



HAPPY BIRTHDAY 1ST CAV DIVISION

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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ICDA President 2023-2025



To the Troopers of America's First Team,

Our Division has a new leader. After a

lightning 385 days in command, MG Kevin D. Admiral handed the colors of 1st Cavalry Division over to MG Thomas M. Feltey at a half-hour ceremony in Bole-slaweic, Poland on Friday, August 2, 2024. MG Admiral had assumed command of the First Team from MG John B. Richardson IV on July 14, 2023. He has been appointed to the grade of lieutenant general and has assumed command of the III Armored Corps and Fort Cavazos on August 7, 2024.

During his time with the 1st Cavalry Division, MG Admiral oversaw the establishment of the Hall of Legends and inducted our very own CSM Dennis Webster (Ret) as the first inductee. Since earlier this year, MG Admiral has been commanding the 1st Cavalry Division from the European theater during the Division's ongoing rotation.

I got to know MG Admiral a bit as he began his command tour with the division. He made time in a very busy schedule to visit with me and discuss his vision of how your Association and the First Team could engage in new ways. Be assured that we will continue to work on them. Diana and I wish MG Admiral and his wife Charmain the best as they take on new responsibilities as commander of American's only Armored Corps.

MG Feltey was commissioned as an Armor Officer in 1993 after graduating from Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey. He is the 82nd Commander of America's First Team. (Ugh. I am indeed getting old. He was commissioned about 60 days before I retired from active duty.)



MG Thomas Feltey, new ICD CG on left

MG Feltey has served in a diverse selection of Army and Joint/Combined command and staff positions to include as the 53rd Chief of Armor; Director, G-3/5/7, Futures and Concepts Center, Fort Eustis, Virginia; Chief of Staff, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colorado; Commander of the 316th Cavalry Brigade, Fort Moore, Georgia; Commander, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington and Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff G35 in the NATO Allied Rapid Reaction Corps in Rheindahlen, Germany, and Gloucester, England. His assignments include combat tours in support of Operation Resolute Support, Operation Freedom's Sentinel, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

MG Feltey's education includes the Naval College of Command and Staff, the Maritime School of Advanced Military Studies, and the Joint Advanced Warfighting School. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from Rutgers University, a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Navy War College, and a Master of Science Degree in Campaign Planning and Strategic Studies from the Joint Forces Staff College of the National Defense University.

His awards and decorations include the Valorous Unit Award, Legion of Merit (5th Award), Bronze Star Medal (2nd Award), Defense Meritorious Service Medal (2nd Award), Meritorious Service Medal (5th Award), the Combat Action Badge, Parachutist Badge, and Canadian Parachutist Badge.

MG Feltey is a recipient of the Order of Saint George (Silver) and the Order of Saint Maurice (Legionnaire).



As I write this article, CAV103 is fast approaching. This year, CAV Week runs from Wednesday, September 11th through Friday, September 13th. It will begin with a Division Run at 6:30 am on the 11th, and conclude with cake cutting and award ceremonies at 9:00 am on Cooper Field on the 13th.

CAV Week will be smaller than usual this year as a significant portion of the First Team is deployed. The Division Headquarters, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, Combat Aviation Brigade, Sustainment Brigade, and the Division Artillery are currently deployed to Europe, training alongside partner nations as part of the decade-old U.S. efforts to dissuade Russia from aggressive acts in Europe. In addition, the 3rd Cavalry Regiment is deployed to Korea as part of a regular rotation of forces to support the United States' commitment to the Republic of Korea.



As we move into the home stretch of this year's election cycle, the political climate in our country is heating up and, as it does, incivility and a lack of respect for others is at crisis point in America.

Disagreement is a human constant. Sometimes it even proves productive. But lately, disagreement between Americans seems different. Less tractable. More dangerous and anxiety-inducing.

A 2019 report, "Civility in America 2019: Solutions for Tomorrow," shined light on concerning statistics: 93% of the respondents thought incivility is a problem; 68% see it as a crisis; and 74% think it's getting worse.

Polarization, hyper-partisanship and (at times) violence and civil unrest are all inescapable themes heading into the 2024 U.S. elections on Nov 5. Members of both major political parties seem not only as divided as ever, but as adamant as ever about the "dangers" of supporting the other side.

In that 2019 report on civility, 57% of the people who said incivility was worsening also said that social media and the internet were the primary reasons why.

For many of us, it feels like social media favors people who want a megaphone for their ideas rather than sincere listeners. Please remember as you post, or like, a comment, video or meme on Facebook or X that you'll probably turn off as many people as you please. We must all seek out more effective ways to communicate and share our points of view online.

- As a news consumer, question and validate before accepting something you read at face value. Check the source, research the facts, and think before you react on social media.
- Get involved with projects seeking to heal our divides. Revitalize America through civic engagement.
- Engage in civil dialogue with others instead of focusing on sound bites. Thirty-second video clips have power, but often lack context. The same goes for conversations. Take time to listen, and allow the other person an opportunity to explain their point of view.

We don't have to always agree, or even like each other. But we do need to acknowledge our common humanity if we want civil society and American exceptionalism to persevere.

The 1st Cavalry Division – Courageous, Audacious, Victorious! Until we meet again, God bless you all.

First Team! Gambler 6, out.

THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

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Have you ever wondered why all elections (for public office) are held in November? By all, includes federal, state, county, city...well you get the picture. Election Day was legally established by an act of Congress and falls between the first Tuesday after the first Monday in

November in even number years. However, the federal government plays no role for nonfederal offices at the state and local level. Those jurisdictions use the federal date for convenience.

In 1844, the House of representatives were debating a bill that would set a uniform date for the presidential elections. The primary goal was to guard against fraud in the elections for president and Vice President. Therefore, in 1845, the 28th Congress set the date, and our first unified presidential election took place on November 7, 1948.

So why the first Tuesday in November. Some argued the date avoided the harvest season and harsh weather. While others felt voting on Tuesday rather than Monday would skirt any religious issues if someone were to travel to vote on Monday, they would have to travel on Sunday, the Sabbath for most Christians. In the event you have been living in a cave, off grid somewhere, or maybe outer space, our next Election Day is set for November 5th, 2024...get out and vote. Voting is a fundamental part of a democratic society and your right as an American citizen. Just one of the many rights that we as Veterans have fought to maintain.

The 2025 Reunion in Reno, NV is taking shape. Take the time to visit our website's <<https://1cda.org>> reunion page. The links through the website can help you layout a plan to make this reunion not only a time to spend with friends (both old and new) but time to visit sites that may be on your bucket lists. Bring the family and make plans to visit Lake Tahoe, Virginia City, Carson City, or Pyramid Lake. Extend your trip and take a drive to San Francisco (3.5 hours) or

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ADDRESS CHANGE

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

Last 4 #'s of your SSN _____
 Tel: (____) _____
 Rank and Name: _____
 New Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
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SNOWBIRDS

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

1CDA EVENT CALENDAR

Nov 9-11, 2024 15th Annual Veterans Day in Washington, D.C.
 Feb 22, 2025 Board of Governor's Hybrid Meeting
 June 11-15, 2025 77th Annual 1CDA Reunion, Reno, NV

SABER RENEWAL / DONATION FORM

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

SABER

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ARTICLE SUBMISSION

Original, clear copies, typed or printed are accepted via e-mail at Programs@1CDA.org.
 Articles should be received at National Headquarters no later than the 1st of every odd month. Any article received after the 1st of the month will be put in on a space available basis.
 Opinions expressed are the writers and not necessarily those of the *Saber* or the 1st Cavalry Division Association.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To be considered for publication, letters should not exceed 300 words and should be of general interest and in good taste. Letters express the writer's opinion, not that of the *Saber* or the 1st Cavalry Division Association.
 Political endorsement and poetry cannot be used. Form letters or third-party letters are not acceptable. Letters which contain libelous or obviously untrue statements will be automatically rejected.
 All letters must be signed with addresses and telephone numbers included. Names will be used with the letters but addresses and phone numbers may be omitted. Letters also may be edited for length or clarification.
 We reserve the right to reject for publication any letter received. Unused letters will not be acknowledged.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Academically:
 The Ia Drang Valley scholarship program helped me further my education by reducing the burden of college cost. I successfully completed a General AA degree at Northwest Florida State College. After my AA, the scholarship provided funds for me to attend my local technical college to become an electrician.
 Personally:
 My grandfather just died recently, so being able to get this scholarship feels like he is still with me. It also feels like he is working alongside me through the electrician class I am now taking. I hope that once my brother turns eighteen this year he gets to experience this as well. The scholarship is truly the last thing my grandfather helped me with before his passing. It feels very special. I am grateful for the program and sponsors.
 Joshua Dorsey
 Grandson of Tommy L. Dorsey of 1st Cavalry B Company 229th Ia Drang Valley

**SAVE THE DATES:
 11-15 June 2025
 1st CAV DIV ASSN
 77th ANNUAL REUNION
 Grand Sierra Resort & Casino
 Reno, Nevada**

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

This year, members will have an opportunity to visit the Truckee River Trail and Riverwalk District. The Riverwalk District has shopping, restaurants, bars and taverns, entertainment, lodging, even a whitewater park – all in a safe, fun, friendly area that celebrates Reno's arts, culture, and history 365 days a year.

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

Online registration opens 1 October 2024; the Reunion registration form will be included in the *Saber* from November '24 through April '25.

Trooper's Tale



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

Send your stories to Programs@1CDA.org

TROOPER'S TALE COLUMN

was created for our members to share your photos or long lost 1CD war stories.

Please consider sharing yours!

Send to Programs@1CDA.org

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Submitted by **Jim Dunnigan Company B (Mongoose Bravo) 1-5 Cav, 17 Aug 67** <jbdunnigan@gmail.com>

I wrote this in 1986 and it was printed in the now defunct Northwest Magazine in November of that year. This event Occurred in the Nui Mieu Mountains.

We could see the beach from our mountaintop vantage point. A humid August day and only 15 clicks from the sea. The base of our mountain opened into a valley, gently widening as it approached the beach. The rice paddy covered the valley floor, and the dikes topped with footpaths would provide some easy traveling. You joked about the jungle and the rock formation we had to struggle through in the meantime.

Always joking, that's what I remember most about you, Reese although you could be serious on occasion. You welcomed me to the field when I was a virgin, fresh meat. You showed me the things that mattered when it came to staying alive. No longer a virgin on this hot summer day but I, like you and the others, tough and battle-hardened. Fifteen left in a platoon that, a couple of months before, had been almost 30 strong.

But today hadn't been so bad. Our packs had been slung by choppers and we had only our weapons and ammo to carry. The underbrush was relatively thin; and although the rock forms might be a problem, with any luck at all by tomorrow morning we would be cooling our heels in the South China Sea.

Third platoon went straight to the bottom of the mountain below the rocks. First platoon started toward the center of the rock formation while those of us in second platoon were to stay high and to move through the upper reaches.

It could have been another routine day. We could have checked out the rocks and caves and moved into the valley. Our packs would be flown in, perhaps with mail and hot chow. Providing there was enough daylight, we might have time to write letters. We would dig our positions, set up our hootches and talk. Talk of women, cars and home. Always home. We came from all over the states and Puerto Rico. You, from the Midwest; I from the Northwest - Central Oregon. Home, families and what we'd do when we got back to the world always were appropriate topics. Then night slowly would come upon us, another long night with the monotonous turns on watch.

This day, however, was not to be routine. We heard the shots that killed first platoon's point man before he got to the rocks. Third platoon was next to be hit as it reached the caves below the formation. We found out later that my old friend, Doug Curtis from Umatilla, was wounded in that exchange.

With Livermore on point and you following we cautiously entered the rock pile. Trees, brush and vines covered the boulders so completely that enemy soldiers could conceal themselves easily. As I leaped across a gap between two of the huge rocks, the reverse thorns of a wait-a-minute vine caught my nose, almost pulling me back to my starting point. I gave you the finger when you looked back and grinned.

We never knew where the shots came from, but you and Livermore were hit fight away and Southerland got it in the second barrage. You spun around and went into a crouch. I didn't realize you had been wounded until you said, "I'm hit-bad," and pitched forward, unconscious. The look in your eyes before you fell told me that you knew you were dead.

After a frantic attempt at first aid we tried our best to get you and our other two wounded to safety. Some of us laid down a covering fire at the unseen enemy while others carried you. Southerland made it. A bullet passed through the meat of both thighs and did little damage. Livermore again was hit as we were carrying him, and he was dead before we could get him out of the line of fire. You were still breathing when we got you to the protection of a pile of huge boulders.

We radioed the captain to request a medevac, but he refused because of the terrain and the enemy fire. A medevac wouldn't have saved you anyway. A sudden rush of foul-smelling air from the hole through your chest was the last indication of life.

Our second platoon medic had been wounded a few days earlier and had not been replaced: so Docimo, the Puerto Rican medic from the third platoon, came up alone to help. All that was left for him to do was to check Southerland's bandages and to wash the blood from our hands with disinfectant. He risked his life for two dead men.

While air strikes and artillery pounded the enemy positions, we retreated to the safety of the mountaintop, where a medevac could land safely to take you away. That night, as we slept in the open without our gear, it began to rain. We were too tired to care.

It has been almost 20 years since that hot August day in 1967; yet I think of you often. Almost daily some indelible image from my months away from the world springs to mind. As I sit comfortably in my home, my children studying, my wife preparing her lesson plans, I think of all the things you have missed-all

OIF / OEF VETERAN 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion News

SSG Brandy Harvest SSG Kenneth Pannell
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This column is a collection of stories submitted from 1BSTB Soldiers that served during OIF / OEF.

December 2nd, 2006, our EOD security team escorted Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and Weapons Intelligence Team (WIT) to a possible IED. While in route to the PIED, the WIT vehicle was struck by another IED. SGT Keith Fiscus of the 732nd ECES Weapons Intelligence Team was killed in action. The Memorial Service for SGT Keith Fiscus was held December 5th, 2006, at Camp Taji. The Centurion family, along with the 1BCT Unit Ministry Team, aided his unit in remembering him. "We will not Forget."

On Christmas Day 2006, the Centurion Family held a Christmas service. The Christmas service was held in the Brigade Chapel and was officiated by Chaplain Collier. Chaplain Collier invited several Soldiers to share their favorite Christmas memories. It was a very uplifting and positive experience for the Centurion family.

In January 2007, the motivated Centurions charged forward "Setting the Conditions" for OIF 06-08. The phrases, "This is bigger than us," "We are preparing the next generation of leaders," "We are the best Special Troops Battalion in the free world," "Good order and discipline," "We are a standard based Battalion" by the Battalion Commander and CSM became marching orders. We rode forward with our heads held high, backs straight, and eyes with the glint of determination, with the vision of a safe, secure, stable, together, and professional Iraq.

On January 1st, 2007, the Soldiers of the 1st Special Troops Battalion started the new year by donning the "Combat Patch." Since WWII, Soldiers who have served in a combat theater are authorized to wear their units patch under the American flag patch on the right shoulder. This signifies the experience one has as a combat Veteran. The ceremony was held outside the Battalion Tactical Operations Center on a chilly, bright, winter day. The Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Michael A. Dillard, first placed the patch on the right shoulder of the Command Sergeant Major Robert Green. The CSM then placed the patch upon the Battalion Commander. From that point, the Battalion Commander and Command Sergeant Major placed the combat patch on each individual Battalion Staff member. Shortly after, each Company Commander and 1st Sergeant placed the patches on their Soldiers. In closing, LTC Dillard reminded his Centurions, "Let's not forget the great sacrifices of both past and present Soldiers that allow today's event to be possible."

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

TROOPER'S TALE Continued

the good living a person with your warmth and good nature would have enjoyed.

You were not quite 20 years old when you died. So young. So long ago that it seems like a dream.

The photo to the right is of William Phillip Reese KIA 8/17/67. I believe Boots took this photo. Reese was killed in the Nui Mieu Mountains as was Keith Livermore. "Combat" Southerland and 3rd platoon's Dough Curtis were WIA that day. When we were moving into the area the previous day 1st platoon point man, Timothy Rhodes was KIA. Does anyone remember the new



William Phillip Reese

ROTC LT who was medicac'd because he said he had a "tummy ache?" I think that was at this time. I also seem to remember that we came upon an enemy rest stop and found hot rice and utensils left behind. Then first platoon was hit and the next day our turn came. Again this is from my often-mistaken memory. Doug and I have known each other since we were drafted together and were both in Mongoose but often have radically difference recollections of the same events. He once accused me of not having been to Vietnam even though my memory is much, much, much better than his.

THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

Continued from pg. 1

Sacramento (2.0 hours).

We have provided you a link to make your hotel reservations and a phone number to call the onsite RV park and reserve your spot. The website on-line registration form will be open on 1 October 2024. The registration form will be posted in the *Saber* in November/December and a form will go out with the 2025 calendar. Hope to see you all there in 2025.

Veterans Day is just around the corner, 9-12 November 2024. Starting this year, we will be having a reception instead of a dinner. The hospitality room along with the beer, wine, and snacks and gift shop items will still be available. If you have yet to attend Veterans Day in Washington, DC come on out. I promise you will not be disappointed.

LRRP/Ranger News



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Greetings Brothers! This year's reunion was once again held in Louisville, KY. Attendance was not at the level it was the previous year but better than anticipated based on early reservations. Rather than re-create the wheel **I will use Howard's report on Louisville! Thank You Howard!!**

We have just concluded another reunion of the LRRP/RANGERS of the 1st Cavalry Division during the Vietnam War in Louisville Kentucky. The turnout was more than we had expected, and Doug the President will convey those names to all of you in his address in the newsletter. As usual, we had our own gathering room that many friends helped set up and we enjoyed conversation, drinks, snacks, Ranger/LRRP merchandise, reconnecting with old brothers, and connecting with ones we had not met previously. Everyone had a terrific time. Just wanted to reach out to Terry Cordel for the interesting talk we had! A lot of effort by your board made the get-together a treat! Thanks to all those who helped contribute – your efforts made a difference.

Want to thank Michael Echterling for the three homemade canes given to three Rangers at the reunion. I will pass on to Michael that his request was honored!



The main event luncheon was perfect. The meal was fine, and the agenda went off according to plan. Our raffle was remarkably successful - the items donated by our membership were beautiful, some handmade, and everyone went home with something thanks to John LeBrun! You really need to attend this event; it is a truly memorable moment! The next reunion in Reno, Nevada will be on June 11-15, 2025. The location is the Grand Sierra Resort contact 1-800-648-5080 (FCD25). We are hoping that a substantial number of our brothers will attend this one, due to the popularity of Reno. If you can make it, we would like to break all previous records of attendance, being in the west of the nation. There will be lots to do everywhere with the 1st Cavalry Division Association being the sponsor. It is time to give it some real thought and consider the opportunity to get together with all those brothers that you have always wanted to contact and meet new brothers at the same time! WE are aging fast, now that we are all in our late 70s and 80's this event just might be the best opportunity to salute those friends who did not come home, those who have passed, and those of us that are left. Every reunion we salute those friends that cannot be at the reunion, which is one of the reasons we do the best job we are able to do!

