attempts at establishing communication he contacted the Ranger TOC in Phuoc Vinh to let them know the situation. At this point the TOC was concerned but it wasn't that unusual for a Team to lose comms for a while due to the thick jungle, the terrain and/or poor weather. After another missed comms check, Spaulding had deeper concerns that there was a problem and reported the issue to the 1st Brigade. Brigade called for a helicopter search but by this time the weather had closed in to the point of becoming impactful and the search was delayed. All Spaulding could do was wait for the Team to reestablish comms or the weather to improve so someone could react.

Back with the Team, it became clear to Hancock, the only Team member that was not wounded, because there had been a complete lack of communication; most likely no one was aware of their situation, which meant no one was coming to help. Someone had to provide notification to the fire support base of their critical situation. The only feasible option was for him to make it to the firebase on foot to provide that notification and get help. As night fell Hancock did his best to find cover and concealment for his Teammates who were left with only rifles and a minimum number of magazines. Guided by the occasional flare from the firebase, the sound of artillery fire and armed with only a knife, he spent the next few hours moving toward his goal. He was successful in avoiding enemy positions and patrols. He also detected and avoided a friendly two man listening post manned by Grunts from the firebase, as he didn't want to take a chance on them mistaking him for the enemy. As he continued to move, the sound of the outgoing rounds from the firebase got louder so he knew he was headed in the right direction. Once he was within a few hundred yards of the base he stopped as he knew that walking up on the base perimeter with all of the enemy activity in the area would mean that the Soldiers manning the berm would not hesitate to eliminate any threat attempting to breach the base defense. Hancock found a white silk parachute from an expended flare. Waving the white material, he approached the perimeter yelling, "Don't shoot, I'm a Ranger, I'm coming in."

Once Hancock made it to the firebase, the race was on to see what could be done to help recover the wounded and dead from Team 52.

Kregg recalls the events from there...

"I served on the Apache Troop, 1st of the 9th CAV's QRF/rescue mission to go in for Dev Cochran's team when they were badly hit in Cambodia. When the call came into our TOC MAJ Harris sent out a call for volunteers with the Blues to head out well before dawn to FSB David. It was raining and foggy and 15 or so us in the Blues flew out to David. David, at the time, was a mud pit. It had also been hit with ground attacks earlier that week and there were dead NVA well outside the wire. When we landed at first light we were married up with Hancock and those H Company Lrrps who were monitoring the team from David. We had the coordinates of the team's last known position so we loaded back into the Hueys and went looking. The rain had stopped but there were large pockets of fog in and around the rolling hills. MAJ Harris and Bill McIntosh (both pilots on our Huey) did low level flyovers and we eventually had Ron Andrus (wounded and struggling) come out from hiding and wave at us. We touched down and carried him back to our medic who began treating him. Then we went and found Royce Clark who also was badly wounded. We loaded them both on a Huey and they were flown off to the nearest field hospital.

We Blues (and a cobra gunship flown by John Bartlett) then began to search for the ambush site which was when we got in a firefight with the NVA. Keep in mind the area was broad rolling green hillsides with pockets of jungle. The NVA/VC were set up in one of those pockets. Ed Beal and I (both formally with H Company) were the Point element and we believe we might've located the ambush site given the shot-up nature of the brush and blood on the ground. However, that is when we too got in a firefight. A platoon of grunts from FSB David were flown out to beef up our side but when they landed there was a lull in the fighting. We (the Blues) were hunkered down while the grunts stood around seemingly wondering what the problem was as all was quiet. When our Platoon Leader informed their Platoon Leader what had happened and where we had taken heavy fire from the grunts got online on the open hill and started toward the jungle patch across the hillside. We Blues were locked and loaded for what we suspected was coming next and it did.

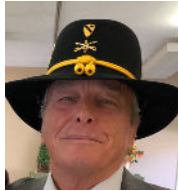
The NVA/VC opened up on the grunts and several went down. Our gunship began hammering the enemy positions while we recovered the wounded grunts and our medic began treating them as well. The wounded grunts were medevacked out

Continued to pg. 21



## 5th CAV News

**Harold P. "Doc" Truitt**  
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This column is intended to be for support and betterment of the 5<sup>th</sup> U.S. Cavalry. To present news of and items of interest to that unit of our division. Early on I leaned on the history of the unit, particularly around the time of the Civil War. While there are older units, continuously active in the Army, there aren't many. Of those, few have a more colorful history.

Having had the chance to look at many parts of what we are and where we've been, and watch not only our group, but many others, I realize that without the follow-on generations, we will cease to exist. That is, the Regimental Association will cease to exist. I believe that would not be good for young or old.

There are appropriate things for this column, and things that are not. One of the things deemed appropriate are war stories. Every Trooper who ever did a combat rotation has some. They can be of any character, whether it is funny or not so funny. They can have a point or merely be a recounting of events as seen by the teller. Sometimes they speak of heroic deeds, sometimes not so much. As the tours of the person telling the story get longer, with more violent encounters to scan through, my experience is they become less likely to tell them. The realization that all of us that have done such a tour has their own, causes me to want to be selective about presenting these things.

I look for stories that show valor, or humor, or are both beautifully written and interesting in their own right. It is no secret that I like to promote my unit and its people. Bad outcomes need a good reason to be relived in my column.

The exception to the above would be the introduction of stories from Troopers following 1991. We see very few of them and I know there are a lot of them out there. We really need to hear from these folks, and remember, they are not all guys...

The desire to see participation from our Vets from more recent eras has been a topic of discussion in several circles. Since my feeling is that not many of those who read this paper print missive, what I hope to gain is some sort of thought and action from those who do read it. Each of you encounters younger Troopers. If you think our Regimental Association is useful, tell them so, and why. If you think it is not, please tell me.

There is always a sort of lag between a combat tour and the Trooper feeling the need to be in touch with their unit. The differences in length of tours and in how replacements are done seems to have changed things a bit as well. Experience has shown there is a tendency for people to want to isolate their contacts to only immediate the unit even before the above changes took place and the changes made it easier and more likely that unit members stayed in touch, or at least some do.

Our reunions used to be attended by crowds that seemed much larger to me. That is both the Division and the Regiments. They were large enough that the regiments sometimes held theirs separately. If you've been to our reunions, you should have some idea why I think these gatherings are important. If you haven't you need to get to one before they shrink even more. The interaction between active duty and those of us that are no longer in the active formation has its best chance right here. The temptation to repeat why that is important is strong, but for those that read this, if you don't know I suspect the point is moot.

The holidays were good to me this year with friends, children and grandchildren all coming and going. Thoughts also of the coming year for the 5<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association and the Divisions trip west to Reno, Nevada this spring. This location may be a bit far for some but offers things that some locations do not as well as giving a chance to visit some of our west coast Troopers. With a little luck and your help, 2025 should be a good year. If you can make plans to see your friends in Reno it would be fun to see everyone there. And try to let us know about clever ideas for next time's silent auction!

The Association is currently working on some bugs out of our online application and payment process and is seeing some results. We hope to make things more user friendly and to reflect on our efforts to update how we approach membership issues. The members are, after all, what the whole thing is about.

As I was putting this together, I received a letter from **Mel Feather**. SSG Feather is one of our Vietnam Vets and said he got a chuckle from Jim Dunnigan's story about the gecko. As I said earlier, some war stories can be funny.

SSG Feather also remembers a bird whose call sounded like "Reee-up." He then goes on to say, the bird call was followed up on at least one occasion by the gecko calling out loudly. A response that was echoed by some who were not inclined to follow the bird's advice. It is best if I let you recall the words on your own. Thanks Mel, for sharing that, a good laugh is always worth passing on!

My sincerest thanks go out to those of you who follow this column. I'm aware that I'm not a Tom Clancy when it comes to entertainment, and not an investigative reporter. There are times I wish someone else would step up to do this piece, (OK, all the time), but it is a privilege to be entrusted with it and I do try hard, for whatever that's worth.

Please try to engage any of our younger Cav Vets as you come across them, as we really do need to let them know that this organization belongs to them and with their input it could be less of an old folk's thing and more like something they can use.

We want the younger generation to know that our efforts to keep going are because we believe in what it can do for both active and inactive Vets as well as for the general esprit de corps. I'm proud to be a part of it all and proud of each of you.



## President Biden Announced Recipients of the Presidential Citizens Medal

### 1<sup>ST</sup> CAVALRY DIVISION'S OWN, JOSEPH L. GALLOWAY (POSTHUMOUSLY) RECEIVED THE PRESIDENTIAL CITIZENS MEDAL



WASHINGTON – On January 2, 2025, President Biden named twenty recipients of the Presidential Citizens Medal. Of the twenty recipients, Joe Galloway was selected.



Photo by Chip Somodevilla

Dr. Gracie Galloway received the Presidential Citizens Medal on behalf of her late husband Joseph Galloway from President Joe Biden during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House on January 2, 2025 in Washington, DC.

*From Vietnam to the Persian Gulf, Joe Galloway spent decades sharing first-hand accounts of horror, humanity, and heroism in battle. Known as the Soldier's reporter and the Soldier's friend, he embedded with American Troops, rescued wounded Soldiers under fire, and became the only civilian awarded a Bronze Star for combat valor by the United States Army as one of the most respected war correspondents of his era.*

The Presidential Citizens Medal is awarded to citizens of the United States of America who have performed exemplary deeds of service for their country or their fellow citizens. President Biden believes these Americans are bonded by their common decency and commitment to serving others. The country is better because of their dedication and sacrifice.



The Galloways, 2013, Vietnam Wall photo by Paul J. Richards AFP Getty Images

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Continued from pg. 2

Dear 1st Cavalry Division Association Scholarship Committee,



I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for the generous scholarship I have received from the 1st Cavalry Division Association. This support has been an invaluable resource as I work towards my Doctor of Pharmacy degree, and I am incredibly grateful for the positive impact it has had on my education.

The financial assistance provided through this scholarship has eased the burden of tuition, allowing me to focus more fully on my studies and on the practical experiences that are essential to becoming a competent and compassionate pharmacist. As I advance through my courses and rotations, I am continually inspired to contribute meaningfully to the healthcare field. This scholarship not only motivates me but also reminds me of the importance of giving back to those in need, a value that aligns closely with the mission of the 1st Cavalry Division.

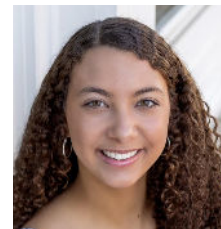
The scholarship has provided me the freedom to pursue meaningful opportunities, such as my recent rotation in immunizations within a community setting, which has deepened my understanding of public health. These experiences will be instrumental as I prepare to serve rural and underserved populations in my future career.

Thank you once again for your generosity and support. I am proud to represent the values of the 1st Cavalry Division Association, and I hope to make you proud through my efforts in the pharmacy field. I look forward to any opportunity to further discuss my academic journey and career goals.

With heartfelt appreciation, Karrington Howard

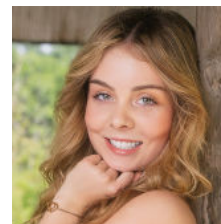
This scholarship gives me the opportunity to provide support to my father as he always supported me. Our family is beyond proud that he served our country for 20 years. I am so thankful for 1<sup>st</sup> Cav! Also, it is my favorite Army patch my Dad has!! First team's finest.

Sincerely, Anjela Smith



I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to the scholarship committee for granting me this generous scholarship. I am truly appreciative of the opportunity you have extended to me and value your belief in my abilities. This scholarship will greatly alleviate the financial pressures associated with my education, enabling me to concentrate more on my academic and personal development. I am dedicated to maximizing this opportunity and will strive to uphold the trust you have placed in me. Thank you once again for your support and confidence in my future!

Samantha Parker



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

## 12th CAV News



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Salute and Semper Paratus! Welcome to year 2025 and Happy New Year to all! Hope all had a good holiday to close out 2024 and are ready for a better year in 2025. For Maggie and me, we are relieved to see 2024 pass and looking forward to changes for the better this year. I had a PET Scan today (2 Jan) to confirm findings of a CAT Scan in Nov to determine if the 70 radiology and 8 chemo treatments did what they were designed to do, eliminate larynx cancer. CAT Scan looked good; PET Scan will be the final determinate. If good as expected, we will proceed with our plan to “di di mau” from FL back to the place we love, the great state of TX!



**CPT John Gergulis Training at Benning, 1965**

fresh Lieutenant just out of college, I thought he was nuts but I took the challenge.

In 1961 I was married. The Vietnam Advisor Program was searching for volunteers and I applied. Of course, I was turned down because they needed senior captains and field grade officers with experience. The assignment Branch offered me a deal of 13 months in Korea where I could get some field experience and return to CONUS for four years and be with my family. My new bride agreed it would be a good assignment for me while she stayed in the U.S. with family.

I returned to Fort Benning, GA after my 13 months in Korea and reported to the 1st Cavalry Division, 11<sup>th</sup> Air Assault test Bed for duty in the development of the new Helicopter Warfare Concepts. Went to 1st Battalion (Airborne) 187<sup>th</sup> Infantry to B Company then was given duty as Battalion S-2/S-3. My promotion orders to captain were located and I was sent to Delta Company as XO and then made CO 6 June 1964. It was a challenge to get some things straightened out in Delta Company but as the year progressed to 1965 we began to gel as a cohesive unit, knowing that we would likely be mobilized and sent to Vietnam.

13 August 1965 we boarded the USNS Geiger ‘Tramp Ship’ and departed from Savannah, GA. The 30-day trek across the seas finally landed us in Qui Nhon. The Division Band welcomed us with patriotic songs. We were trucked onto An Khe 13 September, which was home for the next year. It was here where I began to realize that an Army career might be worth the stay. The brotherhood bond had been formed and became the sustaining life force to get us through whatever we had to endure.

After Vietnam we went our separate ways. It wasn’t until many years later that outreach and research efforts by Troopers of Delta Company that I was contacted. Encouraged to get together in Branson, MO for one of the biggest gatherings of Veterans from all branches of the military and all parts of the country in 2005/06. Since that time our unit has reunited two times a year and then gathered with the other

Troopers of 1-12<sup>th</sup> and 2-12<sup>th</sup> annually in Branson. At these events, I am always reminded how blessed and fortunate I am to have served my country with such outstanding men.” JGG (John G. Gergulis COL (RET))!

SCRIBES NOTE: COL Gergulis is one of those unique officers who made a point to know his men. He understood that an officer is only as good as the men serving with him. This inspired the men to become the best they could and many had successful careers from his influence. An “Airborne Strack Salute” to you Sir John! (TLC)

Speaking of keeping the camaraderie alive; there will be one more 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Reunion in Branson, MO, September 2025. This will be the 20<sup>th</sup> year of this gathering and the last year as we have known it since 2006! If you have thought over the years that you would like to make a reunion but haven’t done so, this is the year to do it!

Date is not specific but will likely be the week after Labor Day at our favorite haunt, The former Welk now the Branson Hillside Hotel and Lodges. Keep your eyes and ears open for confirmation of the dates.

Until next time- “May the Chief Chopper Pilot hover us, the Original Paratrooper correct our parachute malfunctions and the Head Point Man keep us in the assigned AO.”

CRABTREE OUT! ‘BOOT to BOOT’



**COL Gene Beyers**

Untimely and unfortunate holiday loss: COL (RET) Eugene Albert ‘Gene’ Beyer left us on 28 December 2024, passing on from Vietnam illnesses related to Agent Orange and other events from his years of service in the U.S. Army 1959-1981: A respected and well-liked member of 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment Association, Gene served in Vietnam with the 229<sup>th</sup> Aviation Company of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division, 1967-68. Gene enjoyed affiliating with us at many Branson Reunions since he knew many of us and had carried us into and extracted us out of many LZs. Visitation and rosary

services were held January 3, 2025, at Crofts-Crow Funeral Home in Blanco, TX. Mass in Gene’s honor was conducted January 4, 2025, at 11am, Saint Ferdinand Catholic Church. Military burial services was held January 9, 2025, 10:15am at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. Condolences and prayers for the family may be extended via the Crofts-Crow Funeral Home, Blanco, TX website. A ‘Slow Hand Salute’ to COL Beyer!

