



# SABER

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



VOLUME 74 NUMBER 3 Website: [www.1CDA.org](http://www.1CDA.org) MAY /JUNE 2025

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

**Rich Kaye**  
254-291-4890  
[RichKaye@hotmail.com](mailto:RichKaye@hotmail.com)  
1CDA President 2023-2025



To the Troopers of America's First Team,  
I'm sitting here writing this under our



fifth consecutive day of tornado watches and severe thunderstorm warnings. A very different weather pattern than we routinely experienced when Diana and I first moved here 35 years ago.

This is my final message to you as President of the Association. In Reno, five short weeks from now, I'll turn the reigns over to COL (Ret) Rosey Carter who will assume that mantel. Rosey will be an excellent President.

As I prepare to ride off into the sunset, I want to thank you all for the support you've shown me and our Association over the past two years. It's been a great ride. America's First Team is a very special formation, steeped in a history no other division, save perhaps the 82nd Airborne, can match. Each of you played a part in creating that heritage and I salute you for that. Once a Trooper, always a Trooper.

I also want to our Association staff. Without the hard work that Dara, Tina and Karleen have put in over the years to keep the Association on track we would not be the great organization that we are. Simply put, we could not run the Association without them, and on behalf of the Board of Governors I wish them the best.

Finally, your Association cordially invites you to attend the 77th Annual Reunion in Reno, Nevada from 11-15 June 2025. All Life and Associate Members are welcome to attend this special event. Gold Star Families and Widows of our members are always welcome to attend. TripAdvisor ranks our hotel, the Grand Sierra Resort & Casino, as one of the Top 10 casinos in Reno.

Well, that's all for this edition. I'll end with a simple yet to me a meaningful Irish blessing that's steeped in wisdom. The use of this blessing has transcended generations and has stood the test of time, acting as a source of comfort for many.

*May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back;  
May the sun shine warm upon your face;  
the rains fall soft upon your fields  
and until we meet again,  
may the hand of a friend always be near.*

The 1st Cavalry Division – Courageous, Audacious, Victorious! Until we meet again, God bless you all.  
First Team!  
Gambler 6, out.

## THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

**Dara C. Wydler**  
302 N. Main St.  
Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703  
(254) 547-6537  
[FirstCav@1CDA.org](mailto:FirstCav@1CDA.org)



By the time you receive this *Saber* edition, May will soon be ending, and June kicks off the next reunion in Reno, NV.

Karleen and I will pull pitch 5 June, pulling the trailer to Nevada, while Tisha will be leaving on 7 June to join us at the resort. We

will have one person (Becky) coming in to the Gift Shop during the week to pick up mail and process any on-line Gift Shop sales.

As for the reunion in Reno, final numbers have been sent, leaving us with minor details to finish up before we depart. For those members attending, we hope you have a wonderful time. For those members who could not make it to Reno, we hope to see you in New Orleans in 2026.

I can see the smoke coming out of your ears as you think, wait a minute who is Tisha and Becky, and where is Tina. Easy one first, unfortunately Tina had a family emergency and will not be at this year's reunion. Tisha (Blakley) has taken over as the Gift Shop Manager (Michelle decided to move on) and is doing a bang-up job. She has not stopped moving yet. Becky (Kee) is a part-time hire who helps Tisha in the shop with whatever she needs.

INDEX	PAGE	INDEX	PAGE	INDEX	PAGE
1CDA OFFICE NEWS	16	CAV MEDALLION	17	LETTERS TO EDITOR	2
1BSTB	3	CAV SHIRTS	17	LRRP	4
545th MP CO	21	CHANGE ADDRESS	2	NEW MEMBERS	11
5th CAV	5	CHAPTER INDEX	15	OTHER REUNIONS	11
7th CAV	7	CHAPTER NEWS	14	2025 REUNION	12-13
8th CAV	8	DIVISION DOINGS	18	REUNION PINS	9
12th CAV	6	ELECTIONS	12	SABER RENEWAL	2
15th MED	11	ENGINEERS	18	TAPS	11
BOOK OF INTEREST	9	GIFT SHOP	15	TROOPER'S TALE	3
CALENDAR	2	HISTORIAN	10	VETERANS DAY	20
CAV BOOKS	19	HONOR ROLL	23	WANTED	2

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

The Horse Cavalry Detachment is ready for summertime. We have transitioned to our summer hours to exercise our mounts in the cooler temperatures of the morning in preparation for summer's upcoming events. We are happy that the 1st Cavalry Division has returned from overseas, and we are looking forward to many Changes of Command/Responsibilities on Cooper Field. Come by Cooper Field to watch a famous Cavalry CHAAARRRRGGGGEEEE!