A request from the 1st Cavalry Division Association and myself. At next year's reunion, there will not be a local Cav Assn Chapter to help at the Association's business desk registering members and other paperwork items. The 1st Cavalry Division Association has asked for volunteers to help with these concerns. It is too early to know if you are going or have other concerns, however when you commit to attending and would like to be a volunteer helper you can let me know and I will send this information to the HQ of the 1st Cav Div Association. If interested, when you decide to go, please contact me. As more information comes to the Board, we will pass it on in our newsletter.

Some History - After spending six months as an Infantry Platoon Leader with the 1/7th Cav, it was "my turn" to leave the field and take on a "staff" position. After complaining to the Battalion Commander about this option, I was provided a 3-day pass to go back to the Cav Rear in Bien Hoa and think about it. After locating the bar at the Bien Hoa AF Base officer's club, I happened to sit next to another grunt in grubby camo, Frank Stewart – the H Company Commander who, at the time I did not know. After a "few" beers and explaining my situation to him and my desire to stay in the field we found our way back to the Army side and said goodbye. Two days later, upon my return to my firebase, I was called in to see the Battalion Commander who provided me with orders to report to H Co, 75th. So, in December of 1970 I reported to H Company where I was to spend the better part of two years.

It became obvious from the outset; this was a special unit – because the Soldiers that made up the unit were special – different than my grunt experience. I have always been enormously proud of my time with the 1/7th but the experience with H Company, the Rangers I served with – and the unique and storied history that they had created, and we continued to create today was special. Years later when I became more involved with the 75th Association, I started to think about the history of H Company, and started writing about the original Company Commanders that over time had a significant impact on the unit's success, which was legendary. One day recently, I was on my way to the Golf Course at Arnold Air Force Base in Tullahoma TN and noticed a memorial on the side of the road that displayed a Ranger unit patch. After passing it a few times I decided to stop and see what it was all about. It turned out to be a memorial to the 2nd Ranger Battalion. This storied unit had been established and trained locally prior to being sent overseas. A little more research indicated that it was one of the Battalions that scaled Point du Hoc – creating one of the most prolific histories of the D-Day Invasion - one most people are aware of. Looking for more information I found and read the book "The Last Hill," a captivating book that told the story of the 2nd Ranger Battalion's founding, training, deployment, subsequent participation in D-Day, specifically the successful assault on Point du Hoc and an even more impressive follow up as the Allied attack moved inland.

After D-Day, their participation in the battle of Hill 400 was even more impressive. For those who have not read this book – I would highly recommend reading about those that went before us and the amazing history of the 2nd Ranger Battalion beyond Point du Hoc.

After reading this book – it became a challenge for me to go back and trace the history of the 2nd Ranger Battalion and the part that H Company played in that history.

In April 1943, the 2nd Ranger Battalion was formed at Camp Forrest Tennessee, where they began and continued their training along with the 5th Ranger Battalion. *(The heritage and lineage of the 2nd Battalion was from the 5307th*

Composite Unit also known as Merrill's Marauders which was consolidated with Company H, 475th Infantry before being deactivated at the end of the war - hope you are still with me). Both battalions were officially activated in September 1943 and shipped to Great Britain where they were prepared for D-Day as part of six Ranger Battalions that were employed during the Second World War. On June 6th, 1944, the D-Day attack began with over 200 Rangers, but due to the harsh weather a number of the landing craft capsized, drowning a number of the Rangers. The 190 remaining Rangers began scaling the cliffs at Point du Hoc using rope ladders and under constant fire. After two days of heavy fighting only 90 Rangers were still capable of engaging the enemy and after reaching the top of Point du Hoc and were responsible for capturing a critically important artillery battery saving the lives of many Soldiers on the beaches of Normandy. The 2nd Ranger Battalion was later involved in the Battle for Brest and the Battle of Hürtgen Forest where they led the assault and were successful in capturing Hill 400, after three Infantry Divisions had failed. If you have not read Hill 400 – it is an amazing account of the actions of the 2nd Ranger Battalion from its reincarnation in Tullahoma TN, its actions at Point du Hoc, and the capture of Hill 400.

The Battalion along with the 5th, and 6th Battalions were deactivated after the war.

During Korea, the 2nd Battalion was redesignated the 2nd Ranger Inf Company and after the war inactivated. In 1954 Company H, 475th was again activated for a short time in Okinawa, then again deactivated.

During the Vietnam War the Ranger Companies were once again activated. H Company, formally E 52nd LRRP, was under the operational control of the 1st Cavalry Division and each Division would have a lettered "Ranger" Company. H Company became the longest serving LRRP/Ranger unit in history and the most decorated. H Company was the last remaining Ranger Company in Vietnam and was deactivated when the colors were returned to the States in 1972.

In 1972 there was a need for highly trained and highly mobile reaction force causing the Army Chief of Staff Creighton Abrahms to call for the activation of 2 Battalion sized Ranger Units – the 2nd Ranger Battalion was activated at Ft Lewis Washington later in 1974. In early 1975 a Cadre was selected and trained and by the end of 75 the unit was declared "combat ready" and could be deployed worldwide.

Since then the 2nd Ranger Battalion has been at the forefront of US operations around the world from Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada to Operation Just Cause in Panama, Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti, and following the attacks on September 11, 2001 continuous deployment to Iraq, Afghanistan and other strategic parts of the world, in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Until next time – RL TW

"For those who've fought for it – life has a flavor the protected will never know."



2nd BN Memorial in Tullahoma, TN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1ST CAV!



1ST CAVALRY DIVISION

was activated at Ft Bliss

September 13, 1921



5th CAV News

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**PLEASE CONTACT THE SCRIBE ABOVE TO
SHARE YOUR 5TH CAV STORIES!**

How time flies! Since last I wrote in these pages, quite a few things have happened. Seeing where folks from The First Team show up is always a treat! Just a few days ago I was at the Cape Fear Purple Heart Dinner, put on by the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Many of you will be familiar with our featured speaker. GEN Daniel B. Allyn who gave our address. Since he commanded our division not long ago, the name is more than a bit familiar. The General gets bored quickly hearing his own bio but for those of you that might not have been paying attention, his journey after us had him working as the 35th Vice Chief of Staff before retirement in 2017. Another great example of the kinds of folks our unit is so proud of.

Also reaching my attention lately, **Donald Swan** emailed me. He was present in the action on 20 March 1967, in a small unit trying to reach a company of 1/5th where Spec 4 (later 5) Charles C. Hagemester, the platoon medic, would become the ranking, survivor and guide the rest in the engagement in all its aspects. That earned him the Medal of Honor. You can find his well-written account by going to <swans-song-series.com>.

REUNIONS:

Both A and B companies of 2/5, Vietnam vintage are hosting reunions this month.

A Co, 2/5 Sept 12-16 in Charleston SC. If you find you still have time, you can email Raul Hernandez <RaulHernandez78411@gmail.com>, and B Co, 2/5 is in Kansas City MO, Sept 22-25. Email John Morehead <bravo25vietnam@gmail.com>. If you know folks in these groups, this missive gets to you in time, and you want to go, call them up. They have been working hard to get the word out but I am sure a few won't have heard. It will be worth the effort.

Don Swan's story above made me think, which some say can be dangerous. Looking up numbers shows the division received thirty Medals of Honor during Vietnam. It has 44 total. (Not sure if that is the corrected count after the latest). I found it difficult to get numbers on such awards for some of our regiments, but the 5th had six, and the 7th had seven of the thirty that were awarded for Vietnam. I am sure some of the old 5th Cav guys will say the fix was in or something else similar but that was all I could find. The 3rd Infantry Division has a total of 61 MOH's and that division fought in WWI. I could not find the number of those awards earned in France during WWI but a number with those subtracted would be more comparable since our division was formed in 1917. I also could not find many of the other numbers and wondered if there may be some effort to avoid competition. I also noticed that when checking the divisions deployed for the Korean conflict, they failed to mention the 1st Cav, probably because we were already there. Googling for military stats can be frustrating.

Jose Fragoso, a retired Command Sergeant Major, who is an active member of this association, has been a great help. He got me access to documents on an Army website that had posted some historical information including streamer info and some history I had not seen before on this regiment. The 5th Cavalry was assigned first to the 15th Cavalry Division in 1917 when the 1st Cavalry Division was formed. The nations mounted forces were involved along the southern border during WW I and were not involved in Europe. The 15th Cavalry Division was deactivated in 1918, which is to say, the 5th Cavalry Regiment and some other elements of that division seem not to have been assigned to a division for a period. The 5th Cavalry was then assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division in 1920. That brings up another question in my mind.

To be clear about the discussion started two paragraphs above, in my attempts to do the job(s) I have, both as scribe and as an officer of the U.S. 5th Cavalry Association, I discovered several things that may be of interest to some of the readers here. All the above items and awards are recorded by, and the involved ceremony or other related activities are the responsibility of the Institute of Heraldry. To access their help however one must be granted that ability. Normally (or in fact always) they deal with active-duty units and the individuals responsible for that units displays and ceremonies. In the case of the U.S. 5th Cavalry Association, which it could now be said is the only repository of display of campaign streamers that should reflect all of the units of the 5th Cavalry, some of which are not part of the 1st Cavalry Division, and therefore should have some means of seeing to it that it's display reflects this reality. For instance, units operating under different divisions but in the same theater and operation will have no differences regarding streamer display. However, due to the way units are sometimes attached to other divisions, or even other branches for some operations, streamer differences can occur, and those streamers belong to the regiment even when not all units of the regiment were involved.

Historically, except for the Civil War, the regiment had very few engagements where the entire regiment was involved at the same time. Rather, Troops, squadrons, (which at times it seems to me can refer either to battalion or company sized units) or some smaller unit is normally involved. Theoretically, (and in operation) this could lead to differences in streamer displays for subordinate units. The regiment however should be credited with all. And there should be a way to track this. As far as I can tell there is none unless the Association is helped to gain access to such. How to track the awards of the other elements of the U.S. 5th Cavalry Regiment is a question of interest to history, to this association and on some level to the Army. The Army, however, is a very large, very busy, organization. Because its immediate focus must remain on current matters, under the guidance of the Executive, and with funding through Congress, matters as trivial as regimental history will get no attention unless they affect other operations. Personally, I wonder if such things might be useful in support of esprit de corps and even recruiting.

Both the Division Association, and the various regimental associations, are

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DIVISION DOINGS:

1st Cavalry Division Conducts Change of Command Ceremony in Poland by SSG Jasmine McCarthy

BOLESLAWIEC, POLAND – 1st Cavalry Division bid farewell to MG Kevin D. Admiral, outgoing Commanding General of the 1st Cavalry Division, and welcomed incoming Commanding General, MG Thomas M. Feltey, in a change of command ceremony August 2, 2024, in Boleslawiec, Poland.

During his time with the 1st Cavalry Division, MG Kevin D. Admiral oversaw the establishment of the Hall of Legends and inducted CSM Dennis Webster (Ret) as the first inductee. Since earlier this year, Admiral has been commanding the 1st Cavalry Division from the European theater during the Division's ongoing rotation.

In his farewell speech, he first gave gratitude to LTG Charles D. Costanza, and then concluded with a heartfelt message to the Division as a whole.

"Lieutenant General Costanza, thank you for hosting and creating an environment that allows commanders to do what they're expected: lead, train, and fight," says Admiral. "It's been an honor to serve with the leaders and Troopers of America's First Team, and I can't thank you enough for the tremendous effort put forth on a daily basis to be Cav Ready."

The incoming Commanding General, MG Thomas M. Feltey, commissioned as an Armor Officer in 1993. He previously served as an Armor School Commandant in 2021 and more recently as Deputy Commanding General of Operations of III Armored Corps on Fort Cavazos, Texas. "I stand here this morning excited and humbled to lead the legendary First Team, especially as it continues its mission in assuring our allies and deterring our enemies," says Feltey during his opening speech. "To the leaders and Troopers of the mighty 1st Cavalry Division, I am honored to be your commander, and I will do my very best to serve you, our families, and our mission. I look forward to getting to know everyone over the months ahead and seeing our Troopers in action."

Upon completion of the ceremony, MG Thomas M. Feltey will assume the role of Commanding General of the 1st Cavalry Division and lead the First Team during its European Rotation and participation in several important European exercises in the coming months.

MG Kevin D. Admiral will return to Fort Cavazos, Texas, and take on his new role as Commanding General of III Armored Corps.

1CDSB hosts Total Army Force Spur Ride by CPT Zemas Andargachew

FORWARD OPERATING SITE KARLIKI, Poland—In the Army, most Soldiers are familiar with the saying, "if it ain't raining, we ain't training!" For several days starting August 1, 2024, participants were able to experience the true meaning of this saying through a series of unexpected events during a spur ride hosted by 553rd Division Sustainment Support Battalion (DSSB), 1st Cavalry Division Sustainment Brigade (1CDSB) in Karliki, Poland.

After arriving at the 'Day 0' bivouac site, candidates were placed in groups, with respective spur holders in charge of each group. After the spur holders inspected their respective candidates' packing lists to ensure they had all the essential gear needed to complete this spur ride safely, the candidates thought they were getting ready to conduct 'Stand To' before bedding down for the night. However, a consistent and gradual downpour of rain on 'Day 0' forced the event organizers to adjust the plan to uphold the spirit of the event while, most importantly, ensuring the safety of the candidates.

"We were informed by the Polish military we couldn't use a pretty prime training space," said Jones about the change of plans, which was mitigated by the quick thinking of the planners. The candidates learned upon arrival that they would complete a four-mile ruck to a designated turn-around point before rucking back to their bivouac site. To motivate and encourage the teams, the group that returned first would be given the longest recovery time and an opportunity to start the next day's events last.

1CDSB, known as Task Force Wagonmaster, hosted 138 candidates from three Army components: Active Duty, Reserve, and National Guard, making it a Total Army Force event. Many spur rides are hosted across the United States, but it is a unique and rare opportunity to participate in a spur ride during an overseas rotation or deployment.

"Task Force Wagonmaster ... it's a Total Army Task Force, so National Guard [and] Reserve units ... along with our organic Troopers altogether participated," said COL Christopher Jones, the 1st Cavalry Division Sustainment Brigade and Task Force Wagonmaster Commander, about the make-up of the pool of candidates. "There's a likelihood that many of the Soldiers that are here will never be in another cavalry unit [again] ... but [because] they're in the 1st Cavalry Division, the only Cavalry Division in the Army ... [it was] really special to see how eager Soldiers and leaders were to do it," Jones remarked.

The candidates ranged from junior enlisted Soldiers to senior leaders. Based on their unit assignment alone, many of them would not have had the opportunity to compete for the infamous Silver Spurs, an accessory awarded upon completion of the physically and mentally demanding event. "I'm excited because I had the chance to do [a spur ride] ... and usually wouldn't have this opportunity," said PFC Justin Moore, a motor transport operator from the Missouri Army National Guard.

For LTC Travis Peck, the 533rd DSSB commander, it was simply a matter of timing. The logistics officer from Wichita, Kansas, earned a pair of golden spurs earlier in his career as a first lieutenant. Golden spurs are only awarded during a combat tour, whereas silver spurs are earned during a non-combat rotation. Upon completion of the spur ride, he now proudly holds the title of Master Spur Holder and a memory of earning his silver spurs in Poland. "Earning my silver spurs would mean that I would be a Master Spur Holder," said Peck. "That is something I have wanted to do since I earned my gold spurs as a lieutenant."

Candidates underwent a number of challenges including a physical fitness lane where they had to work together to complete a required number of deadlifts and standing power throws, a CBRN lane, where they had to quickly don their protective mask then simulate administering an antidote for one of their contaminated Soldiers, recovering a disabled vehicle while maintaining tactical security, assembling and disassembling various weapons (with an accompany

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12th CAV News



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SALUTE-SEMPER PARATUS! Here we are end of summer 'dog days' and fall on the horizon. No doubt a welcome relief for our parched families in TX and the Southwestern states. They talk about the heat here in FL and I have to laugh. Actual temperature rarely gets above 95 and is usually 85-92 degrees then they say, "oh but the humidity," which does not come near that in Vietnam. Fall is a welcomed relief while looking forward to the 12th Cavalry Reunion 10-14 September in Branson and the Veterans events in November.

Many thanks go out to Pamela J. Champagne-Lesperance for the generous donation of \$500.00 made to 12th Cavalry Regiment Association on behalf of her deceased father Joseph J. Champagne, Jr., who died 17 September 2023. His estate also made a generous contribution to the 1st Cavalry Division Association. Joseph was a WWII Veteran who served with F Troop, 12th Cavalry, Jan-1947-Jan-1948, in the Occupation of Japan. Thank you Pamela and Salute to Joseph.

REVISITING THE LEGACY WWII to VIETNAM: Prior to 1933 12th Cavalry was a Horse Cavalry Detachment responsible for protecting our Southwestern Borders. 3 January 1933, assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division and reorganized as an Infantry Regiment. With the breakout of WWII the regiment was sent to Australia 26 July 1943, for Jungle Amphibious Training. 1-12th made its first assault 29 February 1944 in Los Negros Islands, north of New Guinea. Going into the Leyte-Samar Campaign the regiment continued their mission into the island of Luzon 3 February 1945. Through a 100-mile trail of enemy held territory, the objective was to be the "First in Manila." With the objective achieved and Japan's surrender 1-12th served in the occupation of Japan until being deactivated 29 March 1949. Reactivated 15 February 1957 as part of the 1st Armored Division at Fort Polk, LA. Designated the "1st Squadron Reconnaissance Squadron" the unit was inactivated 3 February 1962. Reactivated again 1 September 1963, the unit became 1st Battalion-12th Cavalry of 1st Cavalry Division assigned to Korea, known as the 'Blue Lancers.'

In 1933, 2-12th Cavalry at Ft Ringgold, TX, also patrolled the Southwestern Borders. They returned to Ft Bliss, TX in 1940 and participated in the 'Louisiana Maneuvers,' becoming part of the 2D Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division. February 1943 in preparation for shipping to the Pacific Theater, with their "Horses traded for Jeeps," 2-12th shipped to Australia and saw their first combat in Los Negros Islands, March 1944. In the invasion of the Philippines and Leyte, on 15 November 1944 they were engaged in one of the bloodiest battles of the Pacific Campaign at Hill 2348. Holding off waves of 'suicide attacks' a counterattack was launched on 2 December 1944. 241 KIAs were incurred in Leyte. Successful in retaking Hill 2348 and securing the island of Luzon 27 Jan 1945-3 June 1945, GEN MacArthur selected the 2-12th to be the 'First in Japan' and occupy Yokohama. Deactivated in 1949, 2-12th was reactivated 1957, as part of the 2D Brigade 1st Cavalry Division.

Both units proved themselves above and beyond in the Pacific Campaigns, four Troopers were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. CPL Grover C. Jordan C Troop 1-12th, 20 March 1944; SSG Winifred E. Mcadoo A Troop 1-12th, 20 February 1945; John L. Nichols B Troop 1-12th, 19-20 February 1945; Louis Zalusky G Troop 2-12th Cavalry, 12 March 1945 (Posthumously).