TURNING THE CLOCK BACK 60 YEARS: Early 1965 the Troop buildup in Vietnam began with the deployment of 3,500 U.S. Marines dispatched to Da Nang by President Lyndon Johnson. Prior to this date American Soldiers had been sent as advisors to the South Vietnamese Army to provide training and advice on strategy and tactics. Many of the advisors had been dispatched in the 1950s by President Eisenhower and President John F. Kennedy in 1961-63. Latter part of 1963, 11,000 MAAG (Military Assistance Advisory Group) were in Vietnam. As tensions increased through 1964 with the Gulf of Tonkin incident August 2, 1964, many U.S. Armed Forces units were being placed on full alert for possible deployment to Vietnam. New war strategies and tactical innovations were being tested by DOD. 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division played a major role at Fort Benning, GA in the development of these new maneuvers dubbed as ‘Vertical Envelopment Attack’ (Helicopter Viability in Combat Assaults).

Key players in the formation of this new concept were the officers, NCOs and enlisted men of the 11<sup>th</sup> Air Assault (Test) and 187<sup>th</sup> Infantry (Rakkasans) 1963-65. In July 1965 they were officially designated as 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (Airborne) 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry and 2d Battalion (Airmobile) 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry. August 1965 1-12<sup>th</sup> debarked from Savannah, GA on the USNS Geiger. 2-12<sup>th</sup> debarked from Charleston, SC on the USNS Buckner.

Training at Fort Benning was significant to the overall success of combat operations in Vietnam and the tactics spread throughout the military and were adapted by numerous other units and divisions. It is an honor to our Troopers to know that what they underwent and experienced during training, prior to going to Vietnam, would have significant impact throughout the war. This is where the brotherhood was formed and remains intact today!

One of our officers, COL (RET) John G. Gergulis, CPT in Vietnam and first CO of Delta Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (Airborne) 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, 1965-66, expresses this best in the brief following story:

“I grew up in a small village up north surrounded by U.S. Coast Guard Academy, U.S. Submarine Base, State College for Women, Pfizer Headquarters and the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics. I was not a military brat and had no clue what I might do when graduating from high school. One day the Dean of Boys called me into his office and told me to apply for admission to The Citadel. His old boss GEN Mark W. Clark had just been named President of the Institution and he thought it would be a good place for me. I followed the dean’s suggestion and was accepted.

When I arrived there I fell in love with the south and the institute dubbed as “The School for Wayward Boys.” Four years there in the 1950s was grueling but I loved the regimentation and managed to graduate. On graduation I begged to get assigned to Fort Jackson, SC. My intention was to serve three that I owed the Army and get out. I had no intention to have a military career and no clue of what I might do when I was discharged other than to drink beer and chase the wild women in Savannah, Charleston, Myrtle Beach and Columbia. I graduated in 1959 and reported to Fort Jackson.

My first stop was at the office of COL Arthur D. Von Rohr who was made a full Colonel in WWII at the age of 23. He looked at my personnel file and said, “I see that you graduated from the school down the street the Institute for Wayward Boys” then said, “I need a Company Commander.” This bowled me over as a

**Contact the scribe to share your 12<sup>th</sup> Cav stories!**  
**If you were ever a part of 12<sup>th</sup> CAV, join their**  
**Association <www.12thCav.com>**  
**SUPPORT YOUR UNIT LEGACY!**

**HAVE YOU BEEN SEARCHING FOR YOUR LONG LOST BATTLE BUDDY?**



If you have been searching for someone that you served with within 1<sup>st</sup> Cav, try posting it here.

Submit requests to <Programs@1CDA.org> for the next Saber!

## 7th CAV News



**Jack (Boz) Parente**  
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Greetings, Garryowen Troopers, and welcome to the Jan/Feb 2025 issue of 7th Cav News. Over the last few months, I have received numerous emails from readers saying they enjoyed reading the short war stories - all of them written by Garryowen Veterans - that I have included in 7th Cav News. This month we have a trio of tales from combat medic, author, and frequent contributor, **Marc Levy**, D 1/7 '70 (his website is Medic in the Green Time, <<https://medicinthegreentime.com>>). The first story is about life in the bush. The second is about a strange case in the life of a Combat Medic. The third is a story about coming home from Vietnam. The fourth and last story in this issue is written by me, about my very first day in the boonies and how that went. But first:

### Fun With Dick and Jane – by Marc Levy



Gooch, Joe, Doc Levy  
photo by Jim Lamb

There was a Cherokee Indian in my platoon named Joe. He looked the part. Dark skin. Dark eyes. Fine features. Black hair. He was also illiterate and wanted to learn how to read. I sent a letter to Rocco, the father of a childhood friend in Newark, New Jersey. Rocco, my surrogate father, my own not up to the task was chairman of the high school science department. I asked him to send me a reading primer, Dick and Jane, or something like that. He must have contacted someone in the local grammar school; a few weeks later a pair of 2nd grade primers arrived in the red mail bag. In the jungle while on patrol I tried teaching Joe how to read. I don't think we got very far. One long day Joe

came to me where I was sitting. He walked through the jungle with both arms extended, taking big slow steps like Frankenstein. Half crying, half pleading, he'd traded his soda for beers and was drunk, over and over Joe begged me to get him out of the bush. His legs, which had been burnt bad in childhood, from all the marching on patrols, were killing him. He rolled up his fatigue pants and showed me the scars. I calmed him down and said I'd speak to the head medic, Roye Abbott. Roye must have talked to the CO, since not long afterward Joe left the platoon and became a door gunner. Good for Joe. I never heard from him again. Or from Dick and Jane.

### Joe's Boys – by Marc Levy

My friend Joe Dorio, who later became a sniper, extended after his tour with Delta 1/7 and got shot in the head, one day came up to me on an LZ. "Doc I got a problem," he said, dropped his pants and presented his private parts. Joe had a bad case of crotch rot. I remember wiping his most prized possessions with a gauze pad dipped in 2% copper sulfate solution. I thought, "it's an antifungal, this is the right thing to do," not knowing that I should dilute the stuff when using it in this most sensitive area. I wiped it on, and Joe howled bloody murder. I put some Mycolog crême on a gauze pad and wiped him down, which helped ease the pain, but even so, he hobbled away, bent over like a wounded stork. The next morning, he came by and showed me his privates. All the skin had turned black and was peeling off, but otherwise he was fine.



Sniper Joe Dorio with an M14.  
Tay Ninh, April 70

### Almost Home – by Marc Levy



At Tan Son Nhut I waited on the tarmac with dozens of other guys I'd come over with, not seen in a year: grunts in fatigues and boonie hats, REMFs in khakis, all of us sitting on duffel bags, milling around, sweating as the sun came up. Some REMF not yet leaving came by. "Snow. Anyone want to buy

some snow?" I had no idea what he was talking about. After a time, we boarded the plane; when it took off everyone cheered. For an hour or two guys talked, drank liquor from small glass bottles, checked out the stewardesses, eventually dozed off. Waking up, hours, or was it years later, the pilots staticky voice over the intercom; a hundred seat belt buckles snapped into place; the sound of the landing wheels descending.

What stays in the mind is this: It was dawn when we exited the plane, one by one stepping down the metal stairs and into an enormous hanger. It was dark inside, but you could see, standing nearby, wearing ball caps, new fatigues, new boots, their duffel bags stuffed with new socks, new t-shirts and towels and briefs, not FNGs yet—replacements. Walking past, not saying a word, we looked at them in all their newness. They did the same in reverse. They stared, silent, especially at the weary grunts, all of us thinking "That was me a year ago." Them thinking, "Is that what I'll be a year from now?" But all you heard echoing throughout the hanger was the sound of our boots thudding on the cold cement floor. We kept walking, to the little red exit sign, to sit in a well-lit room in desk chairs and fill

out forms, and gladly hand our MPC to one of the happy clerks. "You don't need that anymore," he said. "You can leave it with us!" He had a bucket ready to collect the scrip. Every guy reached into his GI pockets and tossed the money away. How much did the clerk collect? A hundred, two hundred dollars? I realized only much later, after reading a book by Cornelius Hawkrige, the clerks were sending the MPC back to Vietnam to be exchanged on the black market for dollars, paying a cut to the marketeers, splitting the profits. Pull that stunt a couple of times a day, easy money. In an airport bathroom stall I changed into my dress greens. With an Army voucher I caught a flight to Newark, NJ. A taxi from Newark airport to my parent's house, about eight miles, cost six bucks. What I remember most, what moved me, what I'll never forget, since my parents—tragic figures who would not send me a K-bar while I was in combat, "You might hurt yourself," they said—was the sight of my dog jumping up and down as I walked in the door. My beloved dog, the one true thing I missed in that year away from home, jumping for joy at the sight of me.

### Cherry Boy – by Boz

It was early January 1969 in Vietnam, my very first day in the boonies. On my first company-size patrol, a hell-hot killer on a full-gear hump to a resupply point in the jungle. I was chopping through bamboo and wait-a-minute vines with a dull machete, carrying way too much stuff, trying hard to keep up. I was afraid of being left behind, humping hard at first light, burned out by 0800 and I had this out-of-control drinking problem. I was going through my canteens way too fast. And I had to take a leak. Immediately. And we were *not* stopping. I had a hundred pounds of battle gear hanging on my back for the very first time in my new life as a lowly FNG with Echo/Recon, 1/7, and I didn't know if I could hold out until we stopped or my bladder exploded.

So, there I was, radiator boiling over, legs burning, vision getting fuzzy, stumbling forward, and *finally* we stop when somebody near the head of the column passes out cold, just before I would have pissed in my pants. And that would have been just fine, too. I didn't care anymore. I was on the verge of passing out, completely drenched, soaked head to toe with sweat pouring from everywhere like I'd been standing in a monsoon, and I stood there, pissing on that tree, holding on for dear life to keep from collapsing as my new reality closed in. Four of my six canteens were already dry. I figured I'd be dead by noon. I hated Vietnam. I hated everything about Vietnam. I hated the heat. I hated the jungle. I hated the fear. I hated the way it felt, the way it sounded, the way it smelled, and this was just the beginning, and I didn't like it.

Just as I was buttoning my pants all the muscles in both of my legs began to cramp with a blast of indescribable pain, and my mentor and fireteam leader, SP4 John Davenport came over to see why I was staggering like a wino on a bender. All four of Echo's FNG replacements, including me, were down with heat exhaustion. Naturally, our officers were pushing the medics hard to get us going again – "Either fix 'em or shoot 'em, Doc," - and both of our medics, Doc Titus and Doc Richardson were *very* busy. Davenport was assisting with the heat casualties. He helped me roll out of my rucksack, gave me some salt tabs, and handed me one of his canteens telling me to drink slowly. I was in bad shape. My brain was cooked. I was on the verge of blacking out but, not wanting to be seen as the FNG water-weenie that I was, I said that I was fine, maybe just a tad warm, and to change the subject, I asked John if I could check out his pistol. John knew I was brain-wacked from the heat but he knew how much I liked his .45, and he handed it to me before moving on to help Doc Titus revive my best buddy, fire-teammate and fellow FNG, Bernie Zambrano, who was doubled up on the ground, dry-heaving. I took the pistol out of its holster. "Careful, Boz. It's loaded," said John. I saw his lips move and I nodded without truly understanding a word of what he said. Heat exhaustion had turned off the logical thought process while I was handling a loaded weapon. I pushed the magazine release button and out pops a full mag of .45 cal rounds, which lands in the mud. Davenport slowly says, "Okay, quickdraw. Now take out all the ammo, clean off the rounds and clean out the mag," and, with that increasingly familiar "*He'll be dead in a week*" look on his face, John turned his attention to the exhausted Bernie Zambrano who was just beginning to come around. Bernie was my closest friend. I had talked Bernie into volunteering for Echo back at the reception depot and we quickly buddied up. It seemed like a good idea at the time. He looks over at me with vomit on his face and misery in his eyes and throws me the finger. I throw him the finger back, point the *unloaded* single-action weapon at his head and, as Bernie says, "*Please. Just do it.*" I squeeze the trigger. Nothing. No dry fire click on the empty chamber. Davenport totally freaks out and yells at me to stop effing around, quit acting like a foul-adjective idiot, rack the effing action, and give him his really-foul-adjective gun back "*ASAeffingP!*" and then turns back to Bernie, still cursing. "Well, okay..." I think to myself, and I pull back the slide on the pistol and out pops a big fat round of .45 ACP hardball. It was like being hit in the face with a shovel! In my dehydrated delirium I had forgotten that everyone with a .45 in Vietnam carried the pistol with a round in the chamber.

It was just dumb luck I didn't see the hammer was in half-cock, and that nobody noticed how badly I'd screwed up. That on my very first day in the bush I nearly shot and killed my best friend Bernie with John's .45. I never told them what almost happened that day, the first event in a pattern that would repeat itself several times during my tour.

As it turned out, John Davenport, Doc Titus, and Bernie Zambrano were among the eleven E 1/7 Troopers who died three months later on Hill 54, 17 Mar 69. I inherited John's .45, it's the one in the header photo. I never pointed it at anyone I did not intend to shoot, and for the rest of my tour I carried it with the hammer in half-cock and a round chambered.

SEND IN YOUR 7th CAV STORIES! *We need material.* Please email me your war stories, buddy searches, current events in the active-duty world, requests for info, plugs for books, obits, reunions, birthdays, anything 7th Cav that you would like to see in this column. I hope you enjoyed the stories in this issue. Boz, out.

**Contact the scribe to share your  
7th Cav stories here!  
If you were ever a part of 7th CAV, join their  
Association <[www.us7thCavalry.com](http://www.us7thCavalry.com)>  
SUPPORT YOUR UNIT LEGACY!**

## 8th CAV News



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Happy New Year! By the time most of us get this edition of the *Saber* we will be well into 2025. New Years is the same every year: we make resolutions that we break before February. We swear we're going to lose weight, eat less and be good boys and girls. Well, good luck with your goals and may your resolutions come to pass. May we all have the best year of our life. In many places our men and women live in freezing conditions. Check on your fellow Vets, make sure they are warm and safe. C'mon do it, won't take a minute.

All of us need to check our regulations with the VA. They sometime change from year to year. Make sure all your documents such as marriage license, DD 214, death certificates, or any other pertinent information is near to hand. You or your family may have to make any of these available for benefits.



### Rest in Peace, Jim

We mourn the loss of one of our Board Members, James "Jim" Peter Beck, our former Treasurer, a committed 8<sup>th</sup> Cavalry decorated Vietnam Veteran, and for most of us a great friend. Jim was an avid supporter of the 8<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment Association, of EAGERARMS – the



Jim Beck at The Wall

group of us who served with B/2-8 CA during 1967-1968, and its website <eagerarms.com> which he personally funded. Jim's life story is a model of a true Patriot. You, too, will be moved by this story at: <https://www.forevermissed.com/james-peter-beck/about> as I was.

Honor and Courage, Jim! Rest in Peace. Your friend and compatriot, Tom DeYoung

### St. Louis

In mid-December I took a road trip to St. Louis. It's an annual trip that other 1<sup>st</sup> Cav Vets make. I, Larry Hempfling, Paul Braun and John Pike gathered for some Christmas celebrations. My wife, Jennifer, was unable to attend but Terri Hempfling, Val Pike and Sharon Braun all graced us with their company. We had a 4-star meal at a place called Gianinos, where the food and service was excellent. There was a lot of conversation about then and now. Most of us knew where we were in 1968 at Christmas. I remember being in the rear getting ready to deros home. We had a couple pulls from



Paul Braun, Larry Hempfling, TG, John Pike in St. Louis

a bottle of Jack...well maybe more than a couple. All merry making ended abruptly at 10pm. The flaps on the hooch we were in started flapping. We heard the sound of mortar fire in the distance and were waiting for it to land. Thank God, if nothing else, I learned to cover my ass and where the nearest foxhole was. Mortar and rocket incoming continued until the early morning hours. Sobering quickly, I decided to spend the rest of the night in that cozy little hole in the ground. There were several guys that were there that night. The name that stands out to me is Earl Barker and I believe he was from Alabama. If anyone reading this was there and remembers that night, please get in touch. Anyway, it was a night to remember.

### POW/MIA Museum

Before going to St Louis, Paul Braun C/2-8 "69" told me about a POW-MIA museum that had recently opened. The museum is on the grounds of Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. We decided to check it out the following morning. The museum is housed in a brick building that has been used since WWI. The building is very well kept, and the exhibits are many, some dating back to WWI. The curator was there and seemed really happy to meet us. He took many pictures of us there. While there, we met the daughter of an ex-POW from WWII. She expressed her joy that the museum takes the time and effort to make sure the stories of MIAs and POWs don't go untold. If your organization has some donation money for a worthy cause, this is it. Thank you.

POW-MIA Museum Jefferson Barracks

16-18 Hancock Avenue St. Louis, MO 63125

Open Saturday and Sunday 10am – noon during the winter, 314-609-9037

### Roll on the River

I've been thinking about taking a river cruise. I would like to travel on any big river in the USA in the late spring or early fall. Seeing the scenic rivers with their beautiful shorelines and landscapes really appeals to me. I would think the smaller ships would provide a more personalized experience than the bigger ocean-going ships would. I've talked to some Vets and their wives who have taken the river cruises, and they were very positive about the relaxing time aboard the ships, the excellent dining and accommodations and how well they were treated by the staff.

So, if we can get enough folks interested, I will try to organize a trip. If you

want to take this journey, get in touch with me. You can call, text message or e-mail me directly. The *Saber* will not be able to help you. I do this under the flag of the 8<sup>th</sup> Cav Association whether you be 1/8, 2/8 or 3/8 we are all 8<sup>th</sup> Cavalry. I think it would be a time of renewing friendships and making new ones. I urge everyone to think about this if a number of Cav Troopers and their partners find this interesting, we'll figure out the logistics together.

James Dotson D/ 2-8 Vietnam '68

PO Box 684 Murray, KY 42071, 270-978-1075 <airmobile68@gmail.com>

### The Valley

Spring 1968, when you said or heard "The Valley" it meant only one place: A-Shau Valley. It was the biggest focal point in Vietnam. It was a narrow 25-mile-long valley near the Laotian Border. The 1<sup>st</sup> Cav Division began Operation Delaware on April 19, 1968. On April 24th, 2/8 battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Cav landed 2km south of an abandoned airstrip. We found a communications network that was unbelievable, numerous supply caches of weapons, food rice medical supplies and a 337MM anti-aircraft gun. The aforementioned anti-aircraft gun was, for a while, the only captured weapon from Vietnam on display at the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav Museum at Fort Hood. On April 26, while resting on a mountain top with Johnny Mayes, we observed a C-130 delivering supplies being shot down over the abandoned airstrip. One second an airplane, the next it was a ball of fire. The valley was a breeding ground for bad dreams and nightmares. We know that don't we brothers.



Top Gun with Collection Box of Donations



TG and Pat Abbey with a van full of gifts

### Christmas for the Vets

In November of 2024 I hit up on the idea of a way we could help Veterans in state run Veteran homes. We have two of these places in the immediate area. One in Humboldt, TN and the other in Clarksville, TN. There is also one in Central Kentucky. The way this started was an idea to put up a donation box for Veterans. I go to the community civic center in Paris, TN and I asked the supervisor, Tony, if it would be possible to put one in there. He was proud to be able to accommodate my request and happy to help the Veterans. The response from the community was spectacular along with the 8<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association.



Christmas at Veterans Home

We collected merchandise and cash donations in generous amounts. With the help of so many people we were able to raise over \$1,000. Pat Abbey contributed so much time to help get this up and going and delivered to the Veterans' homes. Between the three homes, we took a van full of gifts for each one. I arranged with the homes to have time to visit with the Veterans and pass out gifts and drink coffee.



Veteran's Widow and Top Gun

Meeting the Veterans and seeing their reaction to us visiting was priceless. There were Veterans from all military services, women Veterans and widows of Veterans. The homes were very clean, and the food offered was very appetizing. We left there knowing that our Veterans were being well taken care of.

Thanks to all the staff for their cooperation and welcoming smiles, the visits were a success. A big thanks to the Paris, Tennessee community, the 8<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Division and the Paris Civic Center for all their help and donations. This would not have been possible without all of you. We hope to do this again next year and bring the same joy back to our Veterans.

### Hopes for 2025

I hope that we all have a great start to 2025. I wish we all stay healthy. Reunions are so good for staying in touch with one another, I try to attend every one that I can and hope you do too. Again, I appeal to you all to send me any news you might have or stories you want told. God bless you all.

Happy trails! Honor and Courage.

**Contact the scribe to share your 8<sup>th</sup> Cav stories!**

**If you were ever a part of 8<sup>th</sup> CAV, join their Association <www.8Cavalry.com>**

**SUPPORT YOUR UNIT LEGACY!**



## Limited Edition 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Prints Both Military Edition Prints are autographed by the artist and numbered



**Turning the Corner  
Task Force Baghdad**  
by James Dietz  
31" x 19"  
\$40

**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.

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

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Liberation of Baqubah Print Qty: \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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## NEW PINS



2024  
Kentucky



Lapel Pin  
3/4"  
\$5.00



1<sup>st</sup> Cav Div Assn Pin  
1.5"  
\$6.00



## 1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION HISTORIAN

**Dennis Webster**  
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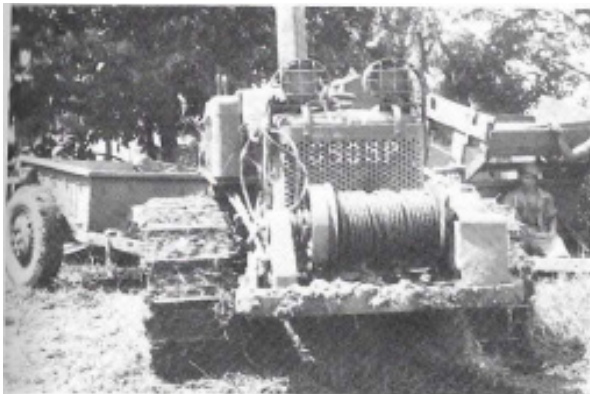
As we begin this new year, it is fitting to begin with some preparation of the battlefield and launch some pre-planned artillery to clear the LZ.

### Artillery - King of Battle

Those who have seen or experienced the effects of artillery in combat can easily understand why that name was given to the artillery. Artillery has always been a part of the 1st Cavalry Division and has also been an integral part of the success of the First Team in every war that we have fought.

When the 1st Cavalry Division was formed in 1921, one of its initial units was the 82d Field Artillery Battalion (Horse). The 1st Cavalry Division Artillery (DIVARTY) was activated 3 January 1941, inactivated for a ten-year period from June 2005 to April 2015, and currently serves as the senior headquarters for artillery support in the Division.

During World War II, the division received its artillery support from four battalions of Field Artillery. The 61st FA and 271st FA were both equipped with truck drawn, 105mm Snubnose M3 Howitzers. The 82d FA and 99th FA were initially equipped with the 1/4-ton truck jeep and the 75mm Pack Howitzer. During the fighting in the Admiralty Islands they discovered the Pack Howitzers were too light for jungle warfare and requests were submitted to replace them with the 105mm guns. The artillery units were up gunned and additionally were given better hauling capability with the addition of TD-9 tractors and 2 1/2 ton trucks to pull the howitzers and transport ammo. The need for additional artillery resulted in the 947th FA Battalion being attached to the division prior to the Leyte campaign and remained attached through the Luzon campaign. Artillery units used some form of artillery spotters, or Forward Observers. These ranged from FO's that served with the units directly, sometimes never even knowing or seeing anyone in their



61st FA TD-9 Tractor with attached trailer



61st FA L3 Spotter Planes on Momote Island 1944

firing unit for months, to FO's who were positioned in bunkers (either on or in front of the MLR), to Aerial Observers flying in an un-armed, un-protected scout plane. A photo of the planes used in WWII is provided by a former member of the Association's Board of Governors, MAJ Fred "Pink" Martin who served with the 61st FA at Fort Bliss and during the war. Pink died in 2016.

The Division Artillery during the Korean War would eventually receive the direct support of four artillery battalions, the 61st FA, 77th FA, 82d FA, and the 99th FA all equipped with towed 105mm Howitzers. DIVARTY also had control of two Anti-aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons battalions, the 29th and the 92d AAW Battalions. Again, the use of Artillery had significant impact on the outcome of the fight, first during the defense of the Pusan Perimeter and then in the breakout and advance north. The terrain in Korea dictated the use of high-angle fire and the necessity of all-around defense of mutually supporting battery positions.



Korea 82 FA 155's firing May 51



DIVARTY last round Korea

The following is an excerpt from the History of the 61st Field Artillery: "During the Korean War the 61st Field Artillery fired 400,000 rounds of 105mm ammunition, suffered 21 killed in action, 17 missing in action and 145 wounded. Personnel of the Battalion earned two Distinguished Service Crosses, 26 Silver Stars, and 105 Bronze Stars for Valor, all in ground combat plus a number of other medals for meritorious service".

Artillery units assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division during the Vietnam War included: The DI-

VARTY, 2-19th FA (105MM), 1-21st FA (105MM), 1-30th FA (155mm), 1-77th FA (105MM), E Battery, 82d Artillery (Aviation), and 2-20th Aerial Rocket Artillery (UH-1B and later AH-1 Cobra). When the division departed Vietnam in 1971, the 3d Brigade (Separate) remained with artillery provided by the 1-21st FA, F Battery, 77th FA, and F Battery, 79th ARA (AH-1 Cobra) was the only aerial rocket artillery unit in the brigade.

For the first time in combat the 82d FA had no cannons, but its B Battery provided aerial reconnaissance, adjustment of artillery fire, and command liaison for the Division and was organic to the DIVARTY.

The 2-20th ARA had 2.75-inch rockets mounted on their Huey's and was able to provide immediate artillery fire support to airmobile units operating beyond the range of conventional artillery. Because the ARA pilot was at the target site, he could quickly adjust his fire for maximum accuracy and could provide extremely close fire support.

During Operation MASHER/WHITE, in February 1966, the 1-77th FA fired 2,012 missions and 20,433 rounds while also coordinating reinforcing fires from 155mm, 175mm, 8-inch, and aerial rocket artillery in just one month.



2-20 ARA UH1B with 2-75-inch rocket launchers mounted

In March of 1968, the Division launched Operation PEGASUS, the 1-30th FA's batteries moved ten times by air and ground and fired 20,000 rounds in a three-week period.

After Vietnam, the 1st Cavalry Division was assigned to Fort Hood, Texas, now called Fort Cavazos. Artillery units during the Gulf War included the DIVARTY (Red Team), 1-3d FA (M109 Self-Propelled Howitzer), 1-82d FA (M109



1-30 Gun Firing 71 VN

Self-Propelled Howitzer), 3-82d FA (M109 Self-Propelled Howitzer), Btry A, 333d FA (Target Acquisition Radar), Btry A, 21st FA (Multiple Launched Rocket System MLRS, Btry A, 92d FA (MLRS), 4-5th ADA (Avenger and Vulcan). The Division was also supported by 212th FA Brigade, 75th FA Brigade, 42d FA Brigade, and C Btry, 26th FA.



MLRS firing

The 4-5th Air Defense Artillery was equipped with the Avenger anti-aircraft system which had eight Stinger missiles, and the M163 Vulcan Air Defense (VADS) which mounted a rapid-fire rotary cannon.

The Gulf War marked the first time that the 1st Cavalry Division used the MLRS in combat. On their first mission, A Battery, 1-21 FA fired 100 rockets from its ten launchers in less than a minute, those rockets would strike eight Iraqi artillery units and an infantry company.

Since the end of the Gulf War, the Division has been involved in training for war, peace-keeping missions in Bosnia, numerous deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan in combat, deployments to South Korea, and Eastern Europe. In each instance the artillery of the First Team was involved and performed its missions admirably.

During this period, the artillery units of the division included: the DIVARTY or Fires Brigade (RED TEAM), 1-82d FA, 2-82d FA, 3-82d FA, 5-82d FA, 3-16th FA, 4-5th ADA, and the 6-56th ADA. They were also supported by the 41st Fires Brigade, the 1-21st FA, and the 2-20th FA.

During Operation Iraqi Freedom artillery units performed not only their traditional field artillery tasks, to include firing in combat, but performed armed reconnaissance missions, joint security patrols, cordon and searches, raids, and a wide variety of civil military operations.

The 1-82d FA conducted the first operational firing of the XM982 Excalibur, a 155mm precision-guided, extended-range artillery projectile, targeting a well-known safe house for insurgents in the northern region of the Iraqi capital on 5 May 2007. With its accuracy and increased effectiveness, the Excalibur reduces the logistical burden for deployed ground forces. It also provides lower collateral damage through its concentrated fragmentation pattern, increased precision, and near-vertical descent.

The 1st Cavalry Division trains to fight as a combined arms team and the King of Battle remains one of its most powerful members. MG Brett Sylvia, a former 1st Cavalry Division Deputy Commanding General and presently the CG of the 101st Airborne, in a AUSA Hot Topic said, "Fires are not simply a supporting effort in large-scale combat operations. They, or rather their effects, are often first to the fight. They're a cornerstone of our competitive advantage in combined arms maneuver." **Live the Legend!**

**Sources:** *The 1st Cavalry Division in World War II*, compiled by Division Historian, Major B. C. Wright, 1947; Reprinted Turner Publishing Company, 2000; *History of the 61st Field Artillery Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, 1940-1957* by Colonel Jimmy C. Marks, 1990; *1st Cavalry Division, Korea June 1950 to January 1952*, Albert Love Enterprises; *The First Air Cavalry Division, Vietnam, Dia Nippon Printing 1969*; *America's First Team in the Gulf* by Jeffrey E. Phillips and Robyn M. Gregory, Taylor Publishing Company, 1992.

## 15th MED/15th FSB/15th BSB

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www.15thMedBnAssociation.org



I received an email from **Jerry Clement** <jerryac22@yahoo.com> A/1-5 Jan '69 - July '69. He said that attached is a picture of a medic, on the extreme right, who was with

A/1-5 Cav on 9-3-69. On the date mentioned the medic attended to a fatally wounded Tony Cruz (center man in picture). Tony's family would like to find out the identity of the medic and possibly thank him if he can be found.

I am not aware of any roster which he may be on. This is the problem with medics assigned to an infantry company. Technically, medics were obtained by their HHC Aid Station and assigned by them. The only way to know anything is to get a roster. Anyone may have one? So lies the inquiry to anyone reading this and may even recognize those in the photo.



A/1-5 Cav 1969 L to R Larry 'Shorty' McVay, Tony Cruz and 2nd Plt medic far right, name sought

I went to a C/2-7 Cav Reunion, and my last CO before my DEROS in 1969, Robert Jackson, had a roster from when he was there. He found my name on it, which confirmed, they kept track of even the medics.

In 1970 I was on call in the MEDEVAC Ops building. They had bunks for us to be there for any call to scramble. Somebody came over to me and said, "Hey Bodnar, there's a guy from your old unit in for a MEDEVAC interview. I went over to Platoon Leader CPT Hagerty's office, and I saw a grunt-looking Soldier, not wearing Nomex, coming out. I introduced myself and shook his hand. He said, "Oh, you're the guy. I thought they had some doctor out there!"

I didn't know if that was an insult or a compliment. I didn't pay any attention to anything like that said to me. But that was Bill, Bill Walsh. I just went back to stress, waiting for the next pickup, and he went back to his unit. I never saw him again until the 1986 Chicago Vietnam Veteran's Parade. I never served with Bill, but he always seemed to come into a unit after me. He was not my replacement in 1st Platoon C/2-7 Cav, but to another platoon. Then, he went to MEDEVAC after I had left, in July '70. I don't know when he came in for an interview, but it had to be before May 1970 when we went into Cambodia. I never saw him in the unit because during Cambodia, everyone was assigned to a helicopter and it stayed that way until my second DEROS in July.

My long-time door gunner Rick Goodson told me that he flew a lot with Bill after I left. So, I know Bill was in MEDEVAC. I have posted a photo of him in a MEDEVAC group shot. Bill was born and raised in Chicago, and he became a policeman when he returned from Vietnam. He invited Rick and me to stay at his house for the parade which he helped to organize. Bill died several years ago from cancer, which I wrote about in the *Saber*. Rick said that he had never seen such a big funeral. He said something like, every cop in the city attended.

As for whatever he heard about me in Charlie 2-7 after I left, it was just grunt speak. I just did my job as a medic the best I could. If it impressed anyone, I'm glad. I must have been doing a good job.

Another medic I have written about in the *Saber* was not an MOS medic, but an 11Bravo. That was E. Tayloe Wise of B/2-8 Cav 1969, Blackfoot Platoon. The second time I read his book, it was better.

He spent his first months hating being an infantryman. When they needed a medic, he got recommended, and was experienced enough to take over. That was one less medic the Aid Station had to assign.

Tayloe did everything any medic would do, and so it seemed even better. He mentions having to give out antibiotics for jungle rot, like any competent medic did, and he even mentioned griseofulvin, which I had used. It must have been something that came down from the Division Surgeon's office about antibiotics. Our 2-7 Cav Battalion Surgeon in June 1969 told all his medics we could carry and use antibiotics. I had them send out some of each, to see what worked.

When I had my RTO call in for my resupply, he laughed, and told the RTO back in battalion that, "I'll have to spell this one phonetically: GOLF, ROMEO, INDIA, SIERRA, ECHO, OSCAR, FOXTROT, UNIFORM, LIMA, VICTOR, INDIA, NOVEMBER, how copy?" Tayloe was intelligent and dedicated enough to use that for jungle rot. Not all medics could be relied on enough for that. That's one reason why Bill Walsh may have heard stories about me. I was just

doing the job, nothing more.

Tayloe had been through the devastation of LZ Becky, so he knew how to administer first aid. When his medic left, and no replacement was immediate, Tayloe got recommended. When firefights ensued over the following weeks, Tayloe filled a vital role. The way he wrote about them was far worse than anything that I ever saw. My battalion, only about ten clicks east at the same time in 1969, avoided what B/2-8 went through. It could have been the NVA's design of movement, more towards Tay Ninh, and less towards Saigon.

Being the medic, Tayloe had to be responsible for a wounded NVA on one occasion. He mentions being with him in a bomb crater and the MEDEVAC hovering over, firing into the wood line. They ended up getting their wounded out without any more MEDEVACs being lost. This was right after LT John Kuulei Kauhahao was dragged through the trees by MEDEVAC 19 Dan Toothman when they were so badly shot up. Unnecessary, because LT K was suspected already KIA, and should not have been extracted like that. B/2-8 didn't want to go through that again.

Although not in the 1st Cavalry Division, Daniel Evans, a medic who was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC), wrote a book called, *Doc: Platoon Medic*. I mention it here as a comparison, and a fellow U.S. Army medic.

Like his WWII father before him, Daniel, even with a student deferment, felt it was his duty to serve. His new wife felt that she was his duty. But, he said he had to go. So, he volunteered for the draft, and with that he could choose his MOS. Being a pre-med student he chose to be a medic, even though he mentions the sight of blood could make him pass out, or faint.

In early 1968 Daniel got shipped off to the U.S. Army Medical Training Center at Ft. Sam Houston, TX (MTC) for ten weeks of medic training. He mentions Colonel Pixley (LTC Charles C. Pixley CO MTC June '67 to April '70) who had spoken to my class in Aug '68 in an assembly in the post movie theater. Colonel Pixley said that everywhere else in the Army everyone was learning to kill, and we would be the only ones learning to save lives. It was a little late for that, I had already qualified with the M-14 at Ft. Dix, but I knew what he meant.

Daniel deployed to Vietnam and got assigned to the 9th Infantry Division in Dong Tam. His expectations were mitigated because he was assigned to the 9th Med, the division medical battalion. Instead of becoming a combat medic, he found himself being rear echelon. He wasn't happy not being able to do what he had trained for. He now had to be spit shined and available for details, which were numerous. The only way he could get out and away was to be a temporary volunteer for MEDCAPS, to help the Vietnamese locals.

He kept asking for and being denied field duty. One day they were told one of the infantry units was short of medics, so he volunteered as a temporary replacement to the 4th of the 39th Infantry Battalion. He met their battalion surgeon, was loaded with medic supplies, including morphine, and sent to 1st Platoon Bravo Company. He met his platoon when they met him. They were 11Bravos like everywhere else in Vietnam. He learned the ropes.

Daniel experienced his baptism of fire with his platoon. When he had to visit his battalion surgeon again, the captain said that he had heard good things about him, and awarded Daniel with a Combat Medic Badge, despite not having been out there for thirty days, if that was what the A.R. specified then. But, rendering medical aid under fire.

Eventually, Daniel's loan to the infantry came to an end and was recalled to the 9th Med. He requested to go back to his infantry platoon but was continually denied. He was just cheap detail labor the medical battalion needed.

On one occasion, trying to make himself scarce, he was asked to fill in on a DUSTOFF helicopter. He later got another opportunity to be a temporary flight medic for a couple of weeks and said yes. After many incidents with them, Daniel heard that his requests to return to his 4-39th Infantry platoon was approved. He returned and was welcomed.

As happened in the Army, if the higher ups wanted more out of a unit, the 4-39th got a new commander. That happened to be LTC David Hackworth, who fashioned his new unit into what he called, The Hardcore Battalion. With that, Daniel became an even more experienced medic taking care of his hard-core reluctant platoon. He mentions that he too was using griseofulvin, to lessen the misery his platoon felt.

Over time, the effects of LTC Hackworth's prodding took effect. The Hardcore Battalion were dominating the VC. It became like the 7th Cavalry under Custer, who massacred aborigine villages, but eventually whose fortunes ran out when they ran into an overwhelming alliance of tribes and were massacred themselves. This is what happened to Daniel and his platoon. On one assault they found themselves up against a large, well-entrenched VC force with NVA, and were getting massacred.

After rendering medical aid to everyone he could, he found himself pinned down with his wounded platoon leader. His lieutenant told him to leave because he was already dead, but Daniel stayed with him.

Eventually all fought their way out of it, but at a heavy cost. LTC Hackworth was himself a casualty. Daniel's medic actions helped save many lives, including unexpectedly his platoon leader. For all this, Daniel was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, an award he preferred he never had to receive.

When I read this book, I was surprised how similar my own Vietnam experience was to Daniel's. Not the DSC part. When I first got to Vietnam, they stuck me in the rear. I was by the 93rd Evac Hospital in Long Binh in December 1968, unloading 1st Cav MEDEVACs at night, which were completely stuffed with wounded. I felt that I had to get out and do my part, when so many medics, and many of those whom I went through A.I.T. with, didn't have any choice. I couldn't stay in the rear.

It took me two formal 1049 transfers and, when I finally got to the 1st Cav, two verbal requests, to get to the field, and stay there for the next eight months. It's important for the medic at the beginning of this column to be identified, whose dedication is appreciated.

Always remembering our 1st Cav Troops on duty around the world; over and out. FIRST TEAM! Garryowen, Mike Bodnar C 2/7 Cav 1969 MEDEVAC 1-7/1970, SO THAT OTHERS MAY LIVE

**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>**  
**SUPPORT YOUR UNIT LEGACY!**

## 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Association Reno, NV June 11-15, 2025

The 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Association invites you to join the rest of the First Team Family in Reno, Nevada for the 77th Annual Reunion of the 1st Cavalry Division Association from 11-15 June 2025. All Life and Associate Members are welcome to attend this special event. Gold Star Families and Widows of our members are always welcome to attend.

Please register early to assist us in coordinating the best reunion possible. Some events have limited seating available due to the size of available rooms. All members of the Association must register and pay the \$40 Registration Fee except for our Active-Duty Troopers who pay \$20 to register. Family members attending with an Association member, Widows of 1st Cavalry Division Troopers, and Gold Star Family members that attend do not have to pay a registration fee. *The registration fee will no longer be refundable regardless of when a member cancels.*

Online registration opens 1 October 2024; the Reunion registration form will be included in the Saber from November '24 through April '25. Those sending in registrations post-marked after 1 May 2025 must pay a late registration fee of \$50.

The Association will be providing our guests with transportation to the Truckee River Walk on Thursday 12 June 2025 (0900-1800) at a cost of \$10 per person. Bus tickets can be purchased when you initially register, either by mail-in or on-line, or at the Walk-in Registration area.

**NOTE: Cancellations are non-refundable after the 1 May 2025 deadline.**

### LODGING

We will be utilizing the Grand Sierra Resort (GSR) and Casino for all our events. The GSR room fees will vary because this is a resort. Reservations made Sunday-Thursday are \$79 and Friday-Saturday are \$189. Resort fees and guestroom taxes will apply. Make sure that you identify yourself as attending the 1st Cavalry Division Association Reunion. The hotel does provide a free shuttle service from the Reno-Tahoe Intl. Airport and rental cars are available at the airport.

**Grand Sierra Resort** 800-648-5080 reference code: **FCD25**  
2500 E 2nd St  
Reno, NV 89595

Or use the reservation link on the right-side menu of the Association website.

### RV PARKING

For our members traveling in an RV, the GSR has an on-site RV Park. The park amenities include access to the GSR pool, fitness center, fire pits, on-site laundry, picnic tables, restroom/shower facilities, and wi-fi access. To make reservations at the RV park call 1-800-258-7366 or you can go online to <[rvpark@grandsierraresort.com](http://rvpark@grandsierraresort.com)>.

### REUNION EVENT OVERVIEW

You will notice several changes to the reunion schedule. The Veterans Briefing has been moved to Thursday afternoon. The Memorial (Long Roll Muster) will be held in conjunction with the Legacy Breakfast. Our Trustee and Board meetings will be held in the evening accommodating those members who are unable to attend the reunion. This year, members will have an opportunity to visit the Truckee River Trail and Riverwalk District. The Riverwalk District has shopping, restaurants, bars and taverns, entertainment, lodging, even a whitewater park – all in a safe, fun, friendly area that celebrates Reno’s arts, culture, and history 365 days a year.

The Lady’s Luncheon will be held on-site at the hotel. Studio 775 Reno will bring the party to us along with all the supplies needed to create your very own masterpiece.

The Grand Sierra Resort is chocked full of things to do for adults and kids alike...or both. The Resort has a bowling center, movie theater, there is a driving range, axe throwing (at targets not each other), team building in the escape room, the pool area (open year-round), and spa. For the child in all of us there is an arcade, laser tag, bumper cars, and a carnival midway. There are also concerts, comedy shows, and other events. For your dining pleasure, the resort offers eight restaurants, food trucks, and several grab and go spots.

As usual, we will have all other planned events at the resort: Legacy Breakfast (Long Roll Muster), Unit Lunches, Purple Heart Breakfast, Association Banquet, Group Breakfasts. We will have meetings of the Chapter Presidents, Foundation Trustees, the Board of Governors, and our General Membership meeting. During our General Membership meeting on Saturday morning, we will hold elections for the Association and Foundation.

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

Cavalry casual attire is appropriate for all reunion events. Wear what you feel comfortable wearing; a coat and tie, your uniform (if it still fits), casual clothing with open collar, jeans, or shorts. We want you to attend and are not overly concerned with what you wear, so long as it is not indecent! The Association will provide a Reunion Room in the resort for you to gather and enjoy yourself. Drinks (beer and wine) in the Reunion Room are free but we ask that you generously donate to help us pay for this room. The Reunion Room will open daily at 0900 with the bar opening at 1200 hours. The Crossed Sabers Chapter Gift Shop will set up a store in the hotel to sell all kinds of Cav-tastic First Team merchandise including shirts, hats, Stetsons, pins, decals, and other items too numerous to mention.

### THE BEST PART OF THE REUNION

The best part of any reunion is the people that attend. The 1st Cavalry Division Association Reunion brings in Troopers from every era of the First Team’s history. Troopers that rode horses, fought in the Pacific with MacArthur, occupied Japan, fought in Korea, or stood watch on the DMZ will spend time with the Sky Troopers of Vietnam and the Troopers from Operation Desert Storm, Fort Hood, Bosnia, and the latest combat Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan. The equipment and terrain might be different, but the common bond of serving with America’s First Team binds us together. Saddle up and ride in to Reno in 2025!

### OFFICIAL NOTICE

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS – REUNION 2025

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

The President has appointed a nominating committee to recommend Life members of the Association for election or re-election to fill the terms of office for the following positions that become vacant as of 14 June 2025:

- Executive Foundation Trustee**
- Foundation Trustee**
- 10 Board Members**

Any Life member of the Association, including an incumbent, who wishes to be considered by the nominating committee for one of these positions, should forward a letter to the **Chairman, 2025 Nominating Committee, 302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703**, requesting consideration for nomination to the specific office.

The Nominating Committee must receive all requests no later than **15 April 2025** to assure sufficient time for processing and full consideration.

Requests must be accompanied by appropriate documentation that includes proof of service with the 1st Cavalry Division (e.g., a DD214 or equivalent) and a biographical sketch. The biographical sketch needs to outline the applicant’s full name and provide ranks, dates of service and units assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division.

Additionally, it needs to provide the dates and positions for any offices held at National or Chapter level in the Association and similar information for any other Veteran’s organizations the applicant belongs to. Any instances of special support for Association programs should also be included if applicable.

The election will be held during the General Membership meeting at the 77th Annual Reunion of the Association on **Saturday, 14 June 2025** in Reno, NV.

Nominations from the floor will be accepted. A Life member making such nomination will be expected to provide the information outlined above on the nominee and in addition provide assurance that the nominee is either present at the General Membership meeting or has agreed to accept nomination to the specified office.

### Cut off date to pre-order your shirt is 15 MARCH 2025

77th Annual 1st Cav Div Assn Reunion T-shirts

**Pre-order YOURS today!!**

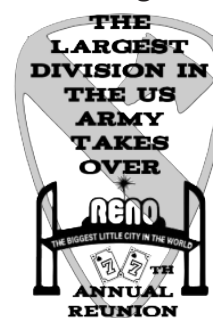
Adult Sizes Only

- S** Please indicate quantities in boxes.
- M**
- L**
- XL** **\$23.95 each**
- 2XL** **+S/H= Total**
- 3XL**

Front Design



Back Design



Description:

Gunmetal gray shirt with small Cav patch on front and full-color imprint on the back.

#### Shipping Chart:

- 1 Shirt @ \$9.50
  - 2-8 Shirts @ \$16.50
  - 8+ @ \$21.50
- \*To have the merchandise shipped, please use the chart to determine rates. *No shipping for merchandise picked up at the reunion.*

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ **Reunion T-shirts will NOT ship prior to 15 MAY 2025.**

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

- Check enclosed
- Visa
- M/C
- Discover
- American Express

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

CVD# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date MO/YR \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail order form to:**  
**Crossed Sabers Gift Shop**  
**302 N. Main St.**  
**Copperas Cove, TX 76522**



2023 Reunion Photos, Louisville, KY

## REUNION SILENT AUCTION BASKET COMPETITION

Starting at our upcoming 2025 Reunion in Reno, we are asking for ALL Regiments, Unit Associations, and Chapters to donate an item or basket, minimum value of \$50, to the silent auction to raise funds for our Active-Duty Scholarship Fund. Donations from individuals are welcome as well!

There will be a prize awarded to the entity/person who received the highest bid!



## 77<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL 1<sup>st</sup> CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION REUNION, JUNE 11-15, 2025, in RENO, NV is open to all members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Association

**WEDNESDAY JUNE 11**  
0900-1800 Registration Desk Open  
0900-1800 Gift Shop Open  
0900-2400 Reunion Room Open

**THURSDAY JUNE 12**  
0900-1700 Registration Open  
0900-1700 Gift Shop Open  
0900-2400 Reunion Room Open  
0900-1800 Truckee Riverwalk District\*  
1430-1530 Veterans Briefing  
1900-2200 President's Reception\*  
(Cash Bar)

**FRIDAY JUNE 13**  
0730-0900 Legacy Breakfast\* along with  
Long Roll Muster  
0900-1800 Registration Desk Open  
0900-1800 Gift Shop Open  
0900-2400 Reunion Room Open  
1200-1400 Ladies' Luncheon\*  
1500-1600 Chapter President's Meeting  
1600-1700 Foundation Meeting  
1700-1900 Board of Governors Meeting

**SATURDAY JUNE 14**  
0730-0845 Purple Heart Breakfast\*  
0900-1100 General Membership Meeting  
0900-1500 Registration Desk Open  
0900-1600 Gift Shop Open  
0900-2400 Reunion Room Open  
1200-1400 Unit Luncheons\*  
1745-1845 Cocktails (Cash Bar)  
1900-2230 Association Banquet\*

**SUNDAY JUNE 15**  
0700-0830 Group Breakfast  
0700-0900 LRRP/Ranger Breakfast

**MAIL TO:**

1<sup>st</sup> CAVALRY DIVISION ASSN REUNION, 302 N. MAIN, COPPERAS COVE, TX 76522-1703

The 77<sup>th</sup> Annual ICDA Reunion is at the Grand Sierra Resort & Casino, 2500 E. 2nd St. Reno, NV (800) 648-5080, June 11-15, 2025.

Registration fee is required for Lifetime and Associate Members, not guests. Fee includes information packet with name tag(s), booklet and pin.

\*REFUNDS: Cancellations must be received by 5:00pm May 1, 2025, in our office (254-547-6537) for a refund. Registration fee is non-refundable.

\*\*Cancellations are non-refundable after the May 1, 2025 deadline.

Are you a member of 1CDA? Yes No  
Is this your first reunion? Yes No

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit (s) #1: \_\_\_\_\_  
Year (s) #1: \_\_\_\_\_  
Unit (s) #2: \_\_\_\_\_  
Year (s) #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Guests/Spouse/Other: (For nametag purposes)  
#1: \_\_\_\_\_  
#2: \_\_\_\_\_  
#3: \_\_\_\_\_  
#4: \_\_\_\_\_  
#5: \_\_\_\_\_  
#6: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Next of Kin Name & Phone Number:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment: (circle one)  
Credit Card      Check: # \_\_\_\_\_  
CC #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
CVV#: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**THURSDAY JUNE 12**

- \* Bus Pass: Truckee Riverwalk District
- \* President's Reception/Mixer  
Cash Bar, Buffet

**FRIDAY JUNE 13**

- \* Legacy Breakfast
- \* Ladies' Luncheon

**SATURDAY JUNE 14**

- \* Purple Heart Breakfast
- \* Unit Lunch (Circle your unit)  
5C 7C 8C 9C 12C ENG  
AVN ARTY HQ LRRP
- \* Association Banquet (Circle your unit)  
5C 7C 8C 9C 12C ENG  
AVN ARTY HQ LRRP

**SUNDAY JUNE 15**

- \* Group Breakfast
- \* LRRP Breakfast

REGISTRATION FEE (before May 1, 2025):  
(For member only, not guests)

Active Duty w/ID  
Reunion Donation

Saber Newspaper Renewal (\$20 per year or \$75 for 5 years)

REGISTRATION FEE AFTER MAY 1, 2025:

	Quantity		
* Bus Pass: Truckee Riverwalk District	_____	\$ 10.00	\$ _____
* President's Reception/Mixer Cash Bar, Buffet	_____	\$ 45.00	\$ _____
* Legacy Breakfast	_____	\$ 45.00	\$ _____
* Ladies' Luncheon	_____	\$ 40.00	\$ _____
* Purple Heart Breakfast	_____	\$ 36.00	\$ _____
* Unit Lunch (Circle your unit) 5C 7C 8C 9C 12C ENG AVN ARTY HQ LRRP	_____	\$ 53.00	\$ _____
* Association Banquet (Circle your unit) 5C 7C 8C 9C 12C ENG AVN ARTY HQ LRRP	_____	\$ 60.00	\$ _____
* Group Breakfast	_____	\$ 36.00	\$ _____
* LRRP Breakfast	_____	\$ 36.00	\$ _____
REGISTRATION FEE (before May 1, 2025): (For member only, not guests)	1	\$ 40.00	\$ _____
Active Duty w/ID	_____	\$ 20.00	\$ _____
Reunion Donation	_____	Donation	\$ _____
Saber Newspaper Renewal (\$20 per year or \$75 for 5 years)	_____		\$ _____
REGISTRATION FEE AFTER MAY 1, 2025:	_____	\$ 50.00	\$ _____
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>			\$ _____

\*Tickets are required for entry

Registration & Gift Shop are CLOSED each day from 12-1pm for lunch.

## 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 **Monday, March 3, 2025.** Please send to [Memberships@1CDA.org](mailto:Memberships@1CDA.org)

### CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

Due to scheduling conflicts with the American Legion, our scheduled meeting for Saturday, January 18 is now moved to Sunday, **January 19 at 1pm**, at the Manchester American Legion.

### CROSSED SABERS CHAPTER

I would like to wish everyone a very happy New Year. With another new year we face new opportunities to connect and support our fellow Veterans, active duty and our communities. I encourage you to make the absolute commitment to service in our own footprint. I personally look forward to speaking with as many of our Veterans as possible. It's going to be a great year.

First Team and Garryowen, Tony Cole, President

### FLORIDA'S FIRST COAST CHAPTER

As the new year begins, we find ourselves with some sixteen regular attendees at our monthly meeting.

Fortunately, we seat ourselves at long tables for lunch and business. We can find some elbow room for you. In January, we will be introduced to yoga as a life enhancing endeavor. Yes, yoga. Come and see.

But wait, you will not get this *Saber* till February. Not to worry. In February you can think over financial advice from a bank representative.

Because of the geographic size of Jacksonville, we alternate between Southside and Westside. Can't decide? You can always find some of us at the American Legion Post on San Juan Ave particularly on Wednesdays when lunch is served. Our regular meetings are on the third Tuesday of a month at noon. Call for specific meeting site. We have heard that they now have phones in Palatka, Sanderson, and even Wewahitchka Florida.

### FORT KNOX AREA CHAPTER



The Fort Knox Area Chapter has been busy with the repair of the Vietnam Memorial Wall, laying of the wreaths at the Wall and the Fort Knox Cemetery Central. We had many volunteers to place more than 9,500 wreaths over the weekend of December 14, 2024.

Robert W. Griffin, Vice President

### NY/NJ CHAPTER



Ray and Polina

The NY/NJ Chapter will hold its next meeting on **February 22** at the Elks Lodge in Ridgefield Park, NJ. Our guest speakers will be Raymond Lockey and Polina Buryakov-Alexiou, co-founders of "O.U.R." – Organizing Ukraine Relief Foundation.

Raymond is a former Naval Intelligence Officer who was part of a joint military/CIA operation in Laos and Cambodia. His objectives were to disrupt North Vietnamese Regulars from using the Ho Chi Minh Trail for supplies and munitions. He also worked on a joint task force in Cambodia to create covert paramilitary groups to harass North Vietnamese Regular Forces. He served in

various operations in Vietnam from 1965 to 1969.

Ray will discuss his experience advising Ukrainian forces in the development of present-day asymmetric drone warfare and show examples of UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) and drones developed to attack Russian forces in the Ukraine. His work is to provide tactical advice to Ukrainian forces regarding drone warfare that has seen success in destroying a variety of targets from naval surface warships, Kilo class submarines, heavy battle armored vehicles and with anti-personnel munitions. He will present photos and videos of the most successful UAV battalions in the Ukraine.

Polina will discuss her foundation's mission to provide custom prosthetics, physical rehabilitation, emotional and psychological support to Ukrainian war amputees - helping them to regain inde-



pendence and self-confidence. Her resolute team of medical experts work to give them comprehensive therapy: restoring mobility and addressing the physical and emotional needs of the Soldiers they serve. She will be accompanied by two Ukrainian soldiers who have recently benefited from her foundation's services. The foundation's website is <[www.ourfoundationusa.org](http://www.ourfoundationusa.org)>. She believes that "it's not about just giving the Soldiers a prosthetic; it's about showing them that their life didn't end when they lost a limb."



Our April meeting will be held on **April 19**; Guest Speaker 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 will be served.

To be added to our list, send an email to <[rbbartlett01@gmail.com](mailto:rbbartlett01@gmail.com)> or call Robin Bartlett, NY/NJ Chapter President at 201-856-7530.

## ATTENTION CHAPTER OFFICERS/POCs:

Plan to attend the Chapter Presidents Meeting **Friday, June 13, 3-4 pm** at the **77<sup>th</sup> Reunion in Reno, NV.**

If you hold a position in your chapter, it is highly recommended you attend. Come gather new ideas for your Chapter!

ALSO don't forget to bring your Chapter Silent Auction Donation benefitting the Active Duty Scholarship (prize awarded to the entity/person who receives the highest bid!)

## 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  
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Oregon City, OR 97045-9679  
(503) 210-5558  
Email: tangolima2505@comcast.net  
Website: www.Hood2Hood1stCav.webs.com  
Meets 1200 2nd Thurs of ea mos 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  
Gen membership mtgs Mar & Oct. Stable Calls: 4th Thurs of ea mos, 6pm, except Nov, Dec and the month of the Assn Reunion. Stable Calls at various locations in Cen TX area.

### FLORIDA

VP: Gil Harris  
(585) 704-2758  
Facebook: Florida Chapter 1st Cavalry Division Association  
Meets 1300 2nd Tues of ea mos at VFW Post 2093, 4444 Edgewater Dr, Orlando

### 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 mos. 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 ea mos 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.  
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(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 mos at 11am at Camp Knox Masonic Lodge #919, 1158 N. Dixie Hwy, Radcliff, KY.

### JAMES H. UNRUH CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA

Pres: Michael T. Mazzaro  
2600 Willow St. Pike North  
PMB 231  
Willow Street, PA 17584  
(717) 389-1000  
Email: cenpenn1cda@gmail.com  
Meets 1800 2nd Tues of ea mos, except Nov, Dec, and Jan, 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 mos at American Legion Post 132, 143 S Lemon St., Orange, CA 92866

### LRRP/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@yahoo.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, Ridgefield 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, locatons 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!

## CROSSED SABERS GIFT SHOP located at 1CDA HQ



Scan the QR code to view the Online Catalog or type [shop.1CDA.org](http://shop.1CDA.org) into your web browser.

302 N. Main St Copperas Cove, TX 76544

254-532-2075

1stCavGiftShop@gmail.com

WE OFFER STETSON RE-SHAPING!  
(FOR DONATIONS)

Get all your Cav-Tastic souvenirs here!

## NEW HOURS!

MON - FRI  
9 am - 5 pm

Books, Challenge Coins, Clothing, Crafts, Flags, Hats, Jewelry, License Plates, Medals, Military Brass, Patches, Pins, Stetson & Accessories, Ties, Unit Stickers & Much More!

The Crossed Sabers Gift Shop is a Non-Profit Organization. Net income is distributed to the Association for the Scholarship Program and to the Soldier Travel Fund, which allows active duty Soldiers of the Division to attend away Reunions as guests of the Association.

We accept telephone orders with payment by **MASTERCARD, VISA, DISCOVER** or **AMERICAN EXPRESS** or you can order online at [shop.1CDA.org](http://shop.1CDA.org) using your credit card.

Printed Catalogs Are Available for \$5.00!

Make your check payable to 1st Cavalry Division Association and mail to: 302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703.

### Crossed Sabers Gift Shop

20% OFF COUPON

Telephone Orders Only

Mention coupon code **053125** to receive your discount.

1 per person

Expires: **May 31, 2025**

Excludes Stetsons, Consignment & Reunion items

## 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 ICDA

**WE SUPPORT**

UNITED STATES ARMY  
**SOLDIER FOR LIFE**

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 (ICDA) 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 ICDA 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 ICDA 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 FT CAV (FT CAVAZOS/FT HOOD)

If you're visiting Fort Cavazos, 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 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 **March / April 2025** edition.  
Deadline for submissions of your stories or photos is **Monday, March 3, 2025.**  
Please email to [Programs@1CDA.org](mailto:Programs@1CDA.org)

## 2025 CALENDAR DONATIONS

Hope everyone is enjoying YOUR new calendar!

*Thank you to our following member who has donated \$100 or more towards our 2025 calendar:*

SP4 ARENA, Salvatore A.	\$200
LTG (RET) BOLGER, Daniel	\$1,000
MR. DANIELS, Thomas E.	\$100
SGT HAGER, Thomas B.	\$100
SP-4 HERNANDEZ, Fernando	\$100
COL (RET) HOLLAND, F. Barry	\$100
SP-5 MCCLUNG, William	\$150
SGT PHILLIPS, James A.	\$100
E-4 SHAW, Larry	\$100
SGT SILVER, Royal W. II	\$125
LTC (RET) THOMSON, John	\$100
ILT WHITE, Stephen H.	\$100

**Consider Donating Today!**

Calendar donations keep this program operational.

Without your donations we are unable to continue this program.

*Thank you to all our members that support this program!*

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
CONTINUED SUPPORT & GENEROSITY!**

## MISSING BANNERS STATUS

Our large satin banners that hung up in the reunion room, came up missing after the last reunion. They were finally found and mailed back to us! We are happy to have them back.

## 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



## 1ST CAV VEHICLE MEDALLION

**NEW ITEM!!**



**Embossed Aluminum Medallion**



Metal Cav Patch  
for your vehicle or motorcycle  
3"x 2"  
0.07" thick  
with 3M Automotive Grade  
Adhesive Back

### 1CDA Cav Medallion Order Form

Full Color Metal Cav Patch, 3"x 2", 0.07" thick,  
Embossed Aluminum Medallion  
with 3M Automotive Grade Adhesive Back

**\$30.00 ea**

Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Due: \_\_\_\_\_

Form of Payment:

Cash  Check (payable to 1CDA)  Credit Card (Service Charges Apply)

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV on back: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**FREE SHIPPING**

## BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

**We are restocked with Tribute & Vietnam Shirts**

**Both are available in short sleeve & long sleeve!**

### TRIBUTE SHIRTS

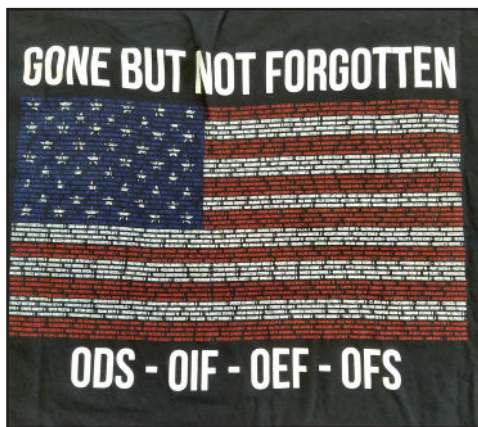
**Description:** 100% cotton black shirt

**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)

Description: Black shirt w/white Cav patch

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

Short Sleeve M L XL 2XL 3XL

Long Sleeve M L XL 2XL 3XL

**CIRCLE YOUR PREFERRED SIZE**

# of Shirts: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Due: \_\_\_\_\_

Form of Payment:

Cash  Check (payable to 1CDA)  Credit Card (Service Charges Apply)

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV on back: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**SHIPPING & HANDLING IS FREE**

### 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

Martin Suydam was at one time the CO of 1st Cav, 8th Combat Engineers, HHC. I'd seen him occasionally as I came in and out from the LZ's. He was always busy, usually mud or dirt encrusted from being in the middle of the work, and never stood in one

place long. I consider him one of the best Soldiers I've ever known and asked him to write this month's article, which he has. Thank you Marty.

This year 2025 is the 60th anniversary of the start of the 1st Cavalry Division's deployment to Vietnam 1965-1972. We decided to start a series of articles from selectively edited extracts of the book, "I Remember Skybeavers, 2nd edition" for this column in 2025.

The book is available on Amazon (just do an Internet search for the foregoing title). As part of the Preface we included a yearly summary developed from the 1,900 pages of the official 1st Cavalry Division Operational Reports.

### 1965

The Division was given orders to go to Vietnam. It usually takes months of preparation and organization. The Cav did it in 45 days. At the time, they moved the entire division, all personnel, material, and equipment, to Vietnam. The had to be at REDCON 1, ready to go, by July 28, 1965. Also at the time, the Cav was going through a major reorganization, and didn't have all the personnel they normally would have. They had to move 1,175 officers, 673 warrant officers, and 14,042 enlisted men, and equipment commencing on July 15.

To do this, they set up a special office (POM/POR), to handle the paperwork of the people going. A lot of officers and men were ordered to Fort Benning and weren't told, they were there to be sent to Vietnam. A lot of them showed up with families, expecting to stay there, but found out, the men were leaving right away for Nam, and the families had to fend for themselves in finding a place to stay, off the post. The forward planning people of the Cav were denied direct contact with MACV until August 2. The move was sensitive, the Cav didn't want the word to get out, they were coming to Nam. A lot of maps were needed for Vietnam and all the maps they had at the time, were poor. They lacked a lot of details. The only functional parts of the maps were the roads and their locations. The Cav needed interpreters. They asked the 25th Division for some of theirs and got none. Not everyone cooperated with the Cav's move. There was a lot more equipment to be moved due to the 11th Aviation being assigned to the 1st Cav and the helicopters they had, plus other aircraft. The 1st Cav was to be airmobile, and it took a lot of aircraft plus all their parts and repair facilities.

Training was needed to fight in Vietnam. Everyone needed more training than they had. The Cav had Soldiers and pilots, but they all needed to know specifically how to fight in the jungles and mountains of Vietnam, with real enemy doing all they could to evade contact and do all the damage they could, when contact was made. They were guerilla fighters, fought a hit and run war, had been at it for years and years, and they knew what they were doing. The problem was that everyone in the 1st Cav needed to be trained to fight in Vietnam, but there was not enough time or training facilities available to train everyone. They trained all the people they could and counted on them, training others when they got to Vietnam. It wasn't a perfect world, and the Cav did the best they could in the 45 days they had to move.

#### (5) Movement of passengers and TAF cargo:

##### (a) Ship Schedules:

SHIP	UNIT	DATE OF DEPARTURE	DATE OF ARRIVAL	CLOSURE DATE AN KHE
USNS Buckner	2d Bde TF	16 Aug	12 Sep	14 Sep
USNS Darby	1/9 Cav plus Div(-)	17 Aug	13 Sep	14 Sep
USNS Upshur	Spt Cnd plus Div (-)	18 Aug	15 Sep	16 Sep
USNS Patch	Div (-)	20 Aug	15 Sep	17 Sep
USNS Geiger	1st Bde TF	21 Aug	20 Sep	21 Sep

(b) Movement of personnel from the Qui Nhon port to the An Khe area was accomplished primarily by utilizing OH-47 aircraft. These aircraft flew 1100 hours in support of this mission.

#### (6) Movement of Aircraft:

##### (a) Ship Schedules:

CARRIER	NO & TYPE ACFT	DATE OF DEPARTURE	DATE OF ARRIVAL	CLOSURE DATE AN KHE
USNS Boxer	57 ea OH-47 107 ea OH-138 4 ea OH-54 6 ea OH-1	16 Aug	10 Sep	15 Sep
USNS Kula	37 ea UH-1D 72 ea UH-1B	16 Aug	14 Sep	23 Sep
Gulf	31 ea UH-1D			
USNS Croston	65 ea UH-1D 9 ea UH-1B	12 Aug	14 Sep	25 Sep
USNS Card	43 ea UH-1D 21 ea UH-1B	18 Aug	22 Sep	29 Sep

#### Report extract listing 1st Cavalry Division ship transport schedule

would soon land and be housed there. Everything had to be built. You name it, if there was anything there at all, there was not enough of it. Ten ships were to be loaded and departed by August 8. A lot of material was put into connexes. Thousands of them. They were to be offloaded in Vietnam by the end of September. They had a shortage of connexes, men and equipment to load them, short on equipment to put them on the boat, and when they got to Qui Nhon, there was even less equipment to unload and transport the equipment to An Khe. Five larger naval ships carried 500 helicopters to Qui Nhon. They landed at Qui Nhon to fuel, so they could fly to An Khe. A lot of supplies were carried to An Khe by Chinooks. Daily, 80 connexes, 19 shelters, 45 organic vehicles, and 35 @ 2.5 tons of cargo left Qui Nhon to An Khe. There were problems with insufficient time to prepare for the move and constantly changing plans. Finance had to be established to pay the men. Intelligence had to be established, medical teams and equipment had to be set up. Ammo dumps had to be constructed. Helicopter revetments had to be built. Runways had to be lengthened and enlarged with parking areas, and some had to be surfaced for all-weather, especially An Khe.

The Cav accepted responsibility for their area in Vietnam on September 28, 1965, just two months after the President had given them orders to go to Vietnam. On September 18, they flew their first air combat mission. The Chinooks few

The plan was to land at the port at Qui Nhon then travel to An Khe by road. Some personnel would travel by plane, most of the equipment would travel by ship. The VC got word of this and blew out all the bridges on the road. The packaging of equipment and supplies began in early July. An Khe had to be made ready. Men were sent to do this, but the equipment they needed, wasn't there yet, so they did a lot of clearing by hand.

A lot of work was needed for the planes and helicopters which

a platoon of the A/2-7 infantry to help out in an ongoing fight. They also flew 105mm howitzers in. The 105's fired 837 rounds in support. There were 76 sorties of aerial rockets made and 96 other combat sorties. The Cav had arrived, had taken responsibility of their area, and were in the fight.

There were no mess halls set up. The Troops ate B rations and the C rations, which were in short supply. Aviation parts were in short supply and no construction materials were in the first shipments. Due to the short time given before the move, there was a lot of duplication and much needed materials were not shipped. You can never be totally prepared for a move of this magnitude, into a war, where you need so much to prepare for. If you aren't ready to fight, when the fight comes to you, you have a real problem. The Cav arrived and did the best they could, which was done amazingly well, with less supplies and men they needed, nothing being prepared for them to do their job, but the job got done. Gary Owens!!

The Cav got busy. They extended their operations from the China Sea to Cambodia and up and down the coast. Big area! They ran mostly search and destroy missions with two brigades. They worked like ants on a sugar pile at An Khe, frantically building up the base camp and the airport. The built perimeter defenses and barriers. At the time, they had 16,000 men in the division in Vietnam. Out of 2,755 medals recommended, only 573 were awarded. If you received a medal while you were in the Cav in Vietnam, you certainly earned it. MPC money was set up in October of 1965. The press showed up but stayed mainly at MACV (Saigon). You could get killed if you left MACV so most of the press didn't. For the month of October, it was reported the Cav killed 1,890 of the enemy. In October 175mm and 8" howitzer units were attached to the Cav. An Khe had an average of 60,000 takeoff and landings a month.

LIST OF DIVISION OPERATIONS CONDUCTED DURING 2d QUARTER FY 66

NAME	DATES	UNIT	NATURE OF OPERATION
AMOS	4 - 14 Oct	Arty	Support RVNAP
HAPPY VALLEY	6 - 8 Oct 9 Oct - 19 Nov	3d Bde 2d Bde	Search and Clear Search and Clear
SHINY BAYONET	10 - 14 Oct	3d Bde	Search and Destroy
LOUISIANA RND	16 - 16 Oct	1st Bde	Rty Security
INGRAM	19 - 27 Oct	2d Bde	Security
GOOD FRIEND	20 - 23 Oct 24 Oct - 15 Nov	1st Bde 2d Bde	Secure ROK Div Secure ROK Div
AMOS	20 - 23 Oct	Arty	Support RVNAP
SCRIDGEGE	21 - 23 Oct	1st Bde	Search and Clear
ALL THE WAY	23 Oct - 9 Nov	1st Bde	Search and Destroy
INDIAN SCOUT	25 Oct - 5 Nov	1/9 Cav	Search and Destroy
AMOS	27 Oct - 10 Nov	Arty	Support RVNAP
FIERCE MUSTANG	9 - 30 Nov	1st Bde	Search and Destroy
SILVER BAYONET I	10 - 20 Nov	3d Bde	Search and Destroy
APACHE BRAVE	19 Nov - 10 Dec	1/9 Cav	Spilling Attack
SILVER BAYONET II	20 - 28 Nov	2d Bde	Search and Destroy
OK TAIL	3 - 7 Dec	2d Bde	Search and Destroy
RESETTLEMENT	4 - 16 Dec	3d Bde	Search and Clear
GIVE UP	5 - 6 Dec	2d Bde	Pay Ops
CLEAN SHEEP	6 - 15 Dec	1st Bde	Search and Destroy
FISH HOOK	10 - 16 Dec	2d Bde	Search and Destroy
QUICK KICK	10 - 23 Dec	1st Bde	Security
STEEL HORSE	14 - 23 Dec	Arty	Convoy Movement
CLEAN HOUSE I	17 - 19 Dec	3d Bde	Search and Destroy
CLEAN HOUSE II	20 - 23 Dec	3d Bde	Search and Destroy
CERROKOS TRAIL	22 - 28 Dec	1st Bde	Rty Security
BLUE LIGHT	22 Dec - 4 Jan	1st Bde	Secure: 3d Bde, 25th Inf Div
CLEAN HOUSE III	27 - 31 Dec	3d Bde	Search and Destroy
CERROKOS PLATE	27 - 31 Dec	1/9 Cav	Surveillance

#### Extract Quarterly Command Report 2QFY66 (last 3 months of 1965)

lot of people had been killed. Happy Valley was just one of many.

On November 14, the 1/7 assaulted LZ Xray in the Chu Pong Massif. It was estimated 1,388 of the enemy were killed. After a few days, the ground Troops withdrew from the LZ so the B-52's could do their work. As they withdrew, they ran into additional enemy units and engaged and routed them.



An Khê mid-1965 - the beginning



Topographic map extract of the Camp Radcliff at An Khe

The year ended with An Khe being built up. All the divisions either on the ground or in the air, actively searching for and destroying the enemy, improving their supply lines, and staying hard at work, fighting the war.

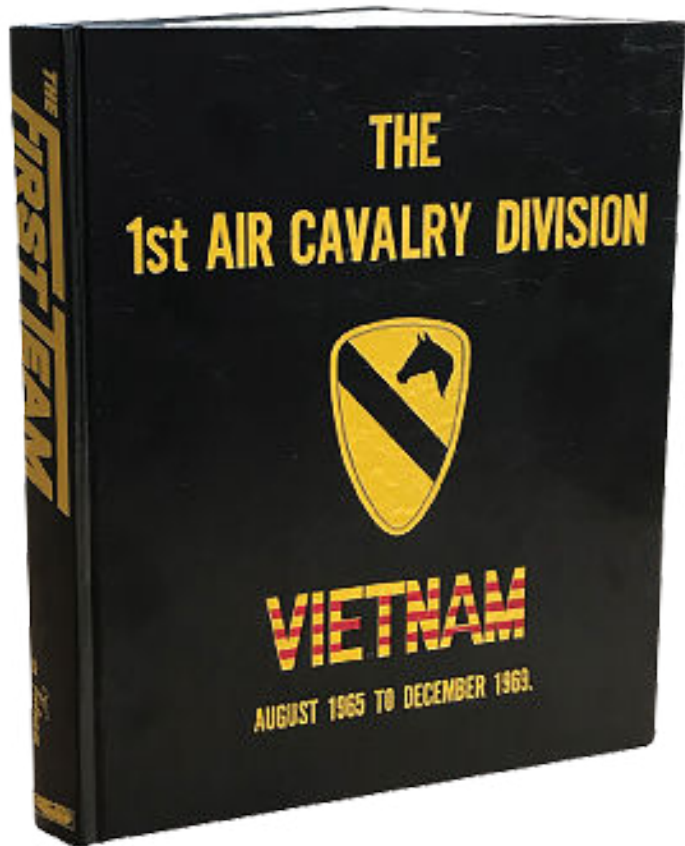
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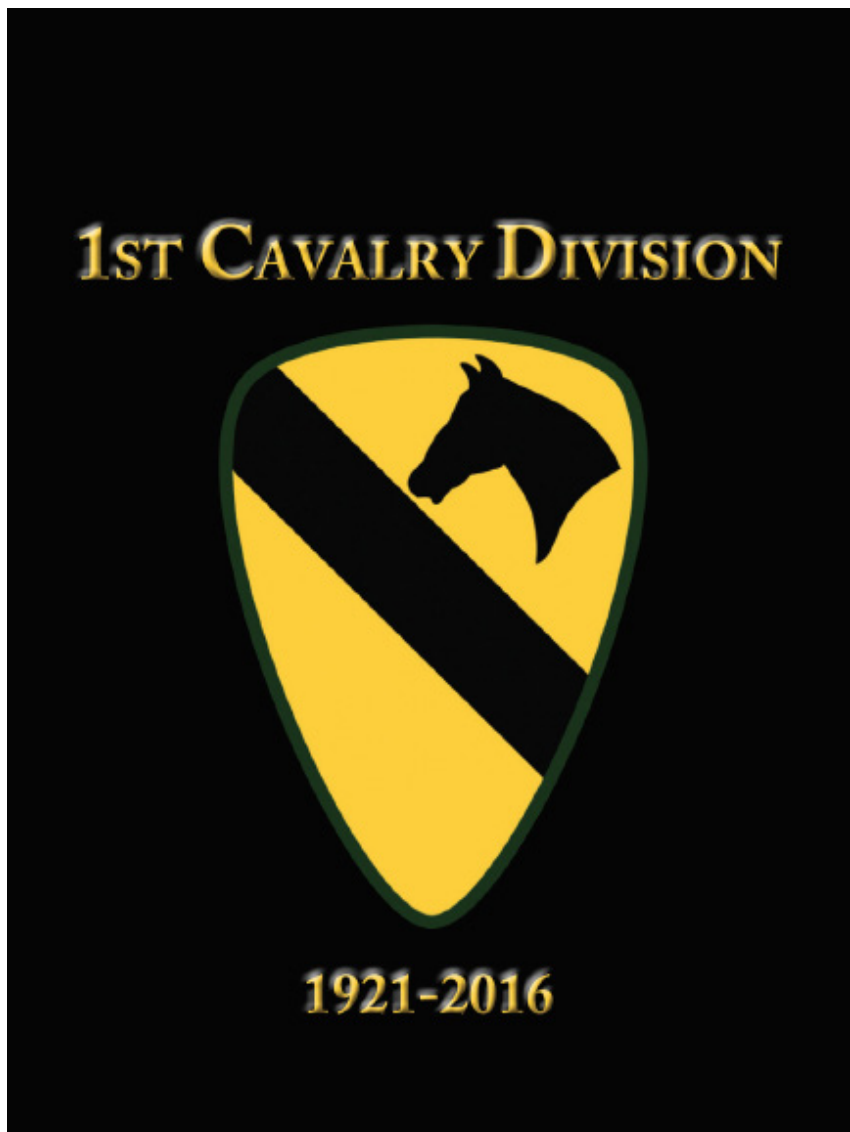
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## DESERT STORM MEMORIAL DONATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED

Donations are still being collected for the moving of the 15 current Desert Shield / Desert Storm markers that represent the 15 Troopers lost during that conflict.

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### *President Biden Awarded Korean War Hero General Richard E. Cavazos Medal of Honor*

*GEN Richard E. Cavazos is one of the seven U.S. Army Soldiers that was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Biden on January 3, 2025.*

Then-First Lieutenant Richard E. Cavazos received the Medal of Honor posthumously for acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as the Company Commander, Company E, 2d Battalion, 65th Infantry Regiment, 3d Infantry

Division, on June 14 and 15, 1953, in the vicinity of Sagimak, Korea.

On the night of June 14, 1953, 1LT Cavazos led his men in a raid on the entrenched enemy, upon whom heavy casualties were inflicted. When a heavy barrage was laid on the position by the enemy, 1LT Cavazos withdrew the company and regrouped his men. 1LT Cavazos twice more led the company through the heavy barrage in assaults on the enemy position, each time destroying vital enemy equipment and personnel.

When the United Nations element was ordered to withdraw, Lieutenant Cavazos remained alone on the enemy outpost to search the area for missing men. Exposed to heavy hostile fire, 1LT Cavazos located five battle casualties. He evacuated them, one at a time, to a point on the reverse slope of the hill from which they could be removed to safety. 1LT Cavazos then made four more trips between the United Nations position and the enemy-held hill, searching for casualties and evacuating scattered groups of men who had become confused. Not until he was assured that the hill was cleared did he get treatment for the wounds sustained during the action.

Cavazos went on to serve for over thirty years, attaining the rank of four-star General. He retired from military service in 1984 and died on October 29, 2017, in San Antonio, Texas, at age 88. On May 9, 2023, Fort Hood was renamed Fort Cavazos in honor of General Cavazos.



**Photo left,** President Joe Biden awards the Medal of Honor to Laura E. Blevins on behalf of her father, former U.S. Army Gen. Richard E. Cavazos, during a Medal of Honor ceremony at the White House, Jan. 3, 2025.

Cavazos – who later achieved the distinction of becoming the U.S. Army's first Hispanic four-star general – was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his acts of extraordinary heroism during the Korean War on June 14, 1953, near Sagimak, Korea, while serving in Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 65th Infantry Regiment. (U.S. Army photo by Henry Villarama)

### TROOPER'S TALE Continued from pg. 3

NVA soldiers aim was high, or his intent was to hit a softer, more valuable target in the middle of the base wasn't clear. We didn't want him to have time to reload so each of us emptied a magazine of M-16 bullets into the area where we saw the flash and then another in the surrounding area. By then, three 105 howitzers were firing point blank into the trees with timed fuses or just letting the high explosive rounds explode against trees or large branches. Shrapnel and splinters were lethal for up to twenty-five meters from the impact point of those 105 HEs. The NVA soldiers had stopped lobbing their RPGs into the base but there was still sporadic AK fire and the artillery men, who were heroically loading and aiming their howitzers while only partially protected behind their sandbag revetments, continued to adjust their aim and fire. All of the infantry Soldiers who had a clear field of continued shooting their M-16s or M-60s.

The AKs stopped shooting and soon the call to "cease fire" was passed from bunker to bunker, by then most of Soldiers had fired a bandoleer or two of ammo into any place that an enemy soldier could likely hide, which was essentially anywhere in the trees. (Each bandoleer held seven magazines of twenty rounds each.) The M-60 machinegun on top of our bunker emptied a 200 round can of ammo into the trees and we watched tracers ricochet through the woods or disappear into the night above us. We soon heard the roar of a helicopter overhead that had been guided by a handheld strobe light and saw that it was a Medivac. It turned on its landing light and landed outside the berm in an area secured by one of our squads. I'm sure every enemy soldier within two clicks could see it. They quickly loaded the wounded Soldiers aboard and lifted off into the dark, cloudy night. We stayed on full alert until daylight.

The mess tent directly behind our bunker had taken a direct hit by the RPG which had entered through the tent and into the refrigerator spreading shrapnel into pots and pans, stoves and cooking utensils. What a mess, but somehow the cooks were making coffee by morning and ladled a cupful into my canteen cup and to anyone else with a cup. I don't remember how it tasted but there were no complaints. We were issued C-rations for the next day or so until the cooks could get the mess tent resupplied and organized but they didn't get a new refrigerator while we were there. We patrolled the area during the following days and found only expended brass and hastily built fighting positions. The NVA had left a warning that they knew where we were. We also knew that they could bring the rest of their battalion from a nearby Cambodian sanctuary and overrun us whenever they wanted. We left a couple of days later for another jungle rendezvous to search for that enemy battalion.

Sandra or Susan? Those names don't sound right either. I can't remember the name of that firebase, but I will always remember the flash of that RPG coming toward me through the darkness of the trees.

J Edward Cannon



**Mess tent refrigerator that shows the dramatic explosive force of an RPG and particularly memorable to me because its path was over my bunker prior to hitting the mess tent.**

## 545<sup>th</sup> MP Co News

Lawrence Gardner Ketron

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Kingsport, TN 37660  
(423) 967-8226  
LGKetron@earthlink.net



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. This I will attempt.

After the Happy Valley operation ended, we returned to the An Khe base where we went back to town patrols, interior patrols, and such. About this time our rations were upgraded (?????) to B-rations. This was the same rations that we experienced on board the Troop ship. They consisted of institutional sizes of canned dehydrated diced potatoes (prepared by dumping them into a pot boiling water), dehydrated slaw (prepared by dumping them a pot of plain water), and canned hot dogs (prepared by dumping them into a pot of hot water). If you would like to experience the taste and texture of a canned hot dog, try a can of Vienna sausage. The lunch and evening meals were somewhat palatable, but it was hard to look at the same meal for breakfast. It was especially so when this was the fare for several days in a row. Just hand me a box of C-rations unless it is ham and lima beans.

What saved us was the fact that the Quartermasters had set up a bakery over by the airstrip. They produced small loaves of hard bread which we could obtain. We could also get cans of peanut butter and cans of jelly. Many a day that carried us through breakfast.

### TOWN PATROL

About this time it was decreed that weapons would no longer be carried into An Khe, but the town was still open until 10:00 pm. The 'no weapons' rule made life easier for the MPs, but the 10:00 pm curfew had its own set of problems. Sometimes a 2LT platoon leader would be there to make it easier to clear a bar. LT Jim Lewis was with your author one night when a couple of drunk WO's wanted to argue about leaving. One was having trouble standing, the other was in a better condition. About the time Lewis joined the argument, a small derringer type of pistol fell out of the drunker WO's clothing onto the floor. That put an end to the argument. They agreed to quietly leave.

It was also about this time that, on town patrol, the 545<sup>th</sup> MPs started carrying clubs. We had never carried clubs before, having never needed them. After an incident where some MPs got roughed up in An Khe, the Provost Marshall ordered that from that point on, town patrols would carry clubs.

Shortly thereafter the nightly curfew was set to be sunset or thereabouts. Made life easier for the town patrols. They could be back on the base before dark.

### A DOMESTIC DISPUTE

Sometimes the MPs were caught up with domestic disputes. Charles Adcock and your author were on town patrol when a bar owner came running down the street calling for MPs. We followed him into the back cubicles of the bar where he pointed to one in particular. The cubicles in a typical bar were nothing more than a small space containing a bed and a nightstand with walls made of flimsy material such as a bamboo mat. The owner indicated that the Soldier inside had been hitting the lady. We called on the Soldier, SP4 Gxxxxx, to come out so we could talk a little. The lady had some red places on her face that appeared to be where she had been struck. The conversation between us, the two MPs, and the Soldier went something like this:

>>>>> "What is the problem?" "She would not give me what I paid for." "It appears that you might have hit her, so to keep you from being charged, you need to come with us to the MP station where we can call your company to send someone after you." "I ain't going anywhere with you!"

Now this was a big muscular man, maybe 250 pounds, over 6 feet tall. At this point neither Charles nor your author had over 150 pounds on our 5'10" frames. Your author was thinking if we have to get physical with this fellow, we will wreck this place. The walls are flimsy, the aisle between cubicles was hardly wide enough to walk in, much less to wrestle in. The other cubicles are occupied. Nobody is going to be happy. He continued to argue about leaving with us. After your author explained that he could go with us and nothing would come of this, and he could either go with us like a Soldier or he would be taken, but he was destined to go. He pondered on that and finally agreed to go.

We followed him out to the street and started to the MP station, Charles was about two feet from him on the right, your author about two feet from him on his left. All of a sudden he swung around and tried to kick Charles in the crouch, but Charles was too quick. As your author was reaching for his club, Chet Thayer, a 504<sup>th</sup> MP, came running down the street and made a flying tackle taking said SP4 Gxxxxx to the ground. By this time several more MP's entered the fray getting handcuffs on the subject without anyone striking the subject. While in the course of subduing the prisoner, several Soldiers came out of the bars, surrounding and threatening us as if we hit the prisoner. Your author was busy using his club to push the would-be interveners back.

### THE REST OF THE STORY

A couple of weeks later, SP4 Gxxxxx and your author crossed paths. He walked up to your author and said, "I appreciate how you treated me. I was out of line, and no one laid a hand on me."

### A NEW VOLUNTEER JOINED THE COMPANY

Bob Stamey called your author yesterday to enlighten him about Jocko. His information came from the late Jim Tykoski. Jim was a driver for the orderly room staff and also provided mail delivery services at times. His partner in crime sometimes was Charles Miscovich who performed such duties as driver for the late Captain/Major Pope while he was the company commander and assistant Provost Marshall. Charles was also the mail clerk. It seems that the two were driving through An Khe when they passed a group of locals that were in pursuit of a dog. When said pair stopped in front of the dog, the dog jumped into the M-151.

After a quick conference Tykoski and Miscovich left rather hurriedly. They brought the dog back to the company. The dog was christened, "JOCKO." When Jocko was observed by some of the upper management, they ordered him to be

removed. Well, having been on good terms with the late MAJ Pope, Miscovich pleaded Jocko's case and won.

Jocko was a fine dog. He seemed to have an extreme dislike for the locals (who were known to feast on dog meat), so if a body needed to go off the base to An Khe, Jocko was a good choice to prevent theft from the vehicle. The late Jim Barrett liked to take Jocko with him at night when he went to check on the bridge guards in An Khe.

Indirectly, it was the fault of Jocko that the third platoon quit sharing meals with the ARVN troops at Bong Son when there in January/February of 1966. There were some ARVN troops close by with whom we were friendly. We worked out a deal whereby they would cook big pots of rice. They would purchase fresh vegetables to cook with the rice and we would supply c-ration meat, etc. Worked out very well for both groups. For Jocko's rations, canned dog food had been obtained from a dog handler unit. The dog food was stored in one of our M-151's. We noticed that there seemed to be more cans disappearing from the vehicle than we were feeding Jocko.

Then one day an ARVN trooper was observed filching a can of said food. Now this dog food was the "Tony" brand, which if you remember, had a picture of a dog on it. Of course the label was in English. After a conference was held amongst us, we decided that a prudent move would be to discontinue our shared mess.

### IT SEEMS THAT ABOUT THIS TIME THE MONSOON BEGAN IN EARNEST ON THE AN KHE SIDE OF THE MANG YANG PASS

The engineers were trying to build up the road base inside the division area and were struggling to find suitable material. Unlike good old East Tennessee where one did not have to go far to find some limestone to crush for a good road base, Hon Kong mountain seemed to offer something akin to shale. It seemed to break apart when it was dry and worse when wet. Of course, the haul distance from Hon Kong Mountain was about as short as a body could get. There were internal creek crossings made of logs. The main division roadway was a counterclockwise one lane loop. During daylight hours there was an MP standing in the mud where the loop began and ended to make sure that traffic flowed in the correct direction.

One night we had (as rumored) about nine inches of rain. Supposedly, a couple of Soldiers drowned that night. Your author was on duty that night patrolling on the loop road. Never saw such rain. We came to a log bridge that was over a normally trickle sized stream. Water was flowing in a mad rush a foot deep over the logs. Partner and your author debated whether or not to try to cross. Looked like downstream, if the logs gave way, we could get out of the water. At 23 years of age, we were very confident of our abilities, so over the bridge we went. Made it!

Most of the MP company was still in pup tents at that time. Fluffed up our air mattresses and laid our belongings on top of the mattress to keep them dry. Our motor pool, which was on a slope up a hollow had water in it up on the wheels of the vehicles.

### CLEARING THE PERIMETER

The MP company was located on a slope between the crest of the hill where the General staff was located and the base of Hon Kong mountain. The long-range plan was to include the mountain inside the perimeter, but at this point the perimeter curved around the base of it, leaving it outside. Locals were hired for vegetation clearing. In the mornings they would gather at a gate closest to An Khe to be transported to the work site. One of the jobs of your author was to be there in the morning to ensure there was an orderly process in the loading of helicopters. Same thing in the evening when the workers were flown back. Sometimes they carried back some interesting creatures, even an occasional bamboo viper (one step).

One day when your author was standing by his tent, a couple of Soldiers were trying to burn a brush pile. One of them decided to speed up the process by splashing gasoline from a five gallon on it. The fire came right back on him. He screamed, fell to the ground, and was carried off.

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

## LRRP/RANGER NEWS

Continued from pg. 4

and then our Troop Commander called for us to be pulled out as the H Company Commander and a QRF took over the search of the area after it calmed down a bit." The bodies of Cochrane and Laker were not recovered.

Over the years a special bond developed between H Company and the 1/9<sup>th</sup>. There is just not enough good things to be said about "the Blues" and the 1/9 pilots. There is not enough thanks and admiration for the job they did overall, but particularly in support of H Company. We always knew that if we got in a bind, they would be there to get us out, probably the reason that many from H Company that extended their tours wound up with the unit that is responsible for many of us being here today.

Some closing comments from Ron Andruss:

I did get a call from a Major from DOD when I returned stateside and said he had received a call from Laker's mom requesting information regarding her son. He asked me if I would be willing to talk to her. I'm not sure who called who, but I did talk to her. She appreciated our talk, someone from the Army had told her that her son was MIA. In the most delicate way possible I assured her that her son was killed. We both cried and I couldn't imagine the grief she felt. I kept in touch and in 1974 my wife and I met her and her husband in St Petersburg, FL. Needless to say, I'll never forget that June 17th and two of my brothers bodies never recovered.

With much thanks and appreciation to Kregg, and to Ron, Royce, and Dwight for their actions and dedication to H Company.

RLTW

"For those who've fought for it - Freedom has a flavor the protected will never know"

## AIR CAV NEWS



LTC (RET) J. Shawn Perry  
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Guntersville, Alabama 35976  
(254) 458-0428  
Stetsonlife1cda@gmail.com



Hello, my friends, Each winter, I set aside a few days to intentionally reflect on the past year. Perhaps you do something similar? This annual practice helps me take stock of where I've been and where I'm headed. This year, my thoughts wandered even further back—to my days as an Army aviator. I found myself reflecting on the young man I was back then and the ways I've grown and changed since.

As these memories surfaced, my time as the G3 Air for the 1st Cavalry Division and Multi-National Force Baghdad (MNDB) came vividly to mind. It was a formative period, full of challenges and lessons that shaped the way I view leadership and operations today.

For this letter, I wanted to focus on a topic that has been on my mind lately: how managing airspace has become significantly more complex in recent years. The war in Ukraine, particularly the innovative use of drones by Ukrainian forces against the Russians, highlights just how much the landscape has evolved. It's a stark reminder of how technology continues to reshape the battlefield—and the demands on those tasked with controlling the skies.

In the July edition of *AAAA Magazine*, COL Beau Rollie, Senior Aviation Trainer for Falcon Team at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center (JMRC) in Hohenfels, Germany, presents a compelling argument for reshaping Army airspace management. In his essay, titled "*Littoral Airspace Management: The Argument to Re-Focus Army Airspace Management to Battalion Echelon*," Rollie asserts that the U.S. Army must adapt its structures to accommodate the growing complexity of modern airspace.

"As the number of battlefield airspace users increases, the U.S. Army must revise its structures to push airspace control and integration capabilities to lower echelons," Rollie writes. He critiques existing frameworks like joint air ground integration cells (JAGICs) and brigade aviation elements (BAEs) as insufficient to handle the volume of aircraft and drones seen in modern conflicts. Drawing lessons from the war in Ukraine, he highlights the exponential growth in airspace users, including small unmanned aerial systems (SUAS), kamikaze drones, helicopters, fixed-wing aircraft, and artillery.

Rollie warns, "The uptick in drones and launched effects (LEs) challenges previous notions of air superiority and overwhelms current airspace control personnel and entities."

### Lessons from the Past: Airspace Challenges in OIF

The issue of airspace management is not new. In the summer of 2004, I assumed responsibility for airspace management after MAJ John DeVille transitioned to the XO role at 1-227th. He left me with a talented team but cautioned, "Shawn, those RAVENs are going to be one of your biggest headaches."



The AeroVironment RQ-11 Raven, a small, hand-launched unmanned aerial vehicle, became a significant operational challenge. With a 4.5-foot wingspan, a weight of just over four pounds, and a flight endurance of 90 minutes, the Raven operated at altitudes up to 490 feet AGL and ranges of six miles. While Ravens were deployed at the company level, the Army did not assign their operation to 15-series Soldiers, leaving airspace integration gaps.

At the time, my talented G3 Air team and I focused on preventing conflicts between Ravens and rotary-wing aircraft operating at similar altitudes. Missions like Troop insertions, air ambulance evacuations, and reconnaissance flights depended on well-coordinated airspace management to avoid near-misses. The stakes were high: as COL James McConville, then the 4th Brigade (Aviation) Commander, once observed, "... in the 1st Cav, you'll know close air support as 30mm shells from Apache helicopters were falling onto the tops of Bradleys and hoods of HMMWVs."

Faced with these challenges, the division tasked us with finding a solution. Through collaboration with our MNDB unit partners, we developed processes and procedures to mitigate risks. By the time I left Baghdad in the spring of 2005, we had successfully integrated these hand-launched Ravens into daily operations, despite a few close calls, including one incident where a drone lodged in the rocket pod mounting bracket of a Kiowa Warrior. Remarkably, no injuries occurred.

### Looking Forward: A Shift to Battalion-Level Airspace Control

Drawing from experiences in Operation Iraqi Freedom, insights from Ukraine, and training exercises at JMRC, COL Rollie argues for a fundamental shift in airspace management. He recommends transferring airspace control authorities to maneuver battalions, which he predicts will be the primary airspace users in future conflicts.

Rollie's proposal recognizes the evolving battlefield, where decentralized, battalion-level control may better address the challenges posed by increased drone usage and contested airspace. His argument marks an important step in preparing the U.S. Army to manage the complexities of modern warfare.

As someone who has witnessed the practical challenges of airspace integration firsthand, I believe Rollie's vision is on the right track. Modern airspace demands agile and localized management solutions and adopting his recommendations could prove pivotal in ensuring battlefield success.

### In Other News

In other Army news, the President signed the Dustoff Crews of the Vietnam War Congressional Gold Medal Act into law this September. This legislation authorizes the award of a Congressional Gold Medal to the United States Army Dustoff crews of the Vietnam War, collectively honoring their extraordinary heroism and life-saving actions during the conflict. The official Congressional Gold Medal ceremony will be held once the U.S. Mint completes striking the single gold medal.

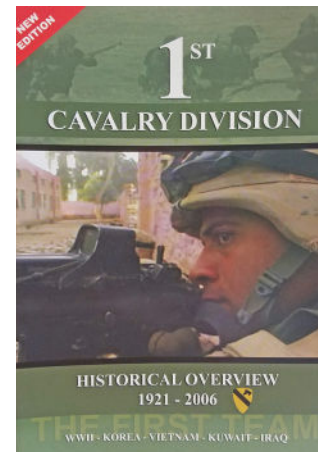
Well, my friends, I tip my Stetson to you and wish you the very best this new year. Thank you for your service. May God bless you, our still serving First Team Troopers, and may God bless the United States of America.

Clear Right! Shawn

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

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 SP-4 COPSON, Charles E. \$100  
 COL (RET) COWGILL, Claiborne \$50  
 SGT CRAVELLO, Robert \$100  
 2LT DEAL, Dennis \$100  
 SGT DEMPSEY, David \$125  
*IMO SGT Carl R. Houser*  
 SGT DIXON, Samuel C. \$50  
 SGM (RET) DODDS, John F. \$100  
 MR. DANIELS, Thomas E. \$100  
 MAJ DEMAILO, Alfred \$50  
 MRS. DORNER, Alice \$50  
*IMO Frank E. Dorner*  
 SFC DOWNS, Johnnie \$50  
 SP4 DUPRE, Warren C. \$60  
 SP5 DURDA, John H. \$225  
*IHO 100% Disabled Vets*  
 SGT ECKEL, James C. \$100  
 SP-4 ENDICOTT, Hubbard M. \$100  
 SFC (RET) EVANS, James J. \$75  
 SSG FEATHER, Melvin L. \$50  
 LTC FOSTER, Hugh F. III \$100  
 LTC FRATES, Ralph C. Jr. \$500  
 MR. & MRS. FROST, Barry \$1000  
 CPT GABEL, Wilfried E. \$100  
 SP-5 GALLAGHER, Joseph \$175  
*IMO All C Co 228<sup>th</sup> AVN BN Troopers  
 Killed 1/69-1/70*  
 SGM (RET) GARRETT, James G. \$75  
 CPT HALL, Sanci \$75  
 SSG (RET) HAUSER, Gary P. \$50  
 SGT HEWUSE, Vance \$1000  
*IHO My Battle Buddies Killed Nov 22, 1967  
 Vietnam 2<sup>nd</sup> PLT, D Co, 2-7, 1<sup>st</sup> Cav Div: Levester Griffin,  
 John A MacDonald, Erhardt W. Mathiesen; McLeree Mayhs, Jr.,  
 Gerald L. McKinney, Tunis E. Rappleyea, Jr., Charles G. Roberts,  
 Joseph V. Sherlock III, Stephen S. Smith, Frank L. Tafoya, Leonard  
 L. Bevels*

HOLLAND FAMILY \$500  
 MR. HOLT, David W. \$100  
 SP4 HUTSON, Richard \$50  
 SP4 (RET) INGRAM, Glenn L. \$80  
 SGT JOHNSON, Richard M. \$50  
 COL (RET) KALINOWSKI, William \$60  
 E-5 LARSON, Marvin E. \$50  
 1LT LAWRENCE, James T. \$175  
*IMO LT Donald C. Cornett*  
 PFC LOEFFLER, David L. \$50  
 MS. LOGAN, Vicki \$75  
 CPT LUEDTKE, Joe \$60  
 LTC (RET) LYNCH, Patrick \$110  
 E-7 LYON, John C. \$55  
 SGT MARTIN, Stephen L. \$100  
 COL (RET) MARM, Walter J. \$100  
 MCABEE FAMILY \$50  
*IMO of John B. McAbee*  
 LTC (RET) MCCARRON, William \$150  
 SP-5 MCCLUNG, William \$300  
 SP-5 MCGRANE, William J. \$300  
 COL (RET) MCNIFF, John J. \$100  
 CSM (RET) MCQUERRY, Charles \$125

SP-4 MILLER, Perry B. \$50  
 1SG (RET) MURRAY, Thomas B. \$100  
 LTC MUTH, Marcus W. \$100  
 SGT OCHOA, Blas \$60  
 LTC (RET) OGLE, Glenn A. \$100  
 E-4 O'GRADY, Michael \$50  
 CPT OVERMOHLE, William P. \$50  
 CSM (RET) PARKER, Keyron J. \$200  
 SGM (RET) PATTERSON, Cecil \$100  
 1LT PATTERSON, Thomas \$60  
 1LT PEDEN, Mac \$1500  
 CWO PETRAITIS, Jim \$50  
 SP-5 POWER, Roger W. \$100  
 MG (RET) QUAGLIOTTI, Marilyn \$100  
 SGT RAMOS, Carlos \$100  
 SGT REED, Dave A. \$100  
 MG (RET) REED, William F. \$100  
 DR. RICHARDSON, Francis H. \$50  
 SP-5 RILEY, Ken \$60  
 SGT ROZBICKI, Richard L. \$100  
 SSG SANTY, John E. \$150  
 1LT SCHAFFERT, Fred B. \$100  
*IMO Brian Clayton*  
 PFC SHELDON, Fred D. \$100  
 CW4 SOMMERS, Gerald C. \$100  
*IMO Sam Tenario SP4, KIA 1<sup>st</sup> CAV fall 1967*  
 MSG STADLER, Warner \$100  
 MAJ (RET) STAFFORD, John E. \$100  
 CPL SPYCH, William J. \$75  
 SP-4 SWANSON, Kenneth S. \$50  
 MAJ (RET) SWIFT, John B. \$220  
 CPT TORTOLANI, Robert \$75  
 CPT VATH, Frederick \$50  
 LTG WALKER, Keith C. \$100  
 MAJ (RET) WATERS, Russell \$50  
 SGM (RET) WENTHE, Dennis J. \$50  
 SP5 WHELAN, Larry A. \$210  
 MR. WHITTINGSTALL, Cliff \$5000  
 COL (RET) WHITTLE, William A. \$50  
 SP5 WICKHAM, Spencer H. \$100  
 SGT WILLIAMS, J. Perry \$100  
 SGT WOLAVER, Robert G. \$125  
*IMO Keith V. Huffstutler KIA  
 Republic of South Vietnam 1967*  
 LTC WOOD, Richard \$50  
 LTC (RET) YATTO, David A. \$100  
 1SG (RET) YBARRA, Ricardo \$100  
 SP-5 ZENNIE, Donald \$100

*Thank you for the  
 generous donations  
 from our dedicated  
 Troopers!*



As of January 1, 2025

**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.**

### 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!

### TAPS:

We were notified of the following deaths:  
 BECK, SP5 James P., HHC & B Co, 2-8 CAV, 1967-68. 30 November 2024.  
 BEYER, COL (RET) Eugene A., A Co, 229 AVN, 1967-28. 28 December 2024.  
 BRIGGS, LTC (RET) James B., 1-77 FA, 1986. 5 October 2024.  
 BURKEY, LTC (RET) Robert P., 1-5 CAV, 1969-70. 10 April 2024.  
 COMPO, Trooper David H., HHC, 229th AVN, 1969-70. 27 December 2023.  
 DANIEL, PFC Marvin C., E Co, 2-7 CAV, 1950. 16 March 2024.  
 DeMILLE, 1LT Nelson R., D Co, 1-8 CAV, 1967-68. 17 September 2024.  
 DORSEY, SP5 Tommy L., B Co, 229 AVN, 1965-66. 6 August 2024.  
 EDWARDS, SGT Melvin R., B Co, 1-9 CAV, 1966-67. 6 February 2024.  
 GATEHOUSE, PFC Dale J., HHC, 23<sup>rd</sup> TC & 13 SIG, 1960-61. 25 October 2024.  
 GREENE, SP4 Leonard J. J., 5<sup>th</sup> CAV & 15<sup>th</sup> MED, 1959-60. 14 March 2024.  
 JACKSON, CPL Jeffrey O., HHC, 2-5 CAV. 16 May 2023.  
 JOHNSTON, Mr. Myron T. (Tommy), Associate Member, 28 September 2024.  
 MARCINIAK, SP4 Joseph, A Co, 2-7 CAV, 1965; HHC, 3BDE, 1966. 6 July 2024.  
 MAYCEN, 1SG Eddie R., HHC, 1BDE, 1970-71. 13 February 2024.  
 McMANUS, 1LT Michael J., A Co, 2-5 CAV & HHC, 2-5 CAV, 1968-69. 25 April 2024.  
 OSBORNE, LTC (RET) W. Herbert III, HHC, 227 AVN, 1963-64; C Co, 227 AVN, 1964-65. 20 February 2024.  
 PAMBUKU, CPL Elea, F Co, 8<sup>th</sup> CAV, 1946. 5 September 2024.  
 STEWART, SP4 Bruce Allen, A Btry., 2-17th FA, 1966-67. 7 December 2024.  
 TANIMOTO, MAJ Walter T., B Co, 2-5 CAV. 22 June 2024.

### ACTIVE-DUTY TAPS:

We have not been notified of any non-combat Active-Duty deaths.

### OTHER REUNIONS:

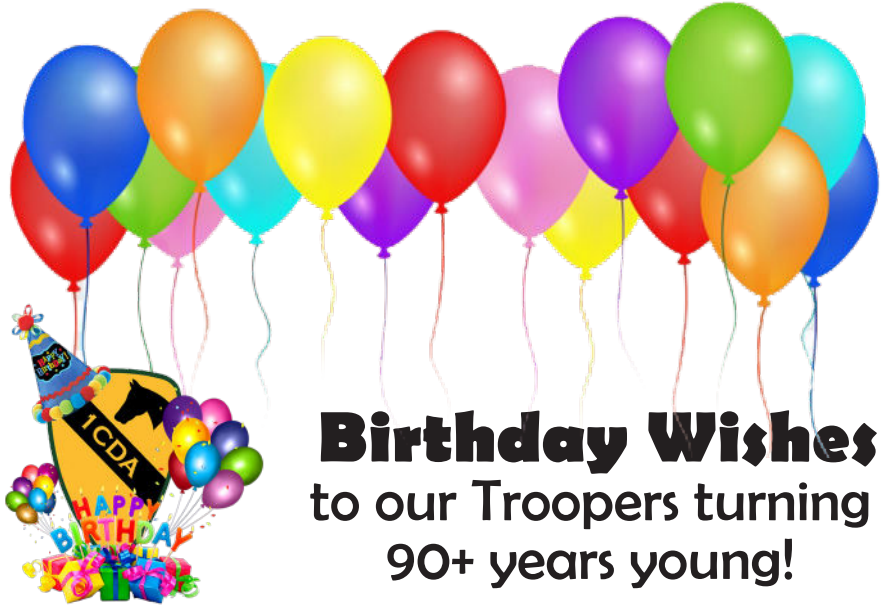
**C Co, 1-5 CAV Vietnam Veterans, 1-4 April 2025.** Golden Nugget Hotel & Casino 151 Beach Blvd, Biloxi, MS. Open to anyone who served in the company between 1965-1971. POC: Kevin Corcoran at <kmcocoran@mac.com> or 717-574-8959 or Fred Escalante at <frescalante@yahoo.com> or 619-569-9114.

**D Co, 1-5 CAV Vietnam Veterans 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion, 11-13 April 2025.** Hilton Arlington National Landing, 2399 Richmond Highway, Arlington, Va. 22202. Call 703-418-6800 or type in the reservations link: <https://book.passkey.com/go/AnnualVietnamVeterans>. Reunion, bus tour to Vietnam Memorial and Museum of the United States Army and Honor Roll Dinner. POC: Dave Michalak, <dmich148@gmail.com> or 734-777-5019.

**15th Medical Battalion Association, 23-27 April 2025.** Orlando, FL. Holiday Inn Orlando International Airport, 5750 T. G. Lee Blvd, Orlando, FL 32822. Reservations 800-465-4329, Group code CM4. POC: Leo Williams, <airbandit68@gmail.com>, call or text 407-765-6935. Info at <15thmedbnassociation.org>.

**1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Association 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion June 11-15, 2025.** Grand Sierra Resort, 2500 E 2<sup>nd</sup> St, Reno, NV, 89595. Reservations Dept: 1-800-648-5080, use code FCD25 or use the provided link to make reservations on-line: <https://book.passkey.com/go/fcd25>. Do NOT reserve more than one room.

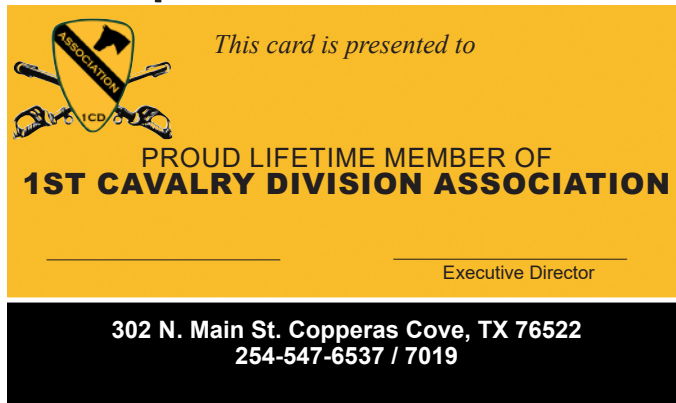
*Have your upcoming reunions posted here!  
 Email to Programs@1CDA.org*



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

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| LTC (RET) RICHARD SPEEDMAN<br>turned 95 on 1/1/2025 | MG (RET) MAURICE EDMONDS<br>turned 94 on 1/28/2025  |
| CPL JULIUS MIANECKI<br>turned 94 on 1/2/2025        | SP-4 HOWARD HANSEN<br>turned 90 on 1/28/2025        |
| CW2 (RET) THEODORE COGUT<br>turned 97 on 1/3/2025   | SFC CHARLES KELLER JR.<br>turned 91 on 1/29/2025    |
| SGM CARL FJELSTAD<br>turned 91 on 1/3/2025          | SSG WILLIAM WRIGHT<br>turned 90 on 1/29/2025        |
| PFC JOHN TUTTLE<br>turned 93 on 1/4/2025            | 1LT JOHN CARTWRIGHT<br>turned 93 on 2/1/2025        |
| SGT CULLEN FROST<br>turned 93 on 1/7/2025           | PFC RICHARD MAZZOCCA<br>turned 90 on 2/2/2025       |
| CPL ANTHONY ANNICELLI<br>turned 93 on 1/14/2025     | SSG DERYL HERREN<br>turned 94 on 2/6/2025           |
| CPT (RET) DAVID RILEY<br>turned 91 on 1/14/2025     | COL (RET) BRUCE CRANDALL<br>turned 92 on 2/17/2025  |
| T-5 JOSEPH BURKHART<br>turned 97 on 1/16/2025       | MG (RET) ROBERT LYNN<br>turned 92 on 2/22/2025      |
| SGT RICHARD JOHNSON<br>turned 95 on 1/19/2025       | CW4 (RET) ALBERT MEDEIROS<br>turned 95 on 2/25/2025 |
| COL (RET) MERLE PETERSON<br>turned 94 on 1/20/2025  |   |

## 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/>>

### 1ST AIR CAV BRIGADE DOCUMENTARY *THE LONGEST MONTH*

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