



# SABER

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



## THE PRESIDENT’S CORNER

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1CDA President 2023-2025



To the Troopers of America’s First Team,  
I recently visited the William R. Court-

ney Texas State Veterans Home in Temple, Texas, to help provide some needed cheer to its residents. Located in all 50 states and Puerto Rico, dating back to the post-Civil War era when many states created them to provide shelter to homeless and disabled Veterans, State Veterans Homes provide affordable, long-term nursing care for qualified Veterans, spouses, and Gold Star parents. As you might imagine, many of the residents are Vietnam Veterans.

Although I am billed as a Gulf War Veteran by most 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry alumni, I am a Vietnam-era Veteran having joined the Army in 1973. Because of that, I have a soft spot in my heart for my brothers and sisters in arms who served in that great endeavor, and who came home to a nation that did not appreciate their service. While at the Veterans home, I came across a framed thank you for their service that, belatedly, I think deserves to be shared – time will not dim the glory of their deeds.

To the Vietnam Veteran  
To those who returned with no one to greet them,  
To those who have been told PTSD would go in time,  
To those who have never been told thank you or welcome home,  
To those who returned but are still haunted by the nightmares of war,  
To those who still react to a backfire and break a sweat at the sound of a chopper,  
To those who suffer from Agent Orange exposure and are still fighting the last battle,  
To those who fought battles in the jungles of Vietnam and here at home,  
To those who have more friends on the Vietnam Memorial Wall than are still alive today,



### THANK YOU

On a drizzly Friday afternoon in early February on Cooper Field, Diana and I had the privilege to attend the retirement ceremony for former 1st Cavalry Division commander, MG John B. Richardson IV. The ceremony was conducted by retired GEN Martin Dempsey, his first battalion commander as a new second lieutenant in the early 1990s. GEN Dempsey would later go on to be the 18th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, appointed to the position by President Barack Obama.



In May 2023, MG Richardson was nominated for promotion to lieutenant general with assignment as commanding general of the First Army. But, following a 33-year career that took him from West Point to Fort Cavazos with several stops in between, he opted to retire instead.

As a Cavalryman his warfighting philosophy is simple: Seize and maintain the initiative, attack, penetrate, exploit, pursue the enemy relentlessly, and win decisively. To cap his career and in honor of his time as a cavalry commander, MG Richardson led a final “Cavalry Charge,” on a horse from the division’s Horse Cavalry Detachment named “Poncho.” With his service to our nation complete, MG Richardson is transitioning to the civilian sector and will work for USAA in San Antonio.

We wish you a fond farewell, Sir ... you will always be welcome anywhere Cavalrymen gather.

I thought I’d update you with some of the goings on at Fort Cavazos. Optempo continues at a rapid pace, and within the next 90 days, parts of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division will be deploying again – the Division Headquarters, Division Artillery, Combat Aviation Brigade, the Sustainment Brigade, and 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team are deploying to Europe as part of a regular rotation of forces to support the U.S. commitment to NATO. Meanwhile, the 3rd Cavalry Regiment will remain deployed in support of the United States’ commitment to the Republic of Korea. Not many divisional units will be on post for Cav 104 this September.



Well, that’s all for this edition. Remember, The Fort Knox Area Chapter invites you to join the rest of the First Team Family in Louisville, KY for the 76th Annual Reunion of the 1st Cavalry Division Association from 19-23 June 2024. 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.

See you at the Reunion in Louisville.  
The 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division – Courageous, Audacious, Victorious! Until we meet again, God bless you all.  
First Team!  
Gambler 6, out.

## Richardson Retires from Army Service

by Thaddeus Imerman | Herald staff writer

Following a 33-year career that took him from West Point to Fort Cavazos with several stops in between, MG John B. Richardson IV, a former 1st Cavalry Division commander, called it a career on February 2, 2024. On a drizzly day, a couple of hundred supporters came out to wish the general a fond farewell at Cooper Field in front of the 1st Cavalry Division headquarters.

To cap his career and in honor of his time as a cavalry commander, Richardson led a final “Cavalry Charge,” on a horse from the division’s Horse Cavalry Detachment named “Poncho.” Richardson, a history buff, explained the historical significance of his uniform as well as two pieces of equipment on Poncho. Richardson sported the full-dress blue uniform for a cavalry officer for mounted duty, which includes olive-drab service pans instead of blue trousers and russet boots with spurs instead of black low-quarter shoes.

“Poncho is all decked out,” Richardson said. “I’ll be riding my 1904 McClellan Army saddle. And he’s also got a very unique saber — a Patton Saber — that I’ll be carrying. “It’s a very unique Patton Saber; it’s nickel-plated. The Patton Saber was designed by General Patton when he was a lieutenant and that’s why it’s called the Patton Saber.

“There were about 30,000 of them made between (19)13 and 1938; only 200 of them were nickel-plated, though. And there’s only one unit that was issued the nickel-plated Patton Saber, and that was the regimental headquarters of the 3rd Cavalry Regiment and 2nd Squadron of the 3rd Cavalry Regiment. They were the honor guard for the nation from 1922 to 1941, guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and conducting all parades and ceremonies in Washington, D.C. and I just happened to come across one.

“So, the saber I’ll ride with today was carried by a member or an officer in the 3rd Cavalry Regiment 100 years ago, and it’s going to lead Poncho and I on my final Cavalry Charge in the United States Army.”

With an extended family and lots of fellow officers and noncommissioned officers, Richardson took the time to thank them all. He also especially thanked retired

Continued to pg 3

## THE DIRECTOR’S CHAIR

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March is already upon us and in Texas so is the HEAT!! So much for Spring. We celebrate Women’s History Month in March to reflect on the contributions of all women and celebrate their past and present achievements. This year’s theme is

“Women who advocate for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.” **Equity** – the quality of being fair and impartial; **Diversity** – the practice of involving people from different social and ethnic backgrounds, different genders, sexual orientations, etc.; **Inclusion** – the action of including or being included within a group or structure. We could all learn something from these three words.

The Board of Governors met in February for their annual meeting. After the meeting, those who attended were given a tour of the National Mounted Warrior Museum located just outside the main gate of Fort Cavazos (and adjacent to the 1CD Horse Cav Detachment). The Mounted Warfare Museum Foundation is expecting a soft opening in April of the completed Rotunda area and an official Grand Opening in July 2024 for the entire museum.

Here in a couple of weeks, I will start finalizing plans for the upcoming reunion in Louisville. Have you started finalizing your plans for attending the reunion? Registration fees go up to \$50 on 15 May 2024 and cancellations are non-refundable after the 1 May 2024 deadline. This year we’ll have some fun in the Hospitality Room – Suicide Karaoke. Tune those vocal cords up!

Looking forward to seeing everyone again in a few short months. Stay safe and healthy!

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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

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Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

1CDA EVENT CALENDAR

June 19-23, 2024 76<sup>th</sup> Annual 1CDA Reunion, Louisville, KY

Nov 9-11, 2024 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Day in Washington, D.C.

Feb 22, 2025 Board of Governor's Hybrid Meeting

SABER RENEWAL / DONATION FORM

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LOOKING FOR A LONG LOST BATTLE BUDDY?

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



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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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

Now that I am in my final semester of college, I have been reflecting on how helpful this scholarship has been in enabling me to have a great education and experience. I have learned so much, and I've made friends that I hope to have for a lifetime. I've grown in ways that I never thought possible, and I am so grateful to have received this scholarship because it has allowed me to continue growing and learning. I will be graduating in May with my bachelor's in social work and a minor in Political Science, and I owe this success to the foundation for its support throughout my college career.

Caitlin Evans





My name is Lindsey Perretta, and I am a student attending SUNY Cortland. I am a freshman studying Exercise Science to become a Physician's Assistant and pursue my dreams as a medical professional. I want to be able to assist those who need care and help improve their quality of life. I wanted to take this opportunity to personally thank and show my appreciation towards the 1st Cavalry Division Association for their generous scholarship. This scholarship will help me succeed in my academic journey and help further my education. This scholarship will help ease the financial burden which will allow me to focus on my studies and dedicate my hard work to reaching my scholarly goals. I am grateful to receive this support and contribution towards my chosen career path. I would also like to thank my grandfather, Robert Jeanette, for his military service and bravery in our country. My passion for science originates from my grandfather, we share the same love and diligence regarding our studies. I plan to follow in his footsteps, making him proud, and honor the fearlessness and heroic acts he exhibited for my protection and millions of others.

Lindsey Perretta

IA DRANG AND 1-7 GARRYOWEN  
ALUMNI

**As Fort Benning changed their name in honor of GEN Hal and Julie Moore, it is only fitting they memorialize their Main Gate in honor of CSM Basil L. Plumley. The ceremony is set for 10 April 2024 at 3pm, Fort Moore, GA, Lindsey Creek Parkway Fort Moore Visitors Center.**

**10April2024 @ 3pm**



## 8 Female Soldiers Who Changed the Course of US Military History

By Dylan Gresik, March 9, 2020, Army Times  
March 8 is International Women's Day — a celebration which would be incomplete if the female trailblazers of the United States Army were not recognized. Though not often viewed as equals by their male counterparts, women have dutifully served their country since the days of the American Revolution. From breaking barriers in combat to challenging the status quo across eras, here are eight female Soldiers who changed the course of history for the U.S. military.

### CATHY WILLIAMS

PVT Cathay Williams began her journey with the U.S. military in a support role during the Civil War, forced to serve due to her status as a captured slave, the National Park Service noted. After the war, Williams became the first Black woman to enlist when she joined the Army under a male pseudonym, William Cathay, in 1866, the Army noted.

"A young, female, unmarried former slave," Williams joined the Army without a full medical examination, and she was assigned to the 38th U.S. Infantry Regiment — which would become part of the famed Buffalo Soldiers, according to the Wounded Warrior Project.

Suffering from smallpox, Williams was discovered to be a woman while undergoing treatment and honorably discharged in 1868. She continued in her work as a military cook at Fort Union, New Mexico. Her story was documented in the St. Louis Daily Times in 1876.

Williams was the first Black woman to enlist in the U.S. Army and the only known female Buffalo Soldier.

### DR. MARY E. WALKER

In 1861, 29-year-old Dr. Mary Walker applied to become a surgeon with the Union Army, as she had been one of the few female physicians in the country prior to the start of the Civil War. She was rejected but remained on as a volunteer, leveraging her skills to treat the wounded, AUSA noted.

Two years later, Walker finally received an appointment to serve as an assistant surgeon in the Army, after spending additional time as a field surgeon in Virginia, according to an Army story. In the latter years of the war, Walker was captured by Confederate forces, held in squalid conditions as a prisoner of war, yet another in a long line of abuses due to her status as a woman.

She lobbied for women's causes and for her service during the war, she was awarded the Medal of Honor in 1865. The award was later rescinded in 1917 due to her status as a civilian, but President Jimmy Carter restored the award in 1977, the Army noted.

Dr. Mary Walker remains the only woman to have received the Medal of Honor in U.S. history.

### HARRIET TUBMAN

Beyond being the legendary "conductor" of the Underground Railroad, shepherding enslaved persons to freedom, Harriet Tubman also aided the Union's military effort in the Civil War. Early in the war, Tubman served as a nurse for Union regiments before moving on to a larger role as spymaster and military scout.

Under the direction of War Secretary Edwin Stanton, Tubman recruited locals throughout conquered areas in the South to pass information along to Union commanders and assist in assault preparations. Her group's work led to a successful assault on Jacksonville, Florida, and the Combahee River Raid in June 1863, as Military Times previously reported.

Decades later, Tubman finally received recognition — to a degree — for her military service during the Civil War, as she had been kept out of official military documents. In 1899, Tubman was granted a pension, officially validating her widely known contributions to the Union cause.

### MARY A. HALLAREN

COL Mary Hallaren became a member of the first training class of the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (later, Women's Army Corps, or WAC) in 1942 before commanding the largest all-female unit to serve overseas. In 1948, while serving as WAC's director, Hallaren "was instrumental" in advocating for women to be fully integrated as "permanent regular members" of the military beyond just wartime, according to the National Women's Hall of Fame.

Hallaren, who had originally enlisted in the military following the Pearl Harbor attack, later became the first commissioned officer in the Regular Army, not a medical role, in 1948, according to the Army's Center of Military History.

"To me there was no question that women should serve," Hallaren said, as reported by the New York Times.

### MARCELLA HAYES NG

Marcella Hayes, who began her military career as an ROTC cadet at the University of Wisconsin, became the first black female pilot in the U.S. military in 1979. She graduated Army Flight School at Fort Rucker, Alabama, earning her paratrooper badge during her training as a helicopter pilot, the Army Women's Foundation reported.

Hayes became the 55th woman to earn her pilot wings, before being assigned to the 394th Transportation Battalion in Germany, the unit's first black Soldier and first woman leader. She went on to marry Dennis Ng, also in the Army, retiring in 2000 as a lieutenant colonel.

### LINDA BRAY

CPT Linda Bray was one of over 700 women to participate in Operation Just Cause in Panama in 1989, as she led the 988th Military Police Company, according to the Army. There, she became the first woman to command American Soldiers in battle, a trailblazing role that launched a reflection about women in the military.

"I joined the Army for the excitement, the challenge, the experience and loyalty to my country," Bray said at the time, according to the New York Times. "I haven't been let down a day."

Bray's role in combat forced the U.S. military to reevaluate their prohibition on women in the role, which ultimately culminated in an end to the ban by then-Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta in 2013, the Seattle Times noted.

### KRISTEN GRIEST & SHAYE HAVER

CPT Kristen M. Griest and 1LT Shaye L. Haver became the first two women to complete Army Ranger School and earn their Ranger tabs in 2015. Both graduates of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, the two Soldiers became the first females of over 77,000 tabbed Soldiers since the Ranger School's inception in 1950, according to an Army story.

Griest was a military police platoon leader, and Haver was an AH-64 Apache

Continued to pg. 11

## OIF / OEF VETERAN

### 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion News

SSG Brandy Harvest      SSG Kenneth Pannell  
HHC 1BSTB, 2007-2009      HHC 1BSTB, 2005-2009  
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### This column is a collection of stories submitted from 1BSTB Soldiers that served during OIF / OEF.

The Centurion Battalion conducted RSOI (Reception, Staging, On-Word Movement, and Integration) operations in Camp Beuhling, Kuwait from 27 October to 12 November 2006 in order to prepare all Soldiers for combat operations in Iraq. This training was crucial to the overall success of 1BSTB in Iraq because of the constant change in task organization that the Centurions dealt with during pre-deployment operations. Transforming cooks, mechanics, and other personnel from a support mentality to ground pounders was a delicate task. Throughout RSOI Training, the Soldiers executed intensive training on a variety of tactics, techniques, and procedures that the Soldiers would experience during combat. All Soldiers attended a 2-hour classroom instruction consisting of IED awareness/threat brief and an anti-fratricide class. The Soldiers also completed STAMIS Gunnery, convoy operations instruction, defeat systems, security clearance classes, and COIN Academy along with several others. Once all the training was completed, the 1BSTB embarked on the final leg of their deployment to combat. The battalion flew from AL Saleem Air Base in Kuwait to Balad, Iraq, then with a final flight in a Chinook helicopter to Camp Taji, Iraq beginning on 7 November 2006.

"A man's feet must be planted in his country, but his eyes should survey the world." -George Santayana

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

### RICHARDSON

#### Continued from pg. 1

GEN Martin Dempsey, his first battalion commander as a new second lieutenant in the early 1990s. Dempsey would later go on to be the 18th chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, appointed to the position by President Barack Obama.

It was Dempsey's and his wife, Deanie's, leadership that got Richardson and his wife, Deanie, through the years.

"Deanie, thank you so much," Richardson said to his wife. "Deanie has been with me since high school. She endured four years of long-distance (relationship) while I was at West Point, six deployments, countless NTC rotations, weekend trainings, calls at 2 in the morning while I was in command. "It's your patience, your resilience, your strength, your toughness. You have kept our family moving forward in my absence and in my presence, and I love you so much for everything that you do for the family and for the kids."

Prior to Richardson's remarks, Dempsey drew a lot of laughter from the crowd as he half-roasted, and half-praised Richardson for his career. Dempsey told humorous stories of Richardson's time as a new lieutenant and how he never envisioned him becoming a division commander. Dempsey's remarks even drew several hearty laughs from Richardson.

When it came down to it, however, there were three things Dempsey highlighted that stood out to him about Richardson. "Johnny Richardson is among the most inquisitive leaders I've ever met, which I find to be a really important leadership trait," Dempsey said. "When you stop being inquisitive, when you stop trying to learn, when you start believing that you know enough, that's when you stop becoming the kind of leader we need you to be. And Johnny has been among the most inquisitive men I've met throughout my entire life, whether in uniform or out."

The second trait Dempsey highlighted was Richardson's relentlessness. Dempsey used an example of Richardson's relentlessness to perfect the recipe for a certain cocktail, but he turned it into a point of wise words for those listening.

"Now, that's not going to change the world," Dempsey said of Richardson's desire to perfect a drink recipe. "But the relentlessness of a leader can change the world. You know the saying is you don't have to be perfect as a leader — in fact, few are. But you have to be relentless. You have to have a passion to put your entire being into being the best leader. You can bet Johnny Richardson is relentless."

Finally, Dempsey said since Richardson was sworn in as a commissioned officer of the Army, he has been a steward of the profession. "He embraced the fact that he was part of something bigger than himself, and he wanted to contribute to it," Dempsey said. "He's a steward of the profession. He wants to know about it; he studies it — and that's back to the inquisitive thing."