12th CAVALRY in KOREA: After WWII, 1957, 2D Battle Group 12th Cavalry was redesignated 1st Battalion 12th Cavalry composed of Headquarters, A, B, and C Companies, placed at the DMZ, Base Camp 'Blue Lancer Valley.' **Leroy (Ed) Hill** of Oskaloosa, IA served there 1964-1965 sent this piece to me telling of their experiences during his time, following is verbatim from his letter.

"I get told I was lucky I did not go to Vietnam. No disrespect to Vietnam Vets or others. So many just don't know us. I was an M60 Gunner and went on alerts in the dark over rice 'paddie' dikes to (MBP) Main Battle Positions. We were told that our expectancy was 15 minutes if the overwhelming North Koreans came at us. In war of nerves patrols across the 38th parallel, humped M-14 Battle Rifles with 100 rounds of ammo and hoping not to encounter unmarked mines. We were digging an old bunker and I dug up an old rusty dud unexploded Chinese mortar. Just missed it with a pickaxe, we called the engineers and they blew it. We had aircraft shot down on the DMZ. A number of ROK Soldiers were KIA and a WWII GI was hit with shrapnel. Then the Gulf of Tonkin alert came about. We were made to look at photos of the bodies of 9th Cav GIs that were ambushed in a jeep in 1963, so we would stay awake on patrols and stakeouts. 12th Cav gets overlooked on many things. I have read of its history in Korea with the Korea DMZ not mentioned sometimes but played a great role for years."

"Remember the Infantry Regiments 5th, 8th, 9th and 12th Cav. Let's not forget the Armored Artillery, 15th Med Bn and the rest of the Western Corridor, Freedoms Frontier, No Man's Land. President Bush was on the DMZ in 2004 during the Iraq War and said, 'this is probably the most dangerous place on earth.' Our service was eventful, dangerous, and fearful to us. Also forgotten as other times are too. At night North Koreans would broadcast over loudspeakers propaganda and fire artillery to their rear for harassment. In July a banner would appear overnight in the Villages saying (in July you die GI); in winter one banner appeared that said, 'when snow comes Joe, Joe Chink comes;' quite a war of nerves because people were already upset about Vietnam. Kept quiet mostly until 1966-1971 and beyond because MIAs and KIAs became ongoing. This quieted down in Korea. Look at Korea DMZ on You Tube and VFW Article in 1998."

"Fighting brush fires on the DMZ in harsh winters and humid summers, devastating monsoons, flooded the 12th Cav camps. I volunteered to go to the DMZ from another division camp. We soldiered at 12th Cav 'Blue Lancer Valley' and the duty was dangerous. We were treated with professionalism and respect. 1st Cav was the best division I served in. I encourage all our Vets to write your stories, we are not all gone yet." Leroy (Ed) Hill, A Company, 1-12th Cav, Blue Lancer Valley, 1964-1965 (641-233-8719)."

PRE-VIETNAM/AIRMOBILE INCEPTION: 1st Cavalry Division and 12th Cavalry cased colors in 1965 and returned to Ft Benning (Moore), as part of the 2D Infantry Division and began preparations for Vietnam mobilization. From 1963-1965 elements of the 11th Air Assault and 1st Battalion (Airborne) 187th Infantry began training in GA/SC testing, experimenting with helicopter assault

methods and tactics. By 1965 the new concept was ready for implementation. On 1 July 1965 1st Cavalry was officially designated as 1st Cavalry Division Airmobile. 23D Infantry was designated as 2D Battalion-12th Cavalry. 3 July 1965, 187th Infantry (Airborne) was designated as 1st Battalion (Airborne) 12th Cavalry in a ceremony at Doughboy Field Ft Benning (Moore). 1st Brigade was qualified and designated as an Airborne Brigade prepared for the rigors of battle in the jungles of Vietnam. Many of the men involved in this 1963-1965 experiment and development have passed on. Some remain and we honor these Troopers who went before us and guided us into the unknown we were 'chosen and selected for' as volunteers or draftees.

Meet some of the men of Charlie and Delta Companies, 1st Battalion (Airborne) 12th Cavalry. Although, who paved the way in 1965 when LBJ ordered the 1st Cavalry Division to Vietnam and departed Ft Benning-Moore August 1965, arrived in Vietnam September 1965. Although, many have departed, those who remain attend the various reunions and are loyal to the Brotherhood of SEMPER PARATUS and 'BOOT to BOOT' and bring 'esprit de corps and uplifting camaraderie to our gatherings.

TAPS FOR OUR DEPARTED BROTHERS since last column:

Steven Willey (Medic)-Charlie Company, 1-12th 1970-1971, 31 July 2024-Silver Star

SSG Larry Register-Charlie Company, 1-12th 1966-1967, 20 July 2024-Silver Star AN QUI May 1967

COL (RET) Robert Fielding Radcliffe-Charlie Company, 1-12th, 1966-1967, 29 Aug 2024-Silver Star/Soldiers Medal-West Point 1965

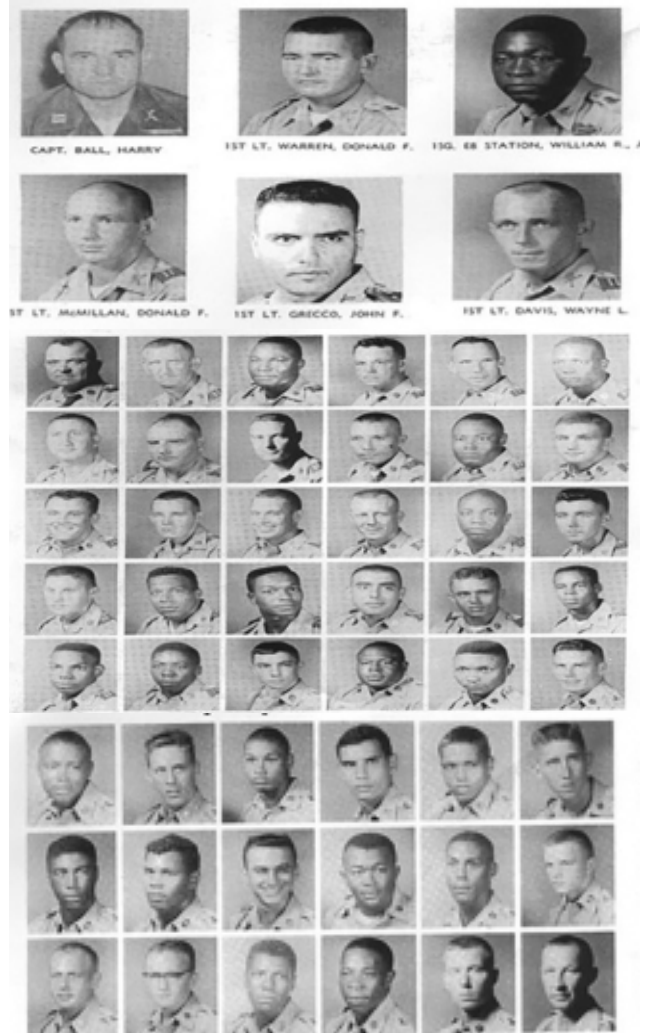
Slow hand Salute to all and condolences to the families. Had the Honor of serving with Larry and (1LT at the time) Radcliffe. Steve attended Branson reunions and was liked and respected by all. They will be missed.

Hope to continue the story line in next issue. Have been searching for Troopers of A and B Companies 1-12th who were of the original time period and in the training and development phase 1963-1965. If there some of you out there, send some photos and stories or contact me at 432-853-4851, <mmctlc3@aol.com>. Also searching for a group photo of 2-12th Originals who deployed from Benning August 1965 on the USNS Buckner.

Doug Warden thank you for permission to use photos from the Charlie Company website from your superb manuscript 'BOOT to BOOT.' Thank you **Bob March** for your permission to use photos from your outstanding, thorough and comprehensive website. Troopers who haven't, visit the websites Charlie Company, 1-12th, 1965-1972; Delta Company <www.cattrack.6india>.

Until next issue, "May the chief chopper pilot hover over us, the original paratrooper correct our parachute malfunctions, and the head point man keep us in the assigned AO." CRABTREE OUT! 'BOOT to BOOT'

11th Air Assault Division Co C 187th Airborne Bn



D Co 1-12th (Airborne) Cavalry Originals departing on USNS Geiger August 1965



Who's the Guy sitting front and center? Could it be our 'Wisdomic' then Captain now RET COL JG

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

7th CAV News



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Greetings, Garryowen Troopers! Welcome to the Sep/Oct2024 issue of 7th Cav News.

I enjoy writing war stories and have written a lot about the Vietnam War over the years, mostly about the battles and firefights that my unit, Echo/Recon 1/7, was involved in; but there is one particular story that always gave me problems, even though I was there, and that is The Battle for Hill 54 aka LZ Strike.

I received several emails that pointed out how I mentioned the battle frequently in this column but never really described what happened that night. I apologize for this, but the truth is that I will never finish drafting the story that I have been working on for over twenty years.

My unit, E1/7, took a terrible beating that night, and even though we were able to hold our position and inflict serious casualties upon the NVA, it just never felt like "Victory." For me, this battle will never make a good war story. It is too painful, too personal, and too difficult to think about, much less truly write about. It is just too sad.

An email from fellow Garryowen Veteran and author **Marc Levy**, a medic with D1/7 and a Veteran of the battle for LZ Ranch, <<https://medicinthegreentime.com>> provided both a welcomed way out of my two-decade writers block and a way to pay tribute to one of my brothers from The Hill. Mark sent me a link to an article by Jeff Easterling, a writer for Texarkana FYI, who interviewed my good friend, Echo 1/7 brother, and Hill 54 Veteran, Benny Cooper. Here is what Benny told Mr. Easterling in that interview:



Benny Cooper

>For this Veteran spotlight, we want to acknowledge the service of **Benny Cooper**, a member of Echo Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Cav, 1st Cavalry Division (AM). Benny is a Bronze Star award recipient, and a recipient of the Order of the Golden Spur. Mr. Cooper was drafted into the army in 1968 and quickly found himself in a replacement depot in Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam, where he was assigned to Echo/Recon 1/7, Commanded by CPT David Niles. On March 16, 1969, Echo boarded a Chinook for Hill 54, a remote outpost with a landing zone so small that the helicopter was unable to fully land, having to hover with the front wheels off the

ground. As the men of E2/7 - the outgoing team Benny's unit was replacing - passed them, they advised that there had been no enemy action during their time at the outpost. Feeling relieved, the new team settled in for what they hoped would be a boring couple of weeks on a hill that Charlie did not care about. At 0132 in the morning this hope was destroyed.

The silence of the night was shattered by the explosion of a hand-thrown satchel charge, followed by a second, and then by a third...the enemy was inside the wire. Mr. Cooper grabbed his rifle and his vest and slid down the rain-soaked hill to a fighting position. The Echo Company mortar team was set up to provide support, but the first time a mortar was fired, the enemy was able to lock on the flash from the tube with B40 rocket-propelled grenades and they quickly destroyed the position. To make matters even worse, the enemy threw an incendiary device in the ammunition bunker located approximately twenty feet from Mr. Cooper's position. Once ignited, the eighty-plus mortars and all the other ammunition began to explode around him. But even though the world was exploding everywhere Mr. Cooper kept fighting. When asked by the only other person in his fighting position what the plan was, Mr. Cooper replied simply... "We fight, or we die." Mr. Cooper never stopped fighting. The incoming fire did not stop. It was wave after wave of enemy troops all determined to destroy the outpost on Hill 54 and to kill every American there.

With few air assets available to assist and the location being out of range of the 105s and 155s, the only friendly fire-support was from a 175mm self-propelled gun battery located fourteen miles away. This gun is not the first choice for close artillery support. The normal safety buffer for the 175 is 900 meters from the target to the closest friendly unit, but here they had less than 50 meters between their position and the enemy. Having no other available choice, with no other friendly artillery available anywhere near the area, the big gun battery started providing close support for the outpost, dropping the 150-pound rounds as close as 100 yards from the hilltop.

The fight raged nonstop for six hours, but Echo Company held the hill, no matter what the enemy threw at them. It was not until 6:00 a.m. that the fight finally ended. The light from the rising sun brought the enormity of the situation into clear view and allowed the survivors to assess the damage. Even though 11 of the original 52 Americans were killed and 26 wounded within the first hour and a half of the battle, the remaining team never stopped fighting. It was estimated that between 150 and 340 of the enemy were killed during the attack, with uncounted more wounded. When Mr. Cooper looked at the other US firing positions, he noticed that all of them had been destroyed by the same kind of rocket-propelled grenades that took out the mortar team. It was then he noticed that his position had in fact been hit by an RPG, but it was lying unexploded at his feet.

Later in the morning, 3rd platoon of Charlie 1/7, after a difficult all-night march, arrived to help extract the wounded, reinforce the bunkers, and rebuild the fighting positions. The incoming men could not believe the devastation they were seeing. In a final act of defiance to the enemy, the survivors stayed on that hill for three more weeks...ready to do once again whatever it took to defend the position.

Mr. Cooper was awarded the Bronze Star for his actions on Hill 54, but it took the Army 45 years to finally award Mr. Cooper and his company the Order of the Golden Spur, the first company from the Vietnam War to receive that award thanks to Karl Swenson, 3rd Platoon Leader on Hill 54. Thank you, Mr. Benny Cooper for your service and your sacrifice for our great country, you are a true American hero.

I would like to offer a personal thank you to Mr. Jeff Easterling for writing this, and thanks, Coop, for doing the interview. Job well done. And thank you, Charlie 1/7, for doing what you did to try and reach us that night. Garryowen!

I received this interesting headline from Garryowen Trooper Gordon Severson: **September 23 - Alaska Bar Rag Bailiff experiences a woman-dominated trial scenario.**



Gordon Severson

Gordon to send me a little info about himself. What I received is one of the most amazing bios I have ever read. It begins:

I, **Gordon Severson**, joined the Army at Fort MacArthur, CA in February 1946 at age 15.

After basic training at Camp Crowder, MO I was transferred to Camp Polk, LA, and duty as a truck driver. I received the World War II Victory Medal and an Honorable Discharge for being underage in August 1946. Joined the Merchant Marine in September 1946 and sailed around the world as a sailor aboard freighters and passenger ships, including an Army Transport Service ship to Adak and Whittier, Alaska, until 1948 when I returned home to Wisconsin to complete high school graduating in 1949. Went to Alaska and worked as a Euclid skinner - a driver-end dump and belly-dump heavy equipment operator more commonly referred to as a Euc skinner (like a Cat skinner, a Caterpillar operator, or the old mule skinner) - on road construction in 1949 and 1950 before reenlisting in the Army in December 1950. Sent to Fort, Knox, KY for refresher training. Then to Fort Lawton, WA in February 1951 and a flight via Elmendorf AFB and Shemya, Alaska to Tokyo (Camp Drake) and on to Sasebo by train and ship to Pusan. Arrived in Korea the first week of March 1951. I was assigned to L Co, 7th Cavalry on the front line near Seoul, first as ammo bearer, then radio operator, squad leader, and 3rd Platoon Sergeant. I was promoted from Private to SFC with L Co. Awarded the Bronze Star Medal with "V" for taking command when the Platoon Leader, 1LT Caldwell, was KIA and led the attack on Hill 347 near Homang-ni, North Korea on 7 October 1951. I also received four Purple Hearts. Left for Japan in December when the 1st Cav Div was relieved by the 45th Inf Div. Rotated in March 1952 and reassigned to Camp Roberts, CA. Received a direct reserve commission as 2nd Lt in August 1952 followed by transfer to the Armed Forces Examining, Induction and Recruiting Main Station in Chicago, IL with duty as moral waiver interviewer. After an Honorable Discharge in December 1953, I remained in the Army Reserve and was recalled to active duty as a Captain in December 1961. Completed a 2-year tour in France and Germany as personnel staff officer, returning to Alaska in December 1963. I retired as Captain with over 20 years active and reserve Army service. I am also retired from the State of Alaska DOT and the Corps of Engineers. At age 94, I am still working part-time as a bailiff for the Alaska Court System.

> **Belated birthday greetings** to another Garryowen Trooper and **Korean War Veteran Tommy R Moser**, born 06/06/1929. Tommy spent a total of 39 months in Korea as an artilleryman with the 1st Cav. He also spent a short time as a POW. His unit was captured by the enemy and marched to a road on top of a steep hill. Days before, the American Army had driven several disabled vehicles over the side to clear the road that ran along the hilltop and allow the pullback to proceed as the Chinese and North Korean army pushed the Allies south. These vehicles piled up at base of the hill about 50 yards from the hilltop where Tommy and his unit had been collected. There they were formed into a tight group. Tommy had worked his way to the edge of the hill when their captors opened up on them with machine guns, and he rolled down the hill playing dead, hid in the wrecked trucks, and survived. Sadly, his fellow POWs did not. Tommy was the sole survivor. Garryowen! Tommy R Moser.

That is one heck of a story, and **Happy 95th Birthday.**



a Sargeant in D Company, 1/7th Cav. Thanks much. William "Doc" Dooley, D 1/7th Cav. <Seadare1@msn.com> 406-431-0221.

That is it for this issue of 7th Cav News. **SEND IN YOUR 7th CAV STORIES.** Garryowen! Boz, out.

> **William "Doc" Dooley, D 1/7 asks:** This photo was taken during the Tet Offensive, 1968. During the Tet offensive we were moving fast and frequently. I never did get to know this Trooper other than small talk. What we shared was the grin or smile while on Charlie Alphas. I always wondered why he was grinning until I realized I was doing it too, nervous energy. Does anyone recognize this Trooper? I believe he was

Contact the scribe to share your 7th Cav stories here!

If you were ever a part of 7th CAV, join their Association <www.us7thCavalry.com>

SUPPORT YOUR UNIT LEGACY!

8th CAV News



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airmobile68@gmail.com
www.8Cavalry.com



My brothers and sisters, how the heck are you? Most of the country has been hot, hot and a helluva lot. I hope everyone got through okay with all the hot weather we had. In keeping with my favorite season song, I have a beauty: who remembers the old standard, sang by Lou Rawls, "Autumn Leaves?" When the first fall season came around after my year in the Nam, that song was so mellow it seemed like it calmed my still shattered nerves down some. Keep helping our brothers and sisters make it in these hard days. Talk to your friends and neighbors, see if you can sponsor someone in an activity and brighten their day.

VOTE!

Vote early and vote often, was the cry of the Chicago Ward committee members back in the day. That was a running joke on election day. On a serious note, this election is important. No matter your choice in November, do the thing that we all fought for, and some died for... VOTE. If you cannot get out to vote or know someone who cannot, make a call to your local Board of Elections. Your vote is important.

DARKHORSE LODGE, A RETREAT FOR VETERANS!

Several years ago, while at a reunion in Kokomo, Indiana, I met Gretchen Catherwood. She told me that she and her husband Kirk wanted to build a peaceful retreat for combat Veterans. They were in the process of creating a non-profit organization which was granted 501(c)(3) status. On 14 October 2010, Gretchen and Kirk's son, Lance Cpl Alec E. Catherwood, was KIA while in Helmand, Afghanistan at the age of 19.

