



# SABER

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



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## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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As you all know we had to postpone and then cancel our reunion for 2020. A lot of thought went into this decision, it was not something that we wanted to do. However, it is highly likely that we would not have been allowed to meet except in small groups, if at all. We felt that we should make this decision early so that those of you who were planning or contemplating attending the reunion were given enough notice. We originally thought that conditions would improve and that we could postpone the reunion to October; but restrictions continue to be extended and cancellation became inevitable. We know that the annual reunion has a special place in the hearts of all our members. For the previous 72 years, the members of our association have met for an annual reunion. It was very disheartening to have to cancel the reunion, but the ongoing restrictions made it necessary.

Certainly 2020 is a year that we will never forget. There have been multiple disruptions for all of us this year and there are likely more to come. It seems like every day there are changes in guidelines, some of them reversing previous guidelines. And no one really knows what the next few weeks and months will bring. Although Cathy and I are only inconvenienced since we are both retired there are many who are suffering. I wonder what stories our grandchildren will tell their grandchildren about 2020.

Sometimes when I read or hear comments from the youth of today, I wonder if they are not being taught history, at least not at the level I was. I had U.S. or World History every year in junior & senior high school. So, when our granddaughter graduated high school (summa cum laude) this year she left to attend a major university a few weeks ago to study biology. This past week the university was closed due to the pandemic and she returned to her home. We talked to her about school and asked her about her courses. One of them is history - pop music in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. I do not think that the admonition to remember history to avoid repeating it applies here.

In previous issues we have asked for new scribes to contribute columns to the *Saber*. Most of those positions are still open. After this issue we will be needing a new scribe for Engineer News. The current scribe, Mr. Jesse Crimm, has resigned effective with this issue. Engineer News is a popular and important column. Engineers, please consider stepping up for your fellow Troopers.

I want to thank Mr. Crimm for his service to the Association as the Engineer News scribe for the past 12 years.

Next year we will be meeting in Texas September 22-26, 2021. We will be celebrating 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. We expect a strong turnout and a lot of activities involving active duty Troopers and First Team Alumni. So, begin your planning soon. We will see you then. In the meantime, stay safe. And thank you for your service.

First Team Allen (TrailSpike 47)

## THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

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By now, everyone knows the 2020 Reunion in Louisville and Veterans Day in Washington, D.C. have been cancelled. It hurt my heart to have to make that decision but your welfare and the continued spread of COVID-19,

made the decision for us.

We have begun to work on the 2021 Centennial Celebration. Come hell or high water, with or without masks, we will have this Reunion. There were obvious changes made to the schedule to allow those attending max participation on Friday, 24 September. The Division and its Troopers have been working hard to ensure this reunion is a great success.

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## HORSE DETACHMENT by CPT Siddiq Hasan, Commander

We blew into fall with a hail of new riders and mounts to train. Our newest Muleskinners and Swampers are putting the training they received from Mr. Dick Sheppard in August to great use. The safety restrictions enacted across the state due to COVID-19, continues to provide us the time to refine and polish our horsemanship skills. We have new horses and riders integrating into the weekly demonstration team due to the additional time. Their drive to improve and dedication to the mission accomplishment continues to draw candidates to the Horse Cavalry Detachment.

The final Cavalry School of the fiscal year is underway with an eager group of trainees. They are learning how to ride and about our unit history, as well as how to care for our mules and horses. This group of trainees show great promise and look to proudly carry on the legacy of the Horse Cavalry Detachment. A day will not go by that we will not look to your guide-on's on the wall and think of all the amazing rides. Rest well Thunder may you find rest and cool water on Fiddler's Green. Buddy, may you find a good shade tree, a place to steal peoples lunches, cool water, and rest as well.

September has seen the HCD participate in the retirement ceremony for LTG John Thompson with a flower delivery and charge across Cooper Field. Our Troopers are training heavily for the first ever Horse Detachment Cup in October. The Cup will be an opportunity to demonstrate what they have learned about horsemanship. We are expanding our herd this month with four new horses.

October brings great excitement as our Troopers compete in the first Detachment Cup. This event is in lieu of the National Cavalry Competition, which was cancelled due to COVID-19 safety concerns. Troopers will compete in flat work, jumping, and weapon engagements to determine the best among us and be recognized for the effort invested to achieve their results.



SPC Christensen at the National Mounted Warrior Museum Sign Presentation

We hope you are staying safe and continue to follow us on our Facebook page until we can once again gather in person at our future events. Please let us know if you read about it in the *Saber*, saw it on our official HCD Facebook page or just happened to be in the right place at the right time! As always, we conduct demonstrations that are posted on Facebook on Thursdays for your enjoyment until we can reopen to the public in person.

This is the time we use to train

new mounts and Troopers and invite the public to sign in and enjoy the show. Feel free to call (254) 287-2229 to confirm performance videos and whether we are open for tours. You can also find us on Facebook (1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Horse Cavalry Detachment) where we post pictures from the barn and let you know about upcoming events and ceremonies. HOT TO TROT!

## THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR continued

I realize many of you are frustrated over the time it has taken to produce the Vietnam History book. Here is the last update I received from Acclaim Press. "The pages are printed, and the book is in bindery as we speak. Copies should be ready to ship by the first of September. I will let you know when they are ready to go out. We are nearly there!" My hopes are this update means nothing to you since the expected date for mailing out books is 1 September 2020 and it would be a couple of weeks later when you receive this issue of *Saber*.

I did order several copies for the Association. In the event you missed the deadline and were unable to order your copy, they will be available for purchase. Look for the order form in your upcoming November/December 2020 *Saber*.

I will close this with a tidbit of historical information for September: From big metropolitan areas to small town USA fireworks, confetti, and impromptu parades celebrated that our Troopers would soon be returning home. Victory over Japan Day (V-J Day) would officially be celebrated in the United States on the day formal surrender documents were signed aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay, September 2, 1945. The day was bittersweet considering the war's destructiveness. More than 400,000 Americans and an estimated 65 million people worldwide had died during the conflict. Of the 400,000 plus American lives lost, 1,152 were members of the First Team.



ADDRESS CHANGE

Don't Keep it a SECRET, Let us Know About It.  
To submit by e-mail, send to [memberships@1CDA.org](mailto:memberships@1CDA.org)  
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Last 4 #'s of your SSN \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
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SNOWBIRDS

If you have two addresses during the year, we need to know them. Please give us the dates and addresses for both households.  
(Circle one) Winter Summer  
Rank and Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
LAST 4#s SSN: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_  
1: Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
2: Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

1CDA EVENT CALENDAR

Feb 26-28, 2021 Board of Governors Meeting, Killeen, TX  
Sept 22-26, 2021 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual 1CDA Reunion, Killeen TX  
(In Sept to honor Division's 100th Birthday!)

Nov 9-11, 2021 12th Annual Veterans Day in Washington D.C.  
July 6-10, 2022 74<sup>th</sup> Annual 1CDA Reunion, Dayton, OH

SABER RENEWAL / DONATION FORM

☐ Renew my *Saber* \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ year(s) @ \$10 per year (6 issues). Fill out and return the form below or attach your Saber label so we have your pertinent information.  
☐ D-Trooper Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Association General Fund Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Your "*In Memory of*" acknowledgements will appear in the HONOR ROLL section of the *Saber*

D-Trooper Program consists of a donation of \$25 or more. This donation will give you one year of *Saber* with the remainder going into the D-Trooper Fund. The D-Trooper Fund is one of the more positive means by which you can actively participate in furthering the programs of the Association and again show your pride as a CAV Trooper—a LifeTime Member of the First Team! If you choose to participate in the D-Trooper Fund, your name will be published in the Honor Roll section of the *Saber* newspaper and we will send you a certificate suitable for framing, for your first donation only.

LAST 4 NUMBERS OF SSN \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_  
Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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You can also renew online at [www.1CDA.org](http://www.1CDA.org)  
Log in>>> Saber Newspaper >>> Saber Subscriptions/Renewals

LOOKING FOR A LONG LOST BATTLE BUDDY?

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

SABER

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Tina Wilgeroth: Program Director / Editor / Graphics  
Karleen Maloney: Memberships / Scholarships / Chapter Director

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 1<sup>st</sup> of every odd month. Any article received after the 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

TAPS


We were notified of the death of the following:  
**BEDSOLE**, COL (RET) William K., A Co, 1-9 CAV, 1965 & 11<sup>th</sup> AVN, 1970. 2 July 2020.  
**BROWN**, Trooper Kenneth D., A Trp, 9<sup>th</sup> CAV. 6 July 2020.  
**CHAPPELL**, SGT Donald, 61<sup>st</sup> FA, 1952. 6 August 2020.  
**CUSHING**, BG (RET) Thomas S., 1-7 CAV, 1958. 5 February 2020.  
**FISHER**, Trooper George M. Sr., B Co, 44<sup>th</sup> Tank Bn, 1945. 11 July 2020. (WWII & Korean War)  
**McWATERS**, CW4 (RET) John D., C Trp, 9<sup>th</sup> CAV, 1970-71. 5 April 2020.  
**MEDESKI**, Trooper John F. Jr., 1CD, 1944. 11 July 2020.  
**MILLER**, 1SG (RET) Leo, HHC, 8<sup>th</sup> ENG, 1968. 29 June 2019.  
**MILNER**, SP-4 Arthur F. Jr., C Co, 15 TC, 1968. 28 April 2020.  
**MITCHELL**, SFC (RET) John Jr., 8<sup>th</sup> CAV, 1950-53. 29 June 2020.  
**PEPE**, SSG Matthew A., A Co., 228 AVN, 1965. 27 June 2020.  
**RAMIREZ**, MSG (RET) Joseph E. "Chaco," E Co, 2-8 CAV, 1950-53. 18 August 2020. (Korean War POW)  
**RUSSELL**, Trooper Luther M., C Trp, 9<sup>th</sup> CAV, 1969; C Trp, 16<sup>th</sup> CAV, 1972; 18<sup>th</sup> Corps, 1973. 8 April 2020.  
**SADDLER**, CW4 Richard, 1CD Band, 1969-70. 17 April 2020.  
**SCHLOTTMAN**, LTC (RET) James C., A Trp, 9<sup>th</sup> CAV, 1966 & B Btry, 1-21 FA, 1966. 22 July 2020.  
**SMITH**, Trooper Karl G., C Trp, 9<sup>th</sup> CAV. 19 March 2019.  
**SPENCE**, MG (RET) Clyde W., HHC 3<sup>rd</sup> BDE, 1971. 20 July 2020.  
**SWEAT**, 1SG (RET) Richard L., A Btry, 1-21 FA, 1970 & B Btry, 1982. 24 April 2020.  
**TUTTLE**, Trooper Fredrick M. "Mike," C Trp, 9<sup>th</sup> CAV. 27 January 2020.

ACTIVE DUTY TAPS

We have been notified of the following non-combat Active Duty deaths:  
**DELACRUZ**, SPC Freddy B. Jr., 2/8 CAV, 2019. 14 March 2020.  
**FERNANDEZ**, SGT Elder, 553<sup>rd</sup> CSSB, 1<sup>st</sup> Sust Bde. 25 August 2020.  
**HERNANDEZVARGAS**, SPC Francisco G., 1-5 CAV, 2ABCT, 2017. 2 August 2020.  
**MORALES**, PV2 Gregory S., 1<sup>st</sup> SUS BDE, 2019. 19 June 2020.  
**MORTA**, PVT Mejor, 1-5 CAV, 2020. 17 July 2020.  
**ROSECRANS**, PFC Brandon S., 3<sup>rd</sup> ABCT, 2019. 18 May 2020.  
**SAWYER**, SPC Christopher W., 1<sup>st</sup> ABCT, 2018. 5 March 2020.

September 13, 1921

1st Cavalry Division  
was activated  
at Ft Bliss



HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
1ST CAVALRY DIVISION





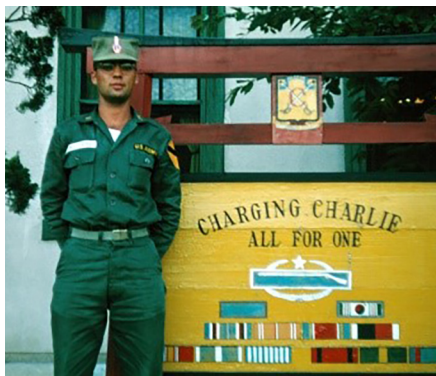
*Culmination of treasured long lost stories or photos from our members.*

**1-7 CAV, JAPAN 1956-57** *Tales of Camp Otsu, Japan Duty with 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry* by COL (R) Nevin R. Williams <phanrang3@gmail.com>

When I stopped this, (my trip to Japan) I had been processed through regimental headquarters and assigned to 1-7 Cavalry. 1-7 Cav was stationed at Camp Otsu's "A" Camp within the city limits, at the same location as the regimental HQ.

I have no recollection of what happened next but apparently, I reported to the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn HQ, and most likely I met the battalion commander, LTC Gregg Jennings. He assigned me to Co D which in those days was the heavy weapons company.

I recall that the company commander was a CPT Zifkak. I remember that I spent a lot of time observing training. I recall that CPT Zifkak went on leave soon after I joined the unit. I learned later that all the company commanders were approaching a use or lose leave situation. I believe that in those days a Soldier could not carry forward more than 60 days leave. I learned that the companies had had no lieutenants (or other officers) except the unit commanders for several years. A Co must have an officer present (at least in those days). With no officers assigned, the company commanders could not take leave. I learned later that I was only assigned to Co D so that CPT Zifkak could take leave. Once he went on leave, I assumed command of the company. That was a tall order for a new 2LT! I recall I was told to read the alert procedures, which I did. They were voluminous and I really did not understand them. I also recall that we had a practice alert during the time I was company commander. The battalion S-3, one CPT Nick, came to the company area and chewed my ass as something was not done properly.



2LT Williams by Co C sign

LT Sutton was a good officer trainer and very patient. He taught me a lot, as did the 1SG Roebuck. Roebuck was an E-7 as the super grades of E-8 and E-9 had not yet been added. LT Sutton assigned me to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Plt. He said that the company was preparing for the Plt ATT (Army Training Tests). The platoon was being led by the platoon sergeant, SFC Rankin. Sutton told me to observe Rankin and the platoon for a couple of days and then take over. That is what happened. (For information regarding that experience, read my article in the July/Aug 2020 *Saber*; Trooper's Tale titled *The Platoon ATT*.)



Full field inspection at Camp Fuji

on an old airstrip at Camp Fuji. We all lived in tents.

Camp Fuji was run by the USMC and it was their base. At night, our NCOs would go to the USMC NCO Club and usually got in a fight with the Marine NCO's and some of our NCO's ended up in the Marine Brig. 1LT Sutton would have to go and get them out of jail. I recall our motor march back to Camp Otsu. I was placed in the lead jeep. After the first hour on the road, my old buddy, CPT Nick, the battalion S-3, once again chewed my ass for going too fast and leaving the remaining convoy behind. As lead vehicle, my job was to clear the road of all civilian traffic. I would signal for civilian vehicles to get over, if they did not move, my jeep driver would head straight at them until they chickened out (hopefully) and moved over.

I believe that Co C returned to Fuji for training, but my memory is fuzzy about that. I recall that 2LT Morrison had joined us, and we were there over payday. Somebody stole the Soldiers deposits money and 1LT Sutton was responsible. It was over \$100, and Sutton asked Morrison and I to help him make the money up and we did, although the responsibility was strictly that of 1LT Sutton. (If I recall correctly, we each paid one third, and my contribution was about \$35. Not a lot of money, but a 2LT made \$222.30 in those days, so it was considerable). We never did find out who stole the money. Morrison and I were sure it was the company clerk a Hispanic kid named Hernandez but 1LT Sutton said no. Hernandez was a good Soldier, as I recall. Soldiers deposits, what were they?

They were a government savings program for enlisted personnel only that were serving overseas. Soldiers were not making much money in 1956, about \$85 a month. The minimum Soldier's deposit if I recall correctly was \$5.00. The program also paid an exceptionally low rate of interest. The program was not

popular with the enlisted men. They wanted to use their limited funds on women and booze. However, the command pushed Soldiers deposits and a commander's rate of participation in the program was an indication of his leadership ability (according to higher headquarters). Note that it was the rate of participation and not the dollar amount that was important. In those days, Soldiers were paid in cash, and usually paid by the company commander. Collections for Soldiers Deposits were made in the pay line. There was a lot of command influence exerted on the Troops to participate and there were a lot of \$5 deposits. So, we had a payday at Camp Fuji, and this was the money that was missing. Many years later, while I was serving in Guatemala (1971-73) the Army had a new Soldiers Deposit Program that officers could participate in. This program paid 10% interest which was a good deal. I participated in this program. Funds had to be withdrawn once you returned to the States.

Also, during my time assigned to 1<sup>st</sup> Bn, I attended a CBR Course at Camp Drake. There were two 2LTs that attended. Upon our return, we were to establish and teach a class for members of 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. I recall that I did a con job on the other lieutenant and convinced him to be the principal instructor for all classes, and I served as his assistant. (I never felt comfortable teaching and avoided it until my Guatemala tour, when I taught English at the Guatemalan Military Academy. I had decided to be a career Soldier, rather than a teacher like my parents and brother. So, now I am in the Army and they want me to be a teacher. No way if I can avoid it.)

Also, during my time with 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, the Army issued the Code of Conduct because of the Soldiers during the Korean War that turned traitor. The new code had to be taught to all Soldiers. I was selected to teach this to the entire battalion. The only information available was the Code itself. Not very smart to choose a 2LT to teach this! I blew it, and a 1LT (with combat experience) replaced me and taught the block of instruction.

1LT Sutton had a reputation as being well schooled on how to get bad Soldiers out of the Army (Section 8 it was called). The Army and the 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry had a lot of Korean War Veterans. Many Soldiers made stripes in combat but were not well schooled in serving in the peacetime Army. Many of them were drunks. They needed to be removed from the Army. Ben Sutton, and 1SG Roebuck knew how to do it. Sutton always had me sit in when he had a disciplinary session with a Soldier. I recall one NCO who he disciplined. This sergeant had gotten drunk downtown in Otsu and wrecked a bar. He was arrested by the Military Police. Sutton asked the Soldier if he would accept an Article 15 or did he want a court martial. Smart Soldiers always accepted an Article 15 or company punishment. An Article 15 was removed from their records when they changed assignments; a court-martial became a permanent file. This Sergeant accepted an Article 15. I do not recall what Sutton gave him, I suspect he busted him one grade and made him forfeit one month's pay. Plus, he told the sergeant that he was going to start the paperwork to permanently remove him from the Army as being unfit. The Sergeant got irate and stated that if Sutton were not hiding behind his lieutenant's bars that he would beat the holy hell out of him. Sutton replied: "I'll see you behind the latrine right after the supper meal." The Sergeant said OK, I will be there. I should mention that such behavior on the part of 1LT Sutton was completely illegal. Officers never fight with enlisted personnel. 1LT Sutton told me to leave early and to not return to the company area until the following morning. So, that is what I did. Of course, I was curious. However, Sutton knew to make sure there were no witnesses. I returned to the company the following morning and I asked the First Sergeant, how was the company commander. Roebuck replied, "He is in his office and has no scratches." I went in and verified what the First Sergeant had said. Apparently, Sutton had beat the living hell out of the guy. Ben was a big guy, over 6 ft, from Georgia, and mean as hell.

The battalion commander (and most likely Regiment) assigned problem Soldiers to Co C with instructions to Sutton to get rid of them. Which he did. Section 8's were difficult to get approved but not for Sutton and Roebuck.

Other remembrances. We had range firing on the Nara range. I served as pit officer. I also qualified as expert on the M2 Carbine which was the platoon leader's weapon. Our radios in those days were the PRC-6 (Walkie-Talkie) (platoon level) and PRC-10 (company net and battalion net). Sutton and Roebuck knew how to run an electric razor off a PRC 10 battery, and they showed me how. (That solved my shaving problem, this was before the electric razors that would carry a charge.)

One night, I accompanied the Military Police (MP). Taking a non-police lieutenant with them was called a courtesy patrol. The purpose of the patrol was to educate the new officers on the role of the MPs. Normally, an officer sits in the front seat of a jeep as that is the most comfortable seat. In this case, it was explained to me that I had to sit in the back seat. Why? Well, I was not an MP, so I had no authority. The MP NCO and his driver were both military police and had full police authority. Plus, they were making their rounds and could very well encounter a situation where they had to use their authority. (I remembered this, and it came in handy many years later in Vietnam. I was still an infantryman and I was assigned to an MP Brigade. I had occasion to ride in several MP jeeps with MPs on patrol.) The Camp Otsu courtesy patrol took me through the prostitution area of Kyoto. This area was off limits to all U.S. military personnel. As I remember, it was an area used primarily by Japanese personnel. The whores would sit in windows exhibiting their wares. It was a scary place and I was happy when we left. (GI's had their own areas with prostitutes, primarily bars. There were dozens of GI Bars in Otsu. There were some bars that were for only black folk.) Anyway, back to the courtesy patrol. We did stop and entered the NCO Club at Camp Otsu. All was quiet.

Well, it was re-assignment time. 1LT Sutton was re-assigned to the Regimental S-3 shop. He was replaced by a CPT Rollins. Rollins was not as kind and patient with 2LTs as had been Sutton. Rollins & Sutton had some problems regarding transfer of unit property, but I had no direct involvement in that. (I was NOT the supply officer.) If I recall correctly, there was a shortage of combination tools. These were tools that were issued with each rifle and were used to clean the M-1 rifle. Apparently, Sutton had his supply sergeant borrow some of them from a fellow supply sergeant in another company, and Rollins figured out what was going on. However, the change of command was made, and Rollins took over. One day, I started to leave for lunch at around 1150 hours. Rollins asked where I was going, and I told him. I told him that the Officers Club was always crowded at lunchtime, so we went there a little early. (officers had to eat at the

**Continued to pg. 18**



## LRRP/Ranger News



**Ken White**  
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Hello from the nation's capital. I hope this finds everyone in good health and good spirits. The Covid-19 virus has certainly affected our lives but a vaccine to fight it appears to be on the way.

Researchers think that they will have a vaccine available sometime later this year. Past research on vaccines for SARS and MERS – two viral respiratory illnesses that appeared in the U.S. in recent years but did not develop into major health crises – should dramatically shorten the time required to develop a Covid-19 vaccine, according to the researchers.

Due to the virus, the opening of the National Museum of the United States Army was postponed from its planned June 4, 2020 opening to a yet-to-be determined date. According to the museum's website, "The museum will open when conditions can ensure the health and safety of visitors and staff, and when finishing work in the exhibition galleries suspended because of the virus, is completed."

The museum will occupy 84 acres on the grounds of Fort Belvoir in Virginia. It will consist of a main building, a memorial garden, an amphitheater, parade grounds, and a walking trail on the museum grounds. Space is also being planned to accommodate ceremonies, reenactments, lectures, educational programs, conferences and reunions. The centerpiece of the museum will be a major exhibition facility located in the main building where Soldiers' stories will be joined together with the thousands of artifacts, documents, and images tracing the storied history of the Army from colonial times to the present. A series of chronological and thematic galleries will show visitors what it means to be a soldier in times of both war and peace.

The exhibition facility will consist of three galleries: *Soldiers Stories*, *Fighting for the Nation*, and *Army and Society*. The galleries will be located on the first and second floors of the museum. A Veteran's Hall and a Medal of Honor Garden will be located on the third floor. The *Fighting for the Nation* Gallery will be divided into six sub-galleries that will cover different periods of time in the history of the Army, starting with the Revolutionary War and ending with the most recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.



National Museum of the United States Army, Fort Belvoir, Virginia

"Service and Sacrifice" will be the dominant theme throughout the museum. The galleries will show the Army's strength as an agent of peace and nation-building. Soldiers have conducted countless missions in the areas of exploration and discovery, science and technology, communications and cooperation, recovery, and disaster relief. The ingenuity of America's Soldiers has greatly added to the nation's progress and prosperity during more than 240 years, according to the museum's website.

The museum is located on the grounds of Fort Belvoir - North Post, adjacent to the golf course. However, you will not be able to get to it by automobile from the post. You must exit the post and enter the museum area from the Fairfax County Parkway at Liberty Drive, approximately one-half mile north of where the parkway ends at the intersection of Route #1, just north of the Main Tulley Gate. If you should overshoot the museum, keep going and you will wind up at the National Museum of the Marine Corps, on Route #1, in Triangle, Virginia, roughly five miles south of the Army museum.

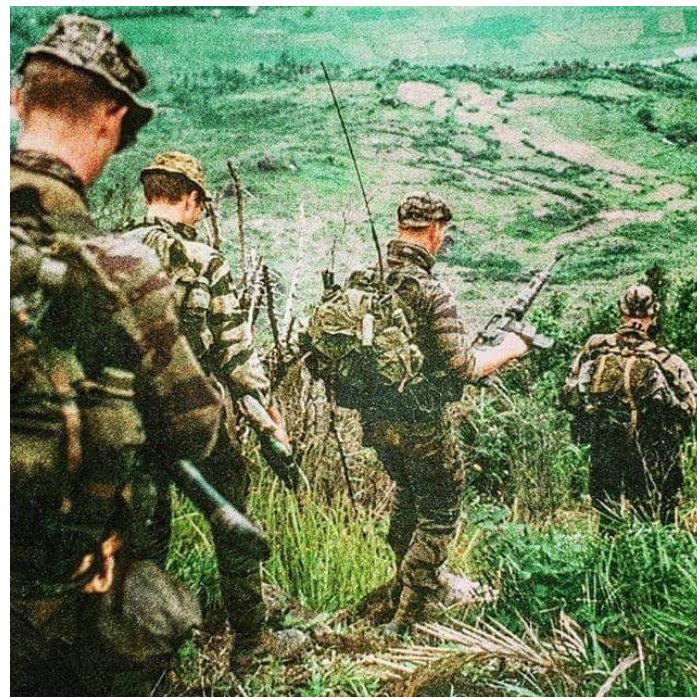
Admission to the museum will be free, but tickets will be required to ensure the most enjoyable visitor experience, according to the museum's website. Information on getting tickets can be found at the following website: <<https://www.thenmusa.org/ticketing-currently-not-available/>>.

On a different note, I received the following email from LTC Jim Wright (1967), Yorktown, Virginia. "Ken pulled this down off Facebook today. It was included in photos of the Vietnam RTOs Group site. The caption said 'LRRPs in the An Lao Valley, June 1967.' Too bad there were no frontal shots but maybe you could recognize yourself or others. Best regards and stay safe. Jim." After doing some research, I was able to trace the photo to the website of the History Network, <[www.history.net](http://www.history.net)>. The source of it was identified as Doug Parkinson (1967-68) from Bayside, California. Doug was a team leader in the LRRPs.

In June 1967, the LRRPs operated out of LZ Uplift, south of Bong Son in the Phu My area, and LZ English, just north of Bong Son. The five or so teams that operated out of LZ Uplift, pretty much worked the areas around the Kim Son Valley (a.k.a. the Crow's Foot or Eagle's Claw), the Soui Ca Valley south of the Kim Son Valley, and the mountains east of Highway 1, between Highway 1 and the South China Sea. The teams at LZ English were regulars in the An Lao Valley and Da Dan Mountains, west of English, so it's likely that the team in this next photo was from LZ English. Maybe Doug can tell us.

The infantry battalions in the 1st Cav also operated Long Range Patrol teams, but as I understand it, they were more tactical in nature than the ones in the LRRP unit. That is, they directly supported the battalions instead of operating under the direct control of a brigade.

An example of such a team was the Ground Reconnaissance Intelligence Team (GRIT) used by the battalions in the 3rd Brigade. These teams reconnoitered areas close to where the battalions were operating. An example of this is described



LRRPS in the An Lao Valley June 1967

Plain. After spending the day in the Cu Nghi area, the team attempted to return to Position Dog and rejoin the battalion but got pinned down along the way by a North Vietnamese machine gunner and couldn't maneuver. The team was only extracted as darkness approached by a helicopter gunship from the 2nd Bn, 20th ARA as the helicopter put out suppressive fire on the enemy machine gunner.

The U.S. Military's tactical commands (i.e., I Field Force, Vietnam (pronounced 'FIRST' Field Force, Vietnam), and II Field Force, Vietnam (pronounced 'Second' Field Force, Vietnam)), also operated LRRP units, although I never read or heard anything to suggest that these units operated in the An Lao Valley in June 1967 or at any other time. IFFV and IIFFV were responsible for the tactical control of U.S. ground forces in II Corps and III Corps, respectively.

Echo Company (LRP), 20th Infantry, IFFV, and Foxtrot Company (LRP), 51st Infantry, IIFV, typically operated in remote areas, such as along the Cambodian border where the Ho Chi Minh Trail entered South Vietnam in II Corps and III Corps, the Ia Drang Valley, and in ambush-prone areas in the Central Highlands, such as the section of Highway 19 between the Mang Yang Pass and An Khe. They had aviation resources dedicated to them, which included helicopters – UH-1D slicks and UH-1B gunships, and O-1 (Observation) Bird Dog forward air controller fixed-wing aircraft. They operated in 6-man teams, or as two or more teams combined for a specific mission, such as a ready reaction force, prisoner snatch, or downed aircraft search/recovery.

The IFFV and IIFFV LRRP teams were intended to go further into enemy territory, sometimes beyond the reach of supporting artillery and radio networks, for the purpose of collecting intelligence on enemy units, reporting enemy movements, and directing airpower at targets of opportunity. They spent much of their time patrolling along the Cambodian border and other areas where NVA soldiers infiltrated into South Vietnam from the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

The 1st Cav LRRP teams typically operated within the areas of operation of their parent units (i.e., the brigades), wherever that would be, and spent much of their time searching for enemy troop encampments, reporting enemy movement, and directing artillery and airpower at targets of opportunity for the purpose of disrupting enemy operations. They too operated in 6-man teams, and occasionally multiple teams were combined for a specific mission, such as establishing a radio relay site or for the recovery of a downed aircraft.

For those of you who served in the LRRP unit in the June-September 1967 timeframe, you might remember our company commander, CPT David B. Tucker, who came to the LRRP unit in June 1967 from A Co, 2-7 Cav, after serving there as the company commander. In September 1967, CPT Tucker accepted the assignment of company commander for the newly formed E Co (LRP), 20th Infantry, IFFV and a promotion to major that went along with the assignment, effective October 1st, 1967. Ironically, CPT Tucker was E Co's first casualty. He was killed on October 1st – his first day on the job - while on a recruiting trip. He was riding in a helicopter and as it was lifting off from a 101st Airborne Division LZ in the Chu Lai area of Quang Ngai Province, he was hit in the neck with a Russian 37mm anti-aircraft round. He died before they could get him to a hospital.

On a different note, the following email was received from John LeBrun (1969-72), Blaine, Washington. "Greetings from the Pacific Northwest. I hope everyone is safe and is enjoying the summer as much as possible. It's a shame that the reunion was cancelled but it's probably best for all. I'm looking forward to the next one in Killeen. Did I just say that?"

"As most of you know, I volunteered to get Bill Carpenter's book *Historical Occurrences of the LRRP/Rangers of the 1st Cavalry Division during the Vietnam War* published and I did. Never having any experience in this line of work before, I guess I should have expected a few hiccups and there were a few. I won't go into detail but for almost everyone who has provided comments back to me, they were pleased with the book. Almost everyone was unaware of the few mistakes and omissions. Bottom line is the book got published at no cost to the unit association. I am in negotiations with the publisher now to print a second edition. I'm just waiting for the draft to go through before giving them the go-ahead."

"Since the first publication, Bill has received a few more articles from members that he wants included in the book. I will work with the publisher to see if that can happen. But as we all know, stuff like that requires the exchange of money. I will wait and see what they say. For those who bought the first edition of the book and are not pleased with it, I will exchange it with the next edition at no cost. I have already received 27 requests for copies of the book from members, relatives of members, and friends of the unit association. I was actually surprised at the number of requests that were received for the book. The first royalty check went to the unit association. I am interested to see how much the next one is. Stay safe and hope to see you all in June 2021. John."

Continued to pg. 11

in the After-Action Report from 2-7 Cav, dated 25 Jan – 16 February 1966, (Pages 1-2). While the battalion was clearing the area in and around Position Dog at the start of Operation Masher, the GRIT team was reconnoitering the Cu Nghi area west of Dog at the base of the Da Dan Mountains in preparation for an artillery position (LZ Steel) that was to be established there the following morning to support the battalions in their operations on the Bong Son





## 5th CAV News

Harold P. "Doc" Truitt

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In the previous several issues I have been writing about us in the 5<sup>th</sup> Cav, why we need each other, what we can do for each other etc. And we have explored some of our history. In this issue I would like to present another profile of a civil war leader of the regiment. It is written by Judge Edmund Sargus and his son, and was printed in the New York Times, April 1, 2015. Judge Sargus is a friend of Eric Wittenberg who gave us the profile on Julius Mason.

### The Editor Who Went to War

On the afternoon of April 1, 1865, over 10,000 Union Cavalry Soldiers were poised to attack the crossroads at Five Forks, Va. If Five Forks fell so would the South Side Railroad, the last supply to Richmond. GEN Phil Sheridan hoped to end the nine-month stalemate along 20 miles of fortified trenches running between Richmond and Petersburg, Va.

On Sheridan's far right, stretching a quarter mile, stood more than 700 mounted Soldiers of the 5<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, a famed regiment of professional Troops attached to a much larger army of volunteers. On the eve of the war the unit had been commanded by COL Albert Sydney Johnston and LTC Robert E. Lee, both of whom left to join the Confederacy. Four years later, at Five Forks, it was led by a man named Thomas Drummond. Before the war, Drummond had been a newspaper editor in the small town of Vinton, Iowa, and a stranger to military service. Now he commanded a hardened regiment of regular Union cavalry in the battle that effectively ended the Civil War.

Drummond had been commissioned as a lieutenant in the 5<sup>th</sup> Cavalry on April 26, 1861, only eight days after Lee and Johnston resigned. The timing was no accident. In the early months of the Lincoln presidency, large numbers of officers resigned and joined the Confederate Army. Lincoln was eager to commission new officers with unquestioned loyalty to the Union cause.

In Thomas Drummond, Lincoln found a willing candidate with strong, antislavery, pro-Union credentials. Drummond was born in 1832 in what Virginia was then, and later part of the new state of West Virginia. His father, the Rev James Drummond was a prominent Methodist minister, serving in northern Virginia and across the river in eastern Ohio. The elder Drummond was part of a successful movement to prohibit Methodist ministers from owning slaves, a move that split the church in half.

Thomas Drummond moved to Iowa at 22. With him came his father's views on slavery. In 1856, Drummond was a delegate to the first Republican National Convention; the next year he was elected to the Iowa house of representatives. He also purchased a half interest in The Vinton Eagle, in Benton County, where he became the editor. In many towns in the 1850's, newspapers aligned with one of the two political parties. Under Drummond's editorship, The Eagle was staunchly Republican.

In the late 1850's, the slavery issue disrupted and realigned the national political parties. Horace Greely, editor of the influential New York Tribune, wrote on April 26, 1859 that the new Republican Party should nominate Steven A. Douglas, a Democrat, as it's presidential candidate. Drummond, by then a prominent editor, quickly responded, "The basis of Republicanism is the recognition and advocacy of the 'inalienable rights of men' and its purpose a steady and unceasing opposition to slavery extension, and to the very existence of the institution itself. This at least is the Western Republicanism and the party in the West is not to be sold out by its professed brethren in the East. The Republican Party adopts 'the bloody, brutal manifesto' of Abraham Lincoln, as re-echoed by Senator Seward, that there is and must be a steady conflict between slavery and freedom until one or the other goes to the wall, until this Union becomes all slave or all free.

Across the street from The Vinton Eagle was a competing newspaper, The Benton County Democrat, whose editor supported the Democratic Party. The paper referred to Drummond as a slave loving black Republican. Drummond responded in kind, referring to the paper's editor as belonging to the slavocracy that had hijacked the federal government.

In 1859, the two editors squared off against each other as opposing candidates for a state senate seat. Drummond and his opponent, Isaiah Van Meter, were actually close friends. Midway through the campaign, however, the two engaged in a heated debate, which ended in a fist fight. Drummond, who received the worst of the encounter, wore a large bandage around his head for the rest of the campaign. He compared himself to the Massachusetts Senator Charles Sumner, who was beaten to near death on the Senate floor by the South Carolina congressman Preston Brooks, following Sumners remarks condemning slavery.

Drummond handily won the election. The following year, he was a staunch supporter of Lincoln's presidential campaign. After attending Lincoln's inauguration, Drummond accepted a commission in the 5<sup>th</sup> Cavalry.

He served with distinction over the next four years. He and his subordinate officer, the newly commissioned LT George Armstrong Custer, were recognized for exemplary service at the First Battle of Bull Run. Drummond fought in numerous battles, including Antietam, Brandy Station and Gettysburg. He led units that destroyed enemy railroads and leveled a Confederate gunpowder plant. GEN John Buford, whose cavalry won the high ground for the Union at Gettysburg officially praised Drummond's leadership during Stoneman's Raid as executed in a most handsome manner. By April 1865, Drummond had earned his way into command of the entire 5<sup>th</sup> Cavalry.

At approximately 4pm on April 1, 1865, Drummond and the rest of Sheridan's Troops stormed the Confederate defenses at Five Forks. The Confederate defenders initially gave no ground. But on the third assault Union Troops overran the Confederate position; by nightfall, thousands of Confederate Troops had been killed or surrendered. Richmond was evacuated the next day. Eight days later, Lee surrendered at Appomattox Court House.

On the final assault at Five Forks, Thomas Drummond was fatally wounded. As he lay dying, he asked to be buried next to his mother in St. Clairsville, Ohio where she died when he was 8 years old. His body was taken to nearby Wheeling WV, a former slave-trading center where he had once lived. His father, the Rev James Drummond, together with the Governor of West Virginia, met his coffin at the train station. His remains were taken into Ohio for final interment.

Years later, in 1904, the citizens of Vinton held a memorial for Drummond. His longtime friend and sometimes nemesis, Isaiah Van Meter, described the last time he saw Drummond, in the fall of 1861. Both had signed up to fight for the North. The two said nothing of politics. In Van Meter's words, Drummond was no longer a black Republican, and to Drummond he was no longer a slave-driving Democrat. They saw each other as American citizens serving in the same Union Army.

Much of the material we see in our *Saber* today is about days and people of earlier times as is the historical material I've presented. We need it all! I have found however that if there is not an apparent connection to today's Soldier, it's not much fun for him or her to read. What all of it can do is let us see that there is an underlying theme of things we have in common. When we think about how the things our predecessors saw and did can help us then it becomes more apparent how it relates to us. To us older Vets, it usually seems to us that we have things in common with you younger folks, but not necessarily the other way around. Today is different from yesterday! What is not different are the emotions, and the things needed to address them. The discomfort and sometimes the violence can get to be a bit much and our situation seems unique to us and our own times. But is it really?

I may never succeed in getting a dialog between myself and the rest of you, but I hope someone is talking about this stuff. Anyone old or young that does read this, no matter how bad you think it is, please drop me a note, an email, or give me a call. I may not deserve it, but this journal deserves to be something useful. I can't improve my sad work without feedback!

Hope to hear back from some of you. Let me know if there is a topic you would like me to discuss.

## WANTED / SEARCHING FOR: DOCUMENTATION

I am doing research into the origins of the CIB and the guidance that was in use in the late 1960's in Viet Nam. I cannot locate complete copies of the following: War Department Circular 186, AR 672-5-1, the Executive Order dated 15Nov 1943 which established the CIB. In addition, I am looking for copies of 1<sup>st</sup> Cav orders/regulations 672, dated 4 Oct 1965 and two TWX (or MSG) 3 and 5 on CIBs. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Rob Weeks, Delta 5/7, 1968, <rob.weeks@verizon.net>

### INFANTRY COMPANY, July 1968

The last unit I served with in Nam was the 2/19 Arty, A Btry. I was with them for only the month of July 1968. When I reported in, I was assigned as an RTO with an infantry company. Is there any way to find out which company that was? Thanks.

Tom Sawyer <tsawyer418@gmail.com>

### LOOKING FOR CPT VUKELICH, Vietnam 1970-71

I served in Vietnam with Division HQ in the Public Information Office from March 1970 to Feb 1971. We had an officer CPT Vukelich, and I was wondering if anyone knows of him. While we were there, he was responsible for helping create and sell a "yearbook" that was created. The proceeds were to go to help support a scholarship program for the children of fallen members of the Cav. I know this is a long shot, but I would appreciate anyone would have any info on him, if you could please reach out to me.

Thanks, Scott Long <scottelong@mac.com>

### AN KHE, 1966

I served as the PSNCO of the 15<sup>th</sup> TC Battalion (AM&S) at An Khe (Camp Radcliff) from July 1966 to July 1967. On the night of 3 September 1966, the Viet Cong carried out a mortar attack on the golf course that killed 4 skytroopers and wounded 76, while damaging 77 helicopters. I was one of those wounded during that attack. I recall that before the mortar attack, it had been announced that a senior leader of the division HQ (possibly the ADC --BG Knowles) would be departing on 4 September 1966. Can this be verified? Please contact me if anyone has any information regarding this account.

Frederick Holbert <fholtbert1@yahoo.com> (727) 550-7239

### H Co 2-8 CAV, July 1951-Oct 1953

I was in H Co, 2-8 CAV and spent 2 years in Korea and almost 3 months in Japan. I would like to know if anyone might remember any events from July 1951 thru October 1953 who was with my company H 2/8. Around Thanksgiving 1952, F 2/8 lost most of their company while assigned to an O.P. The North Koreans and Chinese soldiers overran the company, killing or taking them prisoners. H 2/8 was there in support of F 2/8 so I witnessed, along with my superiors, only two Troopers returned and they were shell shocked. H 2/8 was next but moved out the next day. I truly hope someone remembers something about this incident and gets in touch with myself.

Thank you, Anthony Duchinsky <TonyJoe1896@gmail.com>

### RTO 1-7 CAV, 1968-69

My name is Jim Hilts and I was an RTO in the 1-7 CAV from 3/68 to 3/69. I am writing a book about my experience and would like to include your experience as an RTO as well. We were often in the thick of the action and relied upon greatly by the officers we served. If you were an RTO with the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division in Vietnam, Korea, or WWII, please contact me and tell me your story. Thank you!

Jim Hilts <jimchrishilts@verizon.net> or 412-269-0217

### LOOKING FOR SSGT JAMES L. NELSON

I was in B Btry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn 20<sup>th</sup> Arty (ARA) 1<sup>st</sup> Cav Div (Air Mobile), during the period Feb 66 - May 68. I was a crew chief on UH1C Huey. I am searching for SSGT James L. Nelson who also was a crew chief, on UH-1B. He came in country in late 65. We both had extended our tours twice in 1967. James was wounded in his leg and was flown back stateside. His last address was A Troop 8<sup>th</sup> Sqdr 1<sup>st</sup> Air Cav, Fort Knox, KY. If anyone knows of his whereabouts, please have him call me at 609-393-0252 or e-mail <cchief489@yahoo.com> Thank you!

1SG (Ret) Joseph Nowacki



## 12th CAV News



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## HEAR YE...HEAR YE SEMPER PARATUS

By now most have probably received the word that two major events we as 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Troopers look forward to, have been cancelled: Annual Division Reunion rescheduled to 4-8 Oct 2020 and the Annual Veterans Day gathering in Washington D.C. Although, disappointing for many of us, no doubt a necessity. Speaking for myself, I always get up for the Annual Division Reunion wherever it is being held to assemble with our 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brothers and our Brothers of the other Battalions. Over the years, I have formed strong friendships with fellow Troopers of the 7<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> Cavalry and the people who work so hard to make the events(s) happen. To all Troopers and the Division Association staff, all will be missed this year and I will be preparing for the next gathering in September 2021 in Killeen, TX to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> year of our Division's glowing legacy.

Many are aware that the 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry 15<sup>th</sup> Annual gathering in Branson, MO is scheduled for 12-17 October 2020, at The Welk Resort...THIS IS STILL ON...for considering the benefits versus risks...Branson is relatively unaffected by COVID 19. Here in the surrounding area, identified cases are 500 with three-quarters recovery rate and only 5 deaths, as of this writing 31 AUG 2020. Thus far, it does not appear to be threatening enough to cancel. More will be determined near the end of September and we are working closely with Welk staff to have in place good common sense precautions for the gathering to be as upbeat and safe as possible, ensuring the esprit de corps of the Always Ready Troopers charges on.

If there is any doubt as to whether it is safe for you and family to travel, it is best



to be on the side of caution to remain safe and healthy. For the occasion, masks have been ordered commemorating the 15<sup>th</sup> year Reunion, 3 Ply...100% Cotton...American made and look for additional information on our soon to be updated 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry website or call **Thomas Crabtree 432-853-4851/**

## Maggie 432-853-4856.

With the basics covered, want to give you all this story, received from a 2-12<sup>th</sup> Trooper sometime in April 2019. My apology for not getting this in a previous issue, workload and other demands have been heavy the past months and the apple cart toppled with the attack of COVID. It is a short but enjoyable read, another example of the vast and diverse talents of 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Troopers!

## VOLUNTEER by Duane Smythe

"Some of you may not know the function of a typewriter, for those of you that do not, Google it!"

"I arrived in Viet Nam like many Soldiers in August of 1968. My MOS was 11Bravo. We left Travis AFB, CA on Flying Tiger Airlines first landing in Bien Hoa (Air Force), and then bussed to Long Binh (Army). One of the first things I noticed after getting off the plane was how funny this country smelled. The ride from Bien Hoa to Long Binh made you realize you were in a third world country (a shit hole). We got hit with rockets the first night around midnight, close enough to be concerned. All us NG's (new guys) stood out in an open area twice a day and listened for our name to be called assigning us to our permanent divisions. This NCO would come out to an elevated podium with lists of all FNG's. I was with other men that had been with me since Basic Training and Infantry Training (Ft Lewis, WA), one from my hometown. It was the last I would see most of them, my name was called, I was gone the next day out of the two. I got the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav Division, the Perms that had been around said I got a good one?? Little did I know at the time how good this Division really was? Sounds kind of weird, but it's important if you're in a war, LOL."

"We arrived at An Khe, very impressive with the exceptionally large Cav patch on the side of Hon Kong Mtn. Sent to Cav College, told everything we know is wrong, this is the Cav Way. Spent one night a mile or so outside the wire, the Cav owned/controlled that valley. It was on! We are heading to a place called LZ Nancy; I am going to D Co, 2d of the 12<sup>th</sup>. Along with Mario Dan Solorio, we both trained together (same company) in Ft. Lewis, WA, and a couple of others, do no recall the names. No more airplane rides, we now have switched to rotors only. It is on! Land at LZ Nancy, very, very war like environment; immediately meet Top (The 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt). Kept us at LZ Nancy fixing up (filling sandbags) his bunker (storage container) that he calls the NCO Club. He built a bar at one end so his other NCO buds could come over and get drunk safely. Now it is a rifle with a magazine everywhere you go, getting serious, very remote, you can hear explosions, small arms fire in the distant and rotors."

"It's 5-6 days at Nancy, time to head to our destination for the next year, meet other members of our new tribe. The 1SG yells at us to get it together, you are going out this afternoon. Think the way he talked, acted towards us he kind of liked us being around. He had been in WWII, Korea, Nam (an incredibly good Top). Our ride was the evening log bird taking us out to the FOB. We are all hyped up; this is it, extreme camping, backpacking, and hunting adventure for a year! We all have our gear lined up along the landing pad, waiting for our ride to the bush. Top tells us to line up with our gear the chopper is coming in. All four of us including Solorio standing in a somewhat orderly fashion like Soldiers do waiting to board the Huey."

"Something happened next that will never leave my memory, still to this day I cannot believe it happened. The 1SG came over to us and yelled "Does anyone here know how to type?" I immediately started raising my hand (took typing in HS) when Mario Solorio yelled out "I know how to type First Sergeant" while raising his hand. The 1SG yells you are the new clerk typist, the rest of you get on that chopper. Mario most likely typed up your Purple Heart, Medals, CIB's etc. from Aug 68 to Aug 69 and anything else pertaining to D Co 2/12. He had a hooch in Quan Loi, TV, stereo, and a maid to take care of things. He was at Grant and Tay Ninh. Been trying to find Mario for years, last saw him in his

hometown of Salt Lake in 1978. Talked for a short while, I was just passing through on way back east for a vacation."

"I got shot on Jan 26, 1969 near LZ Grant, Mario came and saw me in hospital in Tay Ninh, he wanted to say goodbye and see how I was doing. I was sent to Japan three days later, then back to the States. We all were told never volunteer for anything when we entered the service. Tell Mario Dan Solorio that one. He went from combat infantryman to clerk typist in 20 seconds with log birds' rotors whipping behind him. I also know that Mario Dan Solorio had each one of you that served with D Company in his heart every day, he was one of us."

**Duane Smythe**, 1<sup>st</sup> Plt, D Company, 2/12, 1<sup>st</sup> Cav Division <Duane\_Smythe@yahoo.com>

D Company, 2/12 Troopers, if you remember Duane Smythe and Mario Dan Solorio give Duane a shout on his email address, remind him of our great gatherings at our various events and encourage him to attend.

With all going on in today's socio-political climate, many of us observing the stay in place guidelines and other suggested protocols, are, no doubt, having deja vu memories, flashbacks and sundry thoughts of what's it all about and what to do with it. I leave you all with this poem, perhaps a bit of solace to know we are not alone...

*The Deep Stain* by Ray Welch

I notice the stain.

Deep, dark, red,

Like dried blood.

It goes deep into the clothes,

The skin, and the soul.

Like sin you have committed and want to forget

You cannot wash it away.

You scrub with the stiffest brush and the strongest soaps to little avail!

Maybe the stain is a bit lighter, but it is forever embedded

To continue as a reminder of its power.

The red clay stains of Ft. Benning

In the Chattahoochee River Valley of Georgia

Then there is the red clay soil of the Il Drang Valley,

In the Central Highlands of Vietnam,

It is even richer and deeper,

With its power to stain

Into the deepest part of one's soul and body, forever.

No matter what you do,

You can never erase the penetrating stain!

MAJ (Ret) Raymond C. Welch, C and A 2/12 17/65-7/66

Remember Troopers. You are never alone. That is why we gather, to lighten the stain though we remain somewhat tainted, we see the light in camaraderie with our Brothers. SEMPER PARATUS (TLC)

Until next time, Soar with the Chief Chopper Pilot, Roll with the Lead Tanker, and Walk Lightly with the Head Point Man CRABTREE OUT!

**James R. Rollins**  
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**THE HICCUP - Health Care Information Committee Report**

**Random Information:** This provides some updates on things that have been happening and thought might be a good time to remind everyone on the benefits we have earned based on our service.

**LAST CIVIL WAR PENSIONER DIES**

I have mentioned on several occasions that it is never too late to file for benefits and if not for you then for your family. This is a case of the "Last Civil War Pensioner Dies," who I have mentioned if you have attended any of my Veteran Benefits presentations. On the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2020, the last person to receive a pension from the Civil War passed away. Irene Triplett, 90, received \$877.56 each year, \$73.13 per month, from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Irene Triplett's father, Mose Triplett, deserted the Confederates just before Gettysburg and later joined the Union Army in 1863. She received the monthly payment because she suffered from cognitive impairments and qualified as a helpless adult child of a Veteran. Mose Triplett married Elida Hall, his second wife and Irene Triplett's mother, in 1924. Mose Triplett was nearly 50 years older than Elida, and he was weeks away from turning 84 when Irene Triplett was born in 1930. Mose Triplett died in 1938. Additionally, there are 33 spouses and 18 children who still receive VA benefits related to the Spanish-American War, fought in 1898.

**FEDERAL SURPLUS PROPERTY PROGRAM - VETERAN SMALL BUSINESS ENHANCEMENT ACT**

This program allows Veteran Owned Small Businesses to have access to the Federal Surplus Property Program. There is still no final rules, except it has been stated that the one way that verification that you are a Veteran owned business will be that you have completed the certification through the Center for Veterans Enterprise. Go to the VA Website <<https://www.vip.vetbiz.va.gov/>> and you can begin the process.

**ACCESS TO NATIONAL PARKS**

I was looking at the Army Times and saw the article on Disability Rating = Access to National Parks. I was aware of it, but never got around to doing it. Since there is no local place for me to sign up for it, I did the online option, which did cost me \$10 for a lifetime pass. This can be done in person at any federal park that provides passes. In both cases, you have to have some form of government issued ID - driver's license, passport, birth certificate, etc. and the statement from VA showing your disability rating. If you go to the website <<https://store.usgs.gov/faq#Access-Pass>> and this will take you through the steps.

**AGENT ORANGE**

Still no word on the final decisions of adding more conditions to the VA Agent Orange Registry. Again, if you have one of the conditions pending (bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, Parkinson's-like symptoms, and hypertension) go ahead and file a claim.



## 7th CAV News



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**Greetings friends and neighbors.** How quickly time is moving by! It seems like it was just a couple of weeks ago that I sat here at my computer writing the July – August edition of the 7th U.S. Cavalry news and now, here again, I am sitting to write again. That was a fast two months! I wish the months had flown by that quickly when I was stationed in Vietnam!

It appears that we are still caught in the quagmire of COVID-19. The 2020 1st Cavalry Division Association reunion was first postponed from June until October, and then cancelled. The next reunion is now scheduled for 22-26 September 2021, which just happens to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the forming and activation of the Division. Should be quite an affair! Look for information about registration and events coming soon. The reunion headquarters will once again be the Shilo Inn Hotel and the Killeen Civic and Conference Center. Several other hotels are also recommended. The Association office will begin accepting registrations on November 1st. Look for more information at the Association website (1cda.org) or in future editions of the *Saber*.

**Conversations** – During the past couple of months, I have had some great conversations with Troopers. Here are a couple of them.

Just the other day, I received a phone call from **Johnnie Scott**, who served in **B Co, 1-7 Cav**. He is interested in the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, CA. He remembers in October of 1976 the 1-7 Cav went to the National Training Center to train and wonders if the 7th U.S. Cavalry once again let the way for the rest of the Army. Johnnie believes that his battalion was the first to train at Fort Irwin under the National Training Center concept. Looking into the history of the National Training Center, I am unable to find information related to 1-7 Cavalry deployment to Fort Irwin for training. If you have knowledge of this, please contact me or Johnnie Scott. He can be reached at (254) 479-1112 or by email at <jscott7@msn.com>.

As Johnnie and I were talking, he mentioned one of his good friends, a COL Dougald MacMillan. My ears immediately perked up because I knew that name. In 1968, he had been my battalion commander in Vietnam. As Johnnie told me of his friendship with COL Mac, memories flooded back to me. I told Johnnie that COL Mac had pulled me aside one day on an LZ outside of Tay Ninh and informed me that I had volunteered to lead a hunter/killer team for him, and that I could hand-pick 12 men from the line companies. Johnnie interrupted me and said, "I have heard this story! COL Mac told it to me!" There, in just a few minutes, we developed a kindred spirit. Sadly, COL MacMillan passed away in 2013 and is buried in Cross Creek Cemetery in Fayetteville, NC.

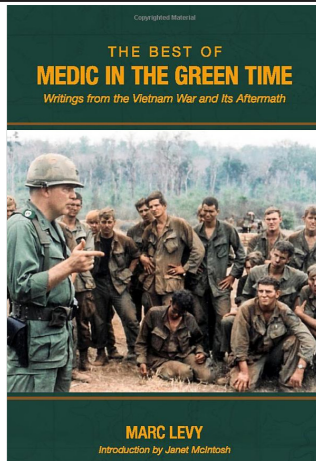


**Juan Asturias** called me asking for assistance in locating his former Executive Officer. Juan served with **4th Squadron, 7th Cavalry** in Korea during 1983 and 1984. He is looking for a COL Dally, who was a Company XO as a captain back then. Juan believes that COL Dally was last stationed at Fort Meade, MD, and retired from that assignment. Juan is anxious to talk with COL Dally, telling me that he saved his life and it is important that he be able to thank him. If you know COL Dally, or have information about him, please contact Juan at (504) 344-7652 or at <juanla@aol.com> or contact me.

Giving credit where credit is due. You may remember that in the most recent issue of the *Saber*, I wrote about the 50th anniversary of the 1st Cavalry Division incursion into Cambodia. Well, I did not do sufficient research before preparing that column. Bill Litvjak brought that to my attention. Bill served in the 4th Plt, C Co, 5-7 Cavalry in 1969 and 1970. Bill brought me up to speed on the involvement of 5th of the 7th in the Cambodian Incursion. Because Bill was there, he was able to inform me that B Co 5th of the 7th actually found the bunkers containing vehicles and materiel, and C Co 5th of the 7th loading helicopters with the found cache. During this operation, SGT Chris Keffalos gave the last full measure in support of his brothers and comrades-in-arms. Keffalos, the recipient of a Silver Star and Purple Heart, was known as "Shakey" to his friends and was only 18 years and 6 months old when he was killed while discovering a large cache of NVA equipment buried in a hill. His brothers in arms found a plank of wood, painted upon it "Shakey's Hill," and nailed it to a tree at the bottom of the hill.

The Australian photojournalist Norman Lloyd, who at the time was working for CBS News, was embedded in 5th of the 7th and accompanied the battalion on the Incursion. Although he journaled other units and other battles, he could not forget the men who fought that battle for Shakey's Hill and decided some time later to make a documentary based upon it. He named his documentary Shakey's Hill and in 2007 won the Best Documentary Short at the GI Film Festival. Lloyd's description of the documentary (in part) reads, "In 1970, one cameraman followed a battalion of American Soldiers into the jungles of Cambodia. The mission was to seek out substantial weapons/supply caches being used by the North Vietnamese Army during the Vietnam War. As the battalion closed in on the location of the caches, they encountered a growing resistance from the North Vietnamese forces. Surreal footage and intimate interviews take audiences through each fire fight leading up to the operation's climax, which became infamously known as the taking of Shakey's Hill. The hill was named after the battalion's youngest Soldier, who lost his life discovering the first cache. The discovery of the massive caches is considered one of the most successful operations of the American Forces during the war."

**What I'm reading this month** – Some of you may know Marc Levy, who served as a medic in Delta Company, 1-7 Cavalry in 1969-1970. In the years



since, he has become a proficient writer and blogger. He also maintains a website which is a repository for Vietnam stories and pictures. He has just authored and released a collection from that website called *The Best of Medic in the Green Time*, a compilation of short (1-5 page) stories, reflections, poetry, and downright painful recollections of time in Vietnam. These short but poignant tales make me laugh and make me cry but I keep reading them. Marc's anthology is addictive.

One of his reviewers, Andrew Bacevich of Boston University, says of the book, "Reading this collection of Vietnam-related stories and recollections is excruciatingly painful, which is precisely why it demands to be widely read." The chorus of voices includes chilling, first person accounts of LZ Ranch

in Cambodia overrun. An MP describes the unforgettable attempted escape of a handcuffed Viet Cong. Grunts tell of drug use (including LSD) while on patrol. An essay on war humor, complete with a half-dozen grisly jokes. An RTO recalls his long recovery from grievous wounds. A Charlie 1/5 Vet in Grenada is interrogated by the same U.S. Army he served with in Vietnam. In fast-paced traveler's tales the war haunts Levy's every step. Fake Vets and falsifying Army generals are unmasked. Levy has breakfast with Muhammad Ali. There are two interviews—twenty years apart, with the acclaimed Vietnamese writer Bao Ninh. A half dozen war poems round out the book." Available on Amazon or via <<https://MedicintheGreenTime.com>>

**To those of you who have submitted items** and ideas for publication, THANK YOU, and know that they will be published in future issues. To those of you still thinking about submitting items and ideas, please do! I am always looking for information in which the 7th U.S. Cavalry will have interest. I have a great piece for publication in the next issue from MSG (retired) Eldon Screws (yep, the name is correct) about his time with the 7th Cavalry Regiment in Korea in 1961 and 1962, just did not have room this go around.

Until we meet again, stay safe and stay well. Be careful when you go out, wear a mask if you can, let us get this COVID thing licked once and for all. **Garryowen!**

### OCS AND THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION by David Taylor

On the eve of World War II GEN George Marshall recognized the urgency of establishing rigorous training facilities for new officers. The Officer Candidate School (OCS) was established in early 1941 to quickly commission new officers as the draft brought in nearly a million men into the Army and junior leadership was desperately needed.

The 1st Cavalry Division's deployment to the Pacific in July, 1943 and its fighting in the Philippines contained many OCS graduates to fill its junior leadership ranks; it was the only reliable source for young officers in the middle of the war.

The first OCS class graduated in September 1941 at Fort Benning, Georgia and OCS expanded to 10 branch schools: Infantry, Signal Corps, Armor, Artillery, Coastal Artillery, Quartermaster, Medical Corps, Engineering, Cavalry and Ordnance.

The decision to start a shortened commissioning program proved to be incredibly wise, as OCS became the leading source of commissioned officers during the war. Of the 800,000 officers who served in the Army during World War II, more than half were OCS graduates which represented half the combat leaders in the war.

At the end of WWII, Troop levels dropped precipitously. Officer production slowed to a trickle until 1950. The Korean War caused the reactivation of six branch OCS programs in 1951 and by the end of 1952 a combined total of 16,800 candidates had graduated from the six schools. But all the reactivated schools except Infantry, Artillery and Engineer were closed by the end of 1952 and Engineer OCS closed in June 1954.

The Army expanded in 1965 to 1.5 million to fight in Vietnam and the Army needed 40,000 to 50,000 new junior officers so eight OCS branch schools were opened to produce the numbers needed for Vietnam.

During the height of the Vietnam War, Infantry OCS produced about 7,000 officers annually at Fort Benning. It is estimated that more than 50 percent of the company grade officers who fought in Vietnam were OCS graduates, with many in the 1st Cavalry Division.

OCS presently maintains a single battalion. In April 1973, the Branch Immaterial Officer Candidate Course was created at Fort Benning to replace all other OCS courses except the Women's Army Corps OCS until 1976, when it too merged with the course at Fort Benning.

There have been 61 OCS Medal of Honor recipients, including 1st Cav Col (Ret) Joe Marm Jr,

The legacy of OCS is maintained by the United States Army Officer Candidate School Alumni Association. The association represents all Army officers commissioned through Officer Candidate Schools, including the Active, Reserve and National Guard components. 1st Cavalry OCS graduates are invited to join <<https://ocsalumni.org>>. The association offers a great way to reconnect with OCS classmates.

*Dave Taylor, retired Colonel, Special Forces, is a board member of the Officer Candidate School Alumni Association. 1st CAV OCS graduates interested in joining the alumni association or with questions can contact him at: PAO@ocsalumni.org or call (Cell) 330-321-3370.*



Today's OCS still provides junior officers to the 1st Cav: "Standards... No Compromise"



## 8th CAV News



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Hello everyone, I hope you are all safe and being careful with all the insanity going on. My family and I have been laying low. I like to travel often, so this crap has really hurt my roaming soul. I imagine y'all have enjoyed as much of this as you can stand, so we will move on.

The next edition will be coming to you during the Christmas holiday season. If you have a funny or meaningful holiday story from when you were in the military, get it to me and I will try and put it in here. Make sure to send it or contact me before October 20<sup>th</sup>. Let us try and spread a little cheer around as this 2020 closes out.

I would like to say Welcome to our new member and his wife, Steve and Barbara Gordon from Niles, Michigan. Steve was with B 2/8 from May 1967 to May 1968. Glad to have you with us, Steve!

### Frank Labletta's Story

The following was told to me by a Trooper that was with D 2/8 from '66-'67. Frank LaBletta and I were both in the Wildcat Platoon, but at different times. I have seen him several times in different places and in talking with him I could tell this guy knows what he is talking about. He has an amazing recall of events and I could listen to him for hours. Frank, myself and Rich O'Brien went to the funeral of a CAV brother, James "Wildman" Taylor, in Ohio and I thought to myself, "I've got to get him to write me a story," so the following is a copy of the email I received from him.

Hi Jim! Here is the official documentation of the LRRP on Jan 1, 1967. My son who was fascinated by the story found this and sent it to me and Jim Taylor RIP. He searched the records of the U.S. Army. I will attempt to give the following detail.



### First Cav Airmobile An Khe, Vietnam July 66 To July 67

December 31, 1966, I was picked by Squad Leader Spec 4, Bill Pomeroy D 2/8 Cav Wildcat PLT for a Pony Team, the term we used if it was not a Long Range Recon Patrol (LRRP) to recon the mountains in Binh Dinh Province. Our company was standing down because of 24-hour cease fire for New Years Day.

Four of us left about 2pm Dec 31 and headed up the mountain in the Kim Son Valley. The four were Bill Pomeroy, and 3 PFC'S: Jim Taylor, (RIP) Tom Martinez (RIP) and Frank LaBletta. About 5pm, following a trail, Bill, a great decorated Soldier who had both balls and brains, was on point heard some distant voices. We immediately without any noise we left the trail (Bill insisted we not break any twigs or branches).

We proceeded Northwest in the thick brush maybe a klick and stopped and Bill climbed a tree and observed about 100 VC bathing, smoking, and talking by a large creek. He immediately got on the horn BALLS and told our Company Commander, he in turn got battalion involved. One guy in the patrol accused Bill of trying to be a hero when he requested to break the truce and bring in artillery, request was denied! About 6:30pm, climbed the tree again and with his binoculars spotted an exceptionally large force of NVA coming down the mountain. He estimated at first, company size, but within 5 minutes he revised his estimate to be regiment size. Battalion got on the horn and Bill again requested artillery saying they were in an offensive move. Well, he got permission and all hell broke loosed as he employed 2 maybe 3 batteries of artillery. The official record is 165 rounds of artillery were fired. Bill, and excellent map reader, had the artillery walk down the mountain and on the VC at the creek at the same time. They had nowhere to run. Now, maybe 15 minutes later we had to haul ass as Bill knew that they knew somebody was bringing in that artillery. Bill knew we needed to get to the top of the mountain behind our backs for extraction. We heard voices as we proceeded to run our asses off. Well, do you know that it started to rain heavily. Thank you, Lord! Most grunts know that when it rains the patter and noise help a great deal with concealing your movement. Its dark, and we are puffing like a freight trains running up this mountain. Scared, wet and being chased, Bill finds a little cave in the underbrush. We immediately, put our weapons on automatic, no talking, no smoking, and no movement. I would say we were about a half hour maybe more, from the top of the mountain. We stayed up all night expecting the worse, but Bill decided we would leave at 4am using the dark and be in position to find an LZ on top for extraction at daylight. The silence, wet jungle, and unknown were to say the least heart throbbing. I do not remember the time exactly, but we got to the top and its still dark and Bill

tells us to stay here and goes himself to find a suitable LZ. He comes back and thank the Lord again says we are in luck. We had been on radio silence since we started to run and Bill gives battalion our location again an awesome map reader, and every grunt knows when we hear a chopper it's mostly joy of course unless it's a Medivac. We drop smoke which the chopper pilot insisted, and I swear at that time, that this LZ is hot! Jim Taylor who had bad feet and was always falling behind was first to run about 30 yards to board right behind him was Tom, Bill, and myself. When that chopper took off and banked, I swear it was a miracle that we got out of there alive. The relief, the joy, and the feeling of getting out after kicking ass was heavenly, best high I ever had even until today!

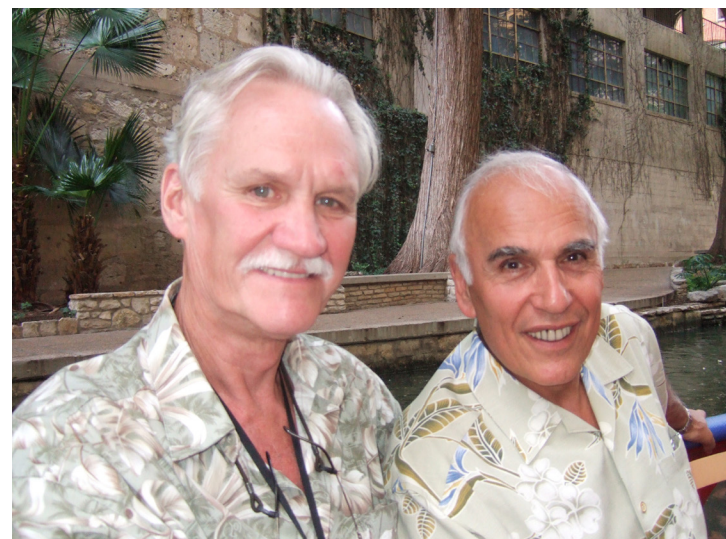
We fly back to battalion instead of the valley where our company was still located. Bill is told to go with officers who met the chopper to S2 the intelligence tent. We were told to go to breakfast. We are in line at breakfast and one of the Troopers serving says to guys coming thru the line, "Did you hear about 4 guys that took on a bunch of NVA and got out?" Just then the guy who accused Bill of being a hero shouts out that was us" Everybody in line turns around and looks and we just smiled!

We ate breakfast with lots of guys congratulating us and Bill joins us, an hour later we get ready to join our company. When we arrive back at the company our platoon comes running up to the chopper hugging and smiling saying nobody knew if we were alive or not until Bill requested the chopper. It was a joy to see their faces so happy for us. I wrote Bill up for a Silver Star for Valor and the Army knocked it down to a Bronze star, With V. Bill was offered if I remember correctly, a battlefield commission, but declined.

The official records say 50 KIA but, we will never know the exact count, but we know on that day 4 American Soldiers brought hell on the VC and NVA.

P.S. Bill was the last of the Airborne serving in D Co the three of us were legs! Bill left May 15, 1967, the three of us rotated back July 15 and late July 1967.

P.S.S. To all Viet Nam Vets: If anybody ever tells you it was wrong to be in Viet Nam, you ask: "Were you there?" If they say no you tell them they are not allowed to talk to you about the war. We know that we were the best America had, and we



Jim Taylor (left) Frank LaBletta (right) San Antonio 2007

also knew that it was not a popular war. But nothing is more valuable than fighting for each other to get home and that has bound us forever. Tom Martinez passed away 20 years ago; Jim Taylor passed away 2019 from Agent Orange related illnesses. Bill Pomeroy is retired living in the Philadelphia suburbs.

And me, retired, I live in Cape May C.H. NJ, thankful for my many blessings and knowing on that day and every day that somebody up there likes me! Thank you, Lord! God Bless America! SGT Frank LaBletta, Squad leader D 2/8 Cav Wildcat PLT

### Portion of After-Action Report 25 June 1967 Thayer II:

At 0217Z Jan, a LRRP from D 2/8, in position in the Kim Son Valley, observed a force estimated at 100 VC, in the open. The patrol called in artillery fire which consisted of 162 rounds of H.E./105/155 on the enemy force. As darkness was approaching, the patrol was unable to make an accurate and detailed assessment, but it was estimated that 50 of the enemy had been killed.

### Anthony Duchinsky

I recently got an email from a Trooper who is a Korean War Veteran, Anthony Duchinsky. He grew up in Chester, Illinois but now lives in my old neighborhood of Orlando Park, IL. Anthony has been a member of the 8<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment since 1951. He entered the service with five other guys from Chester on February 8, 1951. He spent 2 years in Korea and almost 3 months in Japan. He took part in 3 major campaigns. Anthony would like to query anyone who might remember any events from **July 1951 thru October 1953** who was with his company **H 2/8**. Around Thanksgiving 1952 it appears that F 2/8 lost most of their company while assigned to an O.P. The North Koreans and Chinese soldiers overran the company, killing or taking them prisoners. H 2/8 was there in support of F 2/8 so he witnessed, along with his superiors, only two Troopers return and they were shell shocked. H 2/8 was next but moved out the next day. I truly hope someone remembers something about this incident and gets in touch with Anthony or myself. You can contact Anthony at: **TonyJoel1896@gmail.com**

### Reunions

As everyone probably knows by now the CAV Reunion is off. I am sure there are a lot of disappointed Troopers and their families. I have had several folks who have called me and said they are so sad, that this would have been their first reunion. A few have said that it might have been their last chance to come to a division reunion. I hope and pray that things will turn around and we will have an even bigger and better one next year, and that all the Troopers who wanted to come this year will be able to next year.

As many of you know, me, Smiley and Larry host a reunion each year in October. Come on down and join us. This year the dates are **October 14 - 17**. It is called the **Kentucky Kampout**, but it is in Tennessee. You do not need to make reservations, just call, text, or email me. We have nice clean rooms and cabins. We spend a lot of time gathered around the campfire, just talking, and you get plenty to eat. The cost is approximately \$300 per man, that is lodging and food for the entire weekend. I have heard guys say how relaxing and comfortable it is to be with men that understand where they are coming from. If you can make it, please do.

Honor and Courage, Top Gun



## 9th CAV News

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If every man who served in a particular Troop over its six or seven years in Vietnam were to attend the same reunion, it would take a lot of hotels to accommodate the crowd and a fleet of buses to haul them around, not to mention how much space it would take to maintain social distancing! Troop Reunions start with small clusters of men who were all in a particular Troop at a particular time. They draw in some who were there earlier and some who joined later, and soon guys who never met in Vietnam are old friends, sharing memories.

Organizing and hosting a reunion is no easy task. Fortunately for the rest of us, some people seem drawn to it. The Apache Troop group I reunite with has had several such organizers. The late Art Dockter did two in Fargo, ND. John "Bloody Bart" Bartlett and Billie did two in Whitefish, MT. Jim and Jenny Thomas did one in Chicago, and John and Elizabeth Peele hosted one in Orlando. Ron and Bequi Livingston have done two in Albuquerque, and were planning the next one there when the pandemic hit. Jeff Cromar and Mike King did one at Lake Tahoe. And two stalwart Apache Troop ladies, Pam Hoskin and Pick Pelter, did one in Washington, D.C. and one in Kansas City, MO.

But the grand champion organizers of Troop Reunions are C Trp's Patrick Bieneman and his wife Carol. After hosting three reunions of the Charlie Troop Blues, they stepped up to Troop level and have done five already. Covid caused their sixth to be postponed from this September to next.



**Trooper Patrick and Troopette Carol**

**Patrick Bieneman on the Value of Reunions:** Patrick asked if he could share the following lessons learned from the many he and Carol have hosted:

In 2014, (LTC) Billie Williams asked (SFC) Wallace Titchenell ("Titch") to ask me and a fellow Trooper if we'd coordinate a reunion in Columbus, GA for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of C Trp's going to Vietnam. A medical situation left my counterpart unable to assist, so my wife Carol and I immediately began making preparations. Titch came across with lots of help, as he had helped the Bullwhip Squadron Association hold reunions there. The only guidance Billie Williams gave us was NO fancy dinners; it was to be more casual and relaxed.

We decided seven things are a must for every reunion: (1) Honor the Troopers who went to Vietnam that year (2) Honor Our Fallen Brothers (3) Honor the Gold Star Family Members in attendance (4) Keep it casual (5) Keep it entertaining (6) Keep the families involved and (7) Welcome any 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Trooper who wanted to attend, no matter what unit they served in.

Carol and I have organized five C Trp Reunions starting with the one in 2015. Several Troopers and Troopettes come back year after year. In the past three years, we have had an explosion of new Troopers and Troopettes attend. We also have had 5 children, 7 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild take part. Titch's grandson and his wife and their son (Greg, Carrie and Zach Titchenell) have attended all five. We do make sure our reunions are family events. At each reunion we involve another family by having them read the poem, "*It's Me Who Has Your Back*," and we ask the wives to read the names of Our Fallen Brothers.

The 2019 reunion was in Washington, D.C. We laid two wreaths at the new Helicopter and Crewmember Memorial. Those who came home from Vietnam placed the first, to honor those killed in action. The Gold Star Families placed the second, to honor the loved ones they lost. LTC Galen Rosher spoke on what this memorial means to him as a pilot and a commander, and Dierdra Jelich-Langworthy, daughter of CW2 John A. Jelich, spoke about what it meant to her. At the conclusion of the ceremony, our niece Lucy Bieneman sang the Tim McGraw song, "*If You're Reading This*." There were a lot of tears. Next, Troopers Ed Gruetzemacher, Jay Hockenbury, Artie Sanders and Don Coshey placed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Then Troopers Dutch Florez and Stephen DaCosta placed one at the Vietnam Wall as the rest of us placed a Cavalry Yellow Rose with nametag and a 3x5" American flag below the name of each of our 120 fallen brothers. The children took part as well, carrying the American Flag, the 1-9 Squadron colors, and a C Trp guidon in each ceremony.

I once had a Trooper ask me to help persuade a certain individual to attend a Troop Reunion. I tried but was not successful. Then one year, that man's sister and sister-in-law (both Gold Star Family members) and their children did attend, and had a fantastic time just learning that we really did keep their loved ones alive. In 2018, Mike Tuttle finally attended his first reunion, along with his daughter, Jennifer. He was very reserved at first, and kept his feeling and thoughts close to his chest.

CWO Mike Tuttle was a Scout Pilot in 1968-69. His best friend, CW2 John Jelich, was also a scout pilot. At the end of their tour, when both went back to the States, Mike introduced John to his sister Tina. They became a couple, and they soon wed. John went back to Vietnam for a second tour and was flying an OH-6 with D Co, 229<sup>th</sup> Assault Helicopter Bn when he was killed in action on 1 April 1972. He left his widow, Tina (age 22) and a baby girl, Dierdra, 11 months old. Tina was also 7 months pregnant with their son, John Anthony (Jake) Jelich II.

Mike had haunting memories and very bad PTSD. At the 2018 reunion, his crew chief, John Strickland, (the one who wanted him to come) stuck with Mike from beginning to end. So did Peter Guthrie, who'd been the Blue Platoon leader at the time. Mike began to loosen up, and by the end of the reunion he had come out of his shell and was starting to embrace life again. After Mike attended his second reunion, in 2019, he was full of life and had great happiness.

Mike Tuttle died on 31 January 2020. We all lost a great brother that day. Mike's daughter Jennifer and his sister Tina talked to Carol and me about the great change that had come over Mike as a result of those reunions. He was back to the Mike

Two Troop Reunions planned for this September got postponed when Covid-19 came along. Apache Trp's was to be 2-6 Sep, and Charlie's 26-28 Sep.

It probably is a stretch to call the typical gathering a Troop Reunion.

from a long time ago. This is what the reunions are about. Our brotherhood is a stronger bond now even more than when we were fighting side by side. It is stronger because our families are now a part of that bond. Yes, they knew some of what we went through but now they walk side by side with us.

It's not just the Troopers who come out of their shells at our reunions. I have seen wives make a total transformation from being quiet and shy to joining in on everything we do. I have also come to realize that the reunions affect not only us grown-ups but the younger generations as well. Don Vinningre's granddaughter, Kayleigh, has made only one of our reunions but she gave her class a report on the reunion and finished by saying, "I hope I get to go back again this year." Jack Schwarz's two grandchildren have also made one reunion, but they were so looking forward to coming back this year. Isaiah wanted to make sure I would be needing his help again. Zachary Titchenell was looking forward to starting our reunion with the Pledge of Allegiance and then participating in the reading of the poem, "*It's Me Who Has Your Back*." I look forward to having these Honorary Charlie Troopers and Little Sisters of Charlie Troop come back year after year.

The first reunion Carol and I organized for the Blues, in 2011, attracted 17 attendees. At the 2015 Troop Reunion, we had 175 and since then we've averaged between 125 and 180. Thanks to Covid-19, 2020 will be the first and the last I hope where we will be at ZERO.

### Losses Reported Since the Last Issue:

**Fredrick M. "Mike" Tuttle** of Millican, Texas, passed away January 27, 2020, at age 72. After graduating from high school, Mike joined the Army, trained as a helicopter pilot, and flew Scouts in C Troop. After leaving the Army, he flew helicopters along the Texas and Louisiana coasts and eventually became a sales representative for Texas Helicopter and Air Logistics, providing helicopters to the oil industry drilling in the Gulf of Mexico.

**Karl G. "Smitty" Smith** of Spokane, WA, died March 19, 2019. Karl enlisted at age 18, went to flight school, and flew Scouts in C Troop, where he reportedly survived being shot down 10 times. Karl died from a rare stomach cancer his doctor advised is typically seen only in patients exposed to Agent Orange.

**CW4 (Ret) John D. McWaters** of Copperas Cove, TX, passed away 5 April 2020 at age 69. Born in Schwetzingen, Germany, he retained just enough German accent that his friends called him "Fritz." After high school he joined the Army and served with distinction for 26 years, retiring at Fort Hood as a CW4 in 1995. He was in C Troop in 1970-1971, flying Cobras and Hueys, and later flew fixed-wing aircraft. After retirement, he taught Air Force pilot candidates at Laughlin AFB in Del Rio, Texas, for 19 years.

**Luther M. Russell** of Columbus, GA, died 8 April 2020 at the age of 78 from the effects of Agent Orange. He flew Scouts in C Troop in 1969, call sign Cavalier 14. He later served in C Troop, 16<sup>th</sup> Cav in 1972 and 18<sup>th</sup> Corps Aviation Company in 1973.

**COL (Ret) William Kenneth Bedsole** of Enterprise, AL died 2 July 2020 at age 85. A Distinguished Military Graduate of Auburn University, he taught high-school chemistry and math before entering the Army in 1957. He deployed to Vietnam in 1965 with A Troop, and returned to Vietnam for a second tour in 1970. He later served as the Director of Training, Army Aviation Center at Fort Rucker, and as the Director of Presidential Communications for the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

**Ken Brown** of DeQueen, AR died 6 July 2020 at age 70 after a four-year battle with esophageal cancer. He began private flight training right after high-school graduation and started college in the fall, but decided to leave school after the first semester and joined the Army instead. He flew Lift in A Troop (call sign Apache 33) and on return to the States he was a flight instructor at Fort Rucker. After leaving the Army, he made a civilian career of flying helicopters for Weyherhauser Aviation.

**LTC (Ret) Jim Schlottman** of McDonough, GA, died 22 July 2020 at age 76. While serving in Vietnam, including as the A Troop FO, he was awarded three Purple Hearts and decorated with the Distinguished Service Cross (the nation's 2<sup>nd</sup> highest medal for valor). After retiring from the Army, he continued his life of service by putting Veterans back to work through the Department of Labor at the State and Federal level. After learning of Jim Schlottman's passing, his friend **Jim Haslitt** (Apache 11) shared this story:

"Jim was originally assigned to an infantry battalion as an FO and saved their butts one day with accurate artillery fire. He was wounded, and when he came back to the artillery, his commander said he was not going back to the infantry but to the Cav. Jim told me his commander told him: 'You will either come back with a chest full of medals or in a body bag.'"

Jim was an amazing man and did a wonderful job. When A Troop was flying out of Pleiku, the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division had a battalion that was badly hit one night, and the A Troop Commander, Blake McIlwain, had the Troop out looking for the bad guys the next morning. Moving west, he found hundreds of NVA resting in hammocks. These were the ones who hit the 4<sup>th</sup> ID, but the problem was they were a mile or so inside Cambodia.

Blake told Jim to call in a barrage and he did. The artillery called back and said they were ready to shoot but could not and he knew why. Jim asked what could be done, and was told the Division Commander had to approve the mission. Jim promptly pulled out his trusty SOI (Signal Operating Instructions) and called the commander. After a couple of calls, the pilot answered and wanted to know who was this and why was he calling. Jim explained and the Commander said they could not fire. Jim said you mean those enemy soldiers who killed your men get off scot free? After a few conversations back and forth, the OK was given to fire.

Jim called the artillery back and was told they had been listening to the call and that rounds were on the way. Word quickly got out and everyone jumped in. Every jet in the area wanted in as well as gunships. Jim told me more than 300 NVA were KIA that day.

**Continued to pg. 11**







## 1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION HISTORIAN

**Terry A. McCarl**  
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TerryAMcCarl@gmail.com



### The Oldest Surviving American WWII Veteran: Lawrence Brooks, 91st Engineer Battalion

In early July 2020, Theresa "Teri" Murray of Evanston, IL called the 1CDA Office with a question. What could we tell her about the 91st Engineer Battalion? She had read an article in the May 18, 2020 issue of the National Geographic Newsletter about Lawrence Brooks of New Orleans, LA, who is believed to be the oldest surviving American WWII Veteran at the age of 110. The article indicated that his unit was the 91st Engineer BN. She had performed a Google search for 91st Engineer Battalion and the fifth reference to come up was <[http://www.first-team.us/legacies/subunits/91st\\_ebn/](http://www.first-team.us/legacies/subunits/91st_ebn/)> (1st Cavalry Division History) which indicated that in fact, the 91st Engineer BN became part of the 1st Cavalry Division in 1992.

The lineage of the 91st Engineer BN is as follows: copied from <https://1cda.org/history/history-91eng/>

- Organized 1 October 1933 in the Regular Army as the 50th Engineer Battalion
- Re-designated 10 January 1938 as the 91st Engineer Battalion
- Activated 10 February 1941 at Camp Shelby, Mississippi
- Expanded, reorganized, and re-designated 10 July 1942 as the 91st Engineer Regiment
- Re-designated 6 August 1942 as the 91st Engineer General Service Regiment
- Inactivated 20 January 1946 in the Philippines
- Regiment (less Headquarters and Headquarters Detachments, 1st and 2d Battalion, and Companies E and F) reorganized and redesignated 28 November 1951 as the 91st Engineer Combat Battalion (Headquarters and Headquarters Detachments, 1st and 2d Battalion, and Companies E and F concurrently disbanded)
- Activated 14 January 1952 at Fort Belvoir, Virginia
- Reorganized and re-designated 20 May 1952 as the 91st Engineer Battalion
- Inactivated 20 May 1971 at Fort Belvoir, Virginia
- Assigned 16 October 1992 to the 1st Cavalry Division and activated at Fort Hood, Texas
- Inactivated 15 October 2005 at Fort Hood, Texas, and relieved of assignment to the 1st Cavalry Division
- Assigned 16 October 2013 to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, and activated at Fort Hood, Texas

To see the detailed history of the 91st Engineer BN, go to <<https://1cda.org/history/history-91eng/>>

According to the lineage, the 91st Engineer BN was constituted in 1933 as the 50th Engineer BN and underwent several reforms since then. In 1992, it became part of the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, TX where it is currently designated as the 91st Brigade Engineer Battalion (91BEB), providing essential combat enabler support to the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team (Ironhorse).



So, did the oldest surviving American WWII Veteran serve with the 1st Cavalry Division? Well, not exactly, but he served with a unit that later became part of the Division. Upon contacting the 91st Engineer BN at Fort Hood and talking with 1LT Madison Petry, Unit Public Affairs Representative, I quickly realized that the 91st Engineer BN is on top of the mission of honoring Lawrence Brooks! At his 110th birthday party at the WWII Museum in New Orleans in September of 2019, he was presented with a plaque by the unit, pictured to the left.



Photo Left to Right: LTC John Ordonio, BN CO; PVT Julian Price, the youngest member of the BN at the time; Lawrence Brooks; CSM James Johnson, BN Sergeant Major at the time. (Photos from 91st Engineer BN)

1LT Petry also mentioned that the BN is in the process of re-decorating its BN HQ area, and one wall will be solely dedicated to

Mr. Brooks and his stories, pictures, and other memorabilia.

Lawrence Brooks was drafted into the U.S. Army in November of 1940 at the age of 31. He was assigned to the 91st Engineer BN, which at the time was predominantly African American. He underwent training for possible WW II involvement at several military installations in Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi. He was discharged after his one-year military obligation was fulfilled in November 1941. Then came the Pearl Harbor Attack on 7 December 1941 and he was called back to the 91st Engineer BN, only one month after his discharge, to deploy to the Pacific Theater.

The 91st Engineer BN took a 48-day voyage from New York City to Australia



on the Queen Mary; a trip made longer than usual because of zigzagging to avoid enemy submarines.

Lawrence Brooks served in Australia, New Guinea, and the Philippines. He performed several duties including cook, valet, and driver for three officers. He had an unbelievably valuable skill—a trained ear with which he could ascertain if an approaching aircraft were Japanese so that he warns others to take cover. (I understand that his hearing is still remarkably good!) He served until the War ended in 1945, having attained the rank of PFC.

Here he is holding a picture of himself taken in 1943 (From Article in September 9, 2019 Times-Picayune/ New Orleans Advocate by Ted Lewis) "New Orleans World War II Vet turns 110, with a big museum party and plenty of kisses" <[https://www.nola.com/entertainment\\_](https://www.nola.com/entertainment_)

[life/article\\_40cf8698-cf61-11e9-b043-07fb95fca6fb.html](https://www.nola.com/entertainment_)>

According to an article dated November 11, 2019 entitled "Meet the Man Believed to be the Oldest Living World War II Veteran. He's 110," only 389,292 of the 16 million who served in the War are still alive. <<https://www.cnn.com/2019/09/12/us/oldest-world-war-ii-veteran-birthday-trnd/index.html>>

Also, from that same article is this account: "He Had an Exhilarating Brush with Death"

In an interview with the Museum (WW II Museum in New Orleans), Brooks recounted a story of riding in a C-47 cargo plane from Australia to New Guinea. "The plane was loaded down with barbed wire but one of the motors went out on it," he said.

To lighten the plane, those aboard threw much of the cargo into the ocean. Brooks threw the boxes out of the plane like his life depended on it: there were only enough parachutes on the plane for the pilot and the co-pilot.

Brooks said he joked to the aircraft's pilot: "If he's going to jump, I'm going to grab him." Thankfully, he did not have to resort to drastic measures. "It was a scary moment," he said. "But we made it."

He was born in Norwood, LA near Baton Rouge on September 12, 1909, one of a family of 15 children. The father of 5 children, 13 grandchildren, and 22 great grandchildren, Brooks worked for many years as a forklift operator before retiring in his seventies. For years he avoided discussing his experiences in the war, sharing little of his story with his family as they grew up.

His daughter, Vanessa Brooks, who cares for him, says the first time she started hearing his stories was in 2014 when the World War II Museum began hosting annual birthday parties for him in New Orleans, where he now lives. But he still shies away from his family's questions about his war experiences.

In 2005, Brooks lost his wife, Leona, to Hurricane Katrina. She died shortly after the couple were evacuated by helicopter from their home. "Hurricane Katrina took everything I owned, washed away everything," he said. Still, Brooks is upbeat. He enjoys spending warm days on his daughter's front porch in Central City, a neighborhood at the heart of New Orleans.

The World War II Museum in New Orleans has held a birthday party for Lawrence every year since 2014, but due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, no such party will be held this year on September 12, when he will turn 111!

### Thanks to Teri Murray

A special thanks to Teri Murray, without whom this column would probably not have come to be. Teri is a retired former Program Coordinator at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. Teri is an accomplished researcher and from a family of many WWII Veterans, including her father, Clifton Williams (Army Air Forces), his three brothers, Leo Williams, George Richmond and Alphonso Richmond (all Army), and his 1st cousin Robert Donald (Navy). Teri posted the dedication below on the WWII Memorial Website for Lawrence Brooks.

She advises that if anyone wants to register a nominee, they can submit an application to <[www.wwiimemorial.com](http://www.wwiimemorial.com)>; the only information required is name, branch of service, and hometown. Activity during WWII and photo are optional.

Teri Murray has compiled an extensive list of references for those wanting more information on Lawrence Brooks. If anyone wants a copy, send me an email requesting the additional information on Lawrence Brooks and I will email it to you.

### 91st Engineer Bn

And what about the 91st Engineer Battalion, you may ask? It is going strong! It is a unit of approximately 700. Members of the unit are called *Sabers*. It is now designated as the 91st Brigade Engineer Battalion (91BEB), providing organic engineer, military intelligence, signal, planning, and execution capabilities to the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team (Ironhorse).

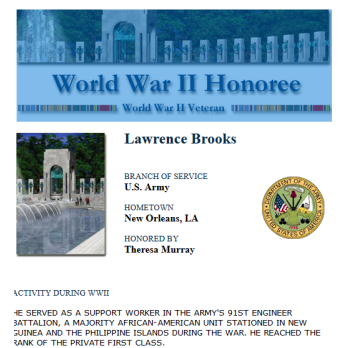
You can learn more about the 91st Engineer BN from two Facebook pages: 91st Engineer Battalion and 91st Engineer Battalion Alumni.

From my limited contact with the 91st Engineer Battalion to gather information for this column, I am of the impression that it is a proud get-er-done outfit! I am hoping to pay them a visit when I am in Fort Hood for the 2021 1CDA Reunion (100th birthday of the 1st Cavalry Division September 22-26, 2021.)

As I write this column in late August of 2020, I see a post on the 91st Engineer BN Facebook page that the WWII Museum is requesting people to send Mr. Brooks a birthday card. Most of you will not see this column until after Mr. Brooks' 111th birthday on September 12, but I am guessing that he would still enjoy a belated birthday card or just a note wishing him well! If interested, please sent to:

The National WWII Museum  
c/o Happy 111th Mr. Brooks  
945 Magazine St. New Orleans, LA 70130

Happy 111th Birthday, Mr. Brooks, and thank you for your service!





## OIF/OEF VETERAN

### 82nd FA News

Joseph Himpelmann  
P.O. Box 341884  
Bethesda, MD 20827  
240-380-7419  
joe@assaultfwd.com



**Witnesses to Tragedy**  
GHAZNAH, IRAQ – The ground shook and the sound was deafening as two huge explosions ripped through this mostly Shia village located just East of Mosul in Northern Iraq. The vehicle

borne improvised explosive devices or VBIEDs had been parked at opposite ends of the main street that runs through this community. Dozens of residential structures were completely destroyed, and many more buildings suffered significant damage in the blast which blew out windows more than a mile from the site of the attack and left two huge craters in its wake.



When our patrol from B Battery, Task Force 2-82, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division arrived at the scene shortly after the incident occurred, to assess the situation and offer our assistance, dozens of ambulances, fire trucks, and other rescue workers were rushing into the village to assist the thousands of residents from the local area that had turned out to assist their neighbors. Digging through the rubble with their bare hands, people frantically tossed cinder blocks from the collapsed homes in an attempt to recover the remains of those killed and hoping to find others still alive but trapped beneath the debris. Men and women alike screamed out in agony and cried in grief. Some women could be seen beating themselves in an act of self-flagellation. Initial estimates from locals were that 25 people had been killed and many more wounded in the attack. Reports from local hospitals later in the day raised those numbers to 32 killed and 111 wounded. As we stood at the rim of one of the massive blast craters it was hard to believe that those numbers weren't higher yet.

Colonel Ahmed from the 2nd Division of the Iraqi Army stated at the scene that he thought the casualties were as low as they were since most of the residents had been sleeping in their courtyards or on the roof at the time of the early morning attack due to the summer heat. This saved them from being crushed as their homes collapsed beneath them. His Soldiers along with members of the Iraqi Police, Kurdish Peshmerga, and local security forces remained at a heightened state of alert and visibly tense out of fear of a follow on attack targeting the first responders and crowds that had gathered.



The attacks here occurred at roughly the same time as other explosions targeting Shiites happened elsewhere in Iraq in an apparent attempt to stoke the flames of sectarian tension that have largely faded from the daily lives of most Iraqis. During a recent visit to Iraq the U.S. Secretary of Defense, Robert Gates, stated that the Kurdish - Arab relationship had surpassed the Sunni - Shia conflict as

the number one potential driver of instability in Iraq, a sentiment reiterated by GEN Raymond Oderino commander of all American forces in Iraq in recent days. In the wake of the attack civil and religious leaders from the Shiite community called for restraint and pledged not to retaliate to these senseless acts of violence.



## LRRP NEWS

### Continued from pg. 4

The book is an anthology of first-person stories about experiences of members of the LRRP/Ranger unit of the 1st Cav during the Vietnam War. The stories were written by members of the unit and were originally published in The Newsletter for the LRRP/Rangers of the 1st Cavalry Division during the Vietnam War over the last 15 years or so. The book was compiled by Bill Carpenter (1967), Fairmont, West Virginia.

The following email was received from **Ed Moline (1968-69)**, Waukesha, Wisconsin: "Can anyone tell me the name of my team leader who carried a sawed-off shot gun and was wounded on a mission that took place on Thanksgiving Day while we operated out of Phuoc Vinh? Ranger Ed Moline: <llm627@aol.com>."

Finally, remember to wear a mask when in public, practice social distancing, and wash your hands frequently. And, if you find yourself in hell, keep going (Source: Winston Churchill).

RANGERS LEAD THE WAY.

## THE DOCTOR'S REPORT

COL (Ret) James Noel  
HHC 1-5 Cav, 1990  
JNoel2@live.com

SSG (Ret) Jonathan Shockley  
HHC 1-5 Cav, 1988-1992 (Doc Shock)  
Jsho941055@aol.com

*Have a question or concern? Please feel free to send either of us questions and we will gladly address them in upcoming issues of Saber!*

As a group Veterans are at risk for Covid 19 with those over 50 years of age having a marked increase in risk for serious life, threatening illness. This is caused by a virus that is a coronavirus called SARS-CoV-2. This virus has at least six strains but between these strains there is little variability. Which offers us great hope for vaccine development. The virus is spread from person to person by aerosolized body fluids. These are expelled from a person with a cough, a sneeze, a yell, singing and even talking loudly. This method of spread offers us methods for prevention by limiting aerosolization and blocking aerosolized droplets. A single cough can produce up to 3,000 droplets. The virus is spread simply by speaking. A recent study showed that we spray thousands of droplets invisible to the naked eye into the air just by speaking. The aerosol method of spread offers us methods for prevention by limiting aerosolization and blocking aerosolized droplets.

Simply wearing a mask works in two ways to prevent aerosolized droplets from exiting a patient and by blocking entrance to an uninfected person. The best masks are properly fitted N-95 masks, but double cloth masks, double folded bandanas are remarkably effective. However, masks with one-way valves or vents allow



air to be exhaled through a hole in the material, which can result in expelled respiratory droplets that can reach others. This type of mask does not prevent the person wearing the mask from transmitting COVID-19 to others. The gaiter breaks large droplets into micro droplets and the microdroplets increase the spread of the virus. The gaiters tested by Duke researchers made things worse. Instead of stopping droplets from escaping, it turned larger droplets into smaller ones that stayed in the air longer. Therefore, CDC does not recommend using valve masks or gaiters for prevention of infection. Masks are only effective if they cover the nose and the mouth.

Certain types of face shields are effective in preventing spread and the combination of a cloth mask with a face shield appears to be the most effective method of preventing spread. To be effective in preventing transmission the face shield should wrap around the sides of the wearer's face and extend below the chin. The face shields do not fog glasses as much as the masks do, they are cooler, and they are easier to clean.

In conclusion, Dr. Eric Westman, an associate professor at Duke University's medical school, had the physics department test the effectiveness of 14 different types of masks and face coverings. "This group of investigators looked at different materials. They looked at 14 different types of material regarding masks." In the study, scientists found N95 masks (the ones used by health care workers) worked best at stopping the spread of respiratory droplets during regular speech. A surgical mask was a close second. Less effective was the bandana. While it offers a unique look, the study found it let through about 50% of as many particles as someone not wearing a mask at all. And the least effective option tested by scientists was the gaiter. "So, cotton masks, these polyester masks, they work very well. They work almost as well as surgical masks which is really nice to know," Dr. Romero from the University of Arkansas said.

Many countries quickly began widespread use of face masks, including Taiwan, which researchers from Johns Hopkins had predicted in January might be the hardest hit country in the world after China (as of 20 August 2020, Taiwan has had seven deaths in a population of 23.78 million). That is 0.03 deaths per 100,000. On a per capita basis, the U.S. has 1,200 times as many Covid-19 deaths as Taiwan as of 20 August 2020.

Finally, as we approach the flu season please get your flu shots early. The combination of Covid 19 and influenza will be devastating. There are many opinions concerning Covid 19, I can tell you that I have lost three physician and two nurse friends to Covid 19. So, from personal experience I can attest this virus can be deadly for those of us past our 50's, and those with complicating health conditions of asthma, chronic lung disease, diabetes, and being overweight. Most of us have had the opportunity to run wearing a gas mask and MOP gear. A mask is no big deal and may help us have a football season.

Doc out!

## 9 CAV NEWS

### Continued from pg. 9

When he got back to base camp there were two 06's (full colonels) waiting to see him. They first read him his rights. Jim said, "Are you thinking of court-martialing me?" and was told that GEN Westmoreland was pushing for that, since he had fired across the border. Jim told them that would be great, and that he would have nothing further to say until his trial, which he demanded be conducted very quickly. He told them he would be glad to testify that he was responsible for the deaths of 300 enemy soldiers who the night before killed many U.S. Soldiers, and that would do so again. Messages came down later, one telling us to not cross the border, and another saying the judicial proceedings would go no further.

Jim Schlottman made several one man combat assaults with the Troop commander, and he earned every award he received. He was shot on 1 November 1966 and medevacked out. He attended several of our reunions and was very much a Trooper. I am sure he will be with us at Fiddlers Green."

**Rest in Peace, Brothers**

Jim Kurtz, Apache 03, 1970-71

Did you realize that contributing to the future success of a student has many benefits that go far beyond your initial contribution? **Consider donating today...**



## Foundation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Association 2019/2020 School Year Scholarship Recipients

### Grandchildren of Veterans of the IA DRANG CAMPAIGN 3-19 November 1965

**Jacob Lee Birdsong**  
grandson of COL (RET) Jerry Eugene Whiteside, 1-21 FA, Berry College

**Tyler Louise Brown**  
granddaughter of SP-4 Hardy Devon Brown, C Co 1-7 Cav, Francis Marion University



**Jonathan Patrick Lucas Clegg**  
grandson of SP-4 Patrick Robert James Selleck, D Co 1-7 Cav, SUNY Oswego

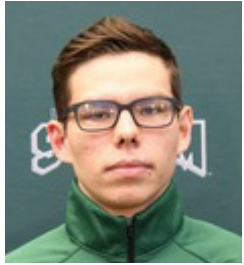
**MacKenzie Stasia Covve**  
granddaughter of SGT Danny Ray Hampton, 11<sup>th</sup> Path, Toni & Guy Hairdressing Academy

**William Richard Fajen**  
grandson of 1LT Richard Lawrence Fajen, D Co 2-5 Cav, Des Moines Area Community College



**Daniel Austin Fisher**  
grandson of 1LT Ralph Eugene Fisher, CCo1-21 FA, California State University Channel Islands

**Joshua Tyler Forsythe**  
grandson of SP-4 Robert Lee Towles, D Co 2-7 Cav, Lake Erie College



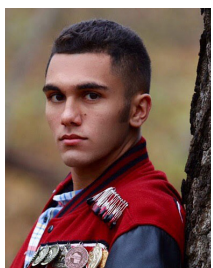
**Zachary Kyler Forsythe**  
grandson of SP-4 Robert Lee Towles, D Co 2-7 Cav, Kent State University Trumbull

**Avery Rushworth Hill**  
granddaughter of COL (RET) Blaine Thompson Fleming, A Co 229 AVN, Keuka College

**James Casey Litton**  
grandson of 1 LT James Larry Litton, D Co 1-7 Cav, Appalachian State University

**Erin Renee Lombardo**  
granddaughter of CW3 Riccardo Joseph Lombardo, A Co 228 AVN, deceased, Delta State University

**Anthony Christopher Martin II**  
grandson of PFC Roger Michael Martin, B Co 1-5 Cav, University of Wisconsin-Parkside



**Heather Grace McGraw**  
granddaughter of SGT William Francis McGraw Jr., B Co 1-8 Cav, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University



**Kenneth Charles Otten III**  
grandson of SP-4 Jerome Curiale, D Co 2-5 Cav, Stevens Institute of Technology

**Justin Andrew Sagerhorn**  
grandson of SGT James Raymond Sagerhorn, C Co 2-7 Cav, University of Minnesota Morris

**Justin Edward Soltis**  
grandson of PFC Edward Francis Soltis, A Co/B Co 1-5 Cav, Southern Illinois University Carbondale



**Dylan Patrick Stamper**  
grandson of SP-4 Donald Edward Stamper, C Co 1-5 Cav, University of Delaware

**Madison Frances Sterne**  
granddaughter of LTC (RET) Jack Kiedaisch Sterne, HHC 1-77 FA, University of South Carolina

**Alexis Laura Tramontano**  
granddaughter of PFC Joseph Dominic Tramontano, B Co 1-9 Cav, Eastern Connecticut State University

**Emily Harper Wilson**  
granddaughter of SP-4 Dennis Lane Wilson, A Co 2-7 Cav, New York University

**Caroline Elizabeth Wilson**  
granddaughter of SP-4 Dennis Lane Wilson, A Co 2-7 Cav, Providence College

*I am sincerely thankful to have been a recipient of an Ia Drang Scholarship grant from the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Association. Thank you for your generosity, which has allowed me to purchase textbooks and pay some of the tuition costs. This gift has truly eased my financial burden. As I continue my education at Lake Erie College, I will continue to be thankful for receiving your thoughtful gift, because this scholarship has positively impacted my college life and future. Again, thank you for your thoughtful and generous gift.*  
**Josh Forsythe**

*I want to thank the Ia Drang Alumni membership and the staff of 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Association for helping me achieve my lifelong dream of attending college. Thanks to your generous educational support, my dream is becoming a reality at Kent State University. The award will continue to give me an opportunity to concentrate on my studies and not be distracted because of lack of finances. Your scholarship will help me complete my degree in Multi-Media and provide for the future. Once again, thank you for the vote of confidence and the benefit provided me by the Ia Drang Scholarship.*  
**Zach Forsythe**

### KIA Scholarship Recipient

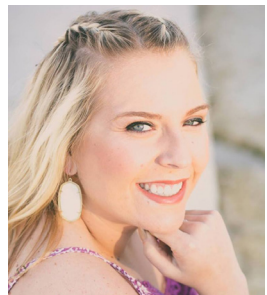
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**Baylee Nicole Clemons**  
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**Emily Lynn Cox**  
daughter of SPC James Andrew Cox, 43CSG 1990, Campbell University



**Marion Jordan Marie Douglas**  
daughter of SP-5 Robert Hartley, 1-7 Cav 1967, Mount Allison University

**Clarissa Analise Fernandez**  
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**Brianna Danyelle Fernandez**  
daughter of 1SG (RET) Fernando Fernandez, HHC 4BCT 2012, Texas A&M University



**Mya Elizabeth Goudeau**  
daughter of LTC (RET) Michael Jay Goudeau, 1ACB 2001-2010, University of Texas at San Antonio

**Michael Raymond Goudeau**  
son of LTC (RET) Michael Jay Goudeau, 1ACB 2001-2010, Texas Southern University



**Dallas Aaron McNeal**  
son of CPL Aaron Lee Mc Neal, HHC 1-82FA 1991, Liberty University

**David Oliver Murrell**  
son of SFC Dion Robere Murrell, 1-3 BCT 2006, Savannah State University

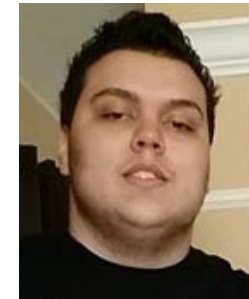
**Jonah David Parker**  
son of SP-5 Claude Oscar Parker, 8ENG 1967, Florida Gulf Coast University

**Nathan James Parker**  
son of SP-5 Claude Oscar Parker, 8ENG 1967, Florida Institute of Technology

**Daniel Ka'imi'lke Patten**  
son of E-4 Marvin Alvin Patten, Jr., 13 Sig 1987-227 AVN 2007, Cleveland State University

**Justice Nicole Smith**  
daughter of 1SG (RET) Deriek Smith, E 2-8 Cav / F 2-5Cav 2007, Temple College

**Tyler Wayne Teeter**  
son of SSG Shane Ryan Teeter, A 3-8 Cav 2000, Tarleton State University



**Austin Rigoberto Thomas**  
son of SFC (RET) John Wayne Thomas, 1CDH 2009, Central Texas College

**Cambridge Johanson Wesley**  
son of SGT Patric Wesley, 96TC 2015, University of Texas at San Antonio

**Raquel Danielle Wilson**  
daughter of SFC Robert Simon Hale HHC 27MSB 1990, Davidson County Community College

*My name is Mattie Alexander, I am a Sophomore at Troy University in Alabama. I am from Tallahassee, Florida and I major in Hospitality Management. My dad served with honor in Iraq and Afghanistan and I will no doubt make him proud. My best childhood memories were growing up at Fort Hood with my dad in the First Cav. Thank you so much for the scholarship and it means the world to me. I have a 3.75 GPA, and in the Alpha Delta Pi Sorority where I hold a leadership position. I would never have been able to achieve all of this without your generous scholarship. Thank you, Mattie Alexander Go Trojans!*

### ACTIVE DUTY Scholarship Recipients

**Krista Ellis**  
spouse of Jeremy Ellis, C Co 1-9 Cav, American Sentinel

**MSG Joshua C. Johnson**  
B Co 1-7 Cav, Fort Hays State University



**Nadia Richardson**  
spouse of Emmerado Richardson, HHC 2-8 Cav, Baylor University

**Billie Schuckart**  
spouse of Daniel Shuckhart, A Troop 1-7 Cav, Southern New Hampshire University

*My name is Nadia Richardson and I am a scholarship recipient of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Association. I will be using this money to pay towards my tuition for the spring semester at Baylor University. Thank you all so much!*  
**Nadia Richardson**



FOUNDATION OF THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION OVERVIEW

The Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division Association was established for the purpose of providing financial assistance in the form of scholarship grants towards the pursuit of an advanced education. These grants are reserved for children of those Soldiers of the 1st Cavalry Division who died or were totally and permanently disabled from wounds received or disease contracted while serving with the 1st Cavalry Division in any armed conflict. Additionally, children of members of the Association who die while serving with the 1st Cavalry Division in peacetime and active duty Soldiers currently assigned or attached to the 1st Cavalry Division and their spouses are eligible to receive scholarship grants.

The Foundation also administers a separate program for descendants of Soldiers who served in designated qualifying units that were involved in the battles of the Ia Drang Valley during the period 3 through 19 November 1965.

The Foundation is a tax-exempt charitable organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and all donations are tax-deductible.

BACKGROUND

The scholarship program was initiated by the Association in 1967 during the Vietnam War in response to requests from the Sergeants Major of the Division who committed their support to perpetuation of the program.

A trust agreement was signed on 16 August 1968 establishing the Foundation. Since that time, no child of a Trooper that has been killed or disabled has been turned away for lack of funds. Between the generous donations of Association Members and scholarship drives within the Division, the Cavalry has taken care of its own. In the 1970s, in response to a perceived downtrend in applications from the aging children of the Division’s Troopers that were killed in action from the Vietnam War, eligibility was expanded to children of Association Members killed or disabled while on active duty with the Division. This extension produced an unexpected response from Vietnam Veterans who were still producing children. In 1988, again at the behest of the Division Sergeants Major, the program was expanded further to include Active Duty Soldiers and their spouses while assigned or attached to the Division. The Foundation assumed responsibility for the Ia Drang program in early 1994 and awarded the first grant from this program in 1997.

Since its inception, the Foundation has provided:

- Over \$947,900 to 533 children of Troopers that were killed in action or totally and permanently disabled.
- Over \$367,200 to 430 active duty Troopers and their Family members.
- Over \$891,500 to 314 descendants of the Ia Drang battles.

Scholarships that began at \$200 per year currently provide \$1,200 per year with a maximum of \$4,800 for four years of schooling per student.

Funding for the program, less the Ia Drang element, derives primarily from the Foundation’s primary investment portfolio and random donations from the membership and those interested in providing support for education. The Association annually provides \$12,000 to satisfy projected shortfalls up to a predetermined maximum. All eligible candidates for grants who are children of deceased or 100% disabled members of the Division are funded. Active Duty Soldiers and their spouses compete for grants and selections are made annually after the mid-year Trustee Meeting.

Funding for the Ia Drang program comes from donations specifically earmarked for this category of grant. Ia Drang funds are separately invested in a fenced program to build up investment monies which will sustain additional grants from its proceeds.

LEADERSHIP OF THE FOUNDATION

Six trustees elected by the Membership of the Association manage the Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division Association. The trustees provide oversight and direction for the Foundation by meeting twice yearly to review operations and the fiscal ability of the investments to fuel the scholarship programs. While the day-to-day operations of the Foundation are run by the Foundation Secretary and the Association office staff, the trustees set clearly defined standards of eligibility and ensure that money is available to provide grants to those who meet the criteria. The Executive Director of the Association who is a non-voting member and performs the Foundation Secretary duties.

The Trust Agreement, signed in 1968, requires that six Association members each be elected for three-year terms with one of the trustees being elected as the Executive Trustee. Each year the membership of the Association elects two trustees at the General Membership meeting of the Association conducted during the annual reunion. This provides the Foundation with continuity by ensuring a minimum of four trustees will continue service to assist the two newly elected members. The Executive Trustee of the Foundation submits a report to the Board of Governors at each of their meetings and a report to the Association at the General Membership meeting.

Current trustees and the year their current term expires are: Executive Trustee Peter Tattersall (2022), Trustees Rosemary M. Carter (2022), Starr Corbin (2022), Ronnie L. Killingsworth (2021), David A. Lutgen (2021), and Terry Maddox (2022).

APPLICATIONS

For more information or an application to register for benefits send a request to the Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division Association, 302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703, or e-mail us at <firstcav@1CDA.org>. You may also print the on-line Registration Form, fill it out completely, and mail it with all required supporting documentation to the Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division Association.

The application forms for Association Members who are active duty Troopers currently serving with the First Team and their Families is no longer open. You can get the information about this program on our web page at <www.1CDA.org/foundation--scholarships-.html>. Printed forms are available at the National Headquarters in Copperas Cove and at the Crossed Sabers Chapter Souvenir Shop in the 1st Cavalry Division Museum at Fort Hood, Texas beginning on 1 April 2021.

DONATIONS

Please mail your tax-deductible donations to the Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division Association, 302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703. Donations in the amount of \$25 or more will be acknowledged in the *Saber*. Donations of \$100 or more will receive a tax certificate as required by the IRS. Donations intended for the Ia Drang Fund should be made out to the Ia Drang Scholarship Fund.

FUND RAISING EVENTS

The Association conducts a golf tournament in conjunction with the annual reunion held in Texas and the proceeds from this event are donated to the Foundation. Additionally, the Association has an ongoing Brick and Paver program where all the proceeds will go to the Scholarship Fund. Brick and Pavers will eventually be installed around the 1st Cavalry Division Memorial on Cooper Field.

BUY THE COFFEE THAT BENEFITS 1CDA STUDENTS



They offer a medium dark roast that is richly aromatic, earthy, and distinctly lush. Veteran owned coffee with that cutting-edge flavor in every cup. To order, call them or refer to their website! 832-742-9724 or <www.patriotknifecoffee.com>

**Patriot Knife Coffee Co.**  
5200 Mitchelldale Street, Ste F23, Houston, Texas 77092  
Always serving those that serve us!

SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

1CDA supports four scholarships for qualified applicants:

ACTIVE DUTY SCHOLARSHIP

Soldier has to be a member of 1CDA & assigned to 1CD. This grant is offered to the Soldier and spouse.

FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

**100%** Offered to the child/children of 1CDA members with a 100% disability rating, that were assigned to 1CD.

**KIA** To be used by child/children of Troopers killed in action while assigned to 1CD.

IA DRANG SCHOLARSHIP

Exclusive to the children & grandchildren of the Veterans who were involved in the battles of the Ia Drang Valley during 3-19 Nov 1965.

SUPPORT THE FUTURE, DONATE TODAY!  
NOT available online

BY MAKING A SCHOLARSHIP DONATION, YOUR NAME WILL APPEAR UNDER HONOR ROLL ON PAGE 23.

Active Duty	Foundation	Ia Drang
\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

Form of Payment:

☐ Cash      ☐ Check Enclosed      ☐ Credit Card

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

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

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

**MAIL TO:** 1st Cavalry Division Association  
302 N. Main St. Copperas Cove, TX 76522

All scholarships of the 1CDA are tax-exempt charitable organizations described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and all donations are tax deductible.



# CHAPTER NEWS UPDATES

We invite all of our Chapter Presidents, VPs or POC's to contribute any photos, news, or updates about your Chapter, to be **posted here in the Saber!** We would love to hear updates from all of our Chapters spread across the United States. **WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO USE THIS PLATFORM TO SHARE YOUR BULLETINS.**

Submission deadline to appear in the next Saber is **Monday, November 2, 2020.** Please send to [Memberships@1CDA.org](mailto:Memberships@1CDA.org) or mail to 302 N. Main St. Copperas Cove, TX 76522.

## CONNECTICUT CHAPTER



Just wrapped up our July meeting today - damn Covid. Here are some of the guys enjoying a picnic followed by a meeting. The next meeting will be **October 24** at the **Manchester American Legion Hall** starting at **1:00pm**. All members and prospective members are invited. For information contact President Keith Moyer: **860-537-1716** or email [<kpmoyerco@hotmail.com>](mailto:kpmoyerco@hotmail.com).

## CROSSED SABERS CHAPTER

The restriction on gatherings because of COVID-19 is really getting old. We have not been able to have any Chapter Stable Calls and we had to push our elections from March to September. Since this submission is due in early September, the results of our election will not be published until the Nov/Dec *Saber*.

Our Chapter has begun thinking about how to best support the Association's reunion in September 2021 which is also the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division which was formed in 1921 at Fort Bliss, Texas. We know we will be doing a Golf Scramble to help support the Foundation's scholarships and assisting with all the regular events. We want all our members to assist if possible. If you are a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Association and live in the Central Texas area you are a Chapter Member.

Visit 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Association Crossed Sabers Chapter on Facebook to see what else we have going on in the Fort Hood area. First Team! Tim Hodge, President. **254-718-4533** [<tim@allaboutinsurance.com>](mailto:tim@allaboutinsurance.com).

## FLORIDA'S FIRST COAST CHAPTER



FFCC meets the **last Tuesday of each month** at **Hooters on San Jose Blvd** at Baymeadows. Photo above is Larry Weiss and Johnny Michael displaying our Chapter flag and the proper wearing of the uniform with dress or field cap.

The extended arm below belongs to Leigh Ware, a Veteran of the Japan Occupation period who drives himself to the meetings and served on the host committee when the Association met in Jacksonville. St. Augustine, FL has been added to the mailing list.

## FT KNOX AREA CHAPTER



We have not been able to host a meeting because some of our Chapter members tested positive for COVID 19 and one has the flu. Those of us who have remained healthy have been finishing the replica Vietnam Wall in Elizabethtown, KY. We dedicated the life size bronze statue of a scout dog with his handler on 15 August. We had a good turnout, and everyone wore masks and maintained social distancing. Robert W. "Grif" Griffin, Vice President



## NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY CHAPTER



Andy Kopac and Bob Arbasetti

The New York-New Jersey Chapter has canceled its fall meeting and hopefully, we can meet in the spring 2021. Many of us have kept in contact with each other by phone, text, and e-mail. Please contact me to update me on how you are doing.

Keep up to date with the NY-NJ Chapter happen-

ings on our Facebook page. You don't have to be a member of Facebook to see it, just put New York-New Jersey Cavalry in Google search, it will take you there. Please send a photo of yourself in your face mask and I will put it on our Facebook page.

On a personal note, my good friend, Andy Kopac, high school buddy and Viet Nam Veteran (not a 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Vet) who attends our meetings, has passed away. A victim of agent orange. From my High School Class of 1965, 5 have served in combat roles in Vietnam, only 2 are still alive. Until we meet again, God bless and be safe.

## NORTHWEST CHAPTER



2019 Northwest Chapter past event

Due to the ever-shifting environment we find ourselves here in Washington State, our August Picnic had to be cancelled. The next activity we're aiming for is the **55<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Day Parade** in Auburn on **November 7**. It has grown to be one of the largest Veterans Day Parades in the United States and the Northwest Chapter has participated for many years.

As of 1 September, the City of Auburn states it is still committed to holding a parade and is still accepting parade registrations. The Northwest Chapter has already submitted its registration and is looking forward to participating.

Call Gail Porter at **360-265-6216** or Clayton Waldron at **360-876-3959** for more information on when and where we'll meet up to head over to Auburn in our sponsored van. Gail Porter, President.

## WILLIAM A. RICHARDSON NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION CHAPTER

The Chapter delayed the Staff Ride to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battle at Bull Run as the grounds were closed in July and in August, the weather was much too hot to visit the battle. We are looking at visiting it in September; but dependent on Chapter member inputs we may do Zoom meetings for the rest of the year. Meanwhile, we remain connected electronically and waiting for life to begin the new normal. We wish the Association the absolute best as we move forward into 2021. Stay healthy. Gene Russell.

## SHERIDAN'S CAVALRY CHAPTER

The current pandemic and Illinois lockdown have put a dent in this year's Chapter activities. We are looking forward to a successful remainder of this year and a bright future for our Chapter in 2021.

2020 remaining Chapter meeting dates: **October 17 & December 5** (Xmas Party) events both currently scheduled. Meetings are normally held at **American Legion Post #1084**, 322 East Maple Ave, Roselle, IL 61072.

We continue to reach out to potential members during the COVID 19 pandemic as our chapter cordially invites anyone who served or was attached at any year with the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav to join our group. Contact **Terry Hodous** POC at [<us67-hodo@outlook.com>](mailto:us67-hodo@outlook.com) or **773-445-1213** for additional information regarding membership or attending one of our future events. Respectfully Terry Hodous.

**ARE YOU TIED INTO ONE OF OUR CHAPTERS? WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO LINK INTO YOUR NEAREST CHAPTER! REACH OUT TO THE PRESIDENT AND MEET NEW CAV BROTHERS/SISTERS! REFER TO THE CHAPTER INDEX FOUND ON NEXT PAGE.**







From the  
Director's Desk

Office of 1CDA

WE SUPPORT

UNITED STATES ARMY

SOLDIER FOR LIFE

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

Soldiers start strong, serve strong, reintegrate strong, and ultimately remain strong as Army ambassadors to their communities. The 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Association (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.”

The next *Saber* newspaper is the  
November/December 2020 edition.

Deadline for submissions of your stories or photos is  
**Monday, November 2, 2020**  
Please email to [Programs@1CDA.org](mailto:Programs@1CDA.org)

Want to see your name in the *Saber* under  
the Honor Roll?

Honor Roll privileges are given to members who make a \$25 or  
more D Trooper donation, donation to the Association, or  
scholarship donations to the IaDrang or the Foundation.  
Please Consider!

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 man-  
agement, 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 da-  
tabase of resources vetted for Service members, Veterans,  
family members and caregivers. 800-342-9647

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

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

SPECIFICALLY FOR TEXAS VETERANS

<[www.TVC.texas.gov](http://www.TVC.texas.gov)> Texas Veterans Commission adv-  
ocates for all Texas Veterans, assisting with: VA Claims, Em-  
ployment, 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

2021 CALENDAR STATUS

Exciting News!!  
Your 2021 Calendar is in the process of being mailed out!

Consider Donating Today!

Calendar donations keep this program operational.  
Without your donations we are unable to continue this program.

Thank you SGT JOHN SPRANZA for your  
\$100 calendar donation

THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
CONTINUED SUPPORT & GENEROSITY!

USAA Rewards Credit Card Points  
Donation Program

BROWN, Michael of San Antonio, TX

SGT CARR, Thomas of Mt. Washington, PA

CHRISTIANSON, Kyle of Cedar Falls, IA

DANIELS, Courtney of Summerville, SC

LACKEY, Randy of Roseville, CA

Thank you to all our members that support this program!

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For further details: 877-917-1CDA (1232) or [www.usaa.com/pointsdonation](http://www.usaa.com/pointsdonation)

OTHER REUNIONS

15<sup>th</sup> Annual 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Reunion, 13-18 October 2020. Branson, MO Welk  
Resort, 1984 Hwy 165, Branson, MO 65616. \$89.00 per night includes breakfast  
for two. \$10.00/add'l guests/ room. Make reservations 417-336-3165. Reference  
12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, GP # 604821.

15<sup>th</sup> Medical Battalion Association Reunion, 10-14 June 2021. Courtyard  
Kokomo, Kokomo, IN (near Grissom Aeroplex), Reservations 765-453-0800  
use Group Code 15<sup>th</sup> Med Bn POC: Dan and Betty Korty, Call or text 765-714-  
6838. Info at <[www.15thmedbnassociation.org](http://www.15thmedbnassociation.org)>.

20<sup>th</sup> & 79<sup>th</sup> ARA Reunion, 31 Aug-4 Sept 2020 NOW RESCHEDULED for  
Aug 30-Sept 3, 2021. Holiday Inn Express 199 East Bay Street Savannah, GA;  
Hosts are Jerry and Ann Hipp.

A Trp, 9 Cav Vietnam Era Reunion, Sept 2-6, 2020 NOW RESCHEDULED  
for Sept 1-5, 2021. Albuquerque, NM; POC: Ron Livingston, <[rflivingston@msn.com](mailto:rflivingston@msn.com)>.

C Trp, 9 Cav Vietnam Era Reunion, Sept 26-28, 2020 NOW RESCHED-  
ULED for Sept 25-27, 2021. Columbus, GA; POC: Pat Bieneman, (859) 771-  
6342 or <[pcbnamin@verizon.net](mailto:pcbnamin@verizon.net)>.

LOUISVILLE SLUGGER

\$10 18" SLUGGER REPLICA

Commemorative 1CDA custom wooden bat

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

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

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

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302 N. Main St. Copperas Cove, TX 76522

SHIPPING IS FREE





15th MED/15th FSB/15th BSB

Mike Bodnar  
13010 N. Lakeforest Dr.  
Sun City, AZ 85351-3250  
(623) 972-4395  
MBodnar27@Gmail.Com  
www.15thMedBnAssociation.org



Like those who eulogized Brigadier General (Ret) Art Junot in the last *Saber*, I too was saddened to see that he had died. But we are all on the list. So, remember, carpe diem. Or as they say in Texas, “If you ain’t having fun, it’s your own damn fault.” Judging from Art’s biography, he certainly lived life to its fullest. I was surprised to see so much I did not know about him.

When I had seen the photo of him in the Nov/Dec 2019 *Saber* when he had stopped in the 1st Cav Assn HQ for a visit, I thought he looked old. But it had been twenty years since I last saw him.

As Executive Director of the First Cavalry Division Association, Art let me write some things in the *Saber*. That was Scout Three-Zero, in 1992.

In 1997 I attended the 1st Cav Reunion at Fort Hood and drove by the 1st Cav Assn HQ in Copperas Cove, TX just to see what it looked like. I noticed a duplex across the street for rent. I was looking for a place to live, so I applied and was accepted. I lived there for the next five years.

While there I started to use the internet and came across a website called Snore’s Funhouse. It turned out to be MEDEVAC crew chief Sherman Breedan, whom I had flown with in Vietnam. He said he was trying to start a 15th MED Association. I told him he should write a column in the *Saber*. He said, “Why don’t you?” When I had mentioned that to Snore, he was not even a member of the 1st Cav Assn. I had to encourage him to join, for the pittance of a fee.

I used to go across the street and talk to Art a lot, and I maybe mentioned that to him. Art said, “I need someone to write a 15th MED column.” Thus, began this column.

Snore started his 15th MED Association and had their first Reunion at his house in Virginia. He ironically died not long after that.

Again, what surprises me after reading Art’s biography is how much about his background I did not know. I used to have so many one on one conversations with him in the 1st Cav Assn HQ. He never mentioned his background. He was always just focused on the 1st Cav Association and getting the *Saber* out.

I happened to be in Copperas Cove for the last five years of Art’s tenure as the 1st Cav Assn’s Executive Director. Just as I was leaving town to move to where I am now, Art was training retiring CSM (Ret) Dennis Webster to take his place.

I used to see Dennis on TV at the Ft Hood town hall meetings when he was Division CSM. He was always getting designated by the CG to take care of somebody’s business. So, for him to take over as Executive Director of the 1st Cav Assn seemed like a fitting retirement.

I got email from B 1-8 Cav ‘66-’67 Veteran Clayton “Glick” Goings <lcavlick@surry.net> of Mt. Airy, N.C. He said he knew MEDEVAC crew chief James Minish very well but only learned of his death after reading this column.

Clayton says, “Jim really cared for other Vets and did more for others than I could ever mention here. He lived by your motto *So That Others May Live*. If any of your readers would like to share memories of Jim contact me at (336)756-0403.”

‘70-’71 MEDEVAC pilot-MEDEVAC 2-and 15th MED Assn webmaster Ron Huether sent an email about a movie being considered made about the outset of U.S. Army aeromedical evacuation in Vietnam, and its first participants. That was the 44th Medical Brigade using the call sign Dustoff, around 1962.

The 1st Cav’s Air Ambulance Platoon, call sign MEDEVAC, furthered the concept when the airmobile division went to Vietnam in 1965. As well as being different units, the 1st Cav put M-60s on their MEDEVAC helicopters by order of CG H.W.O. Kinnard which continued that way for their remainder in Vietnam. No other U.S. Army aeromedical evacuation helicopter units had mounted armament.

The out-of-print Government Printing Office book I constantly mention in this column: *Dust Off: Army Aeromedical Evacuation in Vietnam* by Peter Dorland and James Nanney is still available as a FREE PDF file from history.army.mil. Run it on Google etc. for the quick and easy download of the complete story, all years, all units.

I got a telephone call from Earl Kinard in D.C. about whom I wrote in the *Saber* in 2019. Earl called in response to my last column. He sounds alive and well.

I had spelled his name differently in the then next issue when I again mentioned him. I found the Washington Post article about him and it has this spelling, above. That article is still at:

<<https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/1987/07/24/judge-questions-prosecuting-physicians-aide/60b9598d-83fa-4bf8-98d5-fa0467357369/>>.

He said what I had written about him was not completely correct. You can contact him to find out what I got wrong. There is no better accuracy than from the horse’s mouth. 1st Cav Assn pun intended.

The 15th MED Assn website also posted photos of the MEDEVAC crew members who did the first light evacuation of the urgent casualties on FSB David in June 1970. They are included here.

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



Co-pilot Gregg Simpson



CE Jon Hodges



Door gunner Mike Parsons



AC Henry Tuell



Medic Dan Brady

MAKES FOR A  
GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT!



This is the life story of Al Lynch in his own words, an American hero who is now one of only 72 living Medal of Honor recipients. This is the story of a happy boy growing up in Chicagoland’s South Side industrial neighborhoods. His early happiness was almost eradicated by several years of intense bullying, though he found ways to overcome that experience. This is the story of an aimless young man whose prospects of following in his father’s footsteps as a blue-collar tradesman were cut short by the Vietnam War and by his personal search for something greater than himself. This is the story of a man whose meandering military career, and his life up to that point, came into sharp focus when, in a deadly firefight in Vietnam, he rushed to rescue three wounded Troopers in no man’s land. He was urged to leave the wounded and return to a safe position. But Lynch refused to retreat in order to stay with his Troopers despite having every reason to believe he would die that afternoon. Because of these actions, he is a hero.

**\$25** **ZERO TO HERO**  
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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302 N. Main St. Copperas Cove, TX 76522

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## 20th and 79th Artillery Regiment News



**Bruce Wilder**  
1308 Blue Sky Lane  
Kingsport TN 37664  
423-276-6626  
wbwilder@yahoo.com  
www.araassociation.com



Greetings to all! Here we are, still in the never-never land of the COVID-19, and restrictions abound to keep us safe and healthy. Whatever the case in your neighborhood, I know that I will continue to mask and adhere to the six feet distancing and washing of hands. One can witness to the fact that intelligent actions will prevent the spread of the Coronavirus, save lives, and help get us out of this pandemic!

I need to start off by apologizing to all for the missed article in the July-Aug *Saber*. No excuse, I just simply messed up royally. Mea culpa! And this apology to Gary Adams who sent me great material for an article and during a rehab of my office your envelope was placed in a box for safekeeping. You can guess the rest of that line. Yes, it is so well kept I cannot find the right box! Here is to a week of going through boxes! It will be in the Nov-Dec *Saber*, I promise!

**Impact of Covid-19 on our Reunion:** COVID-19 caused us to alter our plans and the Board of Directors met via Zoom conference on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and decided to postpone the Savannah Reunion until August 30-September 3, 2021 with the same schedule and hotel. Our hosts Ann and Jerry Hipp, have reset the reunion for this timeline with accommodations at the Holiday Inn Express, 199 E. Bay Street, Savannah, GA 31401 (912 -231-9000). Thank you, Ann and Jerry for your past efforts and your agreement to continue as hosts!

**Reunion for Fort Belvoir, VA:** All planned subsequent reunions are postponed to the next year. Jule Szabo, our Virginia reunion host, was on the Zoom conference and the Fort Belvoir reunion will be 14 Sept - 18 Sept 2022. Breakdown of dates and major events as follows: 14 Sept-Welcome; 15 Sept- visit Vietnam Memorial and Army Museum and welcome dinner; 16 Sept-visit the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center of the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum on the Museum Parkway in Chantilly, VA; 17 Sept-Board Membership and ARA Ladies meetings on Saturday morning and farewell dinner; 18 Sept- depart for home. Further details will be presented at our 2021 Reunion.