Richardson was commissioned in 1991 as a second lieutenant after graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He served in combat with the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment; the 5th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment; the 1st Cavalry Division; 1st Infantry Division; and 3rd Infantry Division.

He served as the 74th colonel of the 3rd Cavalry Regiment and commanded the 1st Cavalry Division from July 21, 2021, to July 14, 2023. As a major, Richardson served as Dempsey's aide-de-camp in Iraq.

Now that his military service is complete, Richardson is transitioning to the civilian sector and will work for USAA.



MG Richardson IV prepares for his final Cavalry Charge



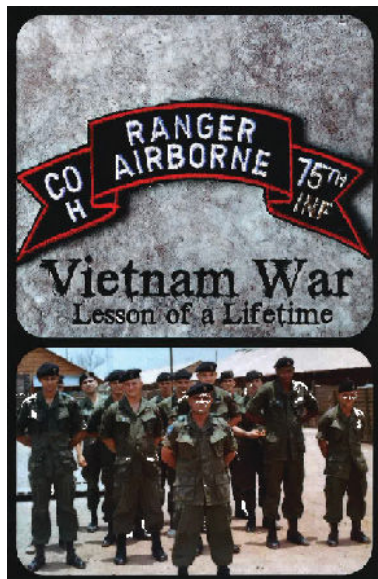
## LRRP/Ranger News



**Pete Dencker**  
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I'd like to remind everyone who hasn't already started their planning that the Annual Reunion (in Louisville) in conjunction with the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav, is only a few months away – if you haven't already done so – please check the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Association ([www.1CDA.org](http://www.1CDA.org)) web site for details and sign up or send in the registration form on page 13 of this *Saber*. I hope that we have a newsletter out before the reunion with more detail – if not I'm sure Doug and the board will provide us with any updated/important info. We had a great turnout last year – let's try to increase the number of attendees in 2024 (we're not getting any younger). Concerning the newsletter – would very much appreciate any input from the field that can be included – I know Bill used to receive lots of input – but we have the same ability to include your stories/pix/input in the new format. I'm looking forward to hearing from you!!



A new book was recently published by one of our Company mates from H Company, **Charlie Beasley**, *Vietnam War, Lesson of a Lifetime*. Charlie served with H Company between 1970 and 1971 and during that time became a Team Leader, a leadership position that has always been earned through consistent demonstration of experience and leadership in general, but especially in the field. In the book, Charlie describes the hardship and sacrifices made by Rangers given the unique type of operational methodologies that were the hallmark of Ranger operations, but also his sense of the bigger picture, including his respect for the adaptability of a determined enemy. I'm including a short chapter that provides some sense of what a standard Ranger mission in RVN was like. Thanks, Charlie, for your hard work putting this together. There's a resource at the end of the article where you can purchase the book.

Contact with Enemy Troops

We had been firing non-stop for maybe ten minutes, and our M-16s were hot to the touch. Ranger teams came prepared for this by wearing leather gloves with their fingers cut out. I was now yelling into the mike "Yankee, Yankee, this is Talon five two contact over," when the gunship pilot broke in. After refueling and lifting off the fire base the gunship pilot immediately heard my attempts to reach our radio relay. Oh my God, I was so happy to hear him and to know that our team was no longer completely all alone out there. Hearing the voices of cobra pilots always had a calming effect on me. It was amazing to me during my months in the jungle how calm these pilots always were even when taking fire. I'll never forget how the "wop-wop" of the chopper blades made the pilot's voice seem to come in sort of broken but easy to understand. The calm voice of chopper pilots with the sound of chopper blades in the background was one thing that separated Vietnam from other wars. I wish that every American could hear the conversations between gunship pilots and Ranger Teams on the ground in contact with the enemy because nothing in Vietnam was more real than that. Our lives were hanging in the balance. As I spoke with the cobra pilot, I focused on not being distracted by the teammate's weapons firing on each side of my head, it felt like a lot was going on at the time. When the stakes were so high the tension was something that Ranger training had taught us to control. There were times in Vietnam when I would ponder what my chances for survival might be, but this was not one of those times. I was completely focused on the task at hand with no distractions.

Most people are not familiar with the Bell AH-1 Cobra known by Rangers in Vietnam as the Snake. AH stands for "attack helicopter" and it flew comfortably at 140 miles per hour. The pilot in the rear fired rockets from wing-mounted launchers while the pilot in front controlled what was called a "chin turret" which fired mini guns and a grenade launcher.

The gray cobra with the sleek blade windshield was coming fast, and as it came overhead, I pulled the pin on a smoke canister. Ranger teams in contact with the enemy did this to mark their location. The conversation went as follows, "Green Dragon this is Talon five two, smoke is out over." As the smoke billowed through the trees, I heard "Talon five two, Green Dragon Roger I identify ruby red over." We wanted the pilot to identify the color of the smoke in case the enemy popped a smoke trying to confuse him. "Green Dragon, this is Talon five two roger, we want you to make your run from November Whiskey to Sierra Echo one zero mikes on the November side of the smoke" (The Army insisted on this language which was northwest to southeast 10 meters from the smoke). The pilot responded, Talon Five two – Green Dragon negative, I will hit you if I fire that close to your position" to which I responded, "roger, please remember the enemy is in close over." I was extremely anxious for him to get to work as quickly as possible to discourage the enemy from trying to overrun our position. The next thing I heard was "Talon five two, heads down, I am coming in hot."

The pilot started his first run from up high coming toward our team at about a forty-five-degree angle with both mini-guns blazing, making a loud BRRR sound. It was said that the miniguns were capable of firing ten thousand rounds per minute and the vegetation was being shredded on the north side of our team. Having a gunship make a run close to our position was unforgettable. Small branches were falling, and dirt was kicked up around us. We could hear the whine of bullets everywhere. The pilot could not use his rockets this close to our position. Cobra pilots were so good that I had no qualms about essentially placing our lives in their hands. The gunship ended its run, peeled off, and elevated to begin another. That gave me a chance to rise slightly and survey the area immediately to our North. There were two bodies visible about fifteen feet away and I was sure that others had been hit. "Talon five two, Green Dragon how did I do on that run over?" to which I replied, "We have two enemy line ones (KIA) and two friendly line two's (WIA), our line twos have flesh wounds

that are not serious. Nightfall is close, and we want our team to be picked up as soon as possible over." It went without saying that once the location of a Ranger team had been compromised, we had to abort the mission.

Maybe two minutes passed, and the pilot came back and said, "I have orders from above back on the firebase, I can't have the lift ship pick up your team until you have stripped the bodies and gathered any weapons for intelligence to inspect back at the base."

I was not happy to hear that. We had two enemy bodies fifteen feet away in a clear area that a few minutes before was a hot fire zone and we were asked to step out there to retrieve clothes and weapons. My stress level was already off the charts, but at the same time, I knew we could not refuse the order. Looking back on the situation I was very proud of my team because no one hesitated or complained when I asked them to join me in the open area.

I already knew that the members of our team had courage. Courage had nothing to do with being unafraid. Courage in Vietnam had everything to do with willingness to do a job while being scared out of your wits.

We stepped out into the clearing and my team dropped to one knee with weapons at the ready. I could almost feel myself being shot as I quickly scanned the wood line of the far side of the clearing. Nothing happened. It was hard to describe the emotional intensity at a time like that. I was so emotionally charged that I needed to get the job done as quickly as possible so that I could get back to a less elevated mental state. I could feel a pounding in my temple area. I could not allow my mind to wander, wishing that I was in another place many miles away. There would be time to think about that later. I have credit to the gunship pilots for forcing the enemy out of the area. I noticed blood trails leading into the dense foliage, so I sensed the presence of the enemy close by.

The bodies were badly shot up and I had to fight the urge to look away as I began my task. I saw the hair of one individual hanging in a small bush. The result of a teammate's hand grenade exploding close by. Months before I had learned that the war in Vietnam was brutal and ugly. I did not want to die in that land, but I got no satisfaction from the death of the enemy either. It was times like this that made me question why I volunteered for the draft. I remember that the cordite smell from all the bullets was still hanging heavy in the air. I did not waste time trying to unbutton any clothing. The job of stripping the bodies only took me a short time with everything tied up in one of their shirts. We called the chopper and as the lift ship approached our position, I remembered that I was carrying the Vietnamese weapons, so I was careful to keep them pointed away from the chopper. One of the weapons had some sort of rocket-propelled grenade attached and I had not seen that weapon before. I had no idea if the safety switch was on or off. The last thing I wanted was to accidentally shoot down the chopper. Maybe the threat of the gunship circling overhead might have allowed our team to escape. We had little time to spare because darkness was closing in as our team cleared the treetops on our way out of the landing zone. It would take a few hours for the adrenaline to subside to the point that I would feel anything close to normal. I reminded myself to do something later that I should have already done. I needed to express my appreciation to all the pilots involved in this operation. These guys were so good at what they did, and I will never forget them.

On a sad note, I was told later that an infantry unit came to this spot the next and one Soldier was killed by a sniper when he walked up to the bodies.

Thanks, Charlie – the book was a great read!

You can order a copy of this book from Downtown Books, Manteo, NC, 252-473-1056.

Until next time - RLW

**PLEASE CONTACT THE SCRIBE ABOVE  
TO SHARE YOUR  
LRRP RANGER STORIES!**

## OTHER REUNIONS:

**15th Medical Battalion Association, 3-7 April 2024.** Shreveport, LA. Holiday Inn Downtown Shreveport, 102 Lake Street, Shreveport, LA 71101. Reservations 318-222-7717, Group code is MBA. POC: John Tabor, <johntabor@gmail.com>, or call or text 972-937-7457. Info at <15thmedbnassociation.org>.

**13th Annual D/1-5 Cav, 15-17 April 2024.** Nashville, TN. The Inn at Opryland. Reservations: 800-901-4211. POC: David Michalak, <dmich1248@gmail.com> 734-777-5019.

**8th Cav Association, 1-5 May 2024.** Columbus/Ft Moore, Ga. Doubletree Inn, 5351 Sidney Simons Blvd. Reservations 706-327-6868. Mention you're with the 8th Cavalry Regiment Association. More info at <8cavalry.com>. POC: Tommy Harris 678-340-6512, Larry Hempfling 314-229-7701, or Top Gun 270-978-1075.

**E/1-5 Cav, 1st Air Cav 1969-1971 Reunion, 2-5 May 2024.** Country Inn & Suites-10358 Patriot Hwy, Fredericksburg, Va. Reservations: 1-540-898-1800. We will be going to The Wall in Washington DC. POC: Terry "Mother" Fauquher <tmfauquher@aol.com> 317-501-0287.

**Angry Skipper D/2-8 Cav Reunion, 29 May-1 June 2024.** Jacksonville, FL. Doubletree Inn. Reservations 800-222-8733, group code ASA. POC Jim Garvin <James.Garvin@yahoo.com>.

**76th Annual 1st Cavalry Division Association Reunion, 19-23 June 2024.** Louisville, KY. Crowne Plaza Louisville Airport Expo Center. (866) 888-0620. Please DO NOT reserve more than one room.

**19th Annual 12th Cavalry Reunion, 11-14 September 2024.** Branson, MO. Branson Hillside Hotel (formerly The Welk). Further details in the Feb 2024 News Bulletin.

**D/1-12th Reunion, Vietnam Veterans Memorial & Arlington National Cemetery, 12-15 September 2024.** Washington D.C. Westin Washington Dulles Airport, Herndon, VA. (866) 932-7062. Booking Code DCB. Additional details <<https://catrack.6india.com>>.

**Jumping Mustangs Reunion, 2-6 October 2024.** Fort Wayne, Indiana. Holiday Inn Express, 5915 Ellison Rd, Fort Wayne. Reservations 260-459-1888. POC: James Knafel, <jjknafel@gmail.com> or 260-244-3864.

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





## 5th CAV News

Harold P. "Doc" Truitt  
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rr3-6bandaid@antelecom.net



### PLEASE CONTACT THE SCRIBE ABOVE TO SHARE YOUR 5<sup>TH</sup> CAV STORIES!

Being given a platform from which to speak can be a great blessing, or since it also represents an obligation, just another chore. I very much wanted to find a story about our 2/5 guys in Sadr City and the folks who were there with them, but if you are reading this, I was not successful. These people are now 20 years out on that fight and their story has been written and shown on television in Martha Raddatz' book, "The Long Road Home." The operation these folks were on is described in a narrative, that to me looked to have been put out by our division. The whole thing is four pages of print and hard to get into a story line, at least by me. The first paragraph, however, is enlightening as it gives a decent overview of what was being faced. Something about an old line about the "intelligence is always wrong." Here is the introductory paragraph. Read between the lines please.

Task Force Lancer arrived in Iraq on 31 March 2004, and was the first element of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division to conduct a Transition of Authority (TOA). After finishing equipment preparations, the task force entered Sadr City on 02 April 2004 and conducted full Spectrum Operations. The Task Force focused on Civil Military Operations (CMO) as a direct result of its right seat ride experience with 2-2 ACR, who had experienced little contact in the previous year. Due to its early arrival, Task Force Lancer fought as a part of an ad hoc organization, reporting to 2<sup>nd</sup> ACR. Its parent headquarters, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division was not scheduled to TOA until 10 April 2004. The Task Force lacked armor as its only tank company was motorized. To offset this, C/2-37 AR was temporarily task organized to the Task Force for its remaining two weeks in country. At 1800 on 04 April 2004, Task Force Lancer, and 2<sup>nd</sup> ACR officially conducted their TOA of Sadr City, a six by eight-kilometer slum that contained more than 2.5 million of Baghdad's 6.5 million residents, 10 percent of Iraq's entire population. After four days in Baghdad and simultaneously with its scheduled TOA, Task Force Lancer engaged in combat operations whose extreme intensity has not been matched in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Task Force Lancer took the battle to the enemy in the heart of the most complex urban terrain encountered to date, which many of the Soldiers were entering for the first time. In the end, the officers, and Soldiers of Task Force Lancer, fought without rest or relief from 4 to 8 April 2004, and devastated an army of 2000 to 3000 well-armed, organized, funded, and trained Iraqi insurgents. Task Force Lancer undoubtedly distinguished itself throughout the battle and displayed extraordinary gallantry, courage, professionalism, and high esprit de corps under unusually difficult and hazardous conditions.

The *Saber* often has stories of the things various units of the Division have done, but I personally try to choose ones of as much interest to all as I can. Because these brave brothers are going to be in Killeen on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of April it would have been my preference to support them in that way. If you were a part of that action, and for some reason did not hear of the goings on contact Tina here at the *Saber*, tell her who you are, and I am sure she can put you in touch with your battle buddies.

There was also supposed to be another author for this column to give me a break, and to let the folks that happen to read this column have a change of pace. Since you are reading this that also did not happen.

If you have tried to find a website for the U.S. 5<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association recently, you will have noticed another current shortcoming of our august organization. One we are currently trying to rectify so that folks can find us when and if they try. We want to accurately represent the "Regiment," and we believe it is important to do so, but we are slowing down and thinning out as we get farther out from our active time with the 1<sup>st</sup> Team. All of us want to represent our organization properly and we need the help of Soldiers who served after Vietnam. That makes it important to us to be ready to support groups like those in the Sadr City dust up. Whenever you hear of, or are part of, a gathering like this one, we can do more, but we need a bit of lead time. Pass the word to the Division Association or to us, (or to the appropriate regimental association) and I am sure you will find as much enthusiastic help as can be given.

David Estrada gave us a shout this time and was looking to contact one of our B 2/5 reunion groups. That is also something we will always try to do if asked. One of the biggest problems our Regimental Associations have is many of us only want to hang with the folks we fought with. The various associations

always try to help if they can but please remember that just like David, and for that matter just like myself back in '06 at the 1<sup>st</sup> Team reunion in Riverside CA, the division and your regiments try to help, but without you, who will hand this information to the next group?

Speaking of reunions, the Cav will be in Louisville again this year and for those of you not yet signed up, you might want to check it out, particularly if you want to stay in the hotel being used so you do not have to drive back and forth.

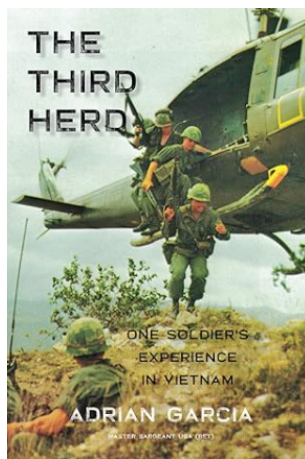
To ask why all this talk or reunions and not so veiled complaints of inability to connect with those who follow us into the breach is exactly the question. Each evolution of this regiment and its elements brings another group of folks who went through another impossible fight. One they feel there is no way anyone not there can understand. I remember standing next to a new battalion commander, one who was so new I still cannot remember his name, in the middle of an on-going attempt by the NVA to overrun our FOB and answering his question about what was going on around us. We stood there ignoring small arms and incoming HE rounds because doing the job quickly demanded it. I told him of threats in the immediate area and how to move to his destination without getting killed. Anyone who has seen that knows you guess how to go about things, still get the immediate job done and not do something that sends the wrong impression to the Troops around you. The LTC left me, walked directly through a lane I suggested he go around, and was promptly shot through the jaw. The fight we were in only lasted two and a half hours and in our small perimeter we took over 1500 HE rounds and all the rest. I wish that sort of thing were unusual for Soldiers, but it is not. Many of us cannot really count the number of times we should have died. What we have a tough time understanding is that even when it seems so impossible, others have, in fact, been there. Stories about the unit that became the 5<sup>th</sup> U.S. Cavalry, before the Civil War are hard to come by, at least about the fights. But our regiment, or more specifically, whatever portion of it happened to be on location since we have often engaged in only fractions of our strength, have fought through the impossible. Our unit crest tells some large parts of the story, but for instance, at Gains Mill, early in the Civil War, units of the 5<sup>th</sup> swung into a breach that was being exploited and would have meant enormous losses. Those men paid a huge price but saved the day. In 1970 some of us invaded Cambodia and had enough of a fight that to this day, members of my own company near enough to my time to have some personnel overlap cannot imagine the rest of us can understand. They do not really want to see the rest of us.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are unique only in that we have more in common than we think can be. This unit has always had a rep of being honestly kick ass! Almost 175 years and we owe it to the folks who follow us, not to exclude ourselves or sequester ourselves because we feel only close to those "who were there." We are the best support for ourselves and those who follow, but only if we do not exclude each other. Look around you, and you will see folks who are Ranger qualified, jump wings and all, our list of commanders is replete with the names of men who history knows well. At the end of each fight the rows of those we lost change only a little, that is in the names of the day. People we loved, ate with, joked with only hours before. Sometimes we made promises to bring them back. In every case we feel that we did.

I came to this association looking only for the guys from my company and many of the ones I found still do not think anything else is important. The association was just beginning to get relief from the vets of Vietnam. It was run by Korean War vets with some WW II guys still around. It takes time for a Soldier to be ready to find "the folks." Lots of time. There were only a few more than ten years between Korea and the beginning of Vietnam. From '72 to Desert Storm was about twenty years if you round, and ten more to 9-11. Active-duty Troops have a job to do that does not really include taking care of "the Alums," or trying to care for and pass on our history to people who need it to heal from the things they saw. That is the job of those of us who have moved on. We still owe this unit and those who are going all out to keep the faith and the tempo of the U.S. 5<sup>th</sup> Cav.

I could not get permission to print parts of "The Long Road Home" so I went to my streaming service and put it on. The feelings of these folks and their loved ones recalled the opening scenes of "We Were Soldiers," and felt not much different than scenes recurring every time we deploy. The story and emotions felt eerily real to me. From moments of waiting and/or prep, to ongoing active warfare that were at once so similar and so strange I will not try to describe it. When I relive with my younger brothers, scenes like this I can smell the smoke, dust, nearby sewage, and blood just as if I were there. And make no mistake, I am not alone. Going back, to our beginnings, the smells, emotions, sounds etcetera are far more similar than different. Those we lost are no more lost now than in 1855. The way they felt when the fight was on.....well, what do you really think? The appeal to not let any of the sacrifice be wasted means we cannot keep ourselves apart, trying not to share because "they can't understand." Support of the next fighters means we need to be here.

## BOOK of INTEREST:



### *The Third Herd: One Soldier's Experience in Vietnam* by Adrian Garcia

As author Adrian Garcia writes his book, *The Third Herd*, is not a military classic of a great battle. This is a true story of a group of men. Garcia's plainspoken, sometimes graphic always gripping account of the heroics and heartbreak experienced by his army platoon in the jungles, plains and mountains of Vietnam. It offers readers unforgettable insights into this life-altering tour of duty of a self-styled ordinary mud Soldier.

Despite the author's modesty, *The Third Herd* proves that there was nothing ordinary about Adrian Garcia and the men who served with him. They were and remain quintessential American heroes, who did their best under staggeringly brutal conditions to fight for

their country. Garcia's memoir does honor their sacrifice and will sear itself into the souls of his readers.

Adrian Garcia <yanxgrunt@yahoo.com>

## WANTED / LOOKING FOR:

### PFC WILLIAM BUCKLEY, 1965

My name is Robert W. Reid, but I go by Bill. I went to Ft Benning in early 1965 (before Mar. 17th) and was assigned to the 11th Air Assault Division.

In July, we became the 1st Air Cav. My unit was the HHC 3rd Brigade Hdqrs Co. In August of 65, we left for Nam from Savannah, Georgia on the USNS Upshur. At that time, I was a PFC and an OH13 helicopter crew chief.

I am looking for my friend William Buckley. He too was a PFC and possibly an OH13 crew chief. Not sure, but he might have been from New York. On the ship, he was able to secure a job in the officers library and he had me join him.

It took approximately 28 days to get to Qui Nhon, Vietnam. Shortly after arriving, we became Huey crew chiefs due to enlistment discharges.

Robert Reid <bcavman@msn.com>

### COMMO PLATOON 1-5 CAV, APRIL 1969-70

Looking for members of the Commo Platoon 1-5 Cav (Apr '69 – Apr '70) who served with SFC Lipscomb, SFC Kaeser, CPT Tingle. Please respond to <82jumpmaster@gmail.com>.

Thank you,  
Earl Tingle



12th CAV News



Thomas Lon Crabtree  
195 Buzz Street # 18  
Branson, MO 65616  
432-853-4851  
MMCTLC3@aol.com  
www.12thCav.US



SALUTE and SEMPER PARATUS! Two and one-half months into 2024 hope all are well and it is a good one. When this one hits your mailboxes, it will be a fast moving two and one-half months to 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Association Reunion 76 at Crowne Plaza Louisville Airport, 830 Phillips Lane 40209. Mail your reservations soon for June 19-23, 866-888-0620 and submit your registrations NLT May 1, 2024. Event schedule and registration forms are in this issue. Hope to see many 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Troopers there.

As we are all aware the 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association is in a transition phase and we are seeking Troopers who served with a 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry unit in the Gulf War, OEF-OIF and current Active-Duty Soldiers to join our Association. Membership is open to All who served during any War Period from WWII to present and to ALL RANKS. An overview of the Origin of the 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association and current day status may be of interest to our Troopers seeking to associate and reunite with their former Comrades in Arms.

ORIGINS  
30 JULY 1988  
12<sup>th</sup> Regiment Association  
CONSTITUTION

We, the undersigned, all citizens of the United States, and active or former members of the 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment, and desiring to form a 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment Association do hereby associate ourselves and certify as follows:

ARTICLE I  
Name and Objectives

Section 1. The name of this Association shall be “12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment Association.” Hereinafter and in the By-Laws of the Association referred to as The “Association.”

Section 2. The duration of the Association shall be perpetual.

Section 3. The objectives and purposes of The Association shall be as follows:

- a. To honor those Comrades in Arms who have served in the 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment, the Battalions thereof, and the units attached thereto; and to honor those who have sacrificed their lives while serving in the 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment.
- b. To preserve and strengthen the comradeships formed while serving in the 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment through an Association Newsletter, reunions and any other means deemed desirable.
- c. To proclaim, publish traditions, history, achievements of the SEMPER PARATUS Regiment
- d. To support the service members actively serving in the 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Units.
- e. To sponsor or participate in activities of a patriotic nature.

ARTICLE II  
Membership

Section 1. All persons who have served honorably, are presently serving, and who may serve in the future with the 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment, and with any units attached thereto, who otherwise qualify, shall be eligible for membership in the “Association”.

Section 2. Wives, widows, and widowers of persons who are or would have been eligible for membership are also eligible for membership.

Section 3. Membership dues, classes of members, and other member considerations such as “Friends of the Regiment” shall be as set forth in The Association By-Laws.

Section 4. The Association shall be non-political, non-partisan, and non-sectarian.

ARTICLE III  
Officers, Duties, Administration

Section 1. The administration and conduct of business of the Association shall be vested in a Board of Officers consisting of a President, a Vice President, and a Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 2. The Board of Officers shall be elected and shall serve such terms as are set forth in the By-Laws of the Association.

Section 3. Duties of the Officers of the Association shall be as set out in the Association By-Laws.

Section 4. The By-Laws may provide for appointment of committees to assist in administration of the Association.

Section 5. Private property of the members of the Association shall not be subject to payment of Association debts.

ARTICLE IV  
Meetings

Section 1. The legislative and regulatory powers of the Association shall be vested in the general membership of the Association who shall be called to convene at least annually at an Annual Reunion Meeting.

Section 2. The time and place of such Annual Meeting, or any other general meeting of the members, shall be set forth in the By-Laws of the Association.

ARTICLE V  
Amendments

Section 1. This Constitution shall be amended by a two-thirds vote of members present and voting at the Annual Reunion meeting, provided that adequate notice (30 days) of the proposed amendment has been furnished to the membership.

Section 2. Notice of approved amendments will be furnished to the membership within 120 days after the Annual Reunion Meeting.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto subscribed our name

this 30 JUL 88. (See photo of original signatories). President Roy L. Tiorta, Vice President Allan R. Whittingham, Secretary-Treasurer Lewis D. Barger.

The above is verbatim extract from Historical Records of the “Association.” A set of By-Laws with Nine Articles were drawn up to support the CONSTITUTION as stated here. 18 Aug 1989, Amendments were made to the By-Laws by President Allan R. Whittingham, Vice President Richard R. Swain, Secretary Treasurer William R. Oaxaca, to wit:

ARTICLE III

Officers-Elections and Replacements

Section 1. The elected Officers of this Association shall consist of a President, Vice President and a Secretary-Treasurer, each elected for a term of two (2) years. These Officers shall constitute the Board.

Section 5. a. A Board of Trustees shall be established to provide advice and guidance to the existing Board of Officers of this Association, on matters of Policy and long-range objectives.

b. The members of this Board of Trustees shall be elected for a term of two (2) years at the annual Reunion of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Association.

c. The Board of Trustees shall consist of five (5) members, one of whom shall be selected as Chairman by the other Trustees present at each meeting.

d. An incumbent may be re-elected but shall not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms.

e. The outgoing President of this Association shall serve as advisor to this Board of Trustees until such time he is replaced by the next outgoing President.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, We have hereunto subscribed our signature on the 18<sup>th</sup> Day of August, 1989. Named Troopers, WWII Veterans in 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment Campaigns, Los Negros, Leyte-Samar, Luzon and Occupation of Japan. All WWII 12<sup>th</sup> Veterans are deceased with the possible exception of William R. Oaxaca. We have not heard from Bill in more than two years or received any notice of his crossing over.

The Original Constitution and By-Laws have been our guideposts for the current day structure. Our By-Laws can be viewed on the Web Site www.12thCav.US. In 1998 the Originals passed the Mantle to Vietnam Era Veterans and some amendments were made. Taking the lead then were COL (RET) James W. Dingeman, Honorary COL of the Regiment, Jack Pellington, CSM John Berger (deceased).

As more Vietnam Era Veterans became associated our Officer structure remained true to the above CONSTITUTION and By-Laws. President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer positions remain as the foundation of the Association. In the early 2000s a change was made to have the Secretary-Treasurer positions as two distinct positions. Crossed Sabers Newsletter was published quarterly by the Treasurer. A Web Site was developed and managed by a Volunteer appointed by President and Vice President, responsibility for Crossed Sabers Newsletter was assumed by a Volunteer Trooper. Three Troopers served as Chaplains to the Association, COL (RET) Bill Lord (1-12 Vietnam 1965 Chaplain), James Abram (C 1-12 Vietnam 1966-67), Dwight Edwards (D 1-12 Vietnam 1965-66). All crossed over to Fiddlers Green since 2016.

As of now 2024, Primary Officers of the Association are: James W. Dingeman, Honorary COL of the Regiment; Doug Warden, Honorary Sergeant Major of the Regiment; James R. Stokely, President; Thomas L. Crabtree, Secretary-Treasurer; Fred Wilson, Web Site Manager. Board of Trustees are: Allen Lynch, Al Freeland, Morris Goins. Vice President position remains vacant.

Since 2018, formal meetings have been via Cell Phone Face Time links, as some experienced challenges in traveling to reunion locations, some crossing over, and COVID disruptions. Our objective is to resume the Business meetings at the Annual Division Reunion 2024 during the 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment Luncheon as was done prior to 2018. This is an excellent opportunity for present day Troopers and recent War Era Veterans to become part of the 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association.

I remind all 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment Troopers of the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion in Branson, MO, 10-14 September 2024. Details in the next column and more specifics about the Association legacy. If interested in joining the Association and becoming an active part of the future contact President James W. Stokely at 724-992-8358 or Thomas L. Crabtree at 432-853-4851. We, the current Officers and Trustees remain SEMPER PARATUS, for as long as we breathe to sustain the Association in perpetuity for succeeding generations of 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Soldiers. Who else can proclaim the Traditions, History, and Achievements of our Legacy than those who have been part of it.

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

TO our Active-Duty Soldiers and recent era Veterans, May the Lead Tanker keep the mud off the Track Wheels and lead you to the right staging area. See You all in Louisville or Branson.

CRABTREE OUT-‘BOOT to BOOT’ and SEMPER PARATUS!

Contact the scribe to share your  
12<sup>th</sup> Cav stories here!

If you were ever a part of 12<sup>th</sup> CAV,  
join their Association

<[www.12thCav.com](http://www.12thCav.com)>

SUPPORT YOUR UNIT LEGACY!



## 7th CAV News



**Jack (Boz) Parente**  
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bozparente@gmail.com



Greetings, Garryowen Troopers! Welcome to the Mar/Apr issue of 7th Cav News. The lead story for this edition comes straight from the pen of none other than our previous 7th Cav Scribe, my former platoon leader in Vietnam, and close friend, Dr. Karl "3/6" Swenson.



Jack Parente receiving his cane

**PHCP.1 >By Karl Swenson:** On 13 January 2024 some 60 combat-wounded Veterans gathered at the US Navy National UDT/SEAL Museum in Fort Pierce, FL, to receive a personalized, hand-carved cane from the Purple Heart Cane Project. Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Airmen from WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan were recognized. Canes were received either by the service member or by a relative. I was surrounded by heroes of the greatest magnitude, including our scribe, Jack Parente, who is seen in the photo receiving his cane.

Heading up this magnificent event was Lloyd Lasenby, president of the Purple Heart Cane Project, also seen in the photo. Lloyd served as a squad leader with the 2nd Battalion,

502nd Infantry, 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam. He now spends his time working with the wood carvers who create these wonderful masterpieces of art, one at a time. The canes are truly a military history of each service member who receives one. Carved into the cane are the awards and decorations received, the patches of units served with in combat, and the service member's name. The head of each cane has been fashioned into the head of an eagle and each one is distinctively different.

At this ceremony, a hero who was wounded during both WWI and WWII was honored with a cane, received by his grandson. Everyone who received a cane was called individually to the podium as their military history and decorations were being read to the crowd of about 250 friends and relatives. Lloyd invites any Trooper who has received a Purple Heart to make an application for a personalized cane. All that you need to do is to fill out the application form and send it to Lloyd along with a copy of your DD Form 214. You must provide your own transportation to Fort Pierce and you, or your designee must be present to receive the cane at the ceremony. Canes are given only one time a year. You can get your application form on Facebook from the Purple Heart Cane Project's page there or copy this link <<https://purpleheartcaneproject.org/events/?>> Send it to Lloyd at Purple Heart Cane Project, P.O. Box 650196, Vero Beach, FL 32965. A final note – these canes are free to the recipients, but the project must pay the bills. Lloyd told me that they have at least \$57 invested in each cane that is given to a recipient as well as other costs of doing business.

If you are looking for a worthwhile place for your donations, I can think of none better than the Purple Heart Cane Project, a 501-c-3 nonprofit organization. Please send Lloyd a few bucks, you will be creating memories for a combat Veteran. If all of the 7th Cavalry did that, we could fund the project for a year or better! Join me in donating \$5 or \$10 to honor our brothers and sisters who have been wounded in combat. Thank you. Karl Swenson.

This photo of Karl receiving his cane shows the artistry, craftsmanship, and individuality of each hand-carved Purple Heart Cane Project masterpiece.



Karl Swenson receiving his cane

**>A note from our Association Secretary:** The election of the President of the 7th U.S. Cavalry Association is set to be conducted at the 7th Cavalry's luncheon meeting at the June Reunion in Louisville. Please text, call, or email John Guillory, no later than May 31, 2024, if you are interested in the President position: 951-283-7458 or <[manhunter6869@yahoo.com](mailto:manhunter6869@yahoo.com)>." Thank you! Regards, John Guillory

**>With most of the 1st Cavalry Division Association's active membership** being Vietnam Era Troopers, the individual Unit Associations that fall under the 1CDA are in fear of their unit legacy dying out. Most of the leadership in the Unit Associations are from the Vietnam Era. They are hoping to pass on the reins to younger generations. If your unit has an association and you are not a member of it, please consider joining. Also, reach out and link into your unit Scribe, their information is at the top of their column of this *Saber* newspaper. Please step up. These Associations need YOU! **7th CAV:** <[www.us7thcavalry.com](http://www.us7thcavalry.com)> / **8th CAV:** <[www.8Cavalry.com](http://www.8Cavalry.com)> / **12th CAV:** <[www.12thCav.com](http://www.12thCav.com)> / **15 MED:** <[www.15thMedBnAssociation.org](http://www.15thMedBnAssociation.org)>

**>The Department of the Army announces the deployment of the 1st Cavalry Division to Europe.** The 1st Cav Div Headquarters will replace the 3rd Infantry Division Headquarters in command of a regular rotation of forces to support the United States' commitment to NATO allies and partners. Also deploying as part of the rotation are the First Team's 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team "Ironhorse," the 1st Cav Div Artillery "Red Team," the 1st Combat Aviation Brigade "Air Cav" and the 1st Cav Div Sustainment Brigade "Wagonmasters".

Approximately 5,500 1st Cav Div Troops and more than 2,000 pieces of equipment will travel halfway around the globe to take part in joint and multinational training while supporting NATO allies and partners in the region.

**>Congratulations to SGT Derek Stevens,** 2nd Battalion, 7th U.S. Cavalry Regiment "Ghost Battalion" for not only graduating from the arduous US Army Sniper School but also receiving the Top Shot award! Excellence matters in the

Ghost Battalion, and their Snipers constantly lead the way. Whether it's attending Ranger School or achieving the best Sniper Team in the Brigade and Division, we can count on these Troopers to perform at the highest level possible. SGT Stevens (middle) has been hand-selected to coach SGT Ray Sierras (left) and SGT Ethan Prill (right) as they represent the First Cavalry Division at the International Sniper Competition this April.

**>For years the Army has been battling** severe challenges attracting qualified volunteers and retaining experienced Soldiers, but the 1st Cavalry Division is doing better than most in recruiting and retention, according to MG Kevin Admiral, the Cav's commanding general, shown in photo. "Right now, by a margin of two-to-one, 1st Cav Division Soldiers are leading all 10 divisions in FORSCOM." With the Army at risk of having the fewest Soldiers in its ranks since 1938, Admiral said the division is holding its own in attracting volunteers. "We have people out there, making sure they're telling the Army story, the importance of service to the nation, and why it is important to America." Admiral said that Army-wide, he feels that the *Future Soldier Prep Program* at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, is the way of the future. The program gives those who want to



MG Admiral

**>By: Colonel Phillip N. Ash, USMC** The U.S. Armed Forces are facing an unprecedented recruiting crisis. The inability of the military to fill its ranks is an obvious national security issue that every American should care about. There is divergence on the cited reason for declining recruitment numbers, varying from the propensity to serve, access to interested audiences during the Covid pandemic, the temperament of Generation Z, and physical and mental fitness to serve. All of these are worthy discussion topics, but exceptionally difficult to resolve. One simpler option for mitigating the recruitment challenge could be to rethink the military's recent medical modernization effort designed to streamline medical care, before, during, and after service—specifically the application of Military Health System Genesis (MHS Genesis). This system was conceived to minimize medical attrition, ease downstream disability payments by early identification of disqualifying conditions, and reduce the time spent by a recruiter tracking down medical documentation. Instead, it has extended timelines, created unintended impediments to service, and generally slowed recruiting efforts for all services nationally. MHS Genesis should be stopped and adapted at every level to address its negative effects on recruiting.

**>I have read a lot of war stories over the years** and found that Vietnam War Stories, especially those of the first-person nonfiction variety, are all pretty similar. Only occasionally do they depart from the norm and differentiate themselves from the pack. Recently I had the good fortune to read one of these breakaways, an excellent book called "*The Third Herd*," and I was pleased to learn that the book was written by one of our own. Garryowen mud-Soldier **Master Sergeant (Ret) Adrian Garcia, a Veteran of the 3rd Platoon, A 2/7, 1ACD** has crafted a story that describes in remarkable detail the Vietnam War from the perspective of a Grunt assigned to a unit involved in some of Vietnam's most violent and tragic events. The author maintains a consistently gritty texture as he describes what it was like to be an Infantryman during the Vietnam War. Here are a few short examples from the book: "*The men I describe on these pages live and fight in the jungle far from the luxuries of showers, barracks, bunks, cold drinks, and the three hot meals a day that most of the servicemen enjoy in Vietnam. We sleep in bunkers, trenches and foxholes, and seldom twice in the same place. We eat C-rations, drink water from streams, and smell of rain, mud, wind, powder and sweat. We fight not only the enemy, but also leeches, thirst, night, weather, and fear,*" and, "*Maybe this war really was about the cost of freedom, free democracy, and American values, but to us grunts it was only about survival.*" This is a very interesting read, and it is an important piece of 2/7 history told from dirt level. The paperback and Kindle versions are now available on Amazon.

**>On 17 Mar 69, the 52 men of Echo Recon 1/7th Cav,** engaged the enemy on a small hilltop by the Dong Nai River in III Corps, South Vietnam. We, the grateful survivors of that battle, take this opportunity to remember our friends who died on that hilltop. Please remember: John Charles Davenport, Harold Paul Degner, Rodger Lynn Garlick, Eugene Green, Raimundo Marquez-Quinones, David Arthur Mitchell, Joseph A Petrarca, Dewey Junior Ray, John Leonard Rueth, Firman Andrew Titus, Bernard Anthony Zambrano. Garryowen, brothers.

**>If you have a story, announcement, tribute, obituary, or anything involving the 7th Cavalry** that you would like to see in this column, I urge you to send it to me at either the email or snail mail address in the header. We are particularly in need of anything related to the 7th Cav that was written by anyone too young for the Vietnam War. 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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Murray, KY 42071  
270-978-1075  
airmobile68@gmail.com  
www.8Cavalry.org



Hello again everyone. Winter is over. They get tougher every year. All I can say is thank God I lived to see another change in seasons.

We lost a great friend of Veterans and the military this year. Toby Keith apologized to no one, about his love and support of this country. My favorite line in any of his songs was, “We’ll put a boot in your ass.” I think his recording of “Don’t Let the Old Man In” spoke for many of us.

Hope everyone is doing well. As I always say, I hope you have been able to help a Veteran or a friend out.

Do not Let Em In

I am going to stats on this one. As I understand most of the Vietnam Veterans are in their mid-70s. Most of us are retired. Some of us receive social security, job related benefits from past employers, and VA benefits. So, I hope that you and I will be able to spend a few bucks. In our younger days, supporting, and raising a family was uppermost in our minds. I am challenging everyone that reads this article to get out, do something fun, do something that you wanted to do back in the day. Spend some of that money you worked hard for. God bless the people that are not in that position. Health reasons are the number one reason some cannot do it. It is not easy, I sit and look out the window and wish I could do more, but I thank God for what I can do. So, in the words of Larry the Cable Guy. “Get R Done.” So, Mr. Gun, what have you done in your old age to Get R Done? My first is reunions. More about that later. Riding the rails. You can go anywhere in this country by train. All stations are required to be handicapped accessible; railway employees are more accommodating than you would expect. Plus, they have great Veteran discounts. If you are going across the country, get a sleeping car. My favorite trip was from Chicago to Portland, Oregon. Beautiful scenery and totally relaxing. Next, federal and state parks. Some of us are just a few hours away from one. They cost us nothing. Go to <www.nps.gov> for information on how to access your pass now. These are great trips to see with your family. This one is on my bucket list. Paddle boat trips. Ride the Mighty Mississippi, historic Ohio, the Tennessee, Cumberland, and so many more. I have seen pictures and I gotta go. So do it, and you and I might meet up.

Hep C

When I first began seeking health care from the VA, and/or other medical professionals, one of the top five questions asked was “Are you suicidal?” I and many, many of Vietnam Veterans believe that the number one question should be

did you receive blood or were you injected with needles in the service? We all were. After about the second day in the military, we were lined up, and both arms were popped. Jet or air guns were delivering the different drugs we received with awe and shock to most. It has been published that jet detectors had the capability to transmit blood borne pathogens into flesh. How many of us received blood from medics, field hospitals and other medical facilities? Blood tests, dental procedures and so many other ways to encounter tainted blood. One sad way was with shared needles. The numbers are incredibly low, but it happened. Please if you ever got blood in any way, or poked with a needle, ask for a Hep C test.

Columbus, GA Reunion May 1 – 5, 2024

The 8<sup>th</sup> Cav Association President Tommy Harris has worked tirelessly setting up this reunion. So many things: transportation, lodging, food, and activities, must be worked out. Our group has had several reunions in Columbus, and we have always had a wonderful time. People there are kind and really appreciate us visiting their town. Columbus is a beautiful Southern city located in the Western region of Georgia. Many Veterans have retired there after serving at Fort Hal Moore. The following are some things you can do while there.

Chattahoochee River Walk: Stroll down the shores of this historic river with plenty of stores and restaurants. The Columbus Botanical Gardens: If you like flowers and gardens, this is the place for you. Life’s a garden, dig it! The National Infantry Museum: everyone who ever put on a U.S. military uniform will be proud while exploring this magnificent piece of military history.

Again, I plead for everyone that can make it to come. Let us make it the biggest reunion ever! C’m on down and let us show the world that we will never give up on the 8<sup>th</sup> Cav and never let its legacy die. I believe there is a bunch of us that feel that way. Get a fire in your gut and attack this like we did in all the wars we fought in so bravely. 1/8, 2/8, 3/8, we are all one.

Below is the registration form. Follow the easy registration, get your hotel reservation, and send the form and money as soon as you can. Do not be square, be there! This same registration form can be found on the 8<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Association web site, <[www.8Cavalry.com](http://www.8Cavalry.com)>.

I look forward to meeting you and your families. Come to meet new friends, visit with old friends, and see someone from 50+ years ago, I did.

Last, But Not Least

I would like to extend a huge thank you to Tina Wilgeroth. She does many jobs at 1<sup>st</sup> Cav Div Assn, including Program Director, Editor of the *Saber*, and graphics programs. When at the division reunions you see a lady handing out instructions or directions, or even kind words, it is her. She is even trying to help us recruit new Troopers for the different Cav Associations. She is a huge help to all of us and I want her to know how much we all appreciate everything she does. Thanks Tina!

If you have questions about upcoming events give me a holler. Please take care of each other and help a Vet. Honor and Courage

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

If you were ever a part of 8<sup>th</sup> CAV, join their Association <[www.8Cavalry.com](http://www.8Cavalry.com)>

SUPPORT YOUR UNIT LEGACY!

8<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment Association Reunion May 1-5, 2024, in Columbus, GA

All units attached to 8<sup>th</sup> Cav are welcome!

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1      REGISTRATION 9am – 6pm

Registration Fee (Vets only) \$20 each      Qty\_\_\_\_\_ Total\_\_\_\_\_

Bus Tickets, \$50 for 3 days      Qty\_\_\_\_\_ Total\_\_\_\_\_

THURSDAY, MAY 2

9am: Bus leaves for Little White House Trip, \$10.80/person      Qty\_\_\_\_\_ Total\_\_\_\_\_

11:45am: Bus leaves for Bulloch House Buffet Lunch, \$18/person      Qty\_\_\_\_\_ Total\_\_\_\_\_

FRIDAY, MAY 3

9am: Bus leaves for Ft Benning Trip, lunch in mess hall, \$7/person      Qty\_\_\_\_\_ Total\_\_\_\_\_

SATURDAY, MAY 4

9am: Bus leaves for Infantry Museum, 12:30pm: Bus leaves for lunch at motel

6pm: Bus leaves for Banquet at National Infantry Museum

Dinner \$37/person; plated dinner      Qty\_\_\_\_\_ Total\_\_\_\_\_

10pm: Bus departs for motel

Mail check/money order and form to Paul Braun (Treasurer) 652 Hamacher Waterloo, IL 62298      Grand Total \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Veteran: \_\_\_\_\_

Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Name of Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mail this registration form & check  
to  
Paul Braun  
652 Hamacher  
Waterloo, IL 62298

Which unit did you serve in: \_\_\_\_\_

Years: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle One: WWII, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, Other

Are you staying at Doubletree Hotel Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

What day do you arrive? \_\_\_\_\_

Hotel Reservations Information Doubletree Hotel, 5351 Sidney Simons Blvd, Columbus, GA 31904 888-370-0998  
Room rate \$144 + tax/night, with a \$5 hotel fee. Mention you’re with 8<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regt Assn  
Free breakfast & Free parking



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

Turning the Corner Print Qty: \_\_\_\_\_ Total:\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Liberation of Baqubah Print Qty: \_\_\_\_\_ Total:\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount Due: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Form of Payment:  
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(Service Charges Apply)

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302 N. Main St.  
Copperas Cove, TX 76522

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Oregon

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Texas

2014  
Illinois

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2016  
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Please list the years.

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

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

NEW PINS



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



The 2d Battalion, 12th Cavalry was given the mission to prepare the defense of LZ Grant to withstand massive ground, mortar, and rocket attacks while also blocking the route from the Cambodian border to Saigon and destroying the enemy's caches of food and ammunition. The 2-12th CAV moved its command post to LZ Grant in early February 1969.

LZ Grant was originally established by the 1st Cavalry Division during Operation Sheridan Sabre and located eleven kilometers east northeast of Nui Ba Den on a major People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) and Vietcong (VC) infiltration route.

On 21 February 1969, B Company, 2-12 CAV arrived at LZ Grant and set up their defense around the perimeter and coordinated with the Tactical Operations Center (TOC) and artillery units already present. The terrain to the north, west, and south favored the enemy because of the thick jungle cover.

At 0330 on the 23rd the LZ received heavy fire from recoilless rifles, rockets, and mortars. Coordinated with this attack, sappers attempted to breach the wire at the South Gate. Despite the heavy volume of fire from the enemy the Troopers of B Company and E Company held their positions and disrupted the actions of the enemy sappers. Direct fire artillery was used against the enemy and the combination of these fires caused the enemy to withdraw at first light. At least 16 enemy soldiers were killed and two were captured.

On 6 March, D Company closed on LZ Grant and took over the base defense from B Company. At 0400 8 March, the LZ again came under intense mortar, rocket, and small arms fire. Almost immediately, the TOC was destroyed by a 122 mm rocket with a delayed fuse, killing the Battalion Commander, LTC Peter Gorvad, and two members of his staff. MAJ Billy Brown, the battalion S-3, described the scene as he entered the TOC: "The colonel was lying just about where I left him, sitting in a chair in front of the map board. Our intelligence sergeant was lying wounded under a table. A radio operator was wounded and flat on his back but still talking on the radio." Troopers under the direction of their officers and noncommissioned officers began engaging the enemy with direct fire and the Battalion Artillery Liaison Officer coordinated with A Btry, 1-30th FA and C Btry, 1-77th FA to conduct direct fire, harassing and interdicting fire missions on woodlines and requested Aerial Rocket Artillery (ARA) and air support. The Pathfinders on the LZ were first to contact the ARA gunships and successfully directed the first ARA missions. The platoon from A Co, 8th Engineers manned bunkers on the north side of the LZ, supporting the hard-pressed Troopers of D Company. In several areas the enemy managed to breach two of the three strands of defensive wire, but none made it to the final strand. Individual acts of heroism were numerous and the officers and enlisted men of all the units worked together to drive off the enemy attack. MEDEVAC helicopters were directed to land on the LZ during the attack. The initial sweep of the area found 157 enemy killed and two were captured.

The battalion had less than 48 hours to reorganize and compensate for their losses, because on the evening of 11 March, LZ Grant was attacked by an estimated enemy battalion supported by mortar and rocket fire. The enemy again

attempted to breach the wire and despite the intense mortar fire and the fatigue of two sleepless nights the Troopers held their positions while placing effective fire upon the enemy. The fire from the artillery units again proved invaluable to the defense of the LZ. In several instances the enemy was stopped before the final strand of tactical wire. Individual acts of heroism were numerous. Enemy contact was broken at 0330 and only sporadic mortar fire and small arms fire was directed at the Troopers on LZ Grant. A final body count around the LZ showed 89 enemy killed and 2 enemy captured.

The successful defense of LZ Grant during the 17-day period from 22 February to 11 March 1969 prevented the North Vietnam Army forces from overrunning and destroying a strategic logistical and tactical support base. Enemy losses during the assaults were 285 killed and 6 prisoners taken.

While the actions on LZ Grant resulted in a recommendation for the Presidential Unit Citation (Third Oak Leaf Cluster), the Department of the Army downgraded the recommendation.

**The Valorous Unit Award (Second Oak Leaf Cluster)** is awarded to: 2d Battalion, 12th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) and its attached units:

- A Battery, 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery
- C Battery, 1st Battalion, 77th Artillery
- 1st Platoon, A Company, 8th Engineer Battalion
- Team 1, 11th Pathfinder Platoon, 11th Aviation Group

**Citation**

2d Battalion, 12th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry (Airmobile) and its attached units distinguished themselves by extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed hostile force from 22 February 1969 to 11 March 1969 in the defense of Landing Zone Grant, Tay Ninh Province, in the Republic of Vietnam. During this period, the officers and enlisted men of these units individually, collectively, at all levels of command, and without exception, performed their mission with great valor, honor, and distinction and a professionalism far beyond that ordinarily expected from men in sustained combat. Suffering 67 casualties, including 10 mortally wounded, one of which was the battalion commander, the battalion continued to inflict heavy casualties on the enemy, who proved to be extremely well-equipped and determined. Repulsing massive ground, mortar, and rocket attacks on three different occasions at Landing Zone Grant, the 2d Battalion, 12th Cavalry and its attached units acted as a blocking force between the Cambodian border and the capital City of Saigon. The extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty displayed by the members of the 2d Battalion, 12th Cavalry and its attached units are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon themselves, their units, and the Armed Forces of the United States.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 356, dated 27 December 1971.

Photos of LZ Grant provided by SP5 Terry Moon who worked for the 1st Cavalry Division Public Information Office in Vietnam from November 1968 to November 1969. Author of the book, *How Did You Get This Job?*, a journal of his year with First Cav PIO. Contains over 400 photos. Available on Amazon.com.

**Sources:** *Operational Report – Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 1st Cavalry Division, Period Ending 30 April 1969*, dated 8 September 1969. *1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division Nomination for the Presidential Unit Citation*, dated 20 January 1971. *The 1st Air Cavalry in Vietnam, August 1965 to December 1969*, Edited by MAJ J.D. Coleman, Division PIO, Dia Nippon Printing Co., LTD, Tokyo, Japan.

Photos by SP5 Terry Moon, Division PIO, 1968-69



LZ Grant artillery gun and crew



Above: LZ Grant aerial view  
Below: The mud of LZ Grant





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

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This is a history of the 15th Brigade Support Battalion, previously the 15th Forward Support Battalion, call sign: "Gambler." <<https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/>

agency/army/15fsb.htm>

"The mission of the 15th Brigade Support Battalion, 'Gambler,' is to, on order, deploy to any theater of operations, execute logistical operations in support of 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, redeploy, reconstitute and prepare for future operations. The 15th Support Battalion had a long heritage of providing logistic support to the Army. For more than 75 years, the Battalion had deployed around the world to participate in numerous campaigns.

"The 15th Brigade Support Battalion was one of the most decorated active support battalions in the US Army. Tracing its lineage to when it was first constituted on 23 March 1925 as the 1st Medical Squadron, the unit had been first assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division. The distinctive insignia, coat-of-arms, and motto 'Standing By' were adopted in July 1928. On 25 March 1949, the unit was redesignated as the 15th Medical Battalion.

"On 22 June 1976, the Battalion motto was changed to 'Service Above Self.' On 15 September 1985, the 15th Medical Battalion was inactivated at Fort Hood, Texas with elements being incorporated into the newly formed 2nd Forward Support Battalion as part of the reorganization of the Army's logistic support structure. Initially, Forward Support Battalions were intended to have no lineage or honors.

"This was soon changed, and the Battalion was redesignated as the 15th Forward Support Battalion on 1 May 1987, being given the full lineage, honors, and colors of the 15th Medical Battalion. This was to incorporate the new support doctrine of 'fuel, arm, and fix forward.' For over 13 years, this concept had been the underpinning of flexible, responsive logistic support, enabling land forces to conduct continuous and effective combat operations on the Airland Battlefield. With a multifunctional staff, a headquarters detachment and three diversified company-sized units, the Forward Support Battalion performed four of the six tactical logistic functions (fueling, arming, fixing, and sustaining). With help from the 1st Cavalry Division's Main Support Battalion and the Corps Support Command, the direct support logistics structure ensured that maneuver commanders could keep their units fixed, fueled, manned, moved, armed, and sustained indefinitely.

"The mission of the 15th Forward Support Battalion was to provide logistical support to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team. To this end the Battalion was organized with three companies. The Headquarters and A Company consisted of all battalion-level command and staff personnel, all battalion food service personnel, and a support operations section. Additionally, it was the supply and service company in the Battalion and provided petroleum supply, ration support and general supply support to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team (not to be confused with the modular brigade combat team). B Company was a maintenance company that conducted direct support repairs and services on equipment in the 2nd Brigade Combat Team. The company had the capability of repairing tracked and wheeled equipment, engineer equipment, fire control equipment, and tank turrets. Additionally, the service and recovery section provided metalworking support and vehicle recovery support. The company also maintained a repair parts warehouse. C Company was a medical company that had the mission of treating, holding and evacuating patients from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

"In October of 1990, Gambler was called into action, deploying to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Desert Shield and subsequently Operation Desert Storm. On 20 October 1991, the Battalion provided critical logistical support to the 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd Brigade when it launched the first ground strike into Iraq during Operation Knight Strike. In August of 1995, Gambler was again called to action for Operation Intrinsic Action in response to Iraqi aggression. Deploying with 48 hours' notice, the Battalion enabled the Brigade to maintain its highest level of readiness before returning to Fort Hood, Texas and passing the mission to follow-on units.

"In March of 1999, the 15th Forward Support Battalion relieved her sister battalion, the 115th Forward Support Battalion, as center of logistics operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina as part of the NATO Stabilization Force during Operation Joint Forge (SFOR 5). While in theater, Gambler served as the command-and-control element of the 15th Logistics Task Force, working closely with augmentees from the 404th Aviation Support Battalion, the 27th Main Support Battalion, and the 13th Corps Support Command during the critical period of the Breko Decision and the unrelated NATO Air War against the Former Republic of Yugoslavia.

"In November of 2001, as a direct response to terrorist attacks on the United States, the Battalion deployed 'no-notice,' as a part of Task Force Black Jack to North-Western Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. For six months the Battalion provided critical logistical support to the Brigade in support of its deliberate defense arrayed on the Iraqi border to further deter Iraqi aggression.

"In January 2004, the Battalion deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. For 14 months, the Battalion conducted Combat Service Support, Combat Health Support, Civil-Military and Combat Operations in Baghdad, An Najaf, Al Fallujah and Northern Babil. The 15th Brigade Support Battalion had to control the area abutting Camp Victory North to the east to deny sanctuary from which to attack the 2nd Brigade headquarters on the edge of Baghdad's international airport. The expedient move might have been to evict the 1,500 or so Iraqis living in the Victory North sector, Headquarters for the 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat team.

"Gambler's main job was providing logistics for the 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team, overseeing support functions such as the mayor's cell, mechanical repairs and medical care. (COL) Ray McCarver said Gambler decided to take on force protection to free up as many war fighters as possible for combat. During this deployment the motto was returned to the original 'Standing By' on 23 March 2004. Gambler returned from Iraq in February 2005 having not lost one Trooper in 14 months of combat operations.

"On 15 July 2005, as part of the Army's transformation towards a modular force, the 15th Forward Support Battalion was inactivated along with the rest of the Division Support Command (DISCOM). As part of the modular transformation, assets previously held at division level, but habitually assigned to its brigades during operations, were made organic to those brigades. The unit was

reorganized, redesignated, and reactivated as the 15th Brigade Support Battalion and assigned to the similarly reorganized and redesignated 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

"In September 2005, the Battalion deployed to New Orleans in support of Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. During Operation Southern Bell the Battalion supported the 2nd Brigade Combat Team out of Algiers Naval Base providing excellent food, water, supply, fuel, maintenance support, and medical care."

Other support battalions presently listed in the 1st Cavalry Division are the 115th Brigade Support Battalion "Muleskinners" 1st Brigade Combat Team (Iron Horse); again, 15th Brigade Support Battalion "Gambler" 2nd Brigade Combat Team (Black Jack); 215th Brigade Support Battalion "Blacksmiths" 3rd Brigade Combat Team (Grey Wolf); 615th Brigade Support Battalion "Cold Steel" 1st Air Cavalry Brigade (Warrior). I see nothing listed for 1st Cavalry Division Artillery (Red Team) but list an HHB and DIVARTY. 1st Cavalry Division Sustainment Brigade (Wagon Master) lists among its units the 553rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion "Gunslingers."

I'll try to research more about these units, something I should have done. It is interesting to know about the current 1st Cavalry Division structuring, and its units. In 25 years writing this column I have only written about the 15th Medical Battalion in Vietnam. I have only heard from one member in BSB of the current division, and then not for long.

When the 1st Cavalry Division was Airmobile in Vietnam, with dismounted infantry and supporting artillery units; 8th Engineers, MPs, the many supporting helicopter battalions, and everyone else, the 15th Medical Battalion supported all with critical FIRST TEAM medical support, for the three brigades. This included the use of the HHC aeromedical evacuation Air Ambulance Platoon, call sign MEDEVAC. The 1st Cavalry Division restructured, to a different time, and different places, presently.

The *Saber* notifies all its readers to contact the various scribes to add your stories. If you read the *Saber* then you must have an interest in the 1st Cavalry Division, not just the past, but also the present. Unlike many people on this planet, I am not a mind reader. You need to tell me about your experiences in the Division.

Get your fixed, or mobile devices if you have them, and write. What was, is, your MOS? Why did you, do you, have that MOS? What did you do, or what do you do with that MOS? Why are you in the Army? Did you deploy? If so, what was that like? Combat? Friends, or close associates? These are things anyone can write about to the *Saber* columnists.

A correction to the last column is that the mentioned author and MEDEVAC medic Dale McGuff was initially a platoon medic in 1-5 Cav, not 2-5 Cav. I wondered to myself why he did not mention LZ Ike, where 2-5 Cav was, and I reread his book to discover my own error. Never on Ike, but LZ Dolly with 1-5 Cav, until he transferred to MEDEVAC later in 1969.

Ask not what your Veterans' organization can do for you...but what you can do for your Veterans' organization.

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



**1CDSB 15th FMSU Soldiers Return From Deployment Taken 23Mar22 by SGT Brayton Daniel**

**Contact the scribe to share your 15<sup>th</sup> MED stories!**

**If you were ever a part of 15<sup>th</sup> MED, join their Association <[www.15thMEDBnAssociation.org](http://www.15thMEDBnAssociation.org)>**

**SUPPORT YOUR UNIT LEGACY!**

## WOMEN'S HISTORY

Continued from pg. 3

pilot, who both looked at Ranger School as the highest challenge to prepare them to lead Soldiers.

"The reasons I chose to come were the same as the men here: to get the experience of the elite leadership school and to give me the opportunity to lead my Soldiers the best that I can," Haver told the Army at the time. "I think if females continue to come to this course, they can be encouraged by what we have accomplished, but hopefully they're encouraged by the legacy that the Ranger community has left."

Since Griest and Haver shattered this barrier, over 30 female Soldiers have earned Ranger tabs, including enlisted Soldiers and National Guardsmen, Army Times reported.

### ANN E. DUNWOODY

Retired Army GEN Ann E. Dunwoody became the first woman to reach a four-star officer rank in the history of the United States military in 2008. Dunwoody, who led Army Materiel Command before her retirement in 2012, remained a pioneer throughout her decades-long service. In 1992, she became the first woman to command a battalion in the 82nd Airborne Division during the First Gulf War, according to the Purple Heart Foundation.

"I have never considered myself anything but a Soldier. I recognize that with this selection, some will view me as a trailblazer," Dunwoody said on her promotion at the time. "But it's important that we remember the generations of women, whose dedication, commitment and quality of service helped open the doors of opportunity for us today."

Dunwoody was a fourth-generation Army officer, and she released a book on leadership in 2015.



76th ANNUAL REUNION OF THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 19-23 June 2024

The Fort Knox Area Chapter invites you to join the rest of the First Team Family in Louisville, KY for the 76th Annual Reunion of the 1st Cavalry Division Association from 19-23 June 2024. 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 is open! The Reunion registration form will be included in the *Saber* until April '24. Those sending in registrations post-marked after 1 May 2024 must pay a late registration fee of \$50.

The Association will be providing our guests with transportation to the Louisville Slugger Museum and back to the Crowne Plaza Hotel on Friday 21 June 2024 (0930-1800) at a cost of \$20 per person. Additionally, a bus will be provided for members who wish to visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Elizabethtown, KY on Thursday 20 June (0930-1600), at \$40 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. There will be no bus passes needed for those attending the mixer or the Ladies Tea.

**NOTE: Cancellations are non-refundable after the 1 May 2024 deadline.**

**HOTEL INFORMATION**

We will be utilizing the Crowne Plaza Louisville Airport Expo Center for all our events. The Crowne Plaza has guaranteed a room rate of \$131 per night plus tax for rooms and there is no charge for parking. Make sure that you identify yourself as attending the 1st Cavalry Division Association Reunion. The hotel does provide a free shuttle service from the Louisville Airport and rental cars are available at the airport.

**Crowne Plaza Louisville Airport** (866) 888-0620 reference code: CR1  
830 Phillips Ln  
Louisville, KY 40209

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

I do not foresee the hotel running out of rooms, however if the need arises, I have provided additional hotels for our members to consider and in walking distance to the Crowne Plaza.

<b>Spring Hill Suites Louisville Airport</b>	(502) 361-9009
<b>Tru by Hilton Louisville Airport</b>	(502) 792-8800
<b>Hampton Inn Louisville Airport</b>	(502) 366-8100
<b>Howard Johnson by Windham Louisville Airport</b>	(502) 363-9952
<b>Courtyard by Marriott Louisville Airport</b>	(502) 368-5678

**RV PARK INFORMATION**

For our members traveling with an RV, I have provided you with several options:

**Derby Park Campgrounds & RV Parking** (502) 636-3532  
2900 7<sup>th</sup> Street Rd  
Louisville, KY 40216

**Brooks Mobile & RV Park** (502) 276-6090  
205 Sarver Ln  
Brooks, KY 40109

**Louisville North Campground** (812) 282-4474  
900 Marriott Dr  
Clarksville, IN 47129

**REUNION EVENT OVERVIEW**

You will notice several reunion event changes on the registration form. Instead of War Lunches we will be having a Legacy Breakfast. The Mixer has now been changed to the President's Reception. We did raise the registration costs, to include late registrations and Walk-in registrations. Beginning this year, we will no longer refund the registration fee at any point for a cancelation.

Transportation arrangements have been made for our members to visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park on our bus trip to Elizabethtown, KY on Thursday 20 June (0930-1800). Our local Fort Knox Chapter helped raise money and supported the The Wall Project. The cost for this trip is \$40 per person.

Additionally, we will offer a bus trip to to visit the Downtown Louisville area on Friday 21 June (0930-1600). There is a slight cost required for this transportation (\$20 per person). Louisville is a city full of culture and compassion. For the "Foodie," Louisville is ranked among the top 10 best new food cities; if Bourbon gets your engine running try the world's only Urban Bourbon 'city-wide' experience; and for the kid in all of us, visit the Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory or the Muhammad Ali Center. These are just a few things to do. Hop on the 'LouLift,' free downtown transportation, and you can see everything else the downtown area has to offer.

This year's Ladies Tea will be at the Waterfront Botanical Gardens. The Waterfront Botanical Gardens was started by Botanica, an umbrella organization for the local gardening community started in 1993 to help enlighten, entertain, and educate the community about the botanical world.

The President's Reception/Mixer will again be at Churchill Downs. This time you can bet on real races. Thursday is Night Racing in Kentucky. There will be a light meal available for attendees, a cash bar, and camaraderie while you take in a race or two.

As usual, we will have all other planned events in the Crowne Plaza: Legacy

Breakfast, Unit Lunches, Purple Heart Breakfast, Association Banquet, Group Breakfasts, and Memorial Service. 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 Reunion Banquet on Saturday night. If you are attending the banquet, you must get your tickets **marked with a table number** at the Banquet Seating table when picking up your registration packet. If you want to sit with specific people, we recommend that you all go to the Banquet Seating table together with your tickets available. Don't wait until the last minute or we may not be able to accommodate your needs.

Cavalry casual attire is appropriate for all reunion events. 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 aren't overly concerned with what you wear, so long as it isn't indecent!

The Association will provide a Reunion Room in the Crowne Plaza 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**

As always, the best part of any reunion is the people that attend. The 1st Cavalry Division Association Reunion brings in Troopers from almost 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 on down to Louisville in 2024!







76<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL 1<sup>st</sup> CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION REUNION, JUNE 19-23, 2024, in LOUISVILLE, KY  
is open to all members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Association

**WEDNESDAY JUNE 19**  
0900-1800 Registration Desk Open  
0900-1800 Gift Shop Open  
0900-2400 Reunion Room Open

**THURSDAY JUNE 20**  
0900-1600 Registration Desk Open  
0900-1600 Gift Shop Open  
0900-2400 Reunion Room Open  
0930-1800 Trip to Elizabethtown, KY  
1000-1100 Foundation Mtg  
1100-1300 Board of Governor’s Mtg  
1330-1400 Chapter Presidents Mtg  
2000-2200 President’s Reception/Mixer

**FRIDAY JUNE 21**  
0730-0900 Legacy Breakfast  
(in place of War Lunches)  
0900-1800 Registration Desk Open  
0900-1800 Gift Shop Open  
0900-2400 Reunion Room Open  
0930-1800 Bus Downtown  
1200-1400 Ladies Tea  
(Waterfront Botanical Gardens)  
1430-1530 Veterans Benefits Briefing

**SATURDAY JUNE 22**  
0730-0845 Purple Heart Breakfast  
0900-1100 General Membership Mtg  
0900-2400 Reunion Room Open  
0900-1500 Registration Desk Open  
0900-1600 Gift Shop Open  
1100-1300 Unit Luncheons  
1745-1845 Cocktails (Cash Bar)  
1900-2230 Association Banquet

**SUNDAY JUNE 23**  
0700-0830 Group Breakfast  
0700-0830 LRRP/Ranger Breakfast  
0900-1000 Memorial Service (Long Roll Muster)

VERSION 2  
UPDATED COPY

MAIL TO:

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

The 76<sup>th</sup> Annual 1CDA Reunion is at Crowne Plaza Louisville Airport, 830 Phillips Lane 40209, Louisville, KY (866)888-0620, June 19-23, 2024.  
Registration fee is required for Lifetime and Associate Member, not guests. Fee includes information packet with name tag(s), booklet and pin.  
\*\*REFUNDS: Cancellations must be received by 5:00pm May 1, 2024, in our office (254-547-6537) for a refund. **Registration fee is non-refundable.**  
\*\*Cancellations are non-refundable after the May 1, 2024 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**BUS PASSES: Prices are per person. ADA bus will be available.**

- Bus to Elizabethtown, KY- Thurs, June 20      \$40    Qty: \_\_\_\_\_    \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Bus to Downtown Louisville- Fri, June 21      \$20    Qty: \_\_\_\_\_    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**THURSDAY JUNE 20**

President’s Reception/Mixer Cash Bar, Buffet No bus pass needed	_____	\$ 45.00	\$ _____
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**FRIDAY JUNE 21**

Legacy Breakfast (in place of War Lunches)	_____	\$ 40.00	\$ _____
Ladies Tea Includes lunch at the Botanical Gardens No bus pass needed	_____	\$ 40.00	\$ _____

**SATURDAY JUNE 22**

Purple Heart Breakfast	_____	\$ 32.00	\$ _____
Unit Lunch (Circle your unit) 5C 7C 8C 9C 12C ENG AVN ARTY HQ LRRP	_____	\$ 50.00	\$ _____
Assoc Banquet (Circle your unit) 5C 7C 8C 9C 12C ENG AVN ARTY HQ LRRP	_____	\$ 65.00	\$ _____

**SUNDAY JUNE 23**

Group Breakfast	_____	\$ 32.00	\$ _____
LRRP Breakfast	_____	\$ 32.00	\$ _____

<b>REGISTRATION FEE:</b> (For member, not guests)	1	<b>\$ 40.00</b>	\$ _____
Active Duty w/ID	_____	\$ 20.00	\$ _____
Reunion Donation	_____	Donation	\$ _____
Saber Newspaper Renewal (\$20 per year)		<b>(\$20 per year)</b>	\$ _____
<u>REGISTRATION FEE AFTER MAY 15, 2024</u>		\$ 50.00	\$ _____

**GRAND TOTAL**      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE NOTE: Prices are based off of hotel costs, with no taxes or gratuities included.



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 **Wednesday, May 1, 2024.**  
Please send to [Memberships@1CDA.org](mailto:Memberships@1CDA.org)

CROSSED SABERS CHAPTER

Ladies and Gentlemen,  
What a great start to our new year! We recently conducted a Meet and Greet with the 1st Cav Div Command Team. It was an absolute honor to meet and talk with the Commanding General, MG Amiral and five members of his command team. We collectively look forward to the upcoming training schedule and ways, we as a Veteran organization can support the families here at home. A special thank you to our amazing staff of talented ladies who make us look like we know what we're doing, great job ladies! We are looking at **May 29<sup>th</sup>** for our next Stable Call, having a barbecue in the backyard at the **Association Headquarters**, spouses are welcome! As our plan develops, we will provide updates on the Chapter Facebook page: "**1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Association Crossed Sabers Chapter.**"  
First Team and Garryowen  
Tony Cole, President

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

Below is the photo from our Chapter meeting on February 3, 2024. Seated L-R: Jack Kranyak, Tom McBriarty, Al Johnson. Standing L-R: Bob Dagata, Tom Uznanski, Glen Bentz, Steve Zielenski, Bob Waz, Keith Moyer.  
Our next general membership meeting is **April 20, 2024**, at Manchester American Legion, Manchester, Ct., **1:00 pm**. All members and prospective members and guests are invited. For further details contact President Keith Moyer, **860-885-4330**, [<kpmoyerco@hotmail.com>](mailto:kpmoyerco@hotmail.com)



FLORIDA'S FIRST COAST CHAPTER

Our Congressman, John Rutherford, attended our February monthly meeting. His remarks were serious, humorous, insightful, and compelling. Yes, there is humor in Washington. There is also concern for the state of our nation and the workings of our government but nothing that can't be addressed with citizen involvement.  
If you live in Duval, Nassau, or St. Johns counties, and want to get on our



meeting notification list, use the phone provided and don't forget you have to dial 904 first.

NY/NJ CHAPTER

The NY/NJ Chapter held a very successful meeting on February 24 courtesy of the Elks Lodge in Ridgefield Park, NJ. The meeting was attended by 35 members, wives and interested parties. Members enjoyed an informative presentation from the Bergen County Division of Veterans Affairs, headed by their director, Shan Hutchinson. His staff included Kevin O'Hora, Veterans Service Officer and Andrea Mayes, Social Services Specialist. The team spoke about the services offered by their office and held meetings with chapter members to answer individual questions.  
Shaun also spoke about his 20-year Army career that included 18 years in specially selected units and 2½ years of combat experience between Afghanistan and Iraq. He is a retired Master Sergeant and served over half of his career with the famous



Bergen County Veterans Affairs Team with Robin Bartlett

75th Ranger Regiment where he held every position from rifleman to platoon sergeant. Shaun deployed to combat every year from 2001 to 2012 and was part of the initial invasions of both Afghanistan and Iraq.  
The chapter was saddened by the passing of a long-time chapter member, Pat Brosnan, also a member of the 5th Cav. The chapter sent flowers to his wake and funeral.  
Our chapter meetings are open to all service members regardless of branch, including family members and interested parties. Our next meeting will be on **May 4**, starting at **10:00 am** with a meet and greet, followed by presentations starting at 11:00 am. Guest speaker TBA. Our meetings are held at the **Elks Lodge**, 20 Spruce Street, Ridgefield Park, NJ. There is no cost to attend, and coffee and a free buffet lunch will be served. Come join us! Stay informed of future chapter events, send an email to Robin Bartlett, Chapter President,



Group photo of chapter meeting on 2.24.24

[<rbbartlett01@gmail.com>](mailto:rbbartlett01@gmail.com), 201-856-7530.

SHERIDAN'S CAVALRY CHAPTER

We are saddened to report the passing of Trooper Terry Hodous, 13th Signal Bn, 1966-67 on 5 January 2024. Terry was a member of the Sheridan's Cavalry Chapter since 2003. He was a very active member and was always there to help. Terry was the longtime Public Relations Officer of the chapter and the point of contact to the Association, submitting chapter news for publication in the *Saber*. He will be greatly missed by all. Till we meet again in Fiddlers Green, Terry, rest in peace.  
We have also recently learned of the passing of Trooper Salvatore "Sam" Fantino on 21 November 2023. Sam served in Company B, 2/7 Cavalry, 1965-66, and was a survivor of Ia Drang. He has been a member of Sheridan's Cavalry Chapter since 2012.  
Sheridan's Cavalry Chapter participates in the Unaccompanied Veterans Military Honors Ceremony at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery. This quarterly ceremony remembers those Veterans buried each quarter without receiving honors due to having no next of kin, homelessness, etc. The ceremony on January 8, 2024, honored fifty (50) such Veterans. Future dates for 2024 are April 9, July

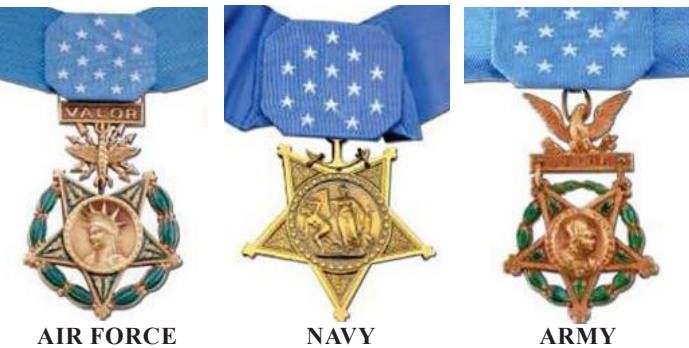
HAVE YOUR CHAPTER NEWS UPDATES  
POSTED HERE!

Whether you're a new member or not, refer to the Chapter Index on page 15 and link in to your nearest Chapter.  
Or form a New Chapter in your local area!  
Email [<memberships@1CDA.org>](mailto:memberships@1CDA.org) for details!

NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR DAY  
MARCH 25

National Medal of Honor Day on **March 25** is dedicated to all Medal of Honor recipients. It was on March 25, 1863, when the first Medals of Honor were presented. Secretary of War, Edwin Stanton presented Medals of Honor (Army) to six members of the "Great Locomotive Chase" or "Andrews Raiders" for their volunteering and participation during an American Civil War raid on April 12, 1862.  
Created in 1861, the Medal of Honor is the United States of America's highest military honor. It is awarded only to U.S. military personnel, by the President of the United States in the name of Congress, for personal acts of valor above and beyond the call of duty.

There are three versions of the Medal of Honor: one for the Army, one for the Navy and one for the Air Force, with personnel of the Marine Corps and the Coast Guard receiving the Navy version.



Since its creation, there have been 3,468 Medals of Honor awarded to the country's Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen.



CHAPTER INDEX

<p><b>CALIFORNIA CENTRAL COAST</b> Pres: Barney B. Jones P.O. Box 444 Pebble Beach, CA 93953 (831) 917-5952 Email: firstcav-cc-chapter@outlook.com</p> <p><b>COLUMBIA-WILLAMETTE</b> Pres: Terry Low 16560 S Harding Rd. Oregon City, OR 97045-9679 (503) 210-5558 Email: tangolima2505@comcast.net Website: www.Hood2Hood1stCav.webs.com Meets 1200 2nd Thurs of ea mos at the Elmer's Restaurant, 10001 NE Sandy Blvd, Portland, OR. No meeting in Dec.</p> <p><b>CONNECTICUT</b> 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 &amp; prospective members welcome.</p> <p><b>CROSSED SABERS</b> Pres: Tony Cole (254) 394-2891 Email: Olesarge19d@outlook.com Facebook: 1st Cavalry Division Association Crossed Saber Chapter Gen membership mtgs Mar &amp; Oct. Stable Calls: 4th Thurs of eamos, 6pm, except Nov, Dec and the month of the Assn Reunion. Stable Calls at various locations in Cen TX area.</p> <p><b>FLORIDA</b> 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</p>	<p><b>FLORIDA'S FIRST COAST</b> 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 &amp; southside Jacksonville. Call 904-534-8899 to be notified &amp; placed on mailing list.</p> <p><b>FLORIDA TROOP E "BLACK HAT"</b> 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</p> <p><b>FORT KNOX AREA</b> Pres: Thomas Ken O'Barr 12210 Valley Dr. Louisville, KY 40026-9501 (502) 228-8032 Email: ko42@bellsouth.net POC: Robert W. Griffin 64 Tabor Lane Elizabethtown, KY 42701-6158 (270) 737-5908 Email: lyngriffxx@windstream.net Facebook: 1st Cavalry Div Fort Knox Area Chapter Meets 3rd Sat of mos at 11am at Camp Knox Masonic Lodge #919, 1158 N. Dixie Hwy, Radcliff, KY.</p> <p><b>JAMES H. UNRUH CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA</b> 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</p>	<p><b>JAMES J. MASON WEST MICHIGAN</b> 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.</p> <p><b>JUMPING MUSTANGS 1-8 Cav</b> 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</p> <p><b>KETTLE MORaine</b> 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.</p>	<p><b>LOS ANGELES/ ORANGE COUNTY</b> 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</p> <p><b>LRPP/RANGER of the 1st Cav Division during the Vietnam War</b> 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.</p> <p><b>NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY</b> 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 &amp; buffet lunch. Send email to be added to mailing list for updates on upcoming meetings.</p> <p><b>NORTH CAROLINA TARHEEL</b> 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 &amp; Dec.</p>	<p><b>SHERIDAN'S CAVALRY</b> (Greater Chicago Area) Pres: Don Smolinski 630-841-1452 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 2024 meeting dates are March 9, May 11, Picnic August 10, October 12, Christmas Party December 7, 2024. All Meetings and events held at Roselle American Legion Post #1084, 344 East Maple Ave., Roselle, IL 60172.</p> <p><b>WALTER H. WESTMAN NORTHLAND</b> 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.</p> <p><b>WILLIAM A. RICHARDSON NATIONAL CAPITOL REGION</b> Pres: Linda Jantzen 3913 Ridge Road Annandale, VA 22003 (210) 849-9036 Email: signalinda88@gmail.com Facebook: 1<sup>st</sup> 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.</p>
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Send us YOUR Chapter photo, so it can appear in the next issue!

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**GOT CAVALRY HISTORICAL QUESTIONS?**

**Did you know we have a 1CDA Historian?**

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

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

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From the  
Director's Desk

Office of 1CDA

WE SUPPORT



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

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

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

### 1<sup>st</sup> CAVALRY DIVISION WALKING HISTORY TOUR

If you’re visiting Fort Cavazos, be sure to visit the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Headquarters (Bldg. 28000). They now 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, located behind the National Mounted Warfare Museum (projected to open July 2024). They also do their weekly Cav Demonstration on Thursdays, 10am at the stables. The Detachment and the Museum are not on post; therefore, no visitor’s pass is needed.

Stetsons are available in our Gift Shop,  
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Effective 1 July 2023

Due to the increased prices of paper, printing and postage, the price for the *Saber* newspaper will increase to \$20 per year (6 issues) or you have the option to purchase 5 years for \$75.

As of 1 January 2022  
ALL BOUNCED CHECKS WILL INCUR A \$25 FEE.

The next *Saber* newspaper is the  
**May / June 2024** edition.  
Deadline for submissions of your stories or photos is  
**Wednesday, May 1, 2024.**  
Please email to [Programs@1CDA.org](mailto:Programs@1CDA.org)

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Hope everyone is enjoying YOUR new calendar!

Thank you to our following member who has donated \$100 or more towards our 2024 calendar:

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SFC TETREAULT, Robert

\$100

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9<sup>th</sup> CAV SCRIBE NEEDED

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or writing for this column, please call the office  
or email us at  
<[Programs@1CDA.org](mailto:Programs@1CDA.org)>

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

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<[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



DIVISION DOINGS:

‘First Team’ Troopers Participate in Remagen Ready 24-1

Story & photos by SPC David Dumas November 9, 2023

FORT CAVAZOS, Texas:

An embodiment of unwavering duty and readiness, the 1st Cavalry Division participated in exercise Remagen Ready 24-1, an 11-day training exercise on Fort Cavazos focused on large-scale combat operations with the division as unit of action. Aiming to drive continuous improvement to the Gap Crossing Training Center, Remagen Ready was one of many exercises that will aid in the GTC Center becoming the premier venue for conducting combined arms division-level gap-crossing operations in a joint environment.



First Team Troopers Participate Large Scale Combat Operations training exercise, Ft Cavazos, 2023 photo by SPC David Dumas

In 1945, U.S. forces with the 9th Armored Division made a daring plan to capture the Ludendorff Bridge crossing the Rhine River. The 18-day battle ensuing the capture is known as the Battle of Remagen.

The capture of the Ludendorff Bridge was instrumental in the Allied Forces’ victory. Under Commander-in-Chief Dwight D. Eisenhower’s leadership, swift adjustments were made before Operation Plunder, enabling the rapid movement of five divisions across the Rhine into Ruhr, Germany’s industrial heartland. This strategic shift led to Germany’s surrender on May 7, 1945.

A constant reminder in today’s military as the battlefield environment rapidly changes, the Battle of Remagen embodies the importance of mastering fundamentals, which led as the central theme for exercise Remagen Ready.

To ensure victory on those battlefields, the 1st Cavalry Division trained on several areas of expertise during the exercise, including air assaults, situational training exercises, wet gap crossing, leaflet drops and force-on-force battles. Natural obstacles can be a significant problem for dismounted Troopers and vehicles maneuvering across the battlefield. The 1st Cavalry Division utilizes engineers to swiftly create pathways across or through route obstructions.

“When forces are maneuvering, our mission is to provide a solution for when they need to cross a body of water,” said SPC Ryan Pack, an engineer assigned to the 43rd Multi-Role Bridge Company, 20th Engineer Battalion, 36th Engineer Brigade. “We will build a bridge or a raft to get across the wet gap and keep momentum so the ground Troopers and vehicles don’t lose the initiative and can keep pushing the enemy back.”

The biggest training event of the exercise, a wet gap crossing, is a combined arms operation to project combat power across a linear obstacle. Engineers utilize the M30 Bridge Erection Boat, with each boat holding a crew of two Soldiers, which is launched and retrieved from the M1977 Common Bridge Transporter. After the CBT drops a collapsible bridge named the improved ribbon bridge into the water, the crewmembers in the boat will attach the bridge to their boats and bring them to their designated position.

“Everyone played a significant role in the crossing, so if one of them failed, the entire mission would’ve failed,” said SPC Johnathan Millard, an engineer assigned to the 43rd Multi-Role Bridge Company, 20th Engineer Battalion, 36th Engineer Brigade. “So, ensuring everyone was on the same page and accountable for their actions led us to a successful crossing.”

Gap-crossing operations require synchronizing thousands of Troopers and military vehicles without error. The First Team prioritizes integrated communication systems at every echelon to ensure effective maneuvers in a multi-domain environment.

“We did lots of training on our communication systems before the exercise,” said SPC Kenai James, a signal operations support specialist assigned to B Co, 2-5 Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. “We are the voice of the Army, so without us, the mission cannot be completed efficiently or effectively.” Communication between leaders and Troopers during operations provides situational awareness, coordination, and the foundation for a successful mission execution.

“I drill my Troopers on efficiency and prepare them for any situation,” said James. “It is vital for them to know their skillset because they are responsible for the communication between the leaders participating in the training and the leaders watching from the rear.” A vital aspect of a multi-domain exercise is the training and utilization of air capabilities. The 1st Air Cavalry Brigade aviators implemented air assault and leaflet drop training in the exercise’s realistic environment to help them identify training and maintenance needs.

Remagen Ready offered great opportunities for leaders to interact with Troopers personally and build high-performing, cohesive teams. “I can influence people’s lives directly,” said 1LT Jake Stonicher, an infantry platoon leader assigned to B Co, 2-5 Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. “I believe that if you’re a leader who cares about your Soldier’s personal lives, it’ll allow you to get the most out of that Trooper and the job, which helps out the company and platoon and the U.S. Army.”

1st Cavalry Division Troopers used the Remagen Ready 24-1 exercise to ensure lethality, readiness and successful battlefield capabilities. The First Team remains the world’s premier fighting force, prioritizing to seize the initiative, fight and win decisively at the point of penetration.

“I have a lot of pride in being a part of the First Team; I wear my patch with very high standards and dignity,” said SPC Kenai James, a signal operations support specialist assigned to B Co, 2-5 Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. “I ensure I am always approachable and squared away because I represent something bigger than myself: the 1st Cavalry Division. The First Team.”

A CALL FOR HELP

Unit Associations are in Fear of Losing Their Unit Legacy

With the majority of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Association active membership being Vietnam Era Troopers, the individual Unit Associations that fall under the 1CDA are in fear of their unit legacy dying out.

Most of the leadership in the Unit Associations are from the Vietnam Era. They are hoping to pass on the reins to younger generations.

If your unit has an association and you are not a member of it, please consider joining.

Also reach out and link in to your unit Scribe, their information is on the top of their column of this *Saber* newspaper.

Please step up.  
These Associations need YOU!

7<sup>th</sup> CAV: [www.us7thcavalry.com/](http://www.us7thcavalry.com/)

8<sup>th</sup> CAV: [www.8Cavalry.com](http://www.8Cavalry.com)

12<sup>th</sup> CAV: [www.12thCav.com](http://www.12thCav.com)

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ENGINEER News



Steve Richey  
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Of Men in the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav  
8<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineers  
We now have right at 2,000  
names on the roster of men who  
served in the 8<sup>th</sup> Combat Engi-  
neers in Vietnam. Not bad for  
gathering them here and there.  
Would help if some of you YOU

company clerks would send us the company roster.  
So, Marty suggested I start at the beginning and if I saw a name of someone I remember, fifty-three years from the last time I saw them, I should write a sentence or two of what I remember of them. Hopefully, this will encourage all you men who were in the 8<sup>th</sup>, to send us the names of guys you knew, who aren't on the roster so we can add them, and also, send us stories of the men you knew. I'll start.....

1. #5 on the list. Acock, SGT, HHC Equipment Platoon. I remember him. He was a strong sergeant, had boundless energy, and loved working hard and he did. I'd see him working with his men laying out dozer tracks and then setting the dozer on them when the body of the dozer would be flown into an LZ. You had to look quick. He didn't stay in one place long.
2. #7, Ernie Agosto. He was in S-3. He was from Puerto Rico and a graduate civil engineer. He was a little guy, spoke broken English, and did not want to be in the Army. He'd been drafted. He and three other guys went out one day and were to make a map of a minefield. I told all of them not to go into that minefield under any circumstances. They did. They got on top of a tank and entered the minefield. A sergeant on the tank saw a bird land and decided he'd shoot the bird. The bird had landed on one of the three wires sticking out of the ground on a bouncing Betty mine. He shot, and the mine detonated, popped up in the air, and blew up, putting ball-bearings in everyone on top of the tank. Ernie came in and had a dozen bleeding oozing ball-bearing holes in him, he was bandaged and looked a lot like a mummy in a B-grade movie. I wanted the guys to know, that if you don't follow the rules, you can get hurt or killed, so I wasn't nice to Ernie. He called me a lot of foul names, but since he had a bad time with English, his swear words were badly pronounced in English and were funny.
3. #37, Aycok is similar to #5 Acock, but I don't remember him.
4. #25, Arasz, Bill and #28, Arratz, Bill sound very similar. Bill #28 I believe I met when he drove down to where I was working in Ind. to say hello.
5. #26, Milton Arimoto was in the S-3 with me. He was the CO's Jeep driver or the S-3 Jeep driver. Was from Hawaii. Still lives there. I met him two years ago at the New Orleans Casino in Vegas. We sat at the bar, and he told me the story of how MAJ Hinze caught himself on fire trying to burn the brush between our perimeter wire and the tree line to the west of our HHC company area. Was a great, great story.
6. #48, Joel Balveram, was Jewish and when the Jewish Division Chaplain needed an assistant, he got the job. He was in the HHC company and moved to the Division. They only had about 700 Jewish guys in the battalion. He had an easy job.
7. #52, Robert Barbieri, there was this sax player, Gato Barbieri. I doubt they are related, I never knew Robert, but I do like Gato's music.
8. #69, John Beeschline, and #86, Frank Beschline have similar sounding names. Frank was in our S-3 as a surveyor and took a burst of six to be an E-6. He never got the promotion, he had to do the burst of six though. I suppose he got his promotion eventually. I don't know. I was back to being a PFC, a Proud Fine Civilian. I found him recently near Philadelphia, but as with most guys his age, he didn't say much.
9. #88, CPT Fred Betteridge, he was a mustanger. He'd been a sergeant and then went to officer's school. He was our S-3 Captain before he became the CO of A company. I liked him a lot. He was first an enlisted man, then a Soldier, and then an officer. He did all three in a fair manner. He gave us a lecture once, about all the pot being smoked in the company. He was right. Hell, we had a CID mole in the company to ferret out the pot smokers. When he left, he had a list of everyone in HHC who smoked pot. The list was like a company roster. Damn near everyone did. I can remember being in a deuce-and-a-half truck driving Abbey Road near the dump on the north side of the post, with about ten guys in the truck, smoking dope and meeting a truckload of officers from our company, doing the same, going in the other direction. Everyone got loaded on pot. You didn't dare drink. But CPT Betteridge, was a fair officer and I liked the man. I wrote about him and his brag that we could cut down a giant tree without crushing buildings all around it and we did. The story is in Skybeavers. He's gone now. Cancer got him.
10. #122, Jim Bowers, transferred in from the infantry. That guy could hit the deck faster than anyone I ever saw, but he came by it naturally from being a grunt. He was in the S-3 with us, not sure what he did, not sure I even have the right Bowers, but I think I do. After 53 years since the last time, I saw him, the chances of me being wrong are high.
11. #143, LTC Andre Broumas, we all knew him. Enough said.
12. #144, LT Earl Brown, was one fine officer and damn good man. That guy was a Soldier in my opinion. He did the right thing when it needed to be done. Sadly, he's now gone. Died in a plane accident. He and Doc Stone flew to Saigon with me when I was Derosing back home. So were they. Going home was like getting to stop running the gauntlet you had been running for the last 365 days.
13. Did I ever tell you about the time we were flying to Saigon from Phouc Vinh in a Caribou and the right engine just quit? It's in Skybeavers. Go buy a copy.
14. #152, SGT Brown, was the motor pool sergeant for a while. A few months after arriving, he went to work for the Inspector General or

- as an inspector general. I don't know how that worked. He came back to the company as an Inspector General and we thought he might be vindictive, but he wasn't. Everyone, except us guys in S-3, worked for days getting ready for his inspection. We had a mortar attack the night before the inspection and the guy in the line platoons had put their clothes on shelves above the top of the barrels around our hooches that stopped shrapnel. Their clothes got riddled with shrapnel. We in S-3 hadn't done anything. We showed up with nice-looking clothes and the line platoons, who had worked so hard to look good, looked ragged with holes in their clothes. SGT Brown noticed how good we looked and how bad they looked and commented on what good-looking Soldiers we were. It's the Army. The people who work hard never get rewarded.
15. #195, Castle, was our S-3 sergeant before SGT Wright and later SGT Leanard. He was a fair and good man. He wanted the work done and managed it well, but didn't make our work miserable, which a lot of sergeants could and did.
  16. #200, Doug Chase, was in S-2. We called him Big Red, because of his red hair, but not to be confused with Big Red the head hooker in the Vill. Doug was very intelligent. Didn't make any bad moves. Retired from the Big Dig in Boston. I visited him a few years before he died. We went to the Concord Bridge together. Was a great day to spend time with him. Old friends are the best friends and due to us being in Nam together, we were brothers.
  17. #202, Frank Cheatham, I didn't know him, but I did know two guys who formed a construction company. One was Noah Cheatham, and the other was Robert Catchum, Catchum and Cheatum. And that pretty much describes their company.
  18. #224, Clinger, Charles, you don't suppose he went on to become famous on the Mash TV series?
  19. #272, And the last of the C's I know of is Jesse Crimm. You know him from writing the 8<sup>th</sup> Eng Column in the Saber for a long time.
  20. #334, Joseph DeRivera, there was a Joe, Little Joe, we called him in HHC. #334 was in C Company. The Little Joe I knew played a lot of cards. I ran into him in Orange County, CA years later. He was an insurance adjuster, who was cheating the hell out of me, and after I groused at him for being a cheat. I recognized him as the Little Joe I knew in Nam, but by that time he'd had enough of me and was frog-marching himself back into his office to close the door to keep me out. Lawyers, used car dealers, and insurance adjusters all belong at the bottom of the ocean.
  21. #384, Eckhart, James worked a lot building LZ's. While waiting for the body of a dozer to land on the tracks, got to running a foot race around the LZ, and broke his leg.
  22. #401, CPT Rich Estes was our S-2 at HHC for a while. I didn't know him well while I was in Nam. He became the Captain of B company at Song Be, LZ Buttons. I would often find myself at Buttons going and coming from other LZs we were building. I got to know him better from stopping where he lives near San Jose, as I traveled up and down the coast in my RV.
  23. #446, Frantz, his job was to refill the water tanks for our showers in the company area. Vietnam didn't have a lot of luxuries, and the showers were always cold, but at the end of the day, if you could wash the sweat and dirt off you, it was so appreciated.
  24. #458, Al Fursa, Al was a photographer. I was in S-2 with him for a while. The guy had gone to photography school and could not take a decent picture. He'd cut people's heads off, and over or under-expose the shot, which was terrible. He knew he was so bad, that if he didn't produce some decent photographs, he might be sent to the infantry, and that highly increased the chances of him getting killed. We formed a partnership. I'd go with him as his "assistant" when I could. We'd both take pictures, but mine turned out good, which we threw away. He was still taking pictures when I left for home and had found another "assistant." I looked him up many years later. He was dead, his caretaker had somehow gained possession of his house, and Al was no more. Was from Bristol, Pa.

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

TAPS:

- We were notified of the following deaths:
- ALSBRO, COL (RET) Donald E., HHC, 11<sup>th</sup> AVN GRP, 1966-67. 21 February 2024.
- BROSNAN, CPT (RET) Patrick, J., A Co, 2-5 CAV, 1967-68. 30 January 2024.
- CONTRERAS, Fabian M., B Co, 27 Maint., 1965-66. 23 January 2024.
- FIELDS, SGT Larry C., A Co, 1-5 CAV, 1969-70. 17 January 2024.
- GILLOTTI, MSG (RET) Daniel P., 5-82FA, 1960-61; HHB, 1-30FA 1967-68. 29 December 2023. (Long time Columnist for the 30<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery)
- HAMILTON, SGT Isaac L., A Co, 1-7 CAV, 1969-70. 17 February 2024.
- HAWKINS, SSG Lynn R., HHC, 545MP, 1970. 19 December 2024.
- HEANEY, PFC Bernard A., G Trp., 2-8 CAV, 1951-52. 19 February 2024.
- LOFTUS, CPT William J., MD, Bn Surgeon, 1CD, 1965-66. 14 January 2024.
- NICKERSON, SGT Ryan L., D Co, 2-8 CAV, 2004-10. 26 February 2024.
- STEVENSON, BG (RET) ROBERT D., Cdr HHC, 2-5 CAV, 1966-67. 8 February 2024. (Distinguished Service Cross Recipient)
- VORNAHL, CPL William F. III, 13 SIG, 1952-54. 26 January 2024.
- WEINBERG, LTC (RET) Richard A., 27 Maint., 1966-67. 16 February 2024.

ACTIVE-DUTY TAPS:

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

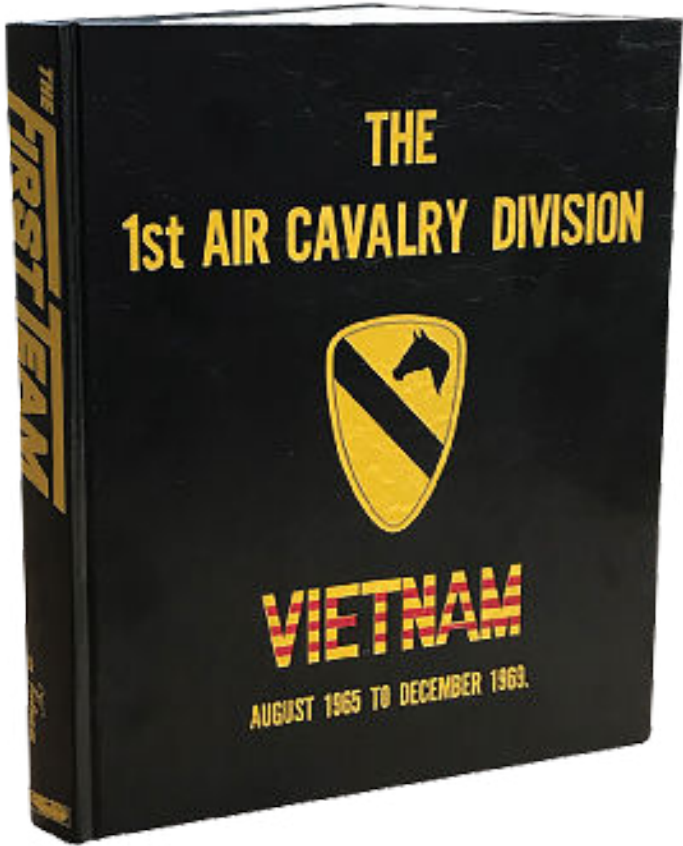


THE 1ST AIR CAVALRY DIVISION: MEMOIRS OF THE FIRST TEAM IN VIETNAM-  
SPECIAL REPRINT EDITION

In 1970, the Division published a full-color hardbound commemorative book to document the time spent by 1st Cavalry Skytroopers in Vietnam, from 1965-69. Many of our members received a copy of this special book nearly 50 years ago, but over time the books were lost, damaged or worn down from frequent use. This reprint is identical to the original printing that rolled off the presses in 1970, but brand new and in pristine condition!

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Copperas Cove, TX 76522

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FIRST TEAM HISTORY BOOK

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

- Includes a detailed history of the 1st Cav Division from WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Bosnia, the Gulf War, and the War of Terror, including its founders, training, engagements, responsibilities today, and more.
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- After Action Reports & Stories from 1st Cav Div Veterans, and more!

This quality publication is printed on number one grade, acid-free, double-coated glossy paper to ensure the highest caliber photo reproduction, and smyth-sewn for longevity, meaning the pages are stitched together and bound to last. This Deluxe Hardbound Edition is bound in a classy, black leatherette cover for only **\$55.00.**



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DESERT STORM MEMORIAL

on Cooper Field, Ft Hood

America's First Team in the Gulf

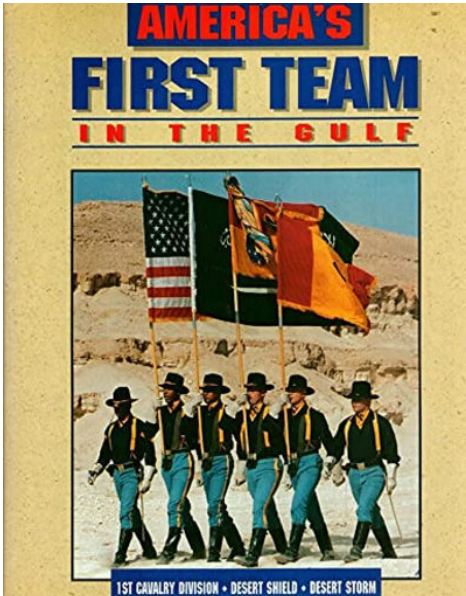
Hard Cover Book, 176 pages

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7<sup>th</sup> Cav Wall Hanging Tin

11.5" x 11.5", wrapped in plastic

\$20



LIMITED

QUANTITIES

Donations received for the Desert Storm Memorial will go towards the moving of the 15 current Desert Shield/Desert Storm markers that represent the 15 Troopers lost during that conflict.



The current markers are at the old 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Museum on post and will have to be moved to the Memorial on Cooper Field.

DESERT STORM MEMORIAL DONATIONS

ARE BEING ACCEPTED

Please make all checks payable to the 1CDA Foundation and specify it's for the Desert Storm Memorial.  
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545<sup>th</sup> MP Co News

Lawrence Gardner Ketron

232 New Beason Well Rd  
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.

THE 30-DAY VOYAGE

After departing Charleston, we sailed down the East Coast, our destination being the Panama Canal. Of course, our route took us past Cuba. Several Soldiers claimed that every evening there was a light off our stern. This belief led to a lot of speculation that the Patch was being trailed by a submarine, maybe ours or maybe Russian since at that time Russia was active in Cuba. After x number of days, we arrived in the bay at Colon and anchored, awaiting our turn to transit the canal. What impressed your author and other members of the company most was how nasty the water in the bay appeared to be. We sat at anchor for what seemed to be a long time before entering the canal in the late afternoon. Movement through the canal was not all that exciting. Your author was bored so the bunk called. Based on a letter written by your author during that time, our passage took nine hours.

Our first port of call was Long Beach, CA, where we docked and took on more Troops, and engineers, as I remember. The Troops were allowed to go off the ship onto the dock. However, before they were allowed off, we MPs were formed into a line across the dock to prevent unauthorized departures. There was a line of officers behind us to prevent our departure. Officers and certain enlisted ranks were allowed to go into town. We lower enlisted ranks were impressed by seeing some of our enlisted leaders as they returned from town falling out of taxis, singing, and holding their bottles aloft. We are going to war with this leadership. There were a lot of jeers and catcalls coming from the rail of the ship! Was a real morale builder!

Food for the lower ranks was rather bland and was a precursor of what was to come. Sometimes was the B rations that were provided in Vietnam. Canned hotdogs (tasted like Vienna sausage), canned dehydrated diced potatoes, and canned dehydrated slaw.

After we had been at sea for a couple of weeks, all of a sudden, half pints of milk appeared for our enjoyment. Your author, like most of his peers, was overjoyed to have milk again. However, our joy turned to disappointment when we discovered that the milk meant for the officers and NCOs had soured and was being pawned off on us.

PER TED WILSON:

Being resourceful young men, certain ones on board discovered that at the bottom of the hatch deep in the bowels of the ship there was a private place that was conducive for a card game that commenced soon after we left Charleston and was continuous during the whole voyage. When someone dropped out, there was another Soldier ready to take his place. Ted allowed that his hometown friend, the late walking horse trainer Roy Starkey, could always stay in longer than Ted could.

AND THEN WE PASSED THROUGH THE EDGE OF A TYPHOON!

About a week out of Vietnam, the Patch passed through the edge of a typhoon. The passengers were sent below, and the doors were locked. A meal was being served in the galley. Per Jim Kessler, he was in the galley when a wave came crashing through an open port hole, wiping the adjacent table clean, and knocking Troopers from their seats onto the deck. Your author was trying to walk down an alleyway to the galley when the Patch severely listed to starboard. It seemed like a person could have walked down the walls. Was not something that a run-of-the-mill Soldier would find pleasant.

AS TOLD BY DALLAS MILLS:

Spending thirty days on a Troop Ship en route to Vietnam certainly was not on my bucket list to do before I died. I had previously crossed the Atlantic Ocean twice on a Troop Ship and was well aware of the living conditions therein. Of course, the lower ranking Soldiers would be living in the bowels of that beast, and the bunks were stacked three and four high with duffel bags and rucksacks hanging from them making it very difficult to get into or out of bed, or for that matter just walking through the compartments. For some reason, the air did not circulate too well in the "hold" which created a musky-sweaty smell that was there 24/7 and permeated everything I learned later that when the ship did hit rough seas, the "screws" would come out of the water and the ship would vibrate like the ship was coming apart (I tell you this as a "back story" as to what will happen later). Having endured three storms on the Atlantic, I was relieved to hear that the Pacific was much calmer than the Atlantic and not prone to as much rough sailing as the former. All went well on this thirty-day trip until we entered the Gulf of Tonkin and encountered the mother of all Typhoons; The loudspeakers started screaming for everyone to report to their sleeping areas and the senior Army Officers and NCOs were scrambling all over the ship ordering everyone to their sleeping area, and all exits/entrances were locked so that no one could go in or out.

Now comes the reason for the back story. I, remembering previous trips, had no plan of weathering a Typhoon in the hold, which I knew from experience would get dicey very soon. So, I decided to head for the very top of the ship where the vents and exhausts were and crawled up close to one to ride out the storm. From my position, I had a good vantage point and could see the entire ship front to rear. Very soon, we started listing from one side to the other and the waves were washing over the decks. The wind blowing through the cables that ran from the front to the aft of the ship sounded like freight train whistles. At this point, I realized that I had made a very serious and maybe fatal decision and started to make my way down to the deck and attempt to go downstairs. I was almost washed off the deck once in my effort to get one of the doors open to no avail. I then started to the bow of the ship to see if I could get some attention and maybe, just maybe, get one of those doors opened. I made eye contact with the

Officer steering the ship and murdered the American Sign Language attempting to make him understand that I needed to get inside; he just shrugged his shoulders and continued to twist that wheel. I don't remember how long the storm lasted, but when it did and the doors were unlocked, I headed back to my sleeping area and the same sights and sounds as I described earlier were still there, but now there was one addition... The green eggs and ham my comrades had for breakfast. Yes, I had nightmares about that decision for a long time. There was an elderly Merchant Mariner on board who had retired from the Navy, then enlisted in the Merchant Marines, and now emptied ashtrays all day long. He told me that he had been on the water most of his life and that storm was the worst he had ever experienced. He also told me that I was the topic of conversation in Crew Mess that evening!

MEANWHILE IN AN KHE, AWAITING OUR ARRIVAL, THE ADVANCE PARTY WAS INTO LAND CLEARING  
AS TOLD BY BOB DEAN:

It Wasn't All Work

After three fun-filled days in NhaTrang, VN, the 23 members of the 545th MP CO advance party moved via truck to An Khe, the base camp for the 1st Cav Div. We arrived there on 27 Aug '65. Our job was to carve the camp out of the jungle, pretty much by hand. GEN Wright was in charge of the operation at that time. He expected the divisional advance party to total 600 personnel but there were only about 160 of us. As a result, he is supposed to have told the officers to "hang their rank on a tree and grab a tool." If it were not for the fact that we had to have the M16 close by at all times, the job was sort of fun. We were clearing brush with machetes. When we came to a particularly dense area wherein snakes and other evil creatures could reside, an engineer would hose it down with a flame thrower. We would then go in and chop. After a couple of days of this, I had the fortune to hook up with an ordinance guy. We spent the next couple of days blowing up stumps with C4. We would cut ¼ of the C4 stick and pack it around the stump. Two or three stumps would be joined by det cord, a fuse lit, and then instant stump removal. This was fine but of course, we had to take it to the next level. We packed a whole stick of C4 around a stump and got the desired much larger explosion. This time the object went about 40 feet into the air. However, when we looked, the stump was still there sans the bark. At this time, we were living in pup tents. We did have a blowup air mattress to sleep on. Unfortunately, I never saw one that didn't have an air leak. There wasn't anything "military" about how we set up the tents - find a good spot and pitch it. One of the guys had put his in a depression in the ground. One night a storm went through, and he found himself floating away.

Early in September '65, before a permanent detail was created, I was assigned to guard Generals Knowles and Wright. Early one evening there were two of us guarding GEN Knowles. His tent was surrounded by waist-high sandbags. Suddenly the perimeter defense line opened fire. The other MP and I jumped over the sandbags and were crouched down when the General came out of the tent. He stood upright with his foot propped on the sandbag. He looked at us cowering behind the sandbags and said "Now you boys look like you want to go home. That means you'll be cautious, and I like that." We bravely climbed back over.

One afternoon I was guarding GEN Wright. We were flying to the top of Hon Kong Mountain in the General's chopper. GEN Wright had only recently obtained his flight wings so he was flying to rack up hours. We were approaching the mountain at a rather fast pace. The pilot said very politely "General we need to slow down a bit." Seconds went by, the mountain got closer but no speed change. I was a bit concerned. The General then said, "Bill take this damn thing. I can't slow it down." But instead of taking over "Bill" decided to talk the General through it. We made it to the helipad on the top of the mountain. I gave the

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

Long Lost WWII Book Found

We received a call one day asking if we accept old Cav books. Virgil W. Slaughter's history book, *1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division in World War II*, was found at an estate sale and a kind lady sent it to us for safekeeping.

*I am thankful that this book has found a permanent home where it will be appreciated. It must have meant a lot to the service member and/or his family that had it. Hopefully in some way it will be a tribute to this man and his service.*

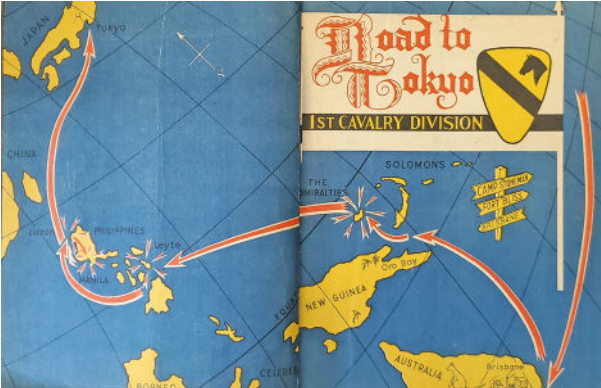
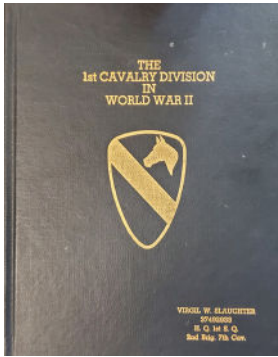
Debbie Terrian

Virgil W. Slaughter was one of the original members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Association. Virgil was in HQ, 1<sup>st</sup> SQ, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Division.

The book, *1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division in World War II*, was compiled and copyrighted in 1947 by MAJ Bertram C. Wright who was the Division Historian. It was printed in Occupied Japan by the Toppan Printing Company LTD, Tokyo. The 1st printing was in November 1947 of 5,000 copies and 2nd printing was in December 1947 with 25,000 copies printed.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Association accepts 1<sup>st</sup> Cav memorabilia. We have received various items from old uniforms, photos, books, etc. We proudly display such items at the Headquarters office in Copperas Cove, Texas.

Photos are of Virgil Slaughter's actual book.





**AIR CAV NEWS** LTC (RET) J. Shawn Perry  
191 Scenic Bluff Drive  
Guntersville, Alabama 35976  
(254) 458-0428  
Stetsonlife1cda@gmail.com



Shawn will catch up with everyone in the next issue! Please continue to send him your Aviation stories and input!

NEW MEMBERS:

CPT ALLEN, TERESA TX 615ASB  
PV2 ALMEDINA, JOSEPH TX D 1-8BEB  
MR. BAINCULLI, ROBERT NC 170 L-ASSOC  
SGM BAKER, SUDAN TX HHBN 1CD  
COL (RET) BENNETT, MARK FL 1CD  
SSG BLACKMON, BUDDY T F 3-16FA  
1LT BROECKER, ANDREW TX C 1-17ACS  
CW4 BYRD, HARRY L. TX 1-1CD  
SP4 CEREGHINO, MIKE VA A 2-12C  
SGT COLLINS, QUINTON TX A 1-3ABCT  
2LT CORCORAN, BRADLEY ID 2-8C  
PFC CRANE, ALEXA TX A  
SFC CUEVAS, JOSE TX  
MR. DAGATA, ROBERT F. CT 1-3BDE  
SPC DYKES, CARSON TX HHC 3-8C  
MR. EDWARDS, BILL FL 171 L-ASSOC  
SSG ERICTE, HENRY TX B 615BSB  
CW3 EVANS, BLAKE TX D 353ENG  
SGT FLANIGAN, DAN CA C 2-5C  
SGT FONTENOT, DUSTIN J. TX C 1-ABCT  
SGT FULLER, DOMINIQUE TX A 215BSB  
SGT GOSS, DYLAN TX 3CR  
E-5 HARREL, GERRY MO HHC 2-7C  
CPT HASSETT, TREVOR VA HHC 1-8C  
2LT HAVERON, ZACHERY T. TX 1-15BSB  
1SG HAWKINS, KENNETH TX 6-56ADAR  
SPC HUYNH, MICHAEL TN HHC 3-16C  
PV2 JOHNSON, CAYDEN TX G 2-12C  
LTC (RET) KEELER, JOHN AZ C 1-227  
SP-5 KERNS, GROVER WV HHC DIVARTY  
CPL LINARES, MICHAEL TX 8ENG  
CPT LINK, RYAN S. TX 2BDE  
SPC LUNGER, WILLIAM NJ C 1-759MP  
CPL LUZAMA, FRED C. KY B 1-12C  
MSG MARTIN, JOSHUA J.W. TX 1-15BSB  
1SG McDONALD, WILLIS T TX D 6-56  
SSG McMENAMIN, WILLIAM TX HHC 1-2ABCT  
SGT MORAN, RICARDO WA E 7-17ACB  
SSG MUNOZ, RAUL TX D 3-8C  
PFC MURRAY, ANTHONY NC A 1-21FA  
LTC NAVA, ERIC TX 1-1CD  
E-5 PAGAN, AIRANA TX A 2-12C  
LTC (RET) PATTERSON, HARRY O. JR NC A 227AHB  
SGT PENTILLA, CHRISTOPHER ID HHC 2-5C  
E-5 PLAKE, KENNETH TX B 1-9C  
SPC PRADHAN, MUKESH TX 1-1BCT  
SGT RADFORD, FREDRICK FL B 227  
2LT RAGOONANAN, CAITLIN TX HHBN 1-82FA  
2LT RAGOONANAN, CHELSA TX HHC 2-12C  
SGT RAND, SAMUEL GA A 1-91E  
SP4 REYES, RUDY OR C 1-5C  
CSM RICKERT, ANGELO TX 1-1ACB  
SSG SALINAS, CHRIS TX C 1-4BCT  
E-5 SCHMIDT, ROBERT NJ C 1-15TC  
CPT SCHWARTZMAN, JOSEPH TX D 2-5C  
E-4 SILVA, DONALD MA 1-12C  
E-4 SISCO, WILLIAM PA HHB 1-68ADA  
SGT SMITH, DAVID MN HHC 2-8C  
PFC SMITH, KHAMONI NC 2-5C  
SGT TAYLOR, PETER MI HHC BSB  
SFC THOMPSON, SEAN TX D 4-9C  
PV2 TIBLOW, TAYLOR OK D 3-227  
E-5 TOW, EDWARD WV A 2-7C  
PVT VAUGHAN, TYLER J. OH A 2-82FA  
WO1 VERTILUS, JEAN TX E 3CR  
CPL VILLARREAL, ANTHONY TX C 1-12C  
CPT VILLARREAL, JUAN TX 1-91BEB  
SGT WARREN, JOSHUA FL B 2-227  
CPT WELLS, DAYSHA TX 1-HCD  
SGT WEST, JOHN III VA A 1-21FA  
SFC WOODS, JESSICA TX E 1-7C

WELCOME  
to the 1CDA TEAM!

THANK YOU!

To everyone who has shared their personal war stories. I know your fellow 1CD Association members enjoy reading them. Keep 'em coming! Email to Programs@1CDA.org

OFFICIAL NOTICE  
ELECTION OF OFFICERS –  
REUNION 2024

The By Laws of the Association provide that the Officers and members of the Board of Governors shall be elected by the General Membership at the General Membership meeting conducted during the Annual Reunion. Further, that the President may appoint a Nominating Committee to nominate candidates for office and that other nominations may be made by Life members from the floor at the General Membership meeting. The Resolutions of the Trust Agreement of the Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division Association 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 22 June 2024:

Two Foundation Trustees  
Ten Places on the Board of Governors

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, 2024 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 2024 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 76th Annual Reunion of the Association on Saturday, 22 June 2024 in Louisville, KY.

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.





HONOR ROLL



Thank you for the generous donations from our following Troopers:

SP-5 ADAMS, W. Howard	\$50
COL (RET) BERTAGNOLLI	\$80
MR. & MRS. BRENNAN	\$100
CWO BUCKLES, Gary	\$100
SGT COON, Edwin K.	\$100
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SGT FLANIGAN, Don	\$500
PFC GALLUCCI, Michael	\$75
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SQD LDR 1-77FA F.D.C.at FSB Buttons 69-70	
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CPT HALL, Sanci	\$50

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MAJ HOBIN, Gary R.	\$400
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1LT McFELLIN, Atlee	\$100

PV1 McGARRIGLE, Keith	\$175
PFC MEYER, Charles J.	\$25
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IMO SP4 Roger E. Denny, 1-30FA,	
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CPT RAMIMEIER, William A.	\$100
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E-5 (RET) ROY, Claude	\$100
IMO ALL B CO 1/5 KIA'S PF 1965-66 ERA	
PFC ROYER, Sam	\$100
GEN SHINSEKI, Eric	\$200
IHO Former First Team CG, LTG Julius W. Becton,	
Jr. (USA, Retired)	
COL (RET) SMOLINSKI, Donald R.	\$100
CW4 SOMMERS, Gerald	\$100
IMO CW2 Raleigh Hewitt	



As of March 1, 2024

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!



NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY MARCH 29

National Vietnam War Veterans Day on March 29 honors the men and women who served and sacrificed during the longest conflict in United States history.

It was on March 29, 1973, when combat and combat support units withdrew from South Vietnam. Generations later, Veterans of this time period are gaining the respect that was not so freely given upon their return. Involving five U.S. presidents, crossing nearly two decades and 500,000 U.S.military personnel, it left an indelible mark on the American psyche.

Returning Veterans did not always receive respectful welcomes upon their arrive on American soil. There were 58,000 killed, never to return. National Vietnam War Veterans Day recognize the military service of these men and women who answered the call to service their country when she needed them. They didn't make the decisions to go to war.

On National Vietnam War Veterans Day, we recognize the service and duty rendered by all servicemen and women of this era.

HISTORY

U.S. Sens. Pat Toomey, R-Pa., and Joe Donnelly, D-Ind., introduced legislation in 2017 to honor Vietnam Veterans with a day on the anniversary of the withdrawal of military units from South Vietnam. President Donald Trump signed the Vietnam War Veterans Day Act on March 28, 2017, calling for U.S. flags to be flown on March 29 for those who served.

We Thank Our Vietnam Veterans

DID YOU SERVE IN CAV DURING GULF WAR, BOSNIA OR WAR ON TERROR?

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Everyone has significant memories, possibly with your battle buddies down range? Please consider sharing.

We are interested in hearing from our younger generation, and hearing your stories. Let your stories be heard. Let us publish them! You many even reconnect with a few.

Email your stories to programs@1CDA.org today.

LOOKING FOR GULF WAR, BOSNIA & WAR ON TERROR CAV VETERANS



ARMY SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION Scholarship Opportunity

Eligibility For Army Scholarship Foundation Undergraduate Scholarships  
Applicants must:

- Be sons or daughters of regular active duty, active-duty Reserve, or active-duty National Guard U.S. Army members in good standing,
- OR
- Be spouses of serving enlisted regular active duty, active-duty Reserve, or active-duty National Guard U.S. Army members in good standing,
- OR
- Be sons or daughters of former U.S. Army members who received an honorable discharge or medical discharge, or who were killed while serving in the U.S. Army.
- Be high school seniors, high school graduates, or registered as undergraduate students at an accredited college or post high school vocational/technical institution.

Application window for academic year 2024-2025 is January 15, 2024 to April 15, 2024  
<https://armyscholarshipfoundation.org/scholarships/>





**CHARLES E. JOHNSON**  
turned 91 on 3/22/2024

**RICHARD A. DE FAZIO**  
turned 92 on 4/29/2024

**302 N. Main St. Copperas Cove, TX 76522**  
**254-547-6537 / 7019**

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.

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

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