Being a combat Vet, like many of you, her story brought many different feelings to my mind, heart, and soul. My first thought was "This lady is for real." My second was how much love she had for her son and Troopers who perished that day. It touched my soul that they would take on such a challenging project for us.

Her family moved to West Tennessee, near Paris. Enough cannot be said about this area of the country. Right on Kentucky Lake where the fishing is some of the best in the Southeast U.S. After spending time with some of Alec's Marine Corps brothers, she realized there was a need for a place these men and women to gather and spend time with others who had walked in their boots.

I have met Gretchen several times and trust me; this lady has walked the walk and talked the talk. Folks, with my limited writing skills and space limitations for my column, I cannot begin to give this wonderful place the accolades it deserves. I urge you strongly to contact Darkhorse Lodge, you will see that this family turned this dream into a reality. Following are some contacts to call, write, text or email. Your donations are appreciated.

Darkhorse Lodge is located at 1951 Swor Rd, Springville, TN 38256. Her phone number is 731-363-3616, email address is <mail@darkhorselodge.org>. Please check out their website at <www.darkhorselodge.org>. Darkhorse Lodge is also on Facebook & Instagram. Please help pass the word and promote this beneficial non-profit!

GOOD INFORMATION

Allow me to introduce myself. I was a member of 1/8 Cav from 1983-1986. From April 83 until Jan 84, I was attached to III Corp CRIT Team (Combat Readiness Inspection Team).

In Dec, my time on the Team was up and I went to HHC as the supervisor of the PLL/TAMMS section. The following year I was needed in Bravo Company as they did not have a Supply Sergeant. I was there for several months until a 76P30 was assigned. At that time, I was transferred to HHC to become the Company Admin NCO, I remained there until I left for Fort Rich in 1986.

I host a Facebook page for the 8th CAV Regiment. If you type in 8th CAV Reg into Facebook you will find the page, it is a private page, so you will have to join the page. Once you click join group, feel free to post on that page.

As you can see, one association I am a member of is State Guard Association. This is not the National Guard, rather the State Guard. The difference is that the State Guard does not get paid - (unless called to active duty) and our (only) CINC is the Governor.

If your State or Commonwealth does not have a State Guard, in some cases, - you may be eligible to join a neighboring State/Commonwealth. In my case, I lived in WV (w/no Guard) thus Virginia did allow me to join the Virginia Defense Force. The other difference is that each Guard is independent. Thus, when I moved back to NY, I could not join the NY Guard, until I had my discharge from Virginia. In most cases, a person can join up to the age of 60. Please consider joining.

Rev Bob Teachout, Sergeant First Class, NY Guard, Retired

If you have questions for Bob, contact him at: <firstcavsupply@aol.com>

FRED BARHORST

Following is a letter I received; I am printing it here with Fred's permission... Top Gun,

It was great meeting old friends and making new ones at the Louisville reunion. It is hard to believe we were once young Soldiers, and the reunions remind us all that we have a limited time here. A common story that we heard was how hard it was to go to that first reunion. Like many others I was reluctant to attend that first one 15 years ago.

My first reunion was a regimental one about 33 hours drive from home. As the day approached, I wanted to forget the whole thing, but my wife pushed me to go. That story was repeated by many others. It was their spouse who pushed them to go - not one of them regretted going.

Even if you did not meet many people from your own outfit, you are with a band of brothers. For the first time since you were in combat there is a group that can understand what we all went through. It is also an opportunity to find out how the infantry, artillery and aircraft all worked together. It is an opportunity to thank the other units for their support.

While there were sad or somber stories, we all spent more time recalling the funny things that happened like "borrowing" a Colonel's jeep one night at Phuoc Vinh or a midnight requisition from another outfit. As our sergeant once said, "If it is painted green it belongs to you." Finally, if you have never gone to a

reunion go now while there is still time. You will have a great time!

One of the sad stories from the reunion was recalling a combat death that has never been forgotten. While we were all aware of numerous deaths there is always one or two that is burned in our memories.

In my case I went to Vietnam July 26, 1969. After a couple of days at Long Binh several were assigned to the Cav. We flew out to A 2/8 on a log bird. A week or so later we went to LZ Becky in Tay Ninh Province near the Cambodian border. That was where I saw my first KIA.

I had only been in country for two weeks when I met Thomas Cairington from Echo Company. He was so happy because he only had two weeks until he was going home. I was envious.

Another Trooper and I were sent out on a L.P. the night of August 12, 1969. It was so dark you could not see your own hand, but we could hear the N.V.A. going by and radioed the LZ Becky they were on the way. All hell broke loose as we laid in a depression while bullets flew over our heads. That was the longest night of my tour.

The next morning, we got clearance to come back into Becky. When I looked for Tom Cairington, they told me he was killed. Only 12 days left on his tour. I have never forgotten him.

There are 58,267 names on The Wall. 997 were killed on their first day and 1448 on their last day. Thomas Cairington was one of those who came so close to making it. He is on Panel 19 W Line 13. Drink a beer tonight for all the Tom Cairingtons we know. They are more than a name on a wall.

To those who live near Indiana there is a group at Peru, Indiana who have constructed the "National American Huey History Museum." They have built the museum and restored three Vietnam Veteran Hueys to flight status. Two of them were 1st Cav Veterans in Vietnam. Number 803 was delivered to the CAV in September 1965 as a Medivac. She was transferred to another unit in 1967 was heavily damaged in 1968 was rebuilt and eventually flew with various units until 1995.

Gunship 049 is a B model gunship that flew with the Cav during the battle of the Ia Drang Valley. She served in Vietnam for six years. After Vietnam 049 served with Guard units until 1982. Both helicopters were placed on static display and stripped of parts until the Walker brothers rescued them. Though many people thought it was impossible they and a small group of resolute volunteers were determined to make them fly again.

John Walker is a former Marine pilot who learned on Hueys then became a CH 53 pilot. He and his brother Alan formed a group that includes many 1st Cav Troopers, former Huey pilots, crew members, maintenance people and most importantly younger folks who made the museum a reality. They have the museum built and do all the necessary maintenance to keep the aircraft certified each year. The group travel to about a dozen events in Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and Kentucky every year with the Hueys.

By joining the group, you are eligible to fly on the Hueys. In August they have their Veteran and patriots gathering. This is like a Vietnam reunion with many Cav Troopers present. After 18 years of hard work, they are within a few 100 thousand dollars of having the museum fully funded with an endowment invested to keep it operating. The museum is now open.

For more info on this amazing story go to <www.americanhuey369.org>. The museum is in Peru, Indiana across from Grissom air base.

Feel free to use any of this in your column. You do a great job at the 8th Cav scribe.

Honor & Courage, Fred Barhorst A 2/8

You can contact Fred at 12230 Lochard Rd Sidney, Ohio 45365 or <Fredbarhorst@gmail.com>

FROM JACK TO TEA

"Where's the whiskey?" bellowed the Vet to the men sitting around the bench covered with remains of the week-long reunion that was just ending. The brother was looking rough, standing there shirtless with suspenders holding up his pants. "Where you been all night?" someone asked him. He looked around and said for us to mind our own business, laughing as he said it. He looked as bad as some of us felt after a week emptying a couple of bottles and more than a few cans of brew, sitting around a never-ending campfire, telling a slew of war stories, some true, some not. This was in 2002, so we could stand the recovery process.

That morning, we were breaking camp, getting ready for the journey home. The bench was covered with the evidence of our happy times we had enjoyed all week. Half-full bags of chips, discarded food wrappers, bowls of salsa mixed with rainwater and the star of this story, sitting there like a defeated Trooper after a long firefight. He still sat tall, emblazoned with the big number 7 on his chest.

Knowing our comrade would be arriving soon, one of the boys (not gonna mention his name) had already filled that bottle up with good ole southern iced tea. When his eyes could focus, they spotted their treasure on that bench and he exclaimed, "There you are darlin'." Reaching for the bottle, that same guy that had filled it earlier grabbed it first and said, "Man, you don't need this crap this early" and pretended to pour it out.

Our friend started pleading with him not to do that and finally the bottle was sat back down. He grabbed it up and attacked the bottle like a man that has not had water in a month. His face contorted and he let a spew of tea that sprayed us all. He looked at each of us slowly, started walking away, then turned back. All he could say was, "You dirty Mo**** *****".

KY KAMPOUT

Dates for the Kentucky Kampout: October 15 - 19. Fishtale Lodge, Buchanan, TN. Call, text, or email me for info. Top Gun: 270-978-1075 <airmobile68@gmail.com>

Come early, stay late. All welcome!

Contact the scribe to share your 8th Cav stories!
If you were ever a part ofth CAV, join their
Association <www.8Cavalry.com>
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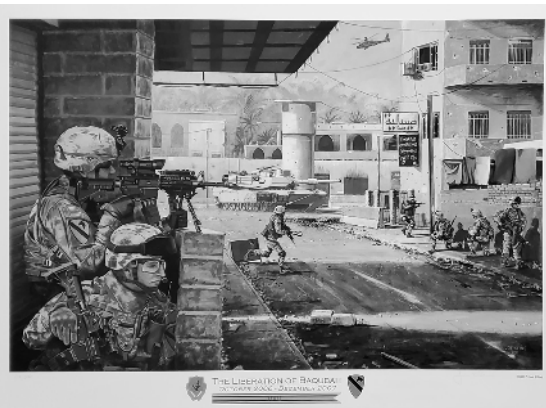
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**Turning the Corner
Task Force Baghdad**
by James Dietz
31" x 19"
\$40

**Operation Iraqi Freedom
Task Force Baghdad Print**
As a commemorative to the division's tour of duty, this painting by James Dietz captures the essence of a street

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



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

Deployed to Diyala Province, Iraq in September 2006 with 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. 1-12 CAV assumed an area of operations of over 300 square kilometers. The battalion pursued an aggressive

campaign of counter-insurgency operations focused on securing the war torn provincial capitol. Determined to strike at the heart of the insurgency, 1-12 CAV established permanent combat outposts in the most dangerous parts of Baqubah: Buhriz, Khatoon, Old Baqubah and Tahrir. From these outpost 1-12 CAV conducted aggressive, near-continuous combat operations to destroy the insurgency. The Liberation of Baqubah was in keeping with the proud history of the 12th Cavalry Regiment.

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1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION HISTORIAN

Dennis Webster
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254-220-2164
Dennis.Webster7@gmail.com



The Korean War began on 25 June 1950, when some 75,000 Soldiers from the North Korean People's Army (NKPA) poured across the 38th parallel, the boundary between the Soviet-backed Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the north and the pro-Western Republic of Korea to the south. This invasion was the first military action of the Cold War. By July, American Troops had entered the war on South Korea's behalf.

The Korean War was relatively short but exceptionally bloody. Nearly five million people died. More than half of these, about ten percent of Korea's pre-war population, were civilians. (This rate of civilian casualties was higher than World War II's and the Vietnam War's.) About 37,000 Americans died in action in Korea, and more than 100,000 were wounded. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency currently lists 7,466 Americans that are still unaccounted for in Korea. The 1st Cavalry Division had 3,813 Troopers killed during its 549 days of combat in the Korean War.



The Pusan Perimeter

Ill-equipped and understrength U.S. units took high casualties in the first weeks of the intervention and were quickly forced on the defensive. The series of battles fought around the Pusan Perimeter from August-September 1950 temporarily reversed the course of the war in the U.S. led United Nation Command's favor.

Alerted on July 6th for movement to Korea, the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry was the first unit of the Division to be deployed as part of the advance party. Their mission was to provide a security force for the Air Force at Yonil Airfield. The 1st Cavalry Division conducted the first amphibious landing of the Korean War on 18 July 1950 in the small harbor of Pohang-dong, which was twenty-five miles from the nearest NKPA forces.

Coming from occupation duty in Japan, the 1st Cavalry Division was ill-prepared. The Division was one-third understrength, due to the lack of third battalions in each of the three infantry regiments (5th CAV, 7th CAV, 8th CAV, and third batteries in the division's four artillery battalions (61st FA, 77th FA, 82d FA, 99th FA). The Division could muster no more than approximately 11,000 Troopers for the initial landings. The suddenness of the outbreak of war necessitated the Division providing 15 officers and 732 enlisted to the 24th Infantry Division which had been chosen to deploy first. These men, mostly specialties and small unit leaders further drained the combat potential of the Division.

The 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, situated forward of Yongdong, southeast of fallen Taejon made the first official contact with the enemy at 2100 hours on 22 July when their defenses were probed by a NKPA patrol. The 1-8th CAV and the 2-8th CAV were seven miles apart due to the lack of personnel. 1-8 was astride the direct approach to Taegu and 2-8 held positions on the road from Muju to the southwest.

On the morning of the 23 July, a heavy barrage of artillery and mortar fire commenced on the 2d Battalion's position, and a strong enemy ground attack was launched against the 1st Battalion. The pressure became so intense, the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry, which was in reserve, was ordered forward to fill the seven-mile gap between the two battalions of the 8th Cavalry. The NKPA tactics were to envelop friendly forces flanks and overrun one small unit at a time with massive, overpowering use of men. Over the next couple of weeks the Division was forced to fall back and consolidate its positions due to the overwhelming advantage of manpower of the NKPA.

The 1st Cavalry Division was assigned a 35-mile sector along the Naktong River, extending from three miles north of Waegwan, south to the area defended by the 24th ID. The rugged, mountainous terrain of Korea and the lack of developed transportation and communications systems created significant challenges to the 8th Engineer Battalion. The 8th Engineers initial work involved demolition of bridges and important facilities in an attempt to delay the North Korean advance. Within the Pusan Perimeter they worked on standard defense and construction projects to increase mobility, but also manned the front lines when the enemy threatened.

By the 1st of August, the Pusan Perimeter was a roughly rectangular area approximately 100 miles in length (north to south), and approximately 50 miles wide (east to west), the sea bordered the perimeter on the east and south. Fighting regularly involved attacks by the NKPA, followed by counterattacks by the American forces. There would be no more long withdrawals, fighting would be close-in and savage.

The following is excerpted from *1st Cavalry Division, Korea June 1950 to January 1952* and describes the fighting in the days of 14-17 August 1950.

"Again on the 14th the river was crossed by the enemy southwest of Taegu toward the left flank of the 7th Cavalry Regiment. It was quickly apparent that this was the most serious threat yet made. Later estimates indicated that approximately 1700 enemy participated in the attack. With the aid of tanks, air, and artillery, and reinforced by the 16th Reconnaissance Company and a part of the 8th Combat Engineers, the 7th Cavalry Regiment cleaned out the pocket and effected a record slaughter of 1500 counted enemy dead.

"The fifth attack in this desperate series by the enemy came on the 15th. After overcoming it, Cavalrymen would make a startling, agonizing revelation that would show the murderous caliber of the enemy they were fighting. The enemy attack, with an estimated strength of 700, struck against the 2nd Battalion of the 5th Cavalry Regiment, which was located on hill 303, just northwest of

Waegwan. Company 'G' and a platoon of 'H' Company were encircled, but later most of the men escaped. Other units of the battalion counter-attacked but were pushed back.

"After an unsuccessful attempt to capture all of the hill on 16 August, friendly forces dug in for the night. Showing off early the morning of the 17th, after usual air and artillery softening up, the battalion took the hill. Late that afternoon, as the tired Troopers probed the features of the hill for possible survivors, they found the bodies of 36 American Soldiers, their hands tied behind their backs, killed in cold blood."

A more detailed account of the atrocity on Hill 303 can be found in the book, "Massacre at Hill 303" by Basil B. Clark with James Melvin Robb available on Amazon. Rudd is one of the survivors.

Over the period of 3 to 10 September, four members of the 1st Cavalry Division earned the Medal of Honor which also indicates the ferocity of the fighting before the breakout of the Pusan Perimeter which began on 15 September. The four Medal of Honor recipients are: SGT Eduardo C. Gomez, I Co, 3-8th Cavalry on 3 September; PFC Melvin L. Brown, D Co, 8th Engineer Battalion on 4 September; MSG Mike C. Pena, F Co, 2-5th Cavalry also on 4 September; and CPL Gordon M. Craig, 16th Reconnaissance Company on 10 September. Both SGT Gomez and MSG Pena were initially awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, their awards were upgraded to the Medal of Honor in 2014. SGT Gomez is the only one of the four to survive the action, PFC Brown, CPL Craig, and MSG Pena were all killed. SGT Gomez died in 1972, and his family received his medal in 2014.

The citation for PFC Brown, who is the only member of the 8th Engineer Battalion to be awarded the Medal of Honor, says: PFC Brown, Company D distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy. While his platoon was securing Hill 755 (the Walled City), the enemy, using heavy automatic weapons and small arms, counterattacked. Taking a position on a 50-foot-high wall he delivered heavy rifle fire on the enemy. His ammunition was soon expended and although wounded, he remained at his post and threw his few grenades into the attackers causing many casualties. When his supply of grenades were exhausted his comrades from nearby foxholes tossed others to him and he left his position, braving a hail of fire, to retrieve and throw them at the enemy. The attackers continued to assault his position and PFC Brown weaponless, drew his trenching tool from his pack and calmly waited until they 1 by 1 peered over the wall, delivering each a crushing blow upon the head. Knocking 10 or 12 enemy from the wall, his daring action so inspired his platoon that they repelled the attack and held their position. PFC Brown's extraordinary heroism, gallantry, and intrepidity reflect the highest credit upon himself and was in keeping with the honored traditions of the military service. Reportedly missing in action and officially killed in action, September 5, 1950.

The breakout from the Perimeter coincided with the amphibious landing at Inchon. **First Team!**

Sources: *1st Cavalry Division, Korea June 1950 to January 1952*, Albert Love Enterprises. Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, [https://dpaa-mil.sites.crmforce.mil/dpaaFamWeInPusan]. History.com [https://www.history.com/topics/asian-history/korean-war].



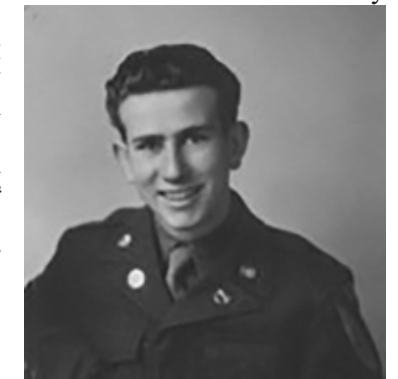
SGT Eduardo Gomez



PFC Melvin Brown



MSG Mike Pena



CPL Gordon Craig



PFC Melvin Brown Aid Station near Yong-dong July 1950

15th MED/15th FSB/15th BSB

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



The following 15th Medical Battalion Veterans recently passed away.

1970 MEDEVAC pilot Gregory Simpson died 31 May 24. Greg called me just a couple of years ago and I spoke with him on the telephone. He said he remembers seeing me "back there," meaning me working as the flight medic. He mentioned wanting to attend a 1st Cav Assn Reunion, but I do not think he ever did.

Greg's obituary says he received a Master of Strategic Studies degree from the United States Army War College. His photo shows him wearing a colonel rank. Greg's civilian career included serving in the Metropolitan Nashville, TN Police Department as an officer of the tactical unit and a pilot of its first helicopter.

Colonel William "Bill" Robert Downey II (Ret), died 03 May 24. His obit says Colonel Downey's illustrious career spanned five decades, with twenty-five years of dedicated service to the United States Army. He served with distinction during World War II, the Korean Conflict, the Vietnam War, and the Cold War Era. The 1st Cav Assn database says his rank is listed as a COL, who served with HHC, 15th MED in 1969.

Daniel N. (Dan) Korty died on 22 November 2023. His obit says Dan served his country with the 1st Cavalry Division, 15th Medical Battalion, flying for MEDEVAC as the crew chief and door gunner on a Huey during the Vietnam War. I have no other confirmation on this.

Mark "Doc" Holiday died on 23 March 2023. His obit says "Doc" served as a MEDEVAC crew chief with 15th Med Bn in Vietnam from August 1970-August 1971. I see photos of him on the 15th Med Assn site, but I thought he was a medic, with the tag, "Doc." I did not serve with him. I was gone by early July 70.

I was informed of the death of 1970 MEDEVAC pilot LeRoy George Caubarreaux, 08 July 24. Like Greg Simpson, I flew with then LT Caubarreaux in 1970, both of whom were the copilots, respectively. LT Caubarreaux had the distinction of being shot down with MEDEVAC 2, 1LT Stephen F. Modica, in Cambodia, northeast of Katum which was in War Zone C. LT Modica wrote about it and mentions calling in his MAYDAY at map coordinates: XU-5606. Further research reveals the site at: UTM grid coordinates: XU507010.

Katum is in the northwest corner of Tay Ninh Province. It had a Special Forces camp and an airstrip. Two roads joined there, one going south to Tay Ninh (approx. 25 miles), and the other going east to An Loc/Quan Loi (approx. 32 miles).

On 24 May 70 MEDEVAC 2 took the call to pick up some ARVN urgents who were in hot contact with the NVA. On board was SSG Louis R. Rocco, the medical adviser of a MACV advisory team stationed at Katum. Since December 1969 Sergeant Rocco had served as liaison to the 1st ARVN Airborne Division's medical battalion. He had trained ARVN personnel on mission requests, use of the hoist, the jungle penetrator, the semi-rigid litter, and he also had presented classes on basic first aid. Whenever his duties allowed him the time, Rocco rode the medical helicopters on live missions to help the medics and to practice some "hands on" medicine himself.

After the required gunships provided cover fire, MEDEVAC 2 tried to land but received such a heavy volume of enemy fire that LT Modica was hit in the chest plate, and the leg. LT Caubarreaux tried to take off, but the helicopter lost power and crashed to the ground, rolling on its side.

All the MEDEVAC 2 crew were stunned at first and unable to move. SSG Rocco dragged himself out and crawled away. He had a fractured wrist and hip and a severely bruised back. As soon as he realized that the crew were still inside, he went back. He pulled LT Modica through the shattered windshield and carried him across twenty meters of exposed terrain to the ARVN perimeter. One by one he brought the unconscious crew out. All were badly wounded. LT Modica had his serious leg wound. The copilot, 1LT Leroy G. Caubarreaux, had a broken collar bone and fractured ribs. SP5 Terry Burdette, the medic, had a broken shoulder and a broken leg. The door gunner, SP4 Gary Taylor, who sat in the right door, was crushed, and burned when the ship crashed and rolled, and SSG Rocco severely burned his hands trying to find him.

The nearby ARVN soldiers could not help because the enemy was shooting at anyone who moved. The two bullets that hit LT Caubarreaux in the chest protector as Rocco carried him toward the ARVN perimeter did no further damage. SSG Rocco had saved his three comrades from certain death. Add to that, LT Modica did write, (One of my gunners also had been thrown free of the crash and knocked unconscious.) Further research reveals that "other" gunner was MEDEVAC 2 crew chief Patrick Martin. <<https://www.vhpa.org/KIA/incident/70052424KIA.HTM>>

MEDEVAC 1 Henry Tuell in Quan Loi heard on the radio what had happened and mustered his crew to respond. Upon trying to land at the MEDEVAC 2 crash site, despite cover fire from Cobra gunships, MEDEVAC 1 took enough enemy fire to wound and incapacitate LT Tuell. His copilot, LT Howard Elliot, took control and flew them back to Quan Loi for medical treatment and damage control.

Two hours later, after prepping the enemy area with firepower, MEDEVAC 12 John Read tried to land and pick up the crew of MEDEVAC 2. MEDEVAC 12 was shot out of the area, emergency landed in a nearby clearing, but all were immediately picked up.

The MEDEVAC 2 group was in dire shape, and its ARVN hosts were out of supplies. The next to try a rescue was MEDEVAC 21 CWO Ray Zepp. Despite gunship cover, they also took heavy NVA fire, and disabled MEDEVAC 21 had to also land in a clearing, five hundred meters away. They were also immediately picked up. After that, nightfall ended any more rescue attempts. The MEDEVAC 2 crew suffered through the night.

Plans that night started in Quan Loi to make yet another rescue attempt. All resources available were used, and they managed to extract MEDEVAC 2 and any ARVNs who needed it. SSG Louis R. Rocco was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions to save all the MEDEVAC 2 crew that he could, while he, himself, was badly wounded.

LT Caubarreaux did not sustain enough wounds to not return to the 15th Medical Battalion. He is listed as MEDEVAC 3 1970-1971. MEDEVAC 2 LT Modica did not return. 1LT Stephen F. Modica died after his tour in Vietnam on 7 May 95 at the age of forty-nine from a diving accident in River Ridge, LA. He was a flight school graduate of Flight Class 69-22. He served in Vietnam with 15 MED, 1 CAV, in 69-70, with the call sign of WILD DEUCE.

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



Gregory Simpson



William Downey



Daniel Korty



Marc Holiday



Leroy Caubarreaux

Contact the scribe to share your 15th MED stories!
If you were ever a part of 15th MED, join their Association <www.15thMedBnAssociation.org>
SUPPORT YOUR UNIT LEGACY!

NEW MEMBERS:

SSG ALLSHOUSE, RYAN TX HHC 1-8C
 SP-4 ARNOLD, BRUCE W. CO C 2-19FA
 MR. BROWN, DAVID RI 1-30ARTY
 E-5 COLE, RICHARD KS C 7-17C
 E-4 COOPER, CHRISTOPHER IA B 1-323ARM
 SP4 CORDELL, HENRY OK A 2-19FA
 CW4 COWELL, ROBERT FL D 227AVN
 SGM DARRALL NORRIS TN HHC 1-8C
 E-4 EDELBLUTE, JOHN IV WI B 1-27MNT
 2LT ELLIS, THOMAS TX HHC 1-5C
 E-4 FOSSITT, MINISTER ISIAH FL B 13SIG
 SFC GARCIA, FELICIANO JR. TX 7-17C
 PFC GARREN, WILEY FL HHC 1-502FSB
 COL (RET) GATES, DONALD MI HQ 1-1CD
 SSG GUYER, EDWARD TX HHT 1-7C
 LTC HARNESS, STEVEN AZ A 1-7C
 2LT HENLEY, JOSHUA T. TX 2-5C
 CPT LAWRENCE, DAN JR NC C 1-1B5TB
 PFC LOPEZ, ULISES LA A 6-9C
 SGT MALDONADO, ROBERT NJ HHC 1CD
 SGT MARTINEZ, ESTEVAN J TX HHC 2-7C
 SSG MATINEZ, EUGENIO TX 3-8C
 LTC McDANIEL, KEISHA VA C 115BSB

LTC McDANIEL, STEVEN VA D 1-227AVN
 SSG McKINNON, BRIAN CO B 1-615ACB
 1SG MENDIOLA, DANIEL GU B 1-705MNT
 MAJ MILLER, RYAN A. TX 9C
 E-4 MONTOYA, ARSENIO NM C 1-8C
 SPC MYERS, TYLER TX C 1-82FA
 E-4 OSORIO, JUAN MD C 1-5C
 SPC PAL, RAKESH CA C 1-8C
 SPC PETERS, JOSHUA WA C 1-103ARM
 SSG RAMOS, HERMES TX
 E-5 SALCEDO, LEMUEL OK 1-8C
 MR. SAPIEN, ERNEST CA A 1-5C
 2LT SCHILDBERG, MICHAEL J. TX 4-9C
 PV2 SIMMONS, RYAN TX D 1-3ENG
 SP-4 SISSON, TIMOTHY TX HHC 2-5C
 SGT SMITH, ROBERT J. FL B 1-27MNT
 MAJ STICE, ABE G. TX C 1-9C
 MAJ SULLIVAN, RYAN OK HHC 2-82FA
 CPT TORRES, YADIRA TX HHC 1-12C
 SP5 VALDIVIA, JORGE CA C 1-72ARM
 1LT WILHELM, SPENSER TX D 91ENG
 MAJ WILLIAMS, THOMAS MD HHC 2-5C
 CPT WU, SAMUEL TX HHC 1CD



WELCOME to the 1CDA TEAM!

Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division Association 2023/2024 School Year Scholarship Recipients

IA DRANG SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

HARDY BROWN
grandson of Hardy Brown, C/1-7 Cav, Francis Marion University

ANNA CAMPBELL
granddaughter of Doanld Campbell, C/1-7 Cav, Jacksonville State University

MORGAN CAMBRIA
granddaughter of Guy Cambria, 1-7 Cav, Elizabethtown College

JOSEPH CANDELAS
grandson of Harold Matos-Diaz, C/1-7 Cav, Franciscan University

STEVEN CARDENAS
grandson of Chester Sey, C/2-5 Cav, Southern Maine Community College

JOSHUA DORSEY
grandson of Tommy Dorsey, B/5-229 AHB, Okaloosa Tech

JACE ESSIG
grandson of Don St. John, HHC/2-5 Cav, McPherson College

CAITLIN EVANS
granddaughter of 1LT Jesse Alley, HHC/2-7 Cav, West Chester University

ROBERT EVANS III
grandson of Jesse Alley, HHC/2-7 Cav, University of Pittsburgh

MADELINE GAMACHE
granddaughter of Walter Gamache, A/1-8 Cav, St. Charles Community College

JAMES GEISS
grandson of James Patzwall, A/1-5 Cav, KIA, University of Florida

LAUREN GEISS
granddaughter of James Patzwall, A/1-5 Cav, University of Florida

EMMYE GUYER
granddaughter of Ronald Guyer, HHC/1-7 Cav, California State University-Long Beach

MADISON GUYER
granddaughter of Ronald Guyer, HHC/1-7 Cav, California State University, Fullerton

ETHAN HILL
grandson of Blaine Fleming, A/229AVN, Quinnipiac University

AMELIA HOWARD
granddaughter of John Howard, 2-7 Cav, DeSales University

MARY IZZO
granddaughter of, James Mullen, C/2-5 Cav, University of Notre Dame

CRYSTAL KIDD
daughter of Gary Kidd, C/1-7 Cav, Western Governors University

MADELEINE KNOPF
granddaughter of Roger Knopf, 2-7 Cav, Michigan State University

JACOB LEHMANN
grandson of William McGraw, Jr., B/2-8 Cav, Endicott College

MACKENZIE MCCLELLAN
granddaughter of E-4 Clyde Blankenship, A/1-5 Cav, Marshall University

SHELBY MCCLELLAN
granddaughter of E-4 Clyde Blankenship, A/1-5 Cav, Marshall University

MICHAELA MCGRAW
granddaughter of William McGraw, Jr., A/2-8 Cav, Eastern Washington University

JASON MONICA
grandson of Roger Bartholomew, 2-20 ARTY, KIA, University of Georgia

SARAH MOORE
granddaughter of LTG (RET) Harold Moore, Jr., HHC/1-7 Cav, University of South Alabama

LAGAN O'DRISCOLL
grandson of Claude Roy, B/1-5 Cav, Husson University

ASHLEY PERRETTA
granddaughter of Robert Parretta, C/2-7 Cav, University of Rhode Island

LINDSEY PERRETTA
granddaughter of Robert Jeanette, C/2-7 Cav, SUNY Cortland

ANDREA PODOBNIK
granddaughter of Thomas Podobnik, A Co 1-8 Cav, University of Mount Union

LONDON PODOBNIK
granddaughter of Thomas Podobnik, A/1-8 Cav, West Virginia University

JOHN PROKOPOWICZ
grandson of John Prokopowicz, 10th RRU 3rd Bde, Florida State University

LAUREN RACKSTRAW
granddaughter of James Rackstraw, D/1-7 Cav, Belmont University

LAUREN SCHOENBERGER
granddaughter of David Hoepf, C/229AVN, Franciscan University of Steubenville

JOHN SEARS
grandson of John Prokopowicz, 10 RRU, 3rd Bde, Indiana University

LAURYN SEY
granddaughter of SP-4 Chester Sey, C/2-5 Cav, Southern Maine Community College

BRODIE SOLOMON
grandson of James McElwee, A/2-5 Cav, Eckerd College

ADAM WATERS
grandson of Carmen Miceli, A/1-7 Cav, University of Delaware

CHASE WEST
grandson of Norman West, C/2-5 Cav, Florida International University

KIRA WILDER
granddaughter of William Wilder, A/2-20FA ARA, Bowling Green State University

HANNAH WILSON
granddaughter of Dennis Wilson, 2-7 Cav, University of Richmond

NICHOLAS RUSSELL WINKEL
grandson of COL (RET) Paul Winkel, Jr., B/229AVN GRP, Virginia Tech

ACTIVE DUTY Scholarship Recipients

MARLANA BAKER
spouse of CSM Sudan Baker HHBN 1CD, Central Texas College

1SG PATRICK GIBBS
C Co 3AVCT, Post University

GRAYSON HORTON
spouse of 1LT Meredith Horton 4-3CR, Baylor University

CHRISTINA HUDDLESTON
spouse CW4 James E. Huddleston HHBN 1CD, Fayetteville Technical Community College

TIFFANI PEOPLES
spouse SGT Jacob Peoples, D Co. 91 BEB, Texas A&M University

2LT CAITLIN RAGOONANAN
HHBN 1-82FA, Louisiana State University Shreveport

2LT CHELSEA RAGOONANAN
2-12th Cav, Louisiana State University Shreveport

KARIZA SOLIZ
spouse of SFC Erik Soliz 215th BSB, Columbia Southern University

MADelyn WILHELM
spouse of 1LT Spenser Wilhelm D Co. 91st ENG, Liberty University

100% DISABLED SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

ASHLEY ALEXANDER
daughter of Clinton Alexander, 2-8 Cav, Troy University

KEVIN ARELLANO
son of Guido Arellano, HHC/7-17 Avn, Austin Community College

DANIELLE BELAIR
daughter of Nichelle Anouar, E/115 BSB, Stetson University

SRI BOODOO
daughter of Brent Boodoo, 2-8 Cav, 2-5 Cav, Texas Southern University

AMBER BUCKLEY
daughter of David Buckley, C/1-5 Cav, Lees-McRae College

MAKAYLA CALHOUN
daughter of Dewey Calhoun, A/8 ENG, University of Mary Hardin Baylor

EMMA COLOVITA
daughter of Christopher Colavita, 2-8 Cav, University of Alabama

BRADLEY COX
son of James Cox, 43 CSG, Gilford Technical Community College

EMMA FENCL
daughter of Bryan Fencl, B & HHC/15th BSB, University of California Riverside

ANNA FENCL
daughter of Bryan Fencl, B & HHC/15th BSB, Mount St Mary's University

CLARISSA FERNANDEZ
daughter of Fernando Fernandez, HHC/4BCT, Texas A&M University

KIRA FOX
daughter of Delon Fox, B/1-9 Cav, Fort Hays State University

DECLAN GILL
son of Darryl Gates, HHC/1C-DH, University of Maine

DESIREE GOMEZ
daughter of Raul Munoz, D/3-5 Cav, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

ALENJANDRO GOMEZ
son of Roy Gomez, D/1-9 Cav, Texas State University

ADRIAN GOMEZ
son of Roy Gomez, D/1-9 Cav, Texas State University

AARON GOMEZ
son of Roy Gomez, D/1-9 Cav, Anderson University

MICHAEL GOUDEAU
son of Michael Goudeau, HHC/2-227, 1ACB, Texas Southern University

MYA GOUDEAU
daughter of Michael Goudeau, HHC/2-227, 1ACB, University of St. Augustine

MAKAI GOUDEAU
son of Michael Goudeau, HHC/2-227, 1ACB, Texas Tech University

SIMON GREY
son of Gordon Grey, C/1-7 Cav, University of Idaho

HUNTER HASLACH
daughter of David Haslach, 2-5 Cav, Columbia Southern University

BRYAN HOLLIS
son of Don Hollis Jr., 1-7 Cav, Texas Lutheran University

KARRINGTON HOWARD
daughter of Sidney Howard III, 91 ENG, Auburn University Harrison College of Pharmacy

SIDNEY HOWARD IV
son of Sidney Howard III, 91 ENG, University of Alabama Huntsville

JACOB HURLEY
son of Coy Hurley, B/615th ASB, Del Mar College

WARNER JOHNSON
son of Stephen Johnson, 1-9 Cav, Trinity University

CADENCE JOHNSON
daughter of Stephen Johnson, 1-9 Cav, Baylor University

HANNAH LANE
daughter of Scott Lane, 452nd ORD, Penn State University

HOPE LANE
daughter of Scott Lane, 452nd ORD, Penn State University

ISSAC LUND
son of Eric Lund, 1CD, Harvard College

ETHEN LUND
son of Eric Lund, CD, Yale University

MATTHEW LUNGER
son of William Lunger, C/1-759 MP, Louisiana State University

NOAH MARTINEZ
son of Johnnie Martinez, 1st BSB, Texas A&M University

BRENDA MARTINEZ
daughter of Johnnie Martinez, 1st BSB, Texas A&M University

DALLAS MCNEAL
son of Aaron McNeal, HHC/1-82FA, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University

AVA MCKINZIE
daughter of Angela McKenzie, 1CDH, 1ACB, McLennan Community College

KYLIE MCKINZIE
daughter of Angela McKenzie, 1CDH, 1ACB, Baylor University

JONATHAN MISENHEIMER
son of Jill Westfall, 15th FSB, University at Buffalo

ELIANA MORA
daughter of Adolfo Mora Jr., HHC/13 SIG, HHC/1STB, Western Washington University

CALI OLVERA
daughter of Pedro Olvera, 1-8 Cav, Central Texas College

DANIEL PATTEN
son of Marvin Patten Jr., 13 SIG, 227 AVN, Cleveland State University

DYLAN PLAKE
son of Kenneth Plake II, B/1-9C, Texas A&M University Commerce

FERNANDO QUINTANILLA JR.
son of Fernando Quintanilla, C/1-82FA, Texas A&M Kingsville

HADES TAKII-RAMOS
son of Hermes Ramos, 3 BDE, University of Mary Hardin Baylor

ISAIAH RHODES
son of Daryl Rhodes, D/2-8 Cav, Austin Community College

ALYSIA RIVERA
daughter of Rodney Rivera, 3-8 Cav, 3rd BDE, 2-7 Cav, Tarleton State University

DAYSHAWN ROBINSON
son of Cedric Robinson, B/27 MSB, Estrella Mountain Community College

CEDRIC ROBINSON JR.
son of Cedric Robinson, B/27 MSB, Estrella Mountain Community College

ZACHARY SCHELLINGER
son of Matthew Schillinger, The Citadel

MATALYN SCHELLINGER
daughter of Matthew Schellinger, 227AVN, The Citadel

NEVA SJULE
daughter of Scott Sjule, 1-82 FA, HHC/1CD, Texas State University

DAVID SMALL
son of David Small, HHC/SUS BDE, Texas State University

SOPHIA THOMAS
daughter of Jason Thomas, HHC/2-5 Cav, F/2-5C, University of Nebraska at Omaha

BREYLAN THOMPSON
daughter of Oliver Thompson III, C/382FA, Yale University

JOHN YOUNG IV
son of Nichelle Anouar, E/115 BSB, Stetson University

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 was awarded the first grant from this program in 1997.

Since its inception, the Foundation has provided:

- Over \$1,107,537 to 592 children of Troopers that were killed in action or totally and permanently disabled.
- Over \$450,900 to 464 active-duty Troopers and their Family members.
- Over \$1,079,349 to 369 descendants of the Ia Drang battles.

Scholarships currently provide \$2,500 per year with a maximum of \$10,000 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 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 their 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 (2025), Trustees Rosey M. Carter (2026), Starr Corbin (2026), Timothy Hodge (2025), and Glen Vela (2027).

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 are no longer open. You can get the information about this program on our web page at <www.1CDA.org/Scholarships>. Printed forms are available at the National Headquarters in Copperas Cove beginning 1 April 2025. You can also fill out the online application and attach required documents.

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 will be acknowledged in the *Saber* newspaper. 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 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.

Scholarship Recipients continued

KIA Scholarship Recipient

DAVID SULLIVAN

son of Christopher Sullivan, A/2-12 Cav, KIA, Technical University of Munich

I can't thank the 1st Cavalry Division Association enough for the opportunity to be a recipient of their scholarship grant. The chance to be supported by such a great Division who also supported my dad during his military career, is so meaningful. Education is extremely important to my family and the drive for success has been instilled in me for years. The chance to further my education while receiving financial support doing so, is not an opportunity everyone can receive. Thank you for giving Soldier family members grants to help us to keep moving forward. I pray that many others get blessed through their growth as I have these years.

Michael R. Goudeau

Thank you for providing a scholarship. My grandfather was grateful that his time in Vietnam had something positive as an outcome. The scholarship helped finish my aa degree. I graduated in May. I have registered to begin at the local technical college in the electrical classes which will start in the fall. Thank you again.

Sincerely, Joshua Dorsey

Dear 1st Cavalry Division Association,

I wanted to write this letter to express my deepest gratitude to the 1st Cavalry Division Association. My family and I are truly grateful that my grandfather Ralph West's time, selflessness, and service in Vietnam came with a positive outcome. This allowed me to obtain a scholarship that assisted me with completing my associate in arts from Miami-Dade College. I recently graduated from Florida International University with a Bachelor of Science in Sports Management with Magna Cum Laude Honors. This scholarship allowed me to propel in my studies, education, and now the start of my professional career. Thank you to all the staff and directors who helped during the scholarship process, especially Karleen Maloney, who was one of my main points of contact, providing updates and guiding me through the process.

Sincerely, Chase Carey West

I am writing to show my deep gratitude and appreciation in receiving this grant. In my eyes this is more than just a grant to me, this is an opportunity too. I believe this is an opportunity; this is an opportunity to have freedom from the financial burdens college brings, and it allows me to be able to pursue my academic goals. Because of this grant I am able to focus only on school, free from the distractions of financial stressors.

Sri Boodoo

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.

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 (Service Charges Apply)

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 **Friday, November 1, 2024.** Please send to Memberships@1CDA.org

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

Our photo below is from our annual chapter BBQ at Hays Marina. 1st row Rich Magner, Tom Uznanski, Tom McBriatry, Al Johnson. Top row: Bob Waz, Rudy Urban, Len Lapsis, Keith Moyer.

Next chapter meeting Saturday, **October 26, 1pm at Manchester American Legion.** All members, prospective members, and guests are invited. Call President Keith Moyer for details 860-885-4330 or email [<kpmoyerco@hotmail.com>](mailto:kpmoyerco@hotmail.com).



NY/NJ CHAPTER continued



Ruth Crocker

husband. In 2006 she discovered, at a chance reunion meeting of members of her husband's unit, that those who survived the war – his comrades devoted to keeping his memory alive – would bring the ultimate healing to her life. Her compelling and true story has a surprising revelation for those who seek to understand the resilience and emotional transformation following heartbreaking loss, demonstrating the tenacious will of the human spirit to heal.

Those Who Remain has won the Benjamin Franklin and Military Writers Society of America Silver Awards. More information can be found at [<www.ruthwcrocker.com>](http://www.ruthwcrocker.com).

The NY/NJ quarterly chapter meetings are open to all service members regardless of branch, including family members, guests and interested parties. Our next meeting will be held on **October 19.** The meeting will start at 10 am, with a meet and greet, followed by presentations starting at 11:00. Guest speaker TBA. Our meetings are held at the Elks Lodge, 20 Spruce Street, Ridgefield Park, NJ. There is no cost to attend, and coffee and a free buffet lunch will be served. Come join us! To stay informed of future chapter events, send an email to Robin Bartlett, Chapter President, [<rbbartlett01@gmail.com>](mailto:rbbartlett01@gmail.com), or call 201-856-7530.

CHAPTER IRS TAX PACKETS

The IRS has mandated that each chapter submit a yearly report to ensure compliance with their regulations. Currently, the National Headquarters files a chapter's tax form on their behalf. Failure to submit the required packet on time will result in your taxes not being filed appropriately. If an organization does not file as required for three consecutive years, it automatically loses its tax-exempt status.

Your Chapter can choose not to be under our tax-exempt umbrella. However, National Headquarters still requires a yearly packet for each chapter. The Chapter would also be required to file any tax forms.

Please take the time to complete the packet and mail it to the 1st Cavalry Division Association. You may also send the forms via e-mail to [<memberships@1cda.org>](mailto:memberships@1cda.org).

OTHER REUNIONS:

Jumping Mustangs Reunion, 2-6 October 2024. Fort Wayne, Indiana. Holiday Inn Express, 5915 Ellison Rd, Fort Wayne. Reservations 260-459-1888. POC: James Knafel, [<jjknafel@gmail.com>](mailto:jjknafel@gmail.com) or 260-244-3864. When making a reservation, specify Jumping Mustangs, group block code: JMS. If you have any problems, ask for Angie McCaffrey.

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

1st Cavalry Division Association 77th Annual Reunion June 11-15, 2025. Grand Sierra Resort, 2500 E 2nd St, Reno, NV, 89595. Reservations Dept: 1-800-648-5080, use code FCD25 or use the provided link to make reservations on-line: [<https://book.passkey.com/go/fcd25>](https://book.passkey.com/go/fcd25).

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

FLORIDA'S FIRST COAST CHAPTER

"Continue to march" the DI used to say. We did so then and do so still here in Jacksonville, FL.

We have addressed the issue of homeless Vets sleeping on the street by supporting the City Rescue Mission. CRM gives them rest, food, job training if accepted, and hope. We agree with that mission.

By the time you read this, we will have attended the Vets 4 Vets Conference held annually in the Veterans Memorial Arena. Our presence is visible as we wear our Cav Gold and Black shirts and Stetsons.

If you are reading this for the first time and thinking about your Cav experience and live in NE Florida, our phone and contact information is included on this page. We can pull up a chair for you. And we can make a place for wives as well.



NY/NJ CHAPTER

The NY/NJ Chapter welcomed Ruth W. Crocker as our guest speaker at the September 7th meeting. Ruth is the widow of Army CPT David R. Crocker, Jr. who was killed in action on May 17, 1969, in the area near Dau Tieng in III Corps. Crocker was Company Commander of A Company, 2 Bn. (Mech), 22d Infantry Regiment.

Ruth discussed her bestselling book, *Those Who Remain, Remembrance and Reunion After War.* She presented a PowerPoint program and detailed her inspiration to climb the treacherous north face of the Eiger Mountain in the Swiss Alps in an effort to find solace from her loss. Ruth's book reveals a secret discovered long after the battlefield death of her beloved and courageous army officer

CHAPTER INDEX

CALIFORNIA CENTRAL COAST

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

COLUMBIA-WILLAMETTE

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

CONNECTICUT

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

CROSSED SABERS

Pres: Tony Cole
(254) 394-2891
Email: Olesarge19d@outlook.com
Facebook: 1st Cavalry Division Association Crossed Saber Chapter
Gen membership mtgs Mar & Oct.
Stable Calls: 4th Thurs of ea mos, 6pm, except Nov, Dec and the month of the Assn Reunion. Stable Calls at various locations in Cen TX area.

FLORIDA

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

FLORIDA'S FIRST COAST

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

FLORIDA TROOP E "BLACK HAT"

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

FORT KNOX AREA

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

JAMES H. UNRUH CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA

Pres: Michael T. Mazzaro
2600 Willow St. Pike North
PMB 231
Willow Street, PA 17584
(717) 389-1000
Email: cenpenn1cda@gmail.com
Meets 1800 2nd Tues of ea mos, except Nov, Dec, and Jan, Lititz VFW Post 1463, 14 N. Spruce St., Lititz, PA 17543

JAMES J. MASON WEST MICHIGAN

POC: Bob Anderson
9030 Conservancy Dr. NE
Ada, MI 49301-8822
(616) 682-5446
Email: rj.anderson2243@comcast.net
Website: jjmwmc1cd.com
Meets on 3rd Thurs of Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, and Dec, at 7pm, at the Grand Valley Armory in Wyoming, MI.

JUMPING MUSTANGS 1-8 Cav

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

KETTLE MORAINE

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



LOS ANGELES/ ORANGE COUNTY

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

LRPP/RANGER of the 1st Cav Division during the Vietnam War

Pres: Doug Matze
9623 Springhouse Dr.
Chesterfield, VA 23832-9304
(804) 790-1955
Email: Doug.Matze@yahoo.com
Website: www.lrrprangers.com
Full chapter meeting during Reunions.

NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY

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

NORTH CAROLINA TARHEEL

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

SHERIDAN'S CAVALRY

(Greater Chicago Area)
Pres: Don Smolinski 630-841-1452
Temp POC: Donna Pacanowski
6043 W. 59th St
Chicago, IL 60638-3553
(312) 401-0548
Email: dnnpcnws9@gmail.com
Facebook: Sheridan's Chapter 1st Cavalry Division
2024 meeting dates are March 9, May 11, Picnic August 10, October 12, Christmas Party December 7, 2024. All Meetings and events held at Roselle American Legion Post #1084, 344 East Maple Ave., Roselle, IL 60172.

WALTER H. WESTMAN NORTHLAND

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

WILLIAM A. RICHARDSON NATIONAL CAPITOL REGION

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

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

CROSSED SABERS GIFT SHOP located at 1CDA HQ



Scan the QR code to view the Online Catalog or type shop.1CDA.org into your web browser.

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GOT CAVALRY HISTORICAL QUESTIONS?


Did you know we have a 1CDA Historian?

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

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

From the Director's Desk Office of ICDA

WE SUPPORT



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 1st 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 1st Cavalry Division. "Once Cav, Always Cav.... First Team."

1st CAVALRY DIVISION WALKING HISTORY TOUR

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

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

You can also visit the Horse Cavalry Detachment for a barn tour, located behind the National Mounted Warfare Museum (projected to open September 19, 2024). They also do their weekly Cav Demonstration on Thursdays, 10am at the stables. The Detachment and the Museum are not on post; therefore, no visitor's pass is needed.

Stetsons are available in our Gift Shop, but no longer listed on our website.

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Stetson Hat Company has created a new online pricing policy for Stetsons. If we were to advertise & sell them on our website, we would have to list them at \$269.99.

Therefore, we have made the decision to NOT list the hats on our website and keep our price of \$199.99.

If you have any questions or concerns, please give us a call at 254-532-2075.

PRICE INCREASE

Effective 1 July 2023

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

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

The next *Saber* newspaper is the **November / December 2024** edition. Deadline for submissions of your stories or photos is **Friday, November 1, 2024.** Please email to Programs@1CDA.org

IS YOUR UNIT NOT REPRESENTED IN OUR SABER?

You can change that by sharing your stories with us and become a column writer; a scribe for 1st Cavalry Division Association!

Email programs@1CDA.org for details!

COMMEMORATE A FALLEN COMRADE

with our **Brick & Paver Campaign**

Buy a brick to be engraved & placed by Heritage Hall at Division Headquarters

9th CAV SCRIBE NEEDED

If you are interested in sharing your 9th Cav stories or writing for this column, please call the office or email us at <Programs@1CDA.org>

DONATION CHECKS

When sending in multiple donations to either Association, Foundation and IaDrang, we ask if you could please do it by writing out separate checks to each entity. It will make the banking process smoother since they are all separate bank accounts.

Many Thanks!

USEFUL VETERAN ASSISTANCE INFO:

- <<https://www.archives.gov/>> National Archives & Records Administration, Veteran service records
- <<https://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center>> Central repository of personnel-related records for both the military and civil services of the United States Government. 314-801-0800
- <<https://www.veteranmedals.army.mil/>> U.S. Army Veteran Medals
- <<https://nvf.org/>> National Veterans Foundation: crisis management, information and referral needs of all U.S. Veterans and their families. 310-642-0255
Vet-to-Vet toll-free helpline: 888-777-4443
- <<https://nationalresourcedirectory.gov/>> Dept of Veteran Affairs, The National Resource Directory is a searchable database of resources vetted for Service members, Veterans, family members and caregivers. 800-342-9647
- <<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>> Veterans Crisis Line 800-273-8255
- <<https://www.dav.org/>> Disabled American Vets is a non-profit charity that provides a lifetime of support for Veterans of all generations and their families. 877-426-2838

SPECIFICALLY FOR TEXAS VETERANS

- <www.TVC.texas.gov> Texas Veterans Commission advocates for all Texas Veterans, assisting with: VA Claims, Employment, Education, Entrepreneurship, and VA Healthcare Advocacy. 254-238-7124
- <<https://www.texvet.org/>> Informative resource guide for Texas Veterans and family members. 512-341-4924

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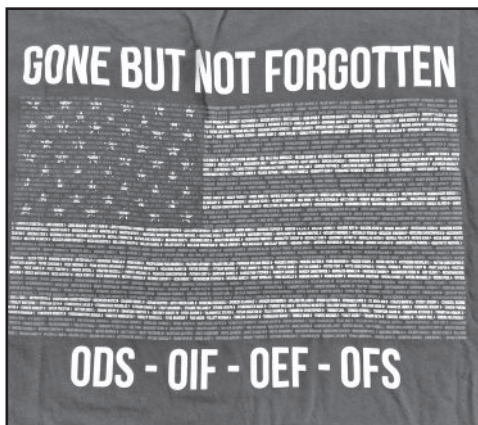
Description: 100% cotton black shirt

Front: white Cav patch on upper left breast

Back: says "GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN" and lists the names of our fallen Troopers from ODS, OIF, OEF, OFS in red, white and blue.



Front



Back Design

1st Cavalry Division Shirts Order Form

Short Sleeve Shirts \$23 each

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FREE SHIPPING

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Long Sleeve ___ M, ___ L, ___ XL, ___ 2XL, ___ 3XL

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

Description: Gray shirt w/black Cav patch

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Long Sleeve ___ M, ___ L, ___ XL, ___ 2XL, ___ 3XL

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VIETNAM SHIRTS

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Back: "Remembering 5,618" with Color image of Memorial Wall & Flag

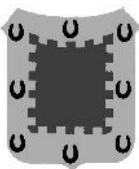


Front



Back Design

ENGINEER News



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

A couple of notes: On 8-23-24 I opened up my computer and found a note from **Jack Hunter**. He was an officer in the 8th in Vietnam, a company commander, and the S-1, and S-2 for a while. Was great to talk with him. Another note is the Facebook page of the

8th Engineers, Skybeavers has been hacked and hijacked by total strangers. They have blocked Les White the Administrator, me, and Rich Estes.

On November 17, the 1/7 assaulted LZ Xray in the Chu Pong Massif. Most of us have seen the movie. It was estimated 1,388 of the enemy were killed. After a few days, the ground Troops withdrew from the LZ so the B-52's could do their work. As they withdrew, they ran into additional enemy units and engaged and routed them. Construction materials were impossible to get because they were controlled by a USRVN engineer. That was beyond logic. The materials needed to fight a war for a country, had a guy from that country, controlling the materials, and he was not sending them to where they were needed. A lot of that went on in Vietnam.

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

For some reason, all these reports started their years on February 1st and ended the year on January 31st, which is odd and confusing. These reports describe the actions of the division at war. They were written with hard to read fonts, which are smeared, spotted, not aligned well, and simply hard to read. They are cluttered with abbreviations only a few know the meaning of and the dictionary of abbreviations, list the meanings alphabetically, instead of the abbreviation which makes them impossible to find. You would think something as important as describing how to fight a war, someone would take the time to write well and legibly. This did not happen in the 1870 pages of this report of the 1st Cav describing the entire war. There should have been a date at the top of each page and was not, so I had a challenging time knowing what quarter was being written about.

The report on the year of 1969 starts with Operation Toan Thang II to crush four NVA divisions along the lower Cambodian border. The 1st Cav killed 3,000 of the enemy in this Operation. The Cav operated west of Bien Hoa, near An Loc, south of Quan Loi, southwest of LZ Jake and several other areas. Every time I see LZ Jake, I grit my teeth. There were 500 to 800 of the enemy being killed weekly and tons of guns, ammo, food, and weapons being seized. Nightly mortar and rockets attacks increased throughout the area at base camps and LZ's.

During Feb to April, the hueys flew over 94,000 flights. Better communications were established on all the LZ's and base camps. The 8th Engineers worked constantly on improving the base camps at Phouc Vinh, Quan Loi, Tay Ninh, and Song Be. They built 18 firebases in a three-month period, five of them in four days. They improved the drainage for Camp Gorvad, built 3.5 kilometers and the refugee camp at Song Be. Company A built six firebases with equipment from HHC company from Phouc Vinh. Company B rebuilt Joe, White, June LZ's and a new LZ Jamie. The engineers still continued to mine sweep roads and provide demolition when needed. Company C reopened Jake, Kelly, and Kate, and built new firebases at Cindy, Liz, Lois, and Phyllis. One platoon of Company C built the training center in Bien Hoa. Another platoon built a control tower for the VIP pad. Again, the engineers were building revetments for helicopters and fixed wing planes. Considerable earth was needed for both. I showed up at Phouc Vinh in March of 69. The infantry at this time were finding large caches of food, guns, weapons, ammo, rockets, in several locations. In July, 48 MEDCAPS were made treating 4,566 patients. I was lucky enough go on one of these with Doc Stone our battalion doctor. Night drops of 55-gallon drums of CS gas was increased in suspected enemy areas. Night drops included 127,000 pounds of CS gas, 659 drums of fougasse, and other gasses.

On August 12, FSB Caldwell in the Duc Phong Green Beret area was attacked. Caldwell was not penetrated and 74 of the enemy were killed. LZ Becky was also attacked on August 12. Incoming fire destroyed two perimeter bunkers and the 155mm ammo stockpile. The enemy never penetrated the wire and lost 101 people. On the 13th of August, an armored unit south of Loc Ninh encountered a division of NVA and killed 79 of them. On August 13, one enemy was killed at Bu Dop. All indications are that a major attack is planned at Bu Dop by the enemy.

On October 1, a major enemy assault on Bu Dop occurred. The 8th engineers were extending the runway and blowing down trees to establish a clear glide angle. Russian track mounted 8" guns shelled the LZ most of the night with enemy 90 mm recoilless rounds and small arms fire. In the morning there were 80 US KIA and as many wounded. At the time, the Russian guns were over the Cambodian border and the US could not return fire. I was there. On page 1178 the report mentions this attack, but it does not say what I saw.

The report talks about a ground attack at FSB Buttons. It does not mention the Chinese soldiers killed there. In the morning, the enemy dead were laid out in a line, as they did a lot, and there were tall Chinese soldiers in the line. Their uniforms had their insignia, and they were not NVA. In May to July, over 5.5 million gallons of JP-4 were used.

During this period, daily fire fights occurred. The enemy always lost men and equipment in large numbers. Whenever they would attack, which was rare, they took heavy losses and were beaten back, seldom penetrating the perimeter wire. The enemy would launch rockets and mortars, but the reaction by Cav units always inflicted heavy damage.

During this period, the Cav fought to keep the enemy out of the population centers and everywhere else they could find them. The enemy, knowing if they were found, would suffer great losses. In a fight, they always lost. On March 2, a B-52 (Arc Light) strike destroyed 195 bunkers and structures and 62 spider holes. The ARVN's who walked the area after the strike found numerous blood-stained areas. There was not much left in the target zone after the B-52's dropped their bombs. In an area called the Bu Gia Map near Cambodia, another Arc Light strike took out 160 bunkers, 160 fighting positions, and everything else in the area. You cannot tell what was there before an Arc Light strike because they destroy the entire area and everything that is in it.

At March Airforce base, they have an airplane museum. I was there recently, and they had a B-52 there. I stood under the belly of the plane, in its open Bombay doors, and thanked that plane, for the work it did in the war I was in, in Vietnam. B-52's all deserved medals.

The enemy often trailed the movements of US Soldiers in the bush. The Cav began to set up "automatic ambushes." Knowing they would be followed by the enemy looking for a place to ambush US Soldiers, the Cav began to set up claymores with trip wires in "automatic ambushes." They were highly effective.

It made the enemy afraid to follow US Troops. The automatic ambushes were killing upwards of 50 enemy a month. All gun pits would mark the direction of any LZ they could reach in their gun pit area. When a fire mission was called in near the direction of an existing LZ or group of infantry, the gun crew knew to be careful not to send rounds into their area.

The report talks a lot about psychological operations. It was massive. I had a cousin in the department. Rear area in Saigon. Cold beer and steaks nightly, was their hardship tour, flights over the jungle, dropping leaflets, and then back to a spit and shine hotel with hot showers, they used for a barracks. I stopped by to see him and felt like I was on R&R. The war was not the same for everyone. The air ambulance evacuated 5,720 patients. They were real lifesavers. The First Team Band was busy. I remember when they came marching out of the back of a chinook on LZ Grant in the middle of an incoming attack. They were making so much racket they could not hear the exploding rounds. The Cav was preparing to leave and closed 80 LZ's. Food and water were transported to the refugee camp at Song Be. On May 13 there was a ground attack on LZ Brown. Puff and Night Hawk arrived and killed 50 NVA. They retreated. Every day in May the enemy were encountered, several were killed, and they withdrew. During September to October, the 8th engineers worked on base camps.

On May 1, 1970 Operation Task Force Shoemaker entered Cambodia. Mike Lapsansky and Dave Morken, two of my friends who I served with, first went to Shakey's Hill. You can read about Shakey's hill on the internet. The enemy thought they were safe in Cambodia. They were not!!! In the next few weeks, the Cav attacked their cache areas, blew them up, set up numerous LZ's, engaged the enemy and won every fight. The Soldiers of the 1st Cav were lethally relentless. They got up every morning knowing they were going to attack the enemy, and the enemy got up every morning, knowing we were coming. Often, the Cav did not wait until morning.

Cambodia was to chase the enemy out of the country. The president of Cambodia asked the US to do this. For years we could not go into Cambodia and the enemy took advantage of this stockpiling guns, ammo, and food in vast quantities. When we went into Cambodia, daily, we found the enemy and his stockpiles, destroying as many enemies as we could before they "didi mau'd" and then blew up their stockpiles. We took away their safe zone and trashed their supplies.

In 1970-71, we wound down. We began to withdraw. We abandoned our base camps and worked out on our way back to Saigon. As we withdrew, the enemy moved into the areas in force, moving southward, unhampered. Finally, came the day when the Cav left Vietnam. We had been in Vietnam seven years. We had fought the enemy better than any division. The 1st Cav's kill count was three times higher than the division second to us. Sadly, the death of our Soldiers, was the highest in Vietnam, greater than the LRRPs, Green Berets, or other special operations teams. We were Soldiers, every one of us. We were the First Team in every sense of the word. We still are. We went to war, we fought as the good honorable Soldiers we were, and came home to a country who did not support us and never had. The right thing is never wrong to do. As Soldiers, we did the right thing.



NATIONAL

POW/MIA ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
RECOGNITION DAY

SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

5th CAV NEWS

Continued from pg. 5

currently discussing ways to be seen by our Troops, between active duty and either retirement or honorable separation from the Army, as more relevant. We believe we are relevant, and that we have important things to hand on to those who follow. Active-duty Troops are busy with, today. They are not ready and can gain very little from us. It was my membership in the 1st Cav Association however, that helped me reconnect with the folks of my unit. That membership happened while I was on active duty and would not have happened if not solicited at the time. Doing that has been a very important part of accessing the things all Vets need. That in turn was a big part of dealing with the wrinkles left on my psyche, due to how things around me had to be incorporated into everyday life at war, for me, to be the teammate I needed to be. Vets, in all their various shapes, etc. are the biggest asset other Vets have. Getting the details right, as we are all trying to do, is important. This association is important. It needs its history and the ceremonies that go with it.

TAPS:

We were notified of the following deaths:

BACA, SSG William S., C Co, 1-8 CAV, 1966-67. 1 May 2024.
BERTOLA, SGT Richard C., B Co, 2-7 CAV, 1967-68. 4 July 2024.
BREYMAN, PV2 Richard A., 2-5 CAV, 1978. 11 February 2024.
CAUBARREAU, CPT LeRoy G., HSC, 15th MED BN, 1970. 08 July 2024.
DOWNEY, COL (RET) William R., HHC, 15MED, 1969. 3 May 2024.
DUBRAY, SP4 Richard J., HSC, 15th MED BN, 1970-71. 06 September 2023.
HASENAK, SSG Marvin, C Co, 2-7 CAV, 1968-69. 6 September 2024.
INTERRANTE, SP4 Samuel B., B Co, 27 MNT, 1967-68. 24 November 2023.
PAYTON, SP4 James B., HSC, 15th MED BN, 1969-71. 05 July 2024.
RADCLIFFE, COL (RET) Robert, C Co, 1-12 CAV, 1966-67. 29 August 2024.
REGISTER, SSG Larry, C Co, 1-12 CAV, 1966-67. 20 July 2024.
ROEMING, LTC (RET) Fredric, HHC, 1-77 FA, 1966-67. August 2023.
SIMPSON, COL Gregory A., HSC, 15th MED BN, 1970-71. 31 May 2024.
SOLOMONS, COL (RET) Mark E., 1-12 CAV, 1991; 2-8 CAV, 2008. 9 July 2024.
WILLEY, SP5 K. Steven, A Co, 1-12 CAV, 1970-71. 31 July 2024.

ACTIVE-DUTY TAPS:

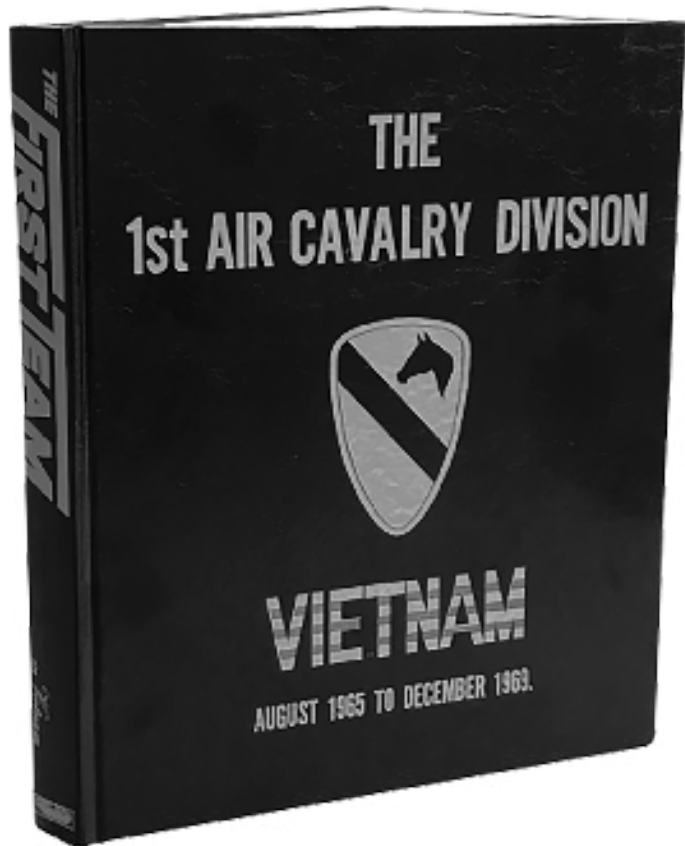
We have not been notified of any non-combat Active-Duty deaths.

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

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

The 1st Air Cavalry Division in Vietnam-Special Reprint is a 10x12-inch, oversized hardbound volume with 296 pages with hundreds of full-color photos, printed on heavy-weight glossy paper for superior photo reproduction, with sturdy Smyth-sewn binding for longevity, and bound in a classy black leatherette cover with full-color silk screening. Please mail us your completed order form located below. Only **\$85** with **FREE SHIPPING!**

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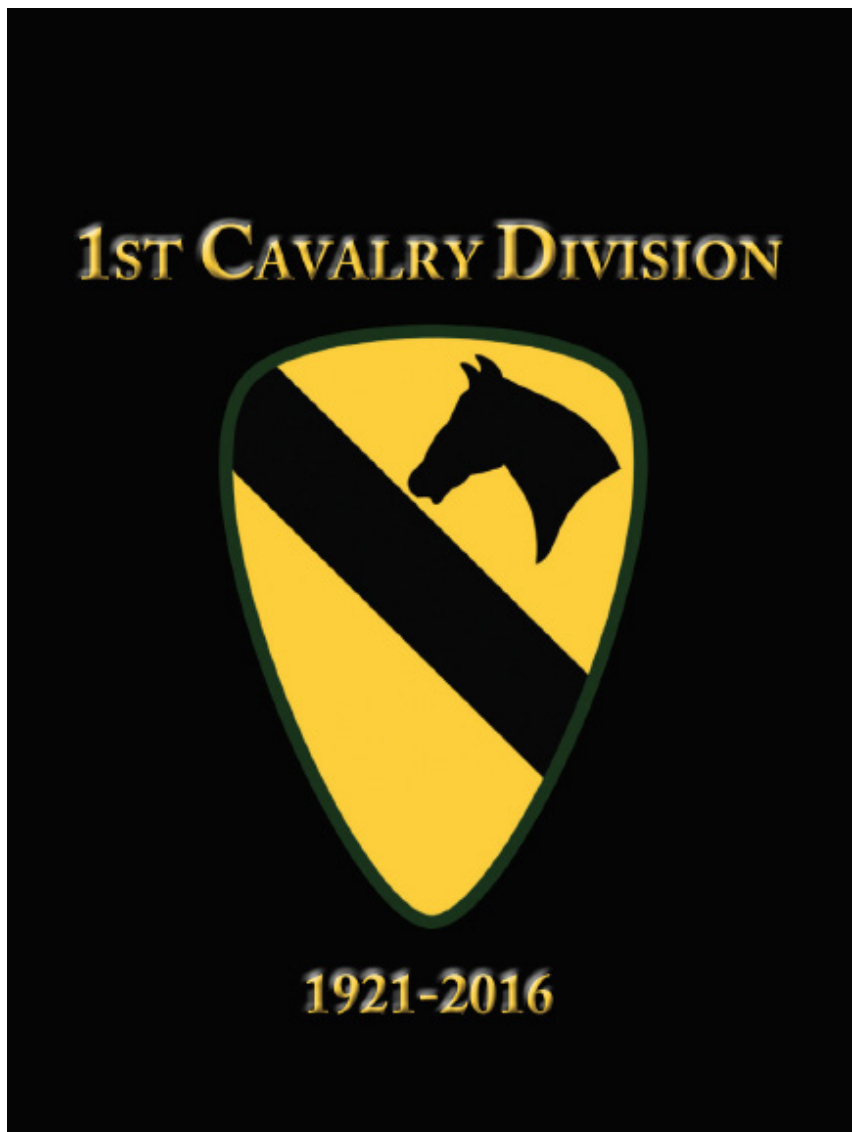
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FIRST TEAM HISTORY BOOK

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

- Includes a detailed history of the 1st Cav Division from WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Bosnia, the Gulf War, and the War of Terror, including its founders, training, engagements, responsibilities today, and more.
- Historical overview of the 1st Cavalry Division Association.
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- Personal biographies from 1st Cav Division Veterans, with "then and now" photos
- After Action Reports & Stories from 1st Cav Div Veterans, and more!

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



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DESERT STORM MEMORIAL DONATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED

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

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

Please make all Desert Storm Memorial Donations checks payable to the 1CDA Foundation and specify the Desert Storm Memorial in the memo.

All donations to the Foundation are tax exempt.

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SCAN HERE

1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION 15TH ANNUAL WASHINGTON D.C. VETERANS DAY RECEPTION

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

Due to lower attendance at the last two Veterans Day events, we are changing a few things up. Instead of planning a dinner it will be more of a reception-like event with finger food in the hospitality room. The hospitality room will continue with beer, wine, and snacks. The cost will change to \$50 per attendee to help cover beer, wine, and finger food. Once our numbers begin to beef back up, we will go back to planning a dinner to close out the weekend.

- For accountability, please submit the order form along with your money to the 1st Cavalry Division Association, 302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703.
- Full payment must be received no later than **31 October 2024**.
- We can accept all credit cards – ensure that your card number and expiration dates are written correctly and legibly.
- Provide your name, address, unit you served with and the name(s) of your guests with your payment.

Wreaths will be placed at the World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam Memorials as they are each year on Veterans Day, 11 November. The ceremony conducted at the World War II Memorial begins at 0900, the ceremony at the Vietnam Memorial begins at 1300 hours, and the Korean War Memorial ceremony is at 1600. Join us in D.C. for Veterans Day.



1CD Honor Guard photos from Veterans Day 2023

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

FIRST TEAM



545th MP Co News

Lawrence Gardner Ketron

232 New Beason Well Rd
Kingsport, TN 37660
(423) 967-8226
LGKetron@earthlink.net



The 545th MP Company of the 1st Cavalry Division (AIRMOBILE)

To the reader community:
I have been asked to author a series of articles

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

TRAFFIC CONTROL AT THE BRIDGE

Shortly after our arrival, a water purification system was set up on the river on the south bank and west end of the bridge at An Khe. Access to the water tanks was down a dirt ramp at the end of the bridge. The ramp was rather steep and if the towing vehicle was a ¾, and if it had to stop at the top of the ramp for traffic, it was difficult to get restarted. The third platoon provided MP's to stop traffic if a truck was about to start up the ramp. The 101st Airborne was still providing some security in town and had a machine gun emplacement on the bank overlooking the ramp. One day Martin Howard and your author were selected for this task. The commanding general of the 1st Cav had decreed that his Troopers were not to purchase soft drinks from the locals for fear that the drinks might be contaminated. Of course the local children were trying to sell anything and everything to Soldiers.

One of the Soldiers at the machine gun emplacement called to one of the children to purchase a Coke. That is when Martin told him that purchasing drinks was not allowed. The conversation started something like this: *Says who?* **GENERAL KINNARD.** *He ain't my general!* As the conversation got more heated, your author thought to himself that Martin needed to shut up. The machine gunner was a grown man and if he wanted to take a risk, I did not have a dog in that hunt. The conversation ended when the gunner got down behind the gun and appeared to get serious about the matter. The author's thoughts were about his own hide and if he killed Martin your author did not want him to think that your author was with Martin! About that time the Sergeant in charge of the emplacement ordered the gunner out from behind the gun. I think that at that point Martin realized that he had gone a little too far.

One day when your author had this duty, there was a commotion at the east end of the bridge where security was provided by ARVN troops or local troops of some sort. There was a series of small caliber gun shots. The Vietnamese guard on the other end had been careless about the security of his weapon and someone picked it up and ran with it and in the process, fired a few rounds to discourage pursuit.

One unit was in the habit of sending a ¾ for water that either had a bad rear end or had no rear driveshaft. Was always entertaining to watch the grinning driver digging dirt with the front axle as he sometimes had to make multiple tries to make it to the pavement.

DUTY AT THE AN KHE PASS

After we began to settle in, one squad of the third platoon was sent to the An Khe pass to operate the checkpoint there. The first order of the day was to tear down and rebuild the sandbag structure that 101st Airborne men had constructed there. There were two or three walls about chest high that forced vehicles to drive around and through in order to continue on. They had built shelters onto the walls and were sleeping in them. Since they were nasty and littered with garbage, they were demolished. Part of the mission was to stop and search vehicles for suspicious cargo. There were daily several buses passing through on their way to Pleiku. They would come puffing up the mountain loaded with people, seafood in baskets, various animals such as pigs and chickens. There would be people on top and hanging off the sides. Most times there would be ARVN (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) troops on leave. They did not have weapons, but many times were carrying a hand grenade in case of attack. It was rather disconcerting the first time we saw the grenades.

When referring to the buses as puffing coming up the mountain one must remember that these buses were generally 1 ½ ton Mercury's or Desoto's whose original engines had expired years ago. The engines had been replaced with small diesel engines, some of which sounded like two-cylinder types. Other than the windshields, there was no surviving glass. No doors either.

The first day or two the squad was probably overzealous as we searched. We tried to look at every container, but the way items were stacked was an almost impossible task. The worst incident was when we accidentally killed a pig. The pig was in an affair that consisted of two tapered baskets much like the old peach baskets of our youth. The rear end of the pig was in one basket and another was placed over the head and the baskets tied together. The container was sitting on top of the cargo on top of the bus. Charles Allen was on top moving containers when the pig rolled off. Killed it. Don't imagine we won any hearts and minds that day!

THEY'RE ARE COMING OVER THE HILL!

The east side of the pass was rocky and steep and covered with vegetation. The west side, where we were, was a more gradual slope with space to park our jeeps. There were trails through the grass from the parking area to the tops of the ridge. We were told not to get off the trail because there might be unexploded ordnance from the days of the French. One day about noon, SGT Tom Kernan and your author were using the jeep hood as a table while we were partaking of a meal of c-rations. Partway through our meal we heard two big 'Wahooms' followed by a series of smaller explosions. A weaponless Soldier come running off the ridge hollering 'They're coming over the hill!' Kernan looked at your author and said, 'Don't you think you should get your weapon?' Your author continued to eat and replied nonchalantly, even though his hand was beginning to shake, that the rifle was right there in the driver's seat. The explosions died away and smoke began to rise from each side of the pass. No enemy appeared. The issue was that a pair of Skyraiders had left the airbase at Qui Nhon with a load of ordnance and the leader evidently miscalculated his altitude and hit on one side of Highway 19 at the pass and his wingman followed him into the ridge on the other side.

OUR SQUAD CAPTURES A VC (VIET CONG)

While we were at the pass, word was received from MI (Military Intelligence) that some villagers located at a village on Highway 19 at the base of the mountain on the East side of the pass were wanting to go to a more secure area. SP4 Bob Maloney, PFC's Charles Allen, the late Delmer Egan, and your author were to drive a jeep down to the village along with a jeep occupied by the MI person and an interpreter.

The group arrived in the late afternoon at a dirt road coming into the village on the south of Highway 19. The group pulled into a small grove of trees to await developments. As the group waited in the shade, villagers stated coming in small groups toward the village for the day carrying their field implements and such. Suddenly, a piece up the path, two men carrying weapons were seen breaking out of the walkers and running across the fields away from us Americans. Kind of set the group on edge. As the villagers walked past us, suddenly the interpreter started shouting 'VC, VC' and pointed to an old man carrying what to your author looked like a fighting cock under his arm. He and the rooster were detained. No one approached the group wanting to relocate, so before sunset, the group headed back up the mountain to the pass. Was not a total loss. We had the first VC!

UNARMORED VEHICLES

Being as we had been a test division (11th AAD) most of the equipment was new. The division did not have M-38 jeeps but had the M-151. The ones assigned to the MP company were plain models, no machine gun mounts, no armor, no recoilless rifle mounts. Once the MP's started operating outside of the division are, the men decided that it would be smart to strategically place some sandbags to protect the old body. Sandbags were placed on the front fenders where they met the cowl, in the floorboards leaving the driver just enough room to operate the pedals, and any other spot we deemed as a good candidate. Made the vehicle ride a little lower!

One day as your author was enroute on HWY 19 from the pass to the company area at the base, the 3rd Platoon leader, LT Jim Lewis and his driver passed by. They promptly turned around and chased me down for the good LT to chastise me for not having my flak jacket on. He accepted the explanation that it was triple folded on the seat bottom and was protecting what was important!

ANOTHER MARTIN HOWARD STORY

One of the duties performed by the MP's was to patrol the landfill to keep children out to prevent them from being injured. It was also to prevent adults from obtaining materials that might be used against us. The landfill was outside the perimeter so the road to it was subject to being mined during the night. There was no patrol at night because everything should have been covered by bulldozers at the end of the day. The smart MP would wait until a deuce and a half or two went in and out before the unarmored M-151 made the trip. Sometimes the patrol was a game between the MP's and the children whereby the MP's tried to catch them. There were clumps of bushes for the children to run around while the MP's in the M-151's chased them. There would be laughing and squealing on the part of the children while the MP driver was circling in the vehicle slinging mud, etc. On some occasions a National Policeman, dressed in khaki and a white billed hat and carrying a revolver, would accompany the MP's. That would change the tone of the chase. The policeman could be mean and they might get out and chase the children on foot. The tone also changed one day when a policeman was chasing children and all of a sudden came to a screeching halt. There was a trip wire attached to a grenade strung about chest high on an adult stretched between two clumps of bushes.

Martin and I had that duty one day when we came across an old woman (we thought) who was carrying a yoke with a bucket suspended on each end into which she was putting food scraps. We tried to explain to her that that was a no-no. She was facing Martin and I was behind her. During the conversation suddenly she pulled up her top, grabbed her breast, squeezed it, and hit Martin between the eyes with a stream of milk! Martin was stunned. Milk was dripping off the end of his nose and I was doubled over laughing.

Please contact the scribe to share your 545th MP stories to appear here!

WANTED:

SP4 JAMES J. HOGAN

Searching for family members of SP4 James J. Hogan. He was from New Jersey, was with 28th Ordinance Company in Butzbach, Germany in 1966-67, where we were stationed together. He then transferred to 1st Cavalry Division in 1967 as a commo guy. He was on the Bong Son plane, LZ Uplift in Vietnam. He died in the 1990's. I lost contact with him and am looking for where he is buried and any of his family members.

SGT David L. Morgen 941-922-3007

LOOKING FOR A LONG LOST BATTLE BUDDY?



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

AIR CAV NEWS LTC (RET) J. Shawn Perry

191 Scenic Bluff Drive
Guntersville, Alabama 35976
(254) 458-0428
Stetsonlife1cda@gmail.com



Please contact the scribe to share your AIR Cav stories to appear here!

Hello, my Brothers and Sisters! It is late August as I draft these words for you, and here in north Alabama, already the leaves are starting to turn a bit yellow from the vibrant green of only several weeks ago. Maybe where you are, too, you can sense the coming seasonal changes.

I don't know if you have been following along with what the 1st Air Cav Brigade is involved in, but our air-Troopers are staying busy and making an impact across the ocean as they continue their support of Operation Atlantic Resolve. I will share some of their highlights below. Along with an important event happening for one of our fallen from Vietnam, I wanted to share an AAAA update regarding "Kamikaze" UAVs the Pentagon is purchasing.

In July at Camp Rutja, Estonia, Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment and Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment conducted hot/cold load training and patient transfer MEDEVAC exercise with the Estonian Scouts Battalion. The training ensures that US forces can work alongside our NATO allies effectively.



Also in July but back home, 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment "First Attack" held a change of command ceremony for outgoing commander LTC Michael Pearce and incoming commander LTC Wyatt Britten on Cooper Field.



In early August, Bravo Company, "Black Cats" of the 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment executed cold load training in Latvia with the 5th Canadian Battlegroup. Later in the month, the Black Cats aerially moved the brigade tactical command post across the Area of Operations Victory North. These Troopers moved key leaders and over 5,000 pounds of equipment between multiple countries, showcasing the flexibility the 1ACB brings to the battlefield.



On 11 August, Fox Company, 227th Aviation Regiment "Godfathers" held its change of command ceremony for outgoing commander MAJ Charles Bremer and incoming commander CPT William Clark on Forward Operating Site Powdiz, Poland.

And right before the end of August, our Air Cav Troopers worked alongside the 2MIB Latvian Reconnaissance Platoon and conducted infiltration and

exfiltration training. This joint exercise strengthens our strategic partnership and enhances interoperability between our forces. From the 1ACB Soldiers involved, "It's an honor to work with our Latvian allies, sharing tactics, knowledge, and experiences to sharpen our skills together. Through rigorous training sessions, our Soldiers are building trust and camaraderie with their Latvian counterparts, demonstrating our shared commitment to readiness and defense."



Earlier this month, LTC (Ret) Gordon Tillery (1CD Vietnam 1970) contacted me to share that on 20 September 2024, at a ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific on Oahu, the "Punchbowl," "Rosettes" will be placed next to names of former MIAs (in the "Courts of the Missing") whose remains have been since recovered. He went on to

tell me that some 940 names are now-accounted-for Vietnam War MIAs; they will receive rosettes.

One of those is CPT Henry M. Spengler, III. A rosette will be added to Henry's name listing. Here is a quick write up about Captain Spengler:

- Henry Mershon Spengler III
- Captain, U.S. Army
- 79th Artillery Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division
- Entered the Service From: Alexandria, Virginia
- Date of Birth: October 26, 1946
- Date of Death: April 05, 1972
- Wars or Conflicts: Vietnam War
- Memorialized: Courts of the Missing: Court B
- Honolulu Memorial, National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific

Captain Spengler was a member of Battery F, 79th Artillery Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division. On April 5, 1972, he was the pilot of a Bell Cobra Attack Helicopter (AH-1G) attacking an enemy force near Loc Ninh, Vinh Long Province, South Vietnam. After its second run, it was hit by ground fire, crashed, burst into flames and exploded. His remains were recovered on April 27, 1989, and identified on August 16, 1989. His name is inscribed on the Courts of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial

As the helicopter was pulling off its second gun run, it was hit by enemy anti-aircraft fire. The helicopter began to descend with flames billowing from the exhaust area, and at about 300 feet above the ground, it appeared that the tail boom began to bend and wobble, causing the aircraft to spin to the left.

The gunship crashed, burst into flames, and exploded. Several members of the flight saw the helicopter during the descent and crash but saw no one escape from the aircraft.

An aerial search was made by numerous aircraft, but no survivors were seen. No ground search was attempted due to hostile fire. An electronic search failed to locate any survivors.

Witnesses believed that Spengler and Windeler were killed in the crash of their helicopter. Because no bodies were found, they were listed with honor among the missing, prisoner, and unaccounted for from the Vietnam war.

Thank you, Gordon, for sharing this will all of us.

All of you are in my thoughts and prayers. Be safe out there and keep sending me your stories. I'll make you famous!

Clear Right!
Shawn



Henry Mershon Spengler III



HONOR ROLL



Thank you for the generous donations from our following Troopers:

SP-5 ADAMS, W. Howard \$100
 SP-4 BUGAMELLI, Ralph \$112
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 SGT CHAMPAGNE, Joseph \$921
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 SGM(RET) COLEMAN, Lester W. \$100
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IMO 1968 Jumping Mustangs
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 SP-4 HARKER, Philip G. \$100



As of September 1, 2024

CPL HAGEMAN, Keri \$50
 SGT HOWELL, Donald \$250
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 LTC(RET) KIMBALL, Alan M. \$100
 COL(RET) SMITH, James A. \$200
IMO Colonel James Booth
 CW4 SOMMERS, Gerald \$100
 SSG WERNER, Steven Kirk \$100
All 1st Cav Troopers

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

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WANT TO SEE YOUR NAME UNDER HONOR ROLL SECTION?

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THANK YOU! to our members who graciously donate to YOUR Association!

We appreciate your generosity, we could not do it without our members!

DIVISION DOINGS

Continued from pg. 5

ing functions-check), and reacting to a near ambush by flanking the enemy and conducting follow-on actions on the objective. The candidates also underwent a lane where they had to camouflage their faces and equipment to blend into their environment, a lane where they had to crawl to a covered position to throw a grenade at a notional enemy position, and a lane where candidates had to treat and transport two of their group members who suffered extremity injuries as part of the scenario.

“I think I’m looking forward to the grenade lane and reacting to contact because those are the things that really get people going,” said Peck. “I’ll get to see how they react under pressure and how they’ll do as leaders.” By the time the groups reached the finish line, hardly anyone was spared from being soaked and exhausted. Despite the pain, the emotions outweighed the relief of the new spur holders as they formed special bonds with their teammates and created a lifetime of special memories. By upholding this unique Cavalry tradition, the Order of the Spur continues to live on, one new spur holder at a time.

First Team Embeds Cadets During CTLT by SGT Sean MacIntyre
 FORT CAVAZOS, Texas – Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT) with the 1st Cavalry Division offers Cadets an opportunity to develop leadership skills by shadowing and learning from platoon leaders in a real-world training environment. Nathaniel Reese Young, a Cadet from Wolf Pack Battalion, University of Nevada, Reno, is majoring in political science with a minor in military science.

“I always wanted to serve; I wanted to be in the United States Army,” Young said. “It’s what I’ve always wanted to do. I love the warrior ethos, I love the community, I love what it stands for, and I thought the best way to get my higher education and serve my country was to do ROTC.” After completing CTLT, Young hopes to commission as an Infantry officer.

Most Cadets participating in CTLT have not yet received their branch allocations. The program’s intent is to allow them to confirm their preferences, making their CTLT experiences critical in shaping their future Army careers.

Cadet Sydney Montana, from Frontier Battalion, Slippery Rock University, is also conducting CTLT at Fort Cavazos. She is majoring in homeland security.

“Cadet Troop Leader Training is important to us as Cadets because it allows us to learn from an LT who is a platoon leader,” Montana said. “We get to observe how they interact and what they do in their day-to-day tasks. As a Cadet, it’s very important for me to take those skills back with me for my final year of college and into my ROTC program.” Montana aims to gain experience that will help her become a better leader in the Army.

After completing the CTLT program, the Cadets will return to their respective universities to continue their Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) programs. They will serve as senior leaders to junior Cadets, using the skills and experiences gained during CTLT to guide their peers. As they approach graduation, Young and Montana will prepare to start their careers as U.S. Army officers.

GREYWOLF Brigade Strengthens Leadership, Teamwork Through Mungadai Event by 1LT Tyrese Lane

FORT CAVAZOS, Texas – The GREYWOLF Brigade, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, recently hosted the Mungadai event, a key initiative designed to strengthen leadership and foster teamwork among its company commanders. This event, crucial for improving unit cohesion and decision-making, comes at a time when large-scale combat operations and frequent leadership changes underscore the need for a resilient, unified team. Spanning several days, the Mungadai event brought together all the brigade’s company commanders for a series of intensive workshops, strategic discussions, and team-building exercises. The primary objective was to develop strong relationships among leaders, which is essential for effectively managing the complexities of modern military operations.

“The dynamic and challenging environment we face, coupled with frequent leadership changes at the company level, makes it imperative that we build a cohesive GREYWOLF team,” said COL Edward Arntson, GREYWOLF Brigade Commander. “The Mungadai event is not just about fostering camaraderie but also about enhancing our ability to make critical decisions as a unified front. When we understand and trust one another, we operate more effectively and respond to challenges more quickly.”

The Mungadai event featured various activities aimed at building leadership and team-building skills, including motor pool tasks, pistol and rifle range exercises, land navigation, and leadership reaction courses. These exercises provided

valuable opportunities for the company commanders to engage in simulated operational scenarios that tested their strategic thinking and collaborative abilities. Interactive workshops focused on communication and leadership development, encouraging participants to share insights and experiences, fostering a deeper mutual understanding beyond individual commands.

“What I got out of our three days of Mungadai is just how powerful teamwork is here—not only in the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team but in the Army as a whole,” said CPT Katelynn Howard, a participating company commander from Brigade Headquarters and Headquarters Troop. CPT Matthew Brown, company commander of Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, emphasized the importance of the leadership reaction course (LRC). “The LRC showcases how leaders improve their decision-making skills and how team dynamics function with a clear hierarchy. It emphasizes the importance of executing tasks effectively while providing constructive feedback, ultimately highlighting the need for seamless execution and teamwork,” Brown said.

A key takeaway from the Mungadai event was its focus on addressing the challenges of high leadership turnover by creating meaningful dialogue and problem-solving opportunities. The relationships and skills developed during the event are expected to significantly enhance the brigade’s overall effectiveness in large-scale combat operations.

In conclusion, the Mungadai event highlights GREYWOLF’s commitment to advancing leadership cohesion and decision-making capabilities. As COL Arntson emphasized, this event is a critical step toward ensuring the brigade operates as a unified and effective team, ready to face future challenges with resilience and adaptability.

Tanks, BBQ, and Firepower: 2-7 Cav Family Day by SGT Lyca Williams

FORT CAVAZOS, Texas — Troopers with 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division took a break from their intensive tank gunnery training to welcome their families for a special Family Day event at Fort Cavazos, Texas, in August 2024. This event provided an opportunity for loved ones to see firsthand the demanding work their Soldiers do and to experience the camaraderie of the Army community.

More than 40 families gathered to connect with their Soldiers and gain insight into the rigorous training they undergo. The day was filled with military demonstrations and family-oriented activities, aimed at strengthening the bond between Soldiers and their families while offering a glimpse into their daily lives on the field.

“I joined the Army to better my life and my family’s,” said PFC Cody Rogers, an M1 Armor Crewman assigned to Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division. “Having them here, seeing what I do, means everything to me. My son loves tanks, and now he gets to see them up close—it’s a dream come true for him.”

The Family Day event allowed Soldiers and their loved ones to reconnect after several days of demanding training. “This event is about giving families a chance to see what their Soldiers do and letting them know they’re part of this larger Army family,” said 1LT Logan Amico, the family readiness representative for 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment. “It’s important for us to show that we’re here for them and that their support is vital to what we do.”

The day’s activities included guided tours of tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles, demonstrations of the Soldiers’ weapon systems, and opportunities for families to speak with their loved ones’ leaders. For many, it was their first time seeing the equipment and environment their Soldiers work in daily.

“It’s hot out here, but it’s worth every moment to show our love and support,” said Felicia Nowoslawski, wife of CPT Nicholas Nowoslawski, commander of Charlie Troop. “I’m so proud of what these Soldiers are doing, and today gives us a chance to really appreciate their hard work.” The event also featured a barbecue provided by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, or VFW, giving Soldiers a break from their usual field rations. “Having hot food prepared by the VFW is such a blessing,” said 1LT Amico. “It’s a small gesture that goes a long way in lifting spirits out here.”

As Family Day came to a close, the Soldiers prepared to continue their gunnery qualifications, but the time spent with their loved ones served as a reminder of why they train so hard. For both the Soldiers and their families, the event highlighted the strong sense of community that defines military life.

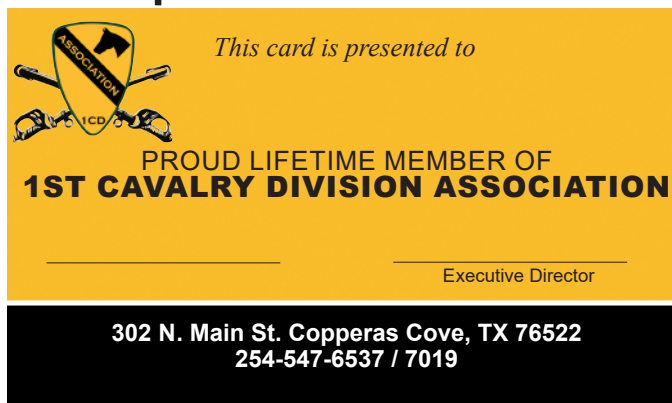
“We do this for our families,” Rogers said. “Days like this remind us of the support we have and why we push ourselves every day.”



Birthday Wishes to our Troopers turning 90+ years young!

- | | |
|--|--|
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| THOMAS DANIELS
turned 93 on 9/9/2024 | PAUL HAYES
turned 91 on 10/9/2024 |
| JOHN HERREN
turned 90 on 9/10/2024 | STEVE KUHN
turned 90 on 10/10/2024 |
| ALFRED SCHUTTE
turned 97 on 9/12/2024 | LEIGH WARE
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| CLARENCE BALL
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"The Longest Month" is a documentary film dedicated to telling the story of the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade Soldiers that participated in the events during "The Surge" in OIF 06-08.

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

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

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

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

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

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

If you wish to read the story behind this documentary:

<<https://www.hollywoodintoto.com/longest-month-movie-us-veterans/>>

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