**Reunion Photos Available:** From Jule Szabo "I have moved the ARA reunion photos to a new website called Flickr since we could not get people logged-in without difficulty on the Google website. Go to the Flickr webpage, Sign in center white box title "Choose an account"; click on "Use another Account" ([https://identity.flickr.com/account\\_picker](https://identity.flickr.com/account_picker)) Enter login, click next Login using the following email address: <arareunionphotos@gmail.com>, Enter Password using "Rocket2020#\$" then click "sign in" (click off remember email address if do not want it to remember). A page will appear, go to top, and click on the word "You" and then scroll down to "Photo stream," that will take you to the photos for 2019 ARA reunion. For more photos: Scroll down to the bottom, then click on the numbers for additional pictures. To logout: go the top of the page, far right symbols, click and scroll down to logout."

Jule, the Association thanks you for continue good work and service above self.

**Cobra #15664:** Cobra 15654 has been restored, rolled out, and placed in the Field Artillery Museum at Fort Sill. An article was published in Vertical Magazine entitled *An Old Cobra Returns to its Artillery Roots and Finds a New Home in Oklahoma*. The Cobra is on a pedestal in the Vietnam section with a display case showing cutaways of the 2.75-inch rockets we used. Museum Curator and Director Gordon A. Blaker requested a 300-500-word history of ARA to be used on a panel so visitors get a summary of what ARA was. Jesse Hobby is working to collect, compile, and condense our history to fit on this panel. If you have information regarding the ARA Battery that operated at Fort Sill from 1971 to 1973, please pass this information along to Jesse. Another case is being made to display items such as the pilot's gunsight, a grease pencil for marking windscreen, a map-book with Cobra drawn on cover, and ARA patches. Please consider anything else that should be in there. If you have any of these items or know where a gunsight can be located, please inform Gordon A. Blaker, Director/ Curator U.S. Army Artillery Museum 238 Randolph Road Fort Sill, OK 73503, or email at <Gordon.a.blaker.civ@mail.mil>, or call 580-442-1819 (work), 303-854-7598 (mobile)

**From the Quartermaster:** If you wish to order patches, hats, etc. use the order form from the Straphanger Volume 12 No.4. Prices and things have changed. Send your check(s) made payable to ARA Association to: ARA Association c/o Herbert L. Hirst P.O. Box 220 North Plains, OR 97133-0220.

**Our Directory:** Billy Wood has completed the directory agreed upon at our San Diego Reunion and it is being produced as of this writing. Billy did an awesome job of collecting information, sorting, and assembling this document. A hard copy will be mailed to each member as well as an electronic copy emailed.

**Rescue Mission 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** Jim Mitschke, C/4/77 (ARA), is spearheading a mission of ARA pilots, Air Force FACs, Special Operations Soldiers, and VHPA Historian Mike Sloniker to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1970 Emergency Rescue of Special Ops Troops in Laos. The helicopter that Jim flew on this mission was 68-17058. Cobra 058 was involved in three separate emergency rescues via the ammo bay doors. One was flying C Battery Commander MAJ Craig Leyda and CW2 Loren Gee out of the A Shau Valley after being shot down in their Cobra. This Cobra is now on a pedestal at Yuma Proving Grounds, Arizona. This effort is to further capture the history of the 4/77<sup>th</sup> and to connect its legacy to the formation of the 160<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne). Assets and tactics of the 4/77<sup>th</sup> were an integral part of the formation of the 160<sup>th</sup> SOAR. The 4/77<sup>th</sup> was deeply involved in Special Operations missions in Vietnam.

The goal is to capture more ARA history to be preserved at the Field Artillery Center, Field Artillery Museum and Library of Congress. Remember to send copies of your books, notes, journals, mission briefings, personal accounts of missions; and audio recordings to the Morris Swett Library 730 Schimmelpennig Road, Fort Sill, OK 73503 to be archived to document ARA's history.

**The Current Board of Directors:** Due to the pandemic and postponement of our reunion which was to be an election year, the present Officers and Board of Director have agreed to extend their service through 2021 Reunion.

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I trust that all are safe and healthy and finding ways to contend with the pandemic. Please remember our next reunion in Savannah, GA and remember Jerry and Ann Hipp in your prayers as they continue to serve the Association to give us another great reunion.

Until next time, "this is Armed Falcon 28Delta, breaking right!"

## TROOPER'S TALE

### Continued from pg. 3

club, we were not allowed to eat in the Troop messes and there was no officer field ration mess.) Rollins said the lunch hour was established by regimental headquarters and was listed in the Daily Bulletin. He proceeded to show me in the latest bulletin, and he was correct, it did say lunch was 1200-1300. Rollins said we did not leave until 1200. So, LT Morrison and I did not leave until 1200 (and had to wait to get seated at the club, as I recall). Rollins also asked, "Who was serving as company Executive Officer?" I told him that I served in that capacity. Rollins then checked the date of rank of myself and 2LT Morrison. Morrison was senior but I had been in the company longer and knew more about what was going on. I do not recall if Rollins made a change to that or not. CPT Rollins and I did do a daylight Recon to Kobe.

Soon after CPT Rollins assignment, we learned that the 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment was going to be levied of all personnel in grades of E-4 and below and that they would be sent to Korea. GEN ID White, commander of Army Forces Far East/8<sup>th</sup> U.S. Army (AFFE 8A) was way understrength in his two Divisions in Korea. Korea was considered a hot spot since the war had not officially ended. So, GEN White apparently was told by HQDA that he would get no more Troops, that he would have to use what he had. So, he decided to strip his three regiments in Japan. The commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division realized that after the levy, he would not have enough Troops to maintain two battalions in each regiment, so it was decided to inactivate one battalion and concentrate personnel in the remaining battalion. (A normal division had 3 infantry battalions per regiment, but the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry was already at reduced strength with only two battalions). For the 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn would be inactivated and personnel sent to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn was in "B" Camp which was approximately 2 miles from Otsu "A" Camp.

I stand corrected. The 1<sup>st</sup> Bn was not really inactivated. The companies were maintained with a company commander, a supply sergeant, and a company clerk. I assume the idea was that if they ever got sufficient replacements, they could re-activate the battalion easily. The companies retained all their equipment and the co command slots were assigned to 2LTs. I was selected to be the commander of Co B (According to my DA Form 66, I served 3 days in Co B). I realized that it would be nice to get command time credit at the company level. It was unusual for a 2LT to get company command time. However, I would not get actual experience working with Troops. So, I went to LTC Jennings and asked that I be transferred to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. That was approved and I transferred and was assigned as platoon leader, 2<sup>nd</sup> Plt, Co E.

Prior to my transfer, I was selected to accompany the Troop train that was to take our personnel to Camp Drake (Tokyo) for onward movement to Korea. If you were a Soldier in grade E-4 or below and if you had 90 days remaining on your overseas tour, you were going to Korea. Many of these Soldiers had Japanese wives and babies. However, their marriage was not yet recognized by the U.S. Army. So, in the eyes of the Army, they were single and eligible for reassignment. It was feared that some of these Soldiers would try to jump off the train! So, the train had a lot of officers and NCOs aboard to ensure that this did not happen. I was one of the officers. It was a nice train ride. I do not recall any jumpers. The Army had a Mess Car that served us our meals. When we arrived in Tokyo, we were relieved of our Troops and our responsibilities.

I think we were all scheduled to return to Otsu the next day. I recall that I wanted a beer and foolishly went with a group of NCOs to the PX Beer Hall (which was off limits to officers). I recall that a fight broke out (not my group) and the MP's were called. I recall that my NCOs rushed me out of the beer hall so I would not be there when the MP's arrived. I think the MP's went in the front door as we went out the rear door.

We all returned to Camp Otsu and I reported to 2-7 Cavalry Regiment at "B" Camp on 28 August 1956. LTC Rogers was the Battalion Commander. Apparently, he had a law degree. His Executive Officer was MAJ George Newman, a USMA (West Point) Graduate. You will hear more about him later.

COL (R) NEVIN R. WILLIAMS <phanrang3@gmail.com>

7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Japan 1956-57, 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Korea 1957-58

**For anyone else who would like to share your CAV stories with us, please email to <Programs@1CDA.org>.**



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## ENGINEER News



**Jesse Crimm**  
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**Well, Dog My Cats!** As we sat down here in Dixie. In WWI, those funny looking Renault tanks where the treads are on the outside of the armor were first assigned to the 65<sup>th</sup> Engineer Bde at Camp Upton N.Y. then later to Camp Mede MD. Oh, and before deployment to France, those same tank units were commanded by a certain young MAJ D.D. Eisenhower. Go figure. (Source: Army Magazine, July 2020)

**Just in Time:** Well, maybe if you don't count the last 50+ years this report is on time. And just in case you Engineers thought no one paid any attention to you or gave a flip about your dirt digging, read this from **Eugene Beyer** who appeared out of nowhere and wrote the following, "Jesse may I be brazen and call you by your handle your parents gave you? I am COL (R) Eugene A. Beyer former Cdr of A Co, 229<sup>th</sup> Avn Bn 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry, Div 1967-68. I was reading your Engineer article in the *Saber* and see you are soliciting input about engineers. The 8<sup>th</sup> Engineer Bn was in demand as much as our helicopters during my time with the Cav. I have a personal attaboy to pass along to you and all members of your wonderful Bn. We moved north from LZ English in Jan of 68. The entire division set up shop in a cemetery just north of Hue Phu Bi. When the CG returned from R&R in Hawaii, he scattered the Div and my company wound up on LZ Evans taken over from the Marines and enlarged. When we moved, we had to set up shop which involved building revetment walls of sandbags to park our helicopters. One dark and dreary night the rockets began interrupting what up to that point had been an uneventful evening. I hustled from my hooch to the ditch down the center of our company area. This ditch had been dug by 8<sup>th</sup> Engineers with a backhoe. PSP was positioned over the ditch leaving enough room between plankings for a man to jump in and move either left or right. There were sandbags over the PSP. I jumped in and on top of someone who was not really happy about that, but we got that squared away. While waiting for the attack to subside I personally said a quite THANK YOU to the 8<sup>th</sup> Engineers." Ho hum, COL Beyer. It was just another day of spectacular accomplishments provided by the fabulous 8<sup>th</sup> Eng Bn. You can send a check if you wish. Those wishing to contact COL Beyer can use <eugenebeyer@gmail.com>

**She's Looking For You:** If you have knowledge of the 91<sup>st</sup> Eng Bn, she's looking for you. As it turns out, a certain Teri Murray likes to collect signatures of authors or persons featured in periodicals, magazines and the like. She also has/had family members directly involved with the military. So, when she saw the oldest living WWII Veteran, Lawrence Brooks of Vancleave MS, on the cover of the June 2020 National Geographic magazine, she began a quest to link the cover picture to a person whom she could recognize formally on the log book of the WWII Memorial in D.C. She only had the 91<sup>st</sup> Eng Bn as an initial reference but that plus, of course, the internet led her to the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division and that to Copperas Cove and that to me. So, as we talked, I filled her in on a bunch of Army stuff that you readers would take for common knowledge like being a heavy Division, or what BCT is, that kind of stuff. She wanted more so I directed her to our Historian and Museum Director and encouraged her to come to a Reunion. So, if you have knowledge of the 91<sup>st</sup> Eng Bn and in particular its role in WWII, call Teri Murray at 224-441-0843. BTW, Lawrence Brooks is 110 years old as of the time of this writing. Now see the Engineer News for March/April 2020 to see what excited Mrs. Murray. This folks, is living history and you can help. Call her as we are not having a reunion this year.

**He's Looking for You:** **David Williams** wants to know about a plane and chopper collision at Phouc Vinh about September of 1968. If you have knowledge or pictures of this incident, email David at <hondo200@comcast.net> Thanks.

Also, **George Willet** is looking for you from 70-71 at Phouc Vinh. If you are William Schofield, Tim Poyer, Gary Rodgers, Quinton Harris or Felix Fry, or any D5 operator, call George at 610-207-7234 or drop him an email at <suprisein50@outlook.com>.

**One of the Silent Ones Speaks:** To a scribe it's like ok! People actually read this and every few years make contact. In this case, **John Hills**, a former boiler-maker from Indiana and now a Chayote from New Mexico appeared out of the blue. And here's what he had to say: "I was in Vietnam with the 8<sup>th</sup> Engineers in 1968-69 and was the clerk typist for S-4. I have a lot of pictures and slides if you ever need anything. Nothing too exciting about my job except losing a lot of sleep with incoming rockets every few nights. Occasionally I went with the Captain/Major/Colonel in helicopter to various places, but the job was a lot like Radar O'Riley on MASH but not as funny. Ended up being a SP-5 by the time I left and went to Ft Hood, TX. I grew up on a farm in Indiana and graduated from Purdue Univ in June 1968 and two weeks later I was in the Army. Being a college graduate got me the clerk typist job since I was good at typing. If we had the technology we have today, things would have been a lot different back then." So, if you've been looking for John, call 575-532-8188.

**This Silent One Speaks, On and On:** But he's from New York so it's understandable. At any rate, **Jesse Patton**, from out on Long Island wakes up and says a number of things which I will summarize for you here. Multiple Tours of RVN: so the stories get overlapped, no computer-phone only 631-669-2598, Vung Tau airfield construction then, but that which the Japanese originally built is now a golf resort, collects cars including some mouth drooling 56 Chevys, 57 Buick Roadmaster, 53 Mercury and some others, but presently driving Renaults, was originally with 11<sup>th</sup> Trans Support (including all air assets), went back to Benning and wound up with Hal Moore's 1<sup>st</sup> Cav, has preserved correspondence from Moore, wants to hear from any 8<sup>th</sup> Engineers who served in the late 60's and early 70's especially if they (you) had anything to do with airfield construction. (Les White—wake up) I had to explain to Jesse that there were two kinds of engineers, those with pick/shovel—hammer/nail and those who drove the big engine machines. Well, actually a third type if you count paper filing back on base camp.

**COVID Reading:** You've cleaned out all the closets and even found great Aunt Bertha's wedding announcement as clipped from the local paper years ago. Now what should you read instead of going to the bar that just reopened and may get closed again? Try some from this list: "Fight Like A Girl" by Kate Germano,

female equity fight in the Marine Corps; "Awesome Sh\*t My Drill Sergeant Said" by Dan Caddy, one-liners and stories providing life time learning; "8 Seconds of Courage" by Flo Groberg a MOH recipient, everything in your life can change in a matter of seconds; "Grunt" by Mary Roach, why 60lb packs, why berets? Ever wondered? Then this book explains; "Thank You for My Service" by Mat Best, the skewering of celebration of military culture by a gun and profanity lover. "Stay Alert and Take Notes," by Jesse Crimm, a guide for Christian teachers, Amazon books; "The Last Train to Berlin," by P.P.K.Stone, a history of a family surviving WWII, Amazon books; "Shilo" by Shelby Foote, the drawl of his voice may be gone now but not his thoughts on privates and generals.

**Being Woke** Are you woke yet? I hope not, nor cancelled. It's such a struggle to keep up with who is at fault. It changes from day to day, incident to incident.

**Facebook:** Ok, ok everybody and their uncle is there so skip all that static and go to Skybeavers. There you will find us and maybe even yourself in a long lost but now posted picture. Seriously, if you see a memory, let the group know. Then come to a Reunion and meet again in person. It's worth the trip, less any Covid overrides.

**Word of the Month:** Defenestration, interesting concept in its application.

**Stood Up:** The Space Force is now a reality. Welcome, I guess. No doubt there will be some room made at the Pentagon and elsewhere for these new guys. Maybe even BRAC will reopen some of its closures. In the meantime, GEN John Raymond and Chief MSG Roger Towberman are the senior officer and enlisted ranks. Any launch pads close to Ft Hood?

**Cindy and Sharon:** No not the girls but the LZ's. Any memories? And specifically, if you are familiar with the 228<sup>th</sup> Heilo Bn out of Tay Ninh, call Robert Ferrier at 770-356-1342. Now if Robert's answer machine sounds like an attorney, go ahead and talk, since he is an attorney working out of Social Circle Georgia. Which raises another comment, where the devil is Social Circle anyway? Robert is particularly interested in the Engineers lost at LZ Cindy around late 1968. And those of you with Air Medals can probably thank Robert for some of the air-conditioned flights.

**The First Engineer News, The Beaver Blurb:** From **Gary Glass** here is the condensed version of how the Beaver Blurb came into being. The complete article can be sent to you upon request. "On Feb 14, 1967, the Beaver Blurb officially changed its name to Skybeaver Blurb with the adoption of Skybeaver by the battalion. Shortly after arriving at English, things began to improve. The S-2 Section got its full complement of officers and the once wobbly, will-it-be-done-tonight newsletter came into solid being. CPT Schneeback became the S-2 and augmented a weary news staff. The companies began to submit information more regularly and distribution soared to 65, then 75, and then 85 by May of 1967. Copies went to many places besides the battalion and its companies, such as the PIO office and the Office of the Corps of Engineers, Washington, D.C. The Skybeaver Blurb was also sent to LTC Olentine while he was on emergency leave so that he could keep tabs on the battalion while he was gone. The Skybeaver Blurb as you can see has a history in the 8<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion and (though never perfect) continued to try to keep the Skybeavers everywhere informed of the battalion's activities."

**ADEAU:** This is my last contribution to *Saber* and you Engineers. It has been a privilege to have served you since 2008.

**In Memorium:** **SFC Ron Gilliland** of Welleston OH and C/8<sup>th</sup>, writes to memorialize William Leach with whom Ron served in RVN, 67/68 and Germany. Also remembered are Steve Ball and his wife. Ron has been in contact with LT Duke (Col ret), Doc Stanley and Fred Waggner. Ron can be contacted at 740-978-7087 or <gillilandj135@gmail.com> Ron concludes by saying "God bless all engineers."

**An Inspiration:** Again, I draw your attention to the May 2020 issue of the VFW magazine, page 17. If these two can hop, literally, up Pikes Peak, you can accomplish anything you set your mind to. Believe in yourself. Trust yourself. And come to the 2021 Reunion in force. Fill the Engineer table.

**Unknown but not Forgotten:** Here are four photographs of fellow engineers with whom I served. If you are one and still alive, or if you know of one pictured, contact me, please.



**Honor Roll:** To complete the historical listing of contributors to this column, the following Troopers contributed their thoughts, words, and deeds to be published in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020. Pete Tattersall, Dara Wydler, Scott Smith, Leo Miller, Steve Richey, Danny Booth, James Miller, Sgt Rock, Lynn Titus, B.T. Thompson, Richard Gray, Joe Craig, Frank Alverson, Richard Esquivel, Gary Pezzuti, Joe Keezer, Terry McCarl, James Miller, Ron Killingworth, William Grogan, Tom Hartin, Joseph Wagel, T.S. Carter, Richard Hobbs, William Sillery, Frank Walter, Terry Moon, Gabriel Perez, Phillip Blevins, Les White, Robert Comer, Dean Kontover, Gary Diers, Bob Anderson, Scott Sjule, Jack Garmong, Robert Drenth, Robert Opie, John LaDue, Rick VanDeurzen, Thomas Sullivan, Delores Ullom, Jessie Cushman, Thomas Booth, Jeanette Swigler, Joe Flemming, Richard Esquivel, Bob Siemer, David Ciosek, Richard Magner, T.G. Burrell, Chet Walker, James Miller, Carl G, Jeff Bowers, Gary Glass, Martin Suydam, Roy Mark, James Townsend, Melvin Blackford, Alan Kimball, Daniel Shelley, Paul Chumbley, Eugene Beyer, John Hills, Ron Gilliland.

And a separate thanks to Karleen Maloney and Tina Wilgeroth at Copperas Cove for their reminding all scribes of publication deadlines. Goodbye.





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

**Victor Manuel Alvarez**  
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### The Military Police Corps Regimental History, Part 2, The Civil War through the Spanish/American War continued

After the Battle of Antietam, General Porter was relieved of his duties due to sickness, Brigadier General Marsena Randolph Patrick (pictured to the right) then assumed the post of Provost Marshal of the Army of the Potomac. In addition to his military police duties, he also became the chief of a newly created bureau of military information. The provost marshals in the field henceforth procured, processed, and disseminated intelligence information throughout the army. The bureau was responsible for providing the Army of the Potomac with the size, disposition, and composition of Confederate forces, along with his military police and intelligence duties, General Patrick also was involved in procurement for the Army of the Potomac. During the war hundreds of merchants followed the Army from camp to camp trying to sell tobacco, food, clothes, and trinkets to the Soldiers. The Army also made large scale purchases of vegetables, meats, and horses from local suppliers. It was Patrick's job to review all purchases and merchants to ensure that top quality products were obtained for the lowest prices. If a merchant was discovered cheating the Troops, his seller's pass was withdrawn. Thus, employing an intricate system of passes which changed with each new commander and new area, undesirable merchants, camp followers and certain newspaper reporters were denied access to the main Troop area.



The need for a well-trained and adequate military police force was evident in December 1862, during the maneuvering around Fredericksburg, Virginia. While Confederate Troops dug into defensive positions south of the town, the Union Troops encamped north of it. The local citizens were allotted forty-eight hours to relocate before the start of the battle. After the town was evacuated, the Union forces occupied it and waited for three days before advancing because their supplies and ammunition had been stolen from a depot outside of Washington. The northern commanders could not control their men during this delay. Union Troops poured into the town, pilfering goods and burning public buildings. To maintain order, General Patrick had only two cavalry units and four infantry companies. Although many were arrested, the town was still plundered by thousands of men before the Union forces began to march against the Southern defensive lines. Taking advantage of the Union delay, Confederate Troops further fortified their position and successfully repelled the Northern advance. During the Union retreat, Patrick finally cleared Fredericksburg of Union Troops, but the looting left a permanent stain on his military career.

On June 28, 1863, General George G. Meade assumed command of the Army of the Potomac and immediately issued orders which began the Gettysburg campaign. Failing to follow normal march procedures, General Meade did not provide Patrick with the necessary cavalry squadrons to control stragglers during the advance. This oversight resulted in Troops being spread throughout the towns along the route with many components of the Union Army never reaching Pennsylvania. General Patrick had to commandeer a force and backtrack among chaos and confusion to corral all the drunks and stragglers who had abandoned the march. From this ordeal, Meade learned a valuable and time-consuming lesson in the use of designated provost Troops. During the three days of fighting at Gettysburg, the Southern forces delivered the heaviest artillery barrage of the entire war. As Union Veterans began breaking rank during it, General Patrick organized two provost lines to contain all the deserters and stragglers. Some of the stragglers, unable to reunite with their units were used to escort two thousand Confederate prisoners to rear area prison camps.

At the Battle of Gettysburg, General Patrick developed detailed plans for movement of prisoners of war. He secured rail transportation from the battlefield to hospitals and prison camps in nearby towns. After the three days struggle ended, Patrick contracted local citizens to bury the dead and secure their personal belongings for the next of kin. Attempts also were made by Patrick's men to check the swarm of citizens and Soldiers plundering the battlefield, but the vast numbers of dead strewn across it overwhelmed his small force.



The Andersonville Prisoner of War Camp

Towards the end of the war, Union Troops captured thousands of Confederate prisoners and marched them to rear areas under light guard provided by the capturing unit. The Army's permanent prison facilities at Fort Monroe and Alexandria lacked adequate food and shelter to house them. Therefore, General Patrick immediately exchanged or released prisoners after major conflicts. The only alternative to that policy was to allow them to face starvation and deprivation while awaiting uncertain transportation to northern prison camps. Since no standards for processing prisoners were developed during the war, they had to rely solely on the logic, compassion, and humanitarianism of the capturing commander or local provost marshal for their welfare. In the North and South, prisoner of war camps suffered from inadequate planning, untrained personnel, and insufficient resources.

As the Union Armies advanced into Southern territory, Confederate civil government began to crumble. In an attempt to improvise a system of government in these areas, the Army expanded the functions of the provost marshals from policing the military to policing the occupied districts, in effect governing them. The provost marshals decided which Southern civilians should be taken into

custody and which should remain free to pursue their daily tasks. They were also responsible for distributing food, clothing, and other goods during periods of scarcity. This system was used everywhere except in Sherman's military division which demonstrated more tolerance for local officials after the cessation of hostilities. The provost marshals developed a system of loyalty oaths as a means of determining the allegiance of Southerners and the degree of freedom which would be allowed to them. In occupied territory there was a provost marshal commanding each district with an assistant provost in command of each sub-district. They were also responsible for the apprehension of deserters and the prevention of blockade running along the seacoast and inland waterways. On 13 March 1865, General Patrick was appointed provost marshal of all armies operating against Richmond. When the city fell, Patrick took over the functions of its government. All newcomers in the area were required to take the oath of allegiance. A provost tax of one percent was imposed on all imports and exports in the district, and all citizens over eighteen were required to register at the provost headquarters. For a time after the war ended, military provost marshals governed Confederate states, but they were soon challenged by groups demanding the appointment of local officials. In 1865, General Ulysses S. Grant authorized the transfer of most of the functions of government from the provost marshals to the Freedmen's Bureau.



BG James B. Fry

Along with providing discipline and order among the Troops in the field and governing occupied areas of the South, the provost marshal system was also responsible for the procurement of manpower through the draft. On 3 March 1863, Congress established the Office of Provost Marshal General of the United States with the rank of colonel. A provost marshal also was assigned to each congressional district with the rank of captain. In compliance with *General Order #67*, Colonel James B. Fry was appointed Provost Marshal General of the United States and held this position for the duration of the conflict. Fry was charged with overseeing the administration and enforcement of military recruitment and conscription. His responsibilities encompassed combating desertion, setting state quotas, distributing bounties, and dealing with other problems associated with conscription. He also helped quell draft riots such as those which occurred in Boston and New York. With

the appointment of Colonel Fry, responsibility for the draft, which had been largely a state function, passed to the Federal government. As Provost Marshal General, Fry was confronted with the monumental task of recruiting 400,000 men just to bring existing regiments up to necessary strength. Desertion was equally challenging for the Provost Marshal General, as many men chose to cross the Missouri River and face the Indians rather than fight their Southern cousins. From 1 October 1863 to 1 October 1864, the provost marshals arrested 39,392 deserters and stragglers. During the war, approximately 200,000 men deserted from the Federal Army, The Provost Marshal's Bureau arrested and returned about 76,526 of those men between March 1863 and the end of the war.

The National Conscription Act contained many loopholes which promoted dishonesty and corruption. Often an individual would join a unit in one state, collect his bounty, desert as soon as practical, and rejoin the Army in a different state to collect another bounty. Since the states organized their own regiments, these bounty jumpers were hard to detect and apprehend. This problem led to the creation of a squad of Federal detectives organized by Colonel Lafayette C. Baker of the War Department. These detectives, who became the nucleus of the United States Secret Service, curbed bounty jumpers, service brokers, and deserters. In some cases, they also worked effectively with local provost marshals to halt theft of government supplies and equipment.

As a result of disparity in the impact of the conscription program upon men of opposite socioeconomic status, many working-class citizens, especially in large northern cities revolted and caused massive destruction during anti-draft riots. While the war raged at Gettysburg, tempers flared in New York City. The city's poor, who could not buy or bribe their way out of the draft, took to the streets in revolt. What began as a few hundred protestors speaking out against the war, ended with a mob of thousands burning every government building in the city. The 8<sup>th</sup> Indiana Regiment had to be brought from Gettysburg by Colonel Fry to quell the riot. This was the worst but not the only anti-war riot during the Civil War. It is interesting to note that no unit of provost marshals or Troops serving as field military police were ever detailed to stop any anti-draft demonstrations during this period.

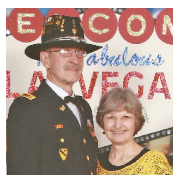
Colonel Fry had two authorized sources of manpower to perform military police functions details supplied by the commanders of military departments and the Invalid Corps. Created on 28 April 1863 by *General Order #105*, the latter was composed of officers and enlisted men who were no longer fit for frontline service but had enlisted for further duty or been transferred from field units. This corps consisted of 24 regiments and 106 separate companies. In each of the full regiments, a first battalion of six companies was utilized for guard duty and as an emergency reserve. Armed with smoothbore muskets instead of rifles, they served as provost guards in large cities and towns, escorts for prisoners of war, security guards for railroads, and performed all types of garrison duty. The second battalion, consisting of four companies, contained men who were more restricted by reason of health. In emergency situations, the Invalid Corps was called upon to assist in the field. In 1864, for example, the 9<sup>th</sup> Regiment was detailed to field duty during Early's Raid near Washington. On July 2, 1864, Major General Jubal Early invaded Maryland and struck toward Washington, brushing aside General Lew Wallace's forces on the Monocacy River. Until the arrival of the Union Army's VI and XIX Corps from Richmond, the defense of the Capital was left in the hands of the home guards. During its existence, about sixty thousand men served in this Corps. The Invalid Corps changed its name to the Veterans Reserve Corps in 1864 and remained an organization of the United States Army until the end of the war.

- TO BE CONTINUED -

Contents and images in this photo history provided by the Branch and Command Historian, US Army Military Police Corps, and the 545th MP Company Association Archives.



## HQ and Special Troops News



**Ron Killingsworth**  
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Mooringsport, LA 71060-9057  
(318) 426-3654  
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Greetings Troopers and families from NW Louisiana where the weather is hot, and the virus is strong. August and September are the hottest and driest months in LA. Curses on the virus that caused me to miss my annual convention in New Orleans in April and my Cav reunion in June, then in October and then not at all! Sue and I miss getting to see old friends and a chance to make new friends. I love that old song "You Can't Make Old Friends," one version sung by Kenny Rogers and Dolly Parton. Part of it goes "What will I do when you are gone? Who's gonna tell me the truth? Who's gonna finish the stories I start, the way you always do?" Another verse is "When somebody knocks at the door, someone walks in, I will smile and shake their hands, but you can't make old friends." I have friends that have been old friends since the early 60's. Unfortunately, all my old friends are also dying off. People may have 574 friends on Facebook, but I have maybe ten old friends and few of them are on Facebook. Drop a letter to an old friend. Call one up. You really cannot make old friends! They take time and effort. I tried to find out who said it, but could not, but this is one true saying: "Good Friends Don't Keep Score" Another one I might add is "Good Friends Don't Discuss Religion and/or Politics," although old friends are still your friends, even when you disagree on said subjects.



In the past I have written about various military occupational specialties you find at reunion unit lunches at the Cav reunions. This month I choose to write about the Chemical Corps. For more information about the men and women who wear the enamel benzene ring superimposed over two crossed gold retorts, see the links: <<https://armyhistory.org/the-u-s-army-chemical-corps-past-present-and-future/>>

and <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chemical\\_Corps#Branch\\_insignia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chemical_Corps#Branch_insignia)>

I doubt many thinks of the Chemical Corps when they hear about weapons of mass destruction, anthrax, smallpox, and nerve agents. Developing defenses against such unconventional weapons has been the mission of the U.S. Army Chemical Corps since its inception in 1917 as the American Expeditionary Force's Gas Services (AEFGS). During WWI, the Dept of the Army questioned the need for a Chemical Corps many times despite the growing number of nations and terrorist groups that appeared intent on arming themselves with such weapons. Modern chemical warfare probably began in earnest during WWI, with the German Army's use of chlorine gas on the fields of Ypres, Belgium, in April 1915. The Germans, British and French also used chemical rounds at each other in the following years. The AEFGS arrived in France in the summer of 1917. General John Pershing appointed his chief engineer, LTC Amos Fries, to form a gas service to train and equip his forces and to develop an offensive capability using British and French equipment.

Back in the U.S., the War Department (currently the Dept of Defense) created the Chemical Warfare Service (CWS) in June 1918 and MG William Sibert, known for his work with the Panama Canal and former commander of the Big Red One (1<sup>st</sup> Division), became the first chief chemical officer of the CWS. The Army built four chemical warfare agent production plants on the grounds of Edgewood Arsenal in MD to produce chlorine, chloropicrin, phosgene, and mustard agent, producing more than 1600 tons of the agent by the end of the war. None of it made it overseas prior to the end of the conflict! By the end of WWI, there were 1680 officers and 20,518 enlisted personnel wearing the insignia, which was designed in 1917, as "a pair of crossed chemical retorts with a benzene right in the center denoting its laboratory roots."

The U.S. Congress made the Chemical Warfare Service a permanent part of the U.S. Army in 1920. Its duties were "the investigation, development, manufacture or procurement and supply of all smoke and incendiary materials, all toxic gases, and all gas defense appliances." The years between WWI and WWII were lean times for the CWS and personnel dropped to 500 military and 1000 civilians. When formal war was declared in December 1941, the U.S. Military faced enemies on opposite sides of the world, both with CB weapons capabilities. More than 400 chemical battalions and companies were created during WWII, numbering more than 60,000 military personnel at the peak of enlistment. American Troops deployed with gas masks, impregnated suits, and information cards detailing the signs and symptoms of gas poisoning. Decontamination units landed behind the infantry on the invasion beaches, prepared to clean the beachfronts in the event the Germans used chemical weapons to counterattack. After the war it was determined that Germany had in fact stockpiled more than a quarter million tons of chemical agents, including thousands of tons of nerve agents. While chemical smoke generators were used, especially at river crossings, chemical and nerve agents were not used by either side.

During the Vietnam war the Chemical Corps continued its support of combat operations through the employment of incendiary munitions, herbicides, riot control agents and other efforts. (We all know how the use of herbicides worked and the horrible results still showing up in Veterans of Vietnam. Ron's comment)

Several events in the late 1960s almost resulted in the death of the Chemical Corps. The public opinions on the use of napalm, riot control agents and herbicides in Vietnam continued to be debated. In March 1968, the Army was accused of causing the incapacitation of more than 4,000 sheep near Dugway Proving Grounds because of a XV-spray open air trial. The Army settled the case and paid off the farmers.

In 1972, with the drawdown of U.S. military strength, an effort was made to consolidate the Chemical Corps into other branches of the Army with a recommendation of the Chemical Corps becoming a special weapons department under the Ordnance Corps, moving the smoke and flame missions to the Engineers, and the protective clothing mission to the Quartermaster Corps. The Chief of Staff of the Army recommended said actions to Secretary of the Army Robert F. Froehlke, who agreed, and the announcement was made to disestablish the Chemical Corps effective 11 January 1973. However, the decision to disestablish the Chemical Corps required Congress approval. Congress chose not to act immediately. (Does

that surprise anyone? Ron's Comment)

General Abrams, the CofS, died in office and tension was picking up between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union showed an increased interest in the development of defensive CB warfare equipment and it was feared the Soviet Union would maintain offensive and defensive CB capabilities in Europe, mostly in East Germany. The Chemical Corps was re-established in October 1976. The U.S. Army Chemical School at Fort McClellan, Anniston, Alabama, did not reopen until 1980.

The Persian Gulf War brought much concern about the use of chemical weapons. Troops were given NBC defense crash courses in theater. Troops deployed with protective masks at the ready, protective clothing was made available to Troops in the vicinity to the enemy or as the mission required. The Gulf War was fought without the use of chemical or biological munitions. In 1995 the U.S. Congress passed laws to implement a program to train civilian, law enforcement, and fire agencies on responding to incidents involving chemical agents.

The U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) School is located at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. There are approximately 22,000 members of the Chemical Corps in the U.S. Army, spread among the active forces, Army reserve, and Army National Guard. (All information taken from above two websites. Both provide much more information.)

Now, attention, all you current and former Chemical Corps people. Tell us the real story. What did you really do while on active duty, reserves or National Guard and wearing the Chemical Corps insignia? I wonder if that really means the old sergeant in basic training, the one that threw those canisters of tear gas on me at Fort Polk, LA, in the heat and sweat of August, in a formation, unannounced, was in the Chemical Corps. I was one of the stupid recruits who dropped his weapon and headed for the hills. Man, did I ever pay for that with push-ups. He called me names I had never heard before and my father was a sailor!

**Tom Martin**, of the 15<sup>th</sup> S&S Bn, (68-69) sent me a couple of anecdotes that I thought I would share. Tom wrote: "During the time we were bringing the Class II & Class IV supply yard at Bien Hoa up to speed, we were informed we had to quiet down the noise made by our rough terrain forklifts. It was necessary to operate them at high RPM's to maintain high pressure in the hydraulics. This necessarily resulted in loud engines. Someone at Spt Cmd Hq complained that the noise carried and was annoying. I pointed out the necessity of the high RPM's and the probable consequence of lower RPM's damaging the seals on the equipment, but to no avail. Within 5 days, half of our rough terrain forklifts were deadlined for blown seals. By the way, there were no seals to be found at Long Binh Depot. One of my NCO's suggested we try using condoms as a temporary fix. (There was an ample supply at the PX). They worked! They had an operational life of about 12 hours but did the job. When we finally received seals from 2<sup>nd</sup> Log in Okinawa, we were told we could return to high RPM operation. Can Do

Soon after 2<sup>nd</sup> Fwd Spt Plt became mission operational at Phouc Vinh, one of my NCO's called from the icehouse (where some Korean civilians manufactured ice) that he had found a commercial ice cream making machine, still in Depot packaging! I turned him loose and he and a couple of Troopers had the machine operational in 2 days. We now had the capacity to provide fresh vanilla and chocolate ice cream, on a rotational basis, to unit dining facilities. We even obtained some cold pack coolers that allowed us to occasionally deliver ice cream out to the fire bases. One day we got a complaint from a G-Staff Major, demanding ice cream every day for the General's Mess at DIV Hq. I told him that when I received a request in writing from the Secretary to the General Staff, we would discuss logistics and availability, after the Troops were served. I never heard another word. "Can Do"

**Greg Rice** sent me an email and said, "I was at Camp Evans on May 19, 1968, when the ammo dump blew up. I had only been in Vietnam for six weeks. I spent the night in a bunker as a company clerk for Charlie Company, 5<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Cav. Hope to see you in October if the pandemic is control."

Well, Greg, maybe next year. You can reach Greg at <gregrice1946@gmail.com>.

Troopers and spouses – that is about it for this issue. We survived Hurricane Laura with no damage and did not even lose our power. Worst storm I have been through in years. Much damage in south Louisiana. Our country is in a mess. I hope that someday we can come together and at least agree to disagree on so many political subjects. Meantime may God bless you and your family, the great USofA, the U.S. Army, the FIRST TEAM 1<sup>st</sup> Cav, and our Association. Peace to you brother/sister and if no one has told you yet, WELCOME HOME brother/sister. If you are not home yet, may God bring your safely back to your family and your home. Hope to see ya next year.

## NEW MEMBERS

CW3 BOEDING, STEPHEN TX B 1-227AVN 7705  
SPC BONNER DAVID AL 3-545MP 93  
E-4 BUKER, ERIC TX A 1-227AVN 8702  
COL CARTER, FLORENTINO MD HHC 1CD 9006  
E-4 CORDOVA, LANCE CA 4-5ADA 91  
MR. DURANDETTO, JOHN PA 1420 ASSOC  
1LT ESSLING, MICHAEL IN 501ENG 1709  
MAJ FAVERO, MARK WA 1CDH 04  
SGT HEWUSE, VANCE CO D 2-7C 68  
SSG JOHNSON, CHARLES AE HHC 1-5C 170  
PFC JOHNSON, DUSTIN K. AZ 2-8C 1709  
SGT LISK, MARK AL B 1-68ADA 8501  
MR. LIVINGSTON, LEE CA D 2-8C 6710  
CSM (RET) MCMULLEN, KEITH TX C 20ENG 95  
SGM (RET) MIRANDS, VALERIE TX HQ 1CDH 0807  
CPT PETERS, DAVID OH E 1-5C 7910  
BG PLECZKOWSKI, ROBERT PA 20ENG 0302  
E-5 RICHARDSON, EMBERADO GA C 2-8  
CW2 ROBERTS, TERRANCE WI B 229AVN 69  
SSG SCHELLINGER, MATTHEW SC F 227AVN 9006  
SFC SMITH, EUGENE VA B 2-19FA 6702  
SGT WORNER, ERNEST TX HHT 1-9C 8001



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*In Memory of Dencil R Blankenship (my best friend)*  
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*In Memory of EVERYONE*

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*In Memory of SP-4 Scott Winder A 1-5 Cav from Houston*  
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MR. BLAKBURN, Henry G.  
*In Memory of Matthew A. Pepe*

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PFC VECHIONE, Ted W. Jr.  
*In Memory of Garvin Dill*

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1SG (RET) ZINGRAF, Howard D.

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*In Memory of CPT John Michael Casey 371 Radio Research Company*  
MRS. STEIN, Catherine  
*In Memory of My Husband Henry J. Stein*

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Birthday Wishes  
to the Roaring 1920's Birthday Babies!!



- MG (RET) CLYDE W. SPENCE JR.  
turned 92 on 9/01/2020

CPL JAMES V. POWER  
turned 92 on 9/02/2020

PFC HARLOW ROSBOROUGH  
turned 93 on 9/03/2020

SFC (RET) FRANCIS A. SARNOWSKI  
turned 93 on 9/12/2020

SSG ALFRED J. SCHUTTE  
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MR. JOSEPH P. SCHWAN  
turned 97 on 9/12/2020
- TSG VINCENT G. CORDOVA  
turned 97 on 9/14/2020

MAJ KENNETH N. ROBERTS  
turned 97 on 9/14/2020

PFC JAMES S. HUFNALL  
turned 98 on 9/15/2020

CPL DANIEL J. KOFFLER  
turned 94 on 9/19/2020

PFC ALDO E. SAGGESE  
turned 92 on 9/23/2020

SGT VERLIN N. ROGERS  
turned 92 on 9/25/2020

PFC WILLIAM M. STEPHENS  
turned 94 on 9/28/2020

MG (RET) WILLIAM L. WEBB JR.  
turned 95 on 9/30/2020

SGT JOHN A. GIUNCO  
turned 92 on 10/10/2020

TSG JOHN H. SHIPPEE JR.  
turned 93 on 10/14/2020

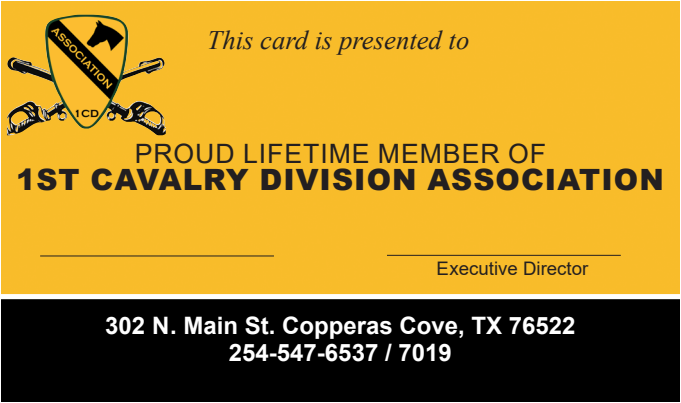
CPT DONALD E. HILL  
turned 92 on 10/25/2020

SSG (RET) ROBERT M. SMOCER  
turned 93 on 10/26/2020

Happy Birthday to these young Troopers!

Anyone who served within the  
1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division  
YOU earned the right to be a part  
of the elite  
1<sup>ST</sup> CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION!  
Are YOUR battle buddies a member?

Replacement Membership Cards



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

The new cards are NOT available for Associate Members, the new cards are only available for our Life Time Members.  
On the back of the card it says:  
1st Cavalry Division Association is a non-political, non-profit 501(c)19 fraternity for Soldiers and Veterans currently serving or have served in 1st Cavalry Division.  
The Association is a group of Soldiers and former Soldiers from Private to 4-star Generals who share a bond of service with the FIRST TEAM who are dedicated to supporting the Division and each other.

### 1CDA Membership Cards

Total Due: **\$5.00 each**

Cash: \_\_\_\_\_ Check: \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Print Clearly CVV #: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

If you enjoyed reading the stories in this issue of Saber, consider sending in your battle story to share with your fellow members. Email to [Programs@1CDA.org](mailto:Programs@1CDA.org)  
**FIRST TEAM!**

**\$45 ea**

**WE HAVE a few GARRY OWEN HOODIES left!**

**ONLY EXTRA LARGE HOODIES REMAINING**

**SHIPPING IS FREE**

### GARRY OWEN ORDER FORM

HOODIES \$45 ea  
\_\_\_\_XL

LONG SLEEVE SHIRTS \$26 ea  
\_\_\_\_2XL, \_\_\_\_XL, \_\_\_\_L, \_\_\_\_M, \_\_\_\_S

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

Cash: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Print Clearly CVV#: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

**FRONT**

**TOP LEFT SHOULDER:**  
says  
7th Cavalry Division  
with the U.S. flag on right arm

**BACK**

**ALL sizes available in Long Sleeve 2XL, XL, L, M or S**

**ALSO AVAILABLE**

**GARRYOWEN LONG SLEEVE SHIRTS**  
(same style as the hoodie pictured)  
**Available in ALL sizes: 2XL, XL, L, M, or S \$26 each**