HCD will also be supporting many events for the Army's 250th Birthday, be sure to look for us in the Army's 250th Birthday Parade! Additionally, the Horse Cavalry Detachment will have a Change of Command as we say goodbye to CPT Daysha Wells and welcome in 1LT Megan Korpiel on 26 June 2025 at 1000.



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

Check us out on Facebook (1st Cavalry Division Horse Cavalry Detachment) where we post our current engagements, upcoming events, and ceremonies. HOT TO TROT!



DS/DS Memorial Construction in Washington D.C.

## THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR continued

As you all know each Veterans Day, the Association packs up for Washington, D.C. to take part in a couple of ceremonies where we place wreaths.

For my Desert Shield / Desert Storm Veterans, the National Desert Storm Memorial is under construction. It took me a minute to find the information; the memorial is projected to

be complete by Veterans Day 2025. I am so excited. Placing a wreath this year will probably not happen (officially). My fingers are crossed for next year (2026). Most importantly, I hope to see my DS/DS Veterans in force, 11 November 2025.



ADDRESS  
CHANGE

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

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

SNOWBIRDS

If you have two addresses during the year, we need to know them. Please give us the dates and addresses for both households.  
(Circle one) Winter Summer

Rank and Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
LAST 4#s SSN: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_  
1: Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

2: Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

1CDA EVENT CALENDAR

June 11-15, 202577<sup>th</sup> Annual 1CDA Reunion, Reno, NV

Nov 9-12, 202516<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Day, Washington D.C.

July 8-12, 202678<sup>th</sup> Annual 1CDA Reunion, New Orleans

SABER RENEWAL / DONATION FORM

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

☐ Saber: 5 years for \$75

☐ Association General Fund Donation \$\_\_\_\_\_  
In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Honor Roll privileges are given to members who make a donation of \$50 or more to the Association, or scholarship donations to the IaDrang or the Foundation. Honor Roll privileges do not include calendar donations nor Saber renewals.

LAST 4 NUMBERS OF SSN \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_  
Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

CREDIT CARD # \_\_\_\_\_  
EXP DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

You can also renew online at [www.1CDA.org](http://www.1CDA.org)  
Log in>>> Saber Newspaper >>> Saber Subscriptions/Renewals

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

SABER

The newspaper of the 1st Cavalry Division Association  
published during each even numbered month at  
302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703  
Phone: (254) 547-6537  
Website: <http://www.1CDA.org>  
[www.facebook.com/AlumniOfTheFirstTeam](http://www.facebook.com/AlumniOfTheFirstTeam)

Dara C. Wydler: Executive Director, [firstcav@1CDA.org](mailto:firstcav@1CDA.org)  
Tina Wilgeroth: Program Director / Saber Editor / Graphics  
[Programs@1CDA.org](mailto:Programs@1CDA.org)  
Karleen Maloney: Memberships / Scholarships / Chapter Director  
[Memberships@1CDA.org](mailto:Memberships@1CDA.org)

ARTICLE SUBMISSION

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

Articles should be received at National Headquarters no later than the 1st of every odd month. Any article received after the 1st of the month will be put in on a space available basis.

Opinions expressed are the writers and not necessarily those of the *Saber* or the 1st Cavalry Division Association.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To be considered for publication, letters should not exceed 300 words and should be of general interest and in good taste. Letters express the writer's opinion, not that of the *Saber* or the 1st Cavalry Division Association.

Political endorsement and poetry cannot be used. Form letters or third-party letters are not acceptable. Letters which contain libelous or obviously untrue statements will be automatically rejected.

All letters must be signed with addresses and telephone numbers included. Names will be used with the letters but addresses and phone numbers may be omitted. Letters also may be edited for length or clarification.

We reserve the right to reject for publication any letter received. Unused letters will not be acknowledged.


LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Dear 1st Cavalry Division Association,  
I would like to express my sincerest gratitude for receiving the 1st Cavalry Division Association scholarship. As a BioHealth Sciences student on the Pre-Med/Pre-PA track at Oregon State University, this scholarship allows me to pursue my academic goals and continue on my path of a career in medicine. This scholarship helps ease the financial barrier of obtaining a higher education, allowing me to chase after my lifelong dream of a career in healthcare. Thank you for providing this opportunity to students like me who are chasing their dreams and working towards building their future, in whatever that may mean to each individual.  
Emma Nordstrom



WANTED/LOOKING FOR:

CAVALRY STETSON HATS  
Rex Gooch, award-winning author and proud Vietnam Veteran who served as an Air Cavalry Trooper, is writing a book titled, *Cav Hat*. This book aims to preserve the rich history of the Cavalry hat, beginning with the Cavalry's inception in 1855 and tracing its resurgence during the Vietnam War. In the book's latter half, Rex will share fascinating stories about the Cav hat's presence in Vietnam, the Middle East, and contemporary U.S. Cavalry units.  
Rex is collecting compelling stories and striking photographs related to Cavalry hats. If you have a story or photo that highlights the significance of these hats, Rex would love to hear from you. Please reach out to him at [<LK23@mac.com>](mailto:LK23@mac.com) and contribute to this important narrative.  
Rex Gooch  
Lighthouse Air Cavalry, Vietnam, 1971-72  
303-549-5810



PHOTOS OF 28DEC1966 CONFRONTATION, D/1-8CAV

I have been writing a book about Daniel Mobley. He was KIA on 28 December 1966 at Suoi Ca Happy Valley, South Vietnam, Binh Dinh Province. I am looking for photos of the confrontation that took place on this date with 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division, 1-8 Cav, Company D.  
If you have any information about this date, or photos, please contact me. I have been on this mission for 13 years; I want to finish this book. Thank you for all your service and sacrifices for our chance to live great lives in America!  
Michael "Cowboy" Stevenson  
717-576-8309

LOOKING FOR A LONG LOST BATTLE BUDDY?

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







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

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

BUNKER HILL, CAMBODIA by 1LT Jack Downing C & E Co 2-12 Cav, 1969-1970

It was 28 May 1970, Cambodia. All of Charlie Company of the 2/12 First Air Cavalry was moving through the jungle in two files. It had just rained, and it was hot and muggy. My file was on the left point, and we came across a small trail. As was our SOP, we sent a small patrol down the pathway in both directions to see where it led. There had been a lot of activity on the trail. Upon closer inspection, I noticed some wires running along the side of the path. It dawned on me this might be some sort of communications line. I called my RTO and asked him to join me. I then cut the line and tied the ends into his radio. We were not disappointed as we shortly heard Vietnamese traffic on the wire. We disconnected the wires and set up an ambush. We hoped the NVA would detect a loss of communications and send someone down the line to inspect it. We didn't have long to wait. Two NVA came down the trail looking for the break and they were quickly dispatched.

Before the company pulled out, we took small patrols out to check the area. I led a small squad from my platoon off to the left and before long we came upon a lot of cut wood and bamboo. It was fresh. This usually meant there were bunkers and/or hooches nearby. We got back to the main company and started moving out very cautiously. We went through a small gully and started back up the other hillside. It was a gradual slope, and the ground was covered with bomb craters. We decided to stop for a late lunch, and I was sitting on the side of one of the craters. About halfway through my meal, one of my guys saw a Gook up the hill from us and fired a few rounds. That set everybody on full alert. The Company Commander wanted me and 2nd Platoon Leader, LT Jon Nelson, to take a patrol up the side of the hill to see where the Gook came from and what was up there. I had a reduced squad (about 8 men), and Jon had the same number, and we moved out up the hill.

We came to a clearing in the jungle although there was significant canopy overhead. We noticed a couple of hooches up ahead, and it was open between them. The hooches were about 10' x 15' in size, and about 3' off the ground on stilts. They were about 30 meters apart. I told my squad to move up and get on-line with me, side by side, about 3 yards apart. I kept the recoilless rifle to my rear. Jon and his squad were moving the same way to my left. Jon was carrying his AR-15, and I had my AK-47 which I got out of the cache site at Rock Island East, the largest cache site in the Cambodian Campaign. We had all dropped our rucksacks back with the main Company. Since it was open between the hooches, I could maintain eye contact with Jon and the rest of my squad. We started to fire and maneuver-alternating fire between Jon's men and mine. We would move forward about 5 meters, firing as we went, then stop and Jon's men would do the same. We noticed a bunch of chickens running around and Jon and I started firing at the chickens. "Let's have chicken for dinner tonight," I yelled at Jon. He laughed and shot another one. About this time, we had moved forward to where two hooches were about 4 o'clock and 8 o'clock to our side and rear. It was getting dusk as the sun sank lower on the horizon and we were having a fun time shooting chickens. There were more hooches -one at 10 o'clock, two at 11 and 12 o'clock and another one at 2 o'clock-all about 40 meters ahead. There was a small chicken coop about 10 meters in front of me. It was up on stilts, about 2' off the ground. About then, one of my guys said he was taking fire from the right side. Jon said he was taking fire from his left also. What we hadn't noticed initially was that there were bunkers in the dark shadows beneath the hooches. Then all hell broke loose from our sides and the front.

I called my recoilless rifle man and told him to fire over our heads into the hooch in front. He was using factette rounds. Unfortunately, when he fired, he did not aim high enough, and a couple of barbs must have ricocheted off the trees and hit one of my guys in the butt and he let out a yell. Doc immediately went over to him and administered first aid. The rest of my guys were still moving up and I was emptying my AK into the hooches in front. I managed to get up to the small chicken coop. Jon had been taking heavy fire, and he commandeered the M-60 machine gun and started spraying the bunkers at the base of the hooches on his side. Then one of his men (SP4 Anders) got hit. Doc then went to him to check on the seriousness of his wounds and started patching him up. We maintained fire superiority for several, but it was only a few.

From my vantage point at the chicken coup, I started throwing hand grenades toward the bunkers in front of me. That's when I first saw a Gook with an RPG (rocket propelled grenade) up front, poised, and ready to fire. There must have been several of them because we started taking shrapnel from numerous RPGs. An RPG hit one of my guys in the helmet, knocking him to the ground. Lucky for him, it didn't blow up but made a large dent in the side of his helmet and gave him a concussion. RPGs were bursting all around us. Since Jon had taken control of the M-60 he was drawing a lot of fire and running out of ammunition. We called the main company for backup, but they couldn't reach us because the RPGs and some mortars were keeping them pinned down some 100 meters behind us. We all started running low on ammo and the intensity from the Gook's fire increased. About that time, Doc was hit and someone had to pull him back. They left Anders where he had fallen. An explosion hit extremely near to my left rear, and I felt something flat hit me on the side of my head that knocked me to the ground. At the same time, I felt burning in my left wrist, upper arm, and foot. I remember the explosion was very loud and close. We were experiencing numerous casualties and were losing momentum. With the ammo running low, Jon and I decided we should make a strategic withdrawal.

When I conferred with Jon, he was talking crazy. He said, "Let's get to town and I'll buy you a drink." I couldn't tell if he had been wounded, but I figured

**Continued to pg. 5**



## VIETNAM WAR 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

### A PIECE OF CAV HISTORY IN FARGO

The Fargo Air Museum hosted Vietnam Memorial Week from April 26 to May 2, 2025, to mark the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War's end. The week-long event included opening ceremonies, a keynote speaker, displays of the Vietnam Memorial Wall, uniforms, arms and equipment as well as exhibits of aircraft and military vehicles from the Vietnam War.



Their presentation was well received, and I spent some time talking with them. Here are photos of them and Woodpecker 406.

*First Team!*

Dave Lutgen

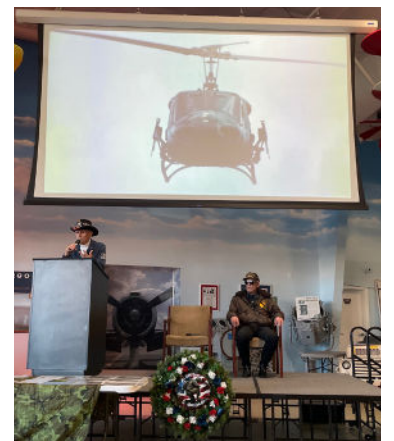


### National Vietnam War Veterans Day Commemorative & Rescue at Dogs Head Monument Dedication Ceremony in Montevallo, AL

On Saturday March 29, 2025 at the Alabama National Cemetery me and my wife Margaret along with Bill Toth (Alpha Co Medic) and his wife Poppy had the honor of attending the National Vietnam Veterans Day Commemoration Ceremony. Following the ceremony a monument commemorating the Battle of The Dogs Head, RVN which took place March 26, 1970 was unveiled by Nancy Barefield, widow of Vietnam Veteran US Army Col (RET) Bob Barefield and Larry Wojciechowski, US Army Vietnam Veteran.

Concluding the day's events, a new building at ANC was dedicated in Colonel Barefield's honor.

Larry Spaun C 2-8, 69-70



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

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



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

The Mulhair Small Arms Range is a 50 caliber and below weapons range that is named after the late SSG Mulhair of 1-7 Cavalry, 1BCT. On January 12, 2007, the original concept was brought to CPT Kendall and SSG Szatny, of Bravo Company, to design, prepare, and execute. From there they put together and submitted a detailed outline and drawing of the range layout. The outline and drawing were approved and the planning process was underway. On March 5, 2007, the leveling and excavation of the range area was started. Construction of the range was started on March 22, 2007. Various Soldiers from all 1BCT Battalions aided Bravo Company with the construction of the range walls.

While constructing the range, Bravo Company was met with many obstacles. April 26, 2007, the range construction was put on hold. June 10th, CPT Nevins, the 1BCT contracting officer, submitted a request for funds to hire contractors to aid in the construction of the range. After two months of waiting, the funds were approved and the construction of the range resumed on August 10th. The Mulhair Small Arms Range was finally completed on September 21, 2007.

On May 7, 2007, the HHC Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) escort in coordination with 2-9 Iraqi Army discovered a large cache near Route Cobra. The insurgents involved used large, buried water tanks to conceal the cache. This mission was extremely profitable because of the potential material that could be used for Improvised Explosive Devices (IED's). This kind of cache is dangerous due to the confined space and ability for booby-traps. Within three buried water tanks, there were over 200 mortars, rockets, and assorted Unexploded Ordnance (UXO's).

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



## LRRP/Ranger News



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



Brothers – don't seem to be getting much in the way of stories from the H Company rabble so I'm going to highlight some stories - really from you guys a while back that have been captured in the *Historical Occurrences* book – Thank you John Lebrun and Bill Carpenter!!!

I wanted to start this article with a tribute to Tony Griffith, an H Company Brother that did not make it back.

#### From the Elizabethton Star, 2 July 2017

Tony Griffith was a Butler (Eastern) Tennessee native, who graduated from Hampton High School with the class of 1967. Tony enlisted in the U.S. Army and once deployed to Vietnam qualified as a member of H Company, 75<sup>th</sup> Infantry (Rangers) assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division. A Sergeant, Tony, was an infantry team leader. He died from combat injuries in Vietnam Feb. 5, 1969, just days before his 21st birthday. According to reports, SGT Tony L. Griffith, of H Co, 75th Infantry (Ranger), on Feb. 5, 1969, led his five-man long-range reconnaissance team through thick fog and dense, short bush between An Loc and the Cambodian border. Hearing wood being chopped not far off a trail they were assigned to surveil, he had his team set an ambush. However, members of the North Vietnamese Army had detected the team. At dawn several enemy soldiers stole through the fog and flung a grenade into the middle of the team, who were spread out online by the trail in sight of each other. The grenade exploded next to the front scout, CPL Richard E. Wilkie, showering him with shrapnel. As the enemy opened fire, the two team members on Wilkie's left fired in the direction of the grenade's blast. Caught in an intense crossfire, Wilkie, a Special Forces Veteran, was shot five times – once by the enemy, twice by his team, and twice by bullets that passed through him. Miraculously, he survived. So, too, did the assistant team leader, Lewis D. Davidson, who was hit twice in the leg. SGT Griffith's luck, however, ended that morning when he was hit by multiple gunshots to the left chest area. Griffith's body was returned to Carter County, and his remains are interred in the Griffith Cemetery.



Tony Griffith

#### RIP Brother

Thank you, Spanky Seymour, first for your effort in writing "In The Jungle – Camping with the Enemy," but specifically your great take on your introduction to life as a LRRP in Chapter 4. Spanky's experience and explanation of his introduction to the concept of Long Range Reconnaissance Patrolling is a great read and should bring a smile or two.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of May 1967, not more than four or five days after my request for a tour extension had been submitted for approval through the proper administrative channels, I was called in to the Battalion's HHC orderly room. I figured that there was some paperwork snafu or other issue concerning my extension. My section's Commo sergeant, whom I liked and got along well with was there when I arrived, but he had a strange look on his face – and I knew something was up.

He was holding a handful of papers and told me that I had come down on an internal division levy and was being re-assigned and there was nothing he could do to stop it. I had been assigned to, in my original MOS of O5B, a new unit that he had never heard of before. The Division was forming a Long-Range Reconnaissance unit and that was to be my new home while I remained in Vietnam.

Although I was a non-combatant, a chaotic bombshell had just been dropped on my regulated little world.

#### Chapter Four from "In the Jungle – Camping with the Enemy"

Long Range Reconnaissance! I had no idea what that was at the time. And neither did anyone else that I went to seeking any information that I could get. Nobody could offer any help. But simply the name alone was exotic enough to sound romantically exciting and really fired up my imagination....and anyone else that I mentioned it to.

The trouble was, that was all everyone knew. Nobody who worked in the orderly room had ever heard of it, other than the orders received for me, indicating that it was a new provisional unit in the process of being formed and it was located back at An Khe. The unit designation was mysterious enough by itself to cause speculation – HHC, G-2 LRRP Detachment, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division (Airmobile). That was a mouthful but here is how it was broken down...

HHC – the main Headquarters and Headquarters CO for the entire division. It was explained to me as similar in function and location as the Oval Office for the U.S. Presidency

G-2, this was the Division's Intelligence Section, impressive enough in itself! As an aside, G-1 would be the Personnel and Administration Section, G-3 would be the Operations Section and G-4 would be the logistics and Supply Section, and if existent G-5 would be Psy-Ops (Psychological Operations). Again, these were the sections (or staff) that functioned directly under the Division Commander,

much the same as a Presidential Cabinet, and serving the same purpose – the smooth and orderly running of the Division. In a similar vein, for smaller units like battalions and brigades, these staffs or sections were designated S-1, S-2, S-3 etc. to differentiate them from the larger ones.

LRRP Detachment – intriguing in that it was not a normally designated unit name, such as platoon, company, battalion or regiment. This meant that it was an abnormal unit, of indeterminate size, detached (attached actually) to either the HHC of the Division or the G-2 section. We couldn't tell which from the unit's address as written and that seemed to make it all the more curious and tantalizing to the clerks who were supposed to be able to decipher all of the military lingo and gobbledy-gook that passed their desks.

And then there was the name of the unit – Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol. I was inundated with everyone's guess as to what this meant. Remember that I was currently in the Division's Engineer Battalion, so all of their suggestions were based on their idea of unusual or irregular combat units. Their guesses alone were enough to scare me, but the name of the unit simply appeared to be self-explanatory, so I took it to mean just what it said. I just did not have any infantry background or combat experience with which to reference it.

Regardless, the only option open to me was to prepare for a move in compliance with these new orders. The military regimen made it an easy decision for me, for I could not disobey. I had no idea what I was getting into, but I had been conditioned to prepare myself wholeheartedly for surprises such as this. Besides, it was exciting enough just to wonder why I alone had received the orders and no one else. But then, at the age of 19 years I suppose everyone feels that they are unique and special. And all of the training I had received so far reinforced the belief – at radio school we were smarter than others, at jump school we were more courageous and better disciplined than others were, and here the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav, our division, was outperforming many others. Just like being on a team in high school athletics, we were better than *them*. (This insidious competitiveness was not apparent, nor even noticed until later in life, as one looked back on events that one experienced and their impact).

In any case, there was going to be a drastic change in my immediate future. But then I had joined the military not really knowing what to expect other than it would be different and more challenging than anything I had been used to. My Adventure (with a capital "A") was definitely continuing and gaining momentum.

So, there was nothing for it but for me to report back to An Khe. It's all fuzzy in my memory as to the exact chain of events that ensued. I don't remember going back whether it was by air or by vehicle, and I certainly don't remember signing out of the 8<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, even though I had to have done so. And I can't recall just how I got to the LRRP area, but here my memory does kick in.

The LRRP Detachment was sequestered off by itself, seemingly in quarantine, at a place called "LRRP Hill." It wasn't until much later that I was informed that the unit was isolated for training and security purposes; for reasons of instilling and maintaining unit integrity and that the unit's location and even its existence was not to be carelessly broadcast about.

This was off on the far eastern side of Camp Radcliffe, and the company area was on the far side of the hill, effectively shielded from both the view of the curious, and from the normal hustle and bustle that was occurring in the steadily improving divisional base camp. Believe it or not, there was even an amphitheater-like stage erected in an open field that was used for touring USO shows. This stage area was on the camp's near side of a large hill, this was LRRP Hill to those of us in the know. Out of sight on the far side of the same hill approachable only by navigating a very steep dirt jeep path (the word road seems inappropriate here) was the quarter's area of this mysterious and reclusive LRRP unit. My first thought was that they apparently liked their privacy.

I do remember my first few minutes, my very first impressions, as this was definitely the strangest image I was ever to receive of any military organization in my life.

As one came up the hill on the only road, the road gradually curved to the left, like a switchback, and continued on just below the military crest of the hill and ridge on the far side. Following the road as it turned left, one first saw a GP-Medium tent to the right (this was the Medic's tent, both a workplace and his living quarters). Continuing up the road just 75 meters, on the right was a large cleared and graded area where several GP-Large tents were eventually to be erected. There were 5 in use when I reported in – one for the Montagnard's assigned to the unit, two for the LRP's already there, and two for the training class, of which I was to be a part.

To the immediate left, from this spot in the road, was what looked at first glance to be a large unpaved vehicular parking strip. In actuality this was the unit's formation area and where my training class would eventually do their crack-of-dawn morning calisthenics.

Still standing in the same reference spot, as you looked past and directly uphill from the formation area, you noticed a couple more GP-Mediums, several Conex containers, and a couple of generators to supply electrical power. This was the unit's orderly room, commo center and officer's area. Standing there holding my duffel bag and gear, looking uphill to the orderly room, is my first recollection of the LRRP unit, and I couldn't help but notice that this road in the making continued up the ridgeline into the trees, and seemed all the more mysterious as there was nothing there, on the back of the hill. A road to who knows where? And I was...?

I went to the one tent that opened onto the road. It had to be an orderly room, as it had a wooden porch facing the unit compound. Besides I could see a desk in it from where I was. As I approached the tent, I couldn't help but notice an older man with a beer-belly, wearing cut off military pants and sandals, along with a bamboo hat, lying in a lawn chair and drinking beer. He flipped his hand casually as I inquired if this was where I reported into the LRRP detachment.

Now remember, I had just left a unit where discipline had been enforced, and I wasn't to realize just how Mickey-Mouse it was until much later, with more experience behind me. As an example, it was a punishable offense not to be in uniform, such as having your shirtsleeves still rolled up after 6:00 pm. Counter-measures against malarial mosquitoes was the official explanation. And here was an older individual, definitely out of uniform and drinking beer right next to an orderly room! What kind of a unit is this? And what about authority...I remember wondering to myself.

As I was doing some kind of paperwork in the orderly room, with an equally improperly dressed company clerk, he informed me that he was a Sergeant, E-5

Continued to pg. 7





## 5th CAV News

**Harold P. "Doc" Truitt**  
4584 50th St W  
Rosamond, CA 93560  
661-810-5971  
rr3-6bandaid@antelecom.net



Our stories of war can be almost of any tone. From entertaining and even funny to unbelievably tragic. For those who follow my approach to these it is no surprise that I want them each to have a point. Our various units have each been deeply involved in fights that are so intense that it has to seem to those involved that no one would believe or understand if they weren't present. That belief is frequent if not universal for really intense fights that go on for extended periods and often prevents those involved from giving and receiving support to and from others that have in fact, "been there." Showing up again and again in a desire to be with those we were with in order to bolster each other's courage but often to the exclusion of others. Chaotic to the point of the surreal is an understatement of how things feel when these fights take place. To the point that interviews of those involved will have different details that can border on excluding each other, when we know they do not. Time both drags and is compressed in ways that, when looking back can mess with ones perception of the timeline. A word here or there from a participant can stick in the interviewers mind and result in errors in his narrative.

This issue, I want to tell the story of the Battle of Angels wing, March 8/9 of 1969. I want to do this as an example of most of the things stated above but for the purpose of encouraging all of us to understand how similar our bad days can be. To help us reach out to, not just those we fought with, but to all our fellow Troopers who have seen similar things.

On the afternoon of March 8, 1969, B Co 2/5<sup>th</sup> was ordered to deploy ambush style along a portion of the Mustang Trail, as a part of the lower Ho Chi Mihn trail was referred to. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoons were to set up apart from the company CP. Third Platoon was security for the Command Post. The three bodies of Troops were set up in a narrow triangle shape reflecting the expected movement of NVA troops. This position was within yards of the Cambodian border. Some now believe they were observed as they set up, which would explain the tactics and approach of the NVA that night, which would explain the fact that they, (B Co) did not do the ambushing.

Going through the narrative provided by Jerry Rohr in his book as well as interviews I did with some of the men who were there, I can see how in spite of having read the book, given the possibilities of warped perception that can occur, I have at times said some things in retelling this story, that in spite of my efforts, were not accurate. One of these things, which is put forth in Jerry's book very clearly, but if you got your information from a survivor who didn't make it clear or given trauma and time just got it wrong, is the presence of old foxholes in one of the platoons ambush sites. This was not a position B Co had previously occupied, the holes were quite old but just happened to be there in a good spot for such an effort. This was the first platoon, and their position was farthest out from the CP and a little more north than the second platoon. The border in this area is not a straight line but forms the impression of an angels wing, hence the area description. The salient formed places the border in rapidly changing positions and there are portions both to the west and to the north that are very near at hand.

Because of the fact that the enemy were much more numerous, and with the probability the units were observed while setting up, this fight could have gone the way of Custer! The platoons each had twenty-seven men, so a total of engaged Cav Troopers would be fifty-four. The NVA came to the fight with an estimated regiment of about five hundred. The enemy did everything they could to make it hard to support these men, and some of the kinds of support we usually got were committed elsewhere. There was some artillery support late in the fight though danger close would describe its use and it was lifted at an inopportune time because of the approach of a battalion command helicopter. The battle kicked off about half past midnight (24:30) and would continue until predawn light began to expose the enemy troops. Best guess would be just before 0500, so about four- and one-half hours of intense fighting. The active fighting Troops of both platoons were forced to fall back to alternate positions.

In interviewing survivors, including James Hayes, who was thought dead and placed in a body bag, I got the impression that the platoons were overrun. The account in Rohr's book does not like that term as a descriptive but it is fair to say that at least parts of the original positions were overrun. In all, eleven men died, (20%), thirty-five were wounded, (64.8%) and only eight men had no physical wounds. Considering that 10 to 1 places these men in about the same category as Custer, or the Alamo. With the situation preventing the full weight of artillery and air support to assist, even though there was some, the fight put up by these fifty-four men, for around four hours, is a testament to our Troopers!

The point here is that while this was indeed a near wipe out of two platoons, this is much closer to common than one will want to see if they were present at the fight! Our Troops in the initial fights in Vietnam, the ones who went into Cambodia in 1970, and many others, will all feel no one else can understand if they were not present that day! It doesn't get much worse than this if anyone lives! I am not making light of these men! You can't fight any harder! And that is what our Division is about!

Not every battle will be that desperate. But every Trooper who puts it on the line in a nasty, long, drawn out fight will know the feeling to a greater degree than it may seem. When we exclude others from our efforts to heal because "they weren't there" we shortchange both ourselves and those excluded others. This same feeling cuts us off from our regimental associations as well as other assets available to us as Veterans. To some that may not seem like a loss, but these other groups, which also have important roles to play cannot survive while we do not reach out to them as well as our immediate "combat buddies." I hope the point is made.

We are now preparing for our next reunion as a Division, in Reno, Nevada. We need you there and we can be of help to you as well. Be sure to get your reservations in and make plans to attend the events there as well as visit old friends and make a few new ones!

## TROOPER'S TALE Continued from pg. 3

he was shell shocked. The sun was extremely low on the horizon, but there was still enough light to make sure nobody was left behind as we pulled back, or so we thought. Jon and I provided cover for the retreat of our squads. When we got back to the safety of the company, it was almost dark, and we started counting heads. All my guys were accounted for, but all had received shrapnel wounds. Jon counted but came up with one missing. There was a companywide search, looking for the missing man. It turned out, it was Anders, the guy that had been wounded early on that Doc was helping when Doc himself was wounded. You don't leave men on the battlefield. Period!

Jon and I decided we should go back to look for Anders. Jon had been wounded and was still talking crazy. All his guys were wounded, as well as all of mine. Although I had sustained a fractured wrist, I just happened to be the only one who could still walk and knew about where the missing man was supposed to be. Doc said he was near the chicken coop. So, it was decided -I would go back and hopefully get volunteers to go with me. We also did not have authorization from the captain to undertake this mission.

I can't express the surprise, joy, gratitude I felt when more than enough men from other platoons volunteered to go with me. Back to that hellhole, in the middle of a bunker complex, where we had just taken about 16 casualties, and I forgot to mention -in pitch black. By this time, the sun had set, and we were under triple canopy so you couldn't see your hand in front of your face. SGT Rivera (an M-79 gunner from the third platoon) and I, along with 5 others, slowly made our way back up the hill. Since we couldn't see anything, we had to walk very slowly to avoid running into something and hold our hands out in front of our face to prevent something sticking in our eyes. In the still of night, we sounded like a freight train -or so I thought. After about 30 minutes, during which we had only covered about 50 meters, I decided to take desperate measures. I called and received lighting from the Battalion. They flew an aircraft overhead and dropped flares. One thing you learn in basic training is to never, never, never move when flares are lighting up the sky. You make sitting targets. But we had no choice. With the light of a flare, we could move about 10-15 meters, then stop and wait for the next flare.

If you have never walked through the jungle in the darkest of night with flares drifting overhead, let me describe what it is like. The slowly falling and drifting flare sends light through the trees and the shadows it creates are constantly changing. It is like the jungle is alive. You don't know what "synthetic" movement is, that is, the movement made by shadows due to the moving light source, or real movement -caused by something moving on the ground. It is a very eerie and unsettling feeling. When we got to the first set of hooches, we expected the NVA to open on us -but I believe that due to some serious praying, they remained silent. We continued to creep forward, under the effect of the eerie light patterns. After what seemed like an eternity, we came to the chicken coop. We then spread out and started looking for the wounded Soldier. After another forever, we rejoined and compared notes - no one could find him. I was certain we were at the designated spot, since there was only one chicken coop by these hooches.

Disappointedly, and with great reluctance and a sense of failure, I made the decision to withdraw while our luck still held (still no reaction from the surrounding NVA). Our next challenge was to re-enter the perimeter without some GI mistaking us for the enemy. By this time, our supply of air flares was no longer available, and we were moving again through a pitch-black jungle. We radioed the company that we would be approaching their position, and for all to hold their fire. This is no guarantee, because GI's in the high adrenaline state, the body is subject to in combat situations, will not always react by thinking out the rationale of their actions. Fortunately, we made it back into the perimeter and, for the first time, talked with the Company Commander regarding our mission. He was happy that we had undertaken that operation but was disappointed we came back empty-handed. He then proceeded to chew me out for taking the risk. He also put me in for a Silver Star.

No one slept very well that night as we were on high alert. The next morning, the Battalion Commander was very anxious for us to "take that bunker complex and find the missing GI." We moved out slowly and before we came to the hooches, we started taking heavy small arms fire. The captain called off our advance and requested aerial reconnoitering. Word came back that the hooches and bunker complex was about 1 click square in size. It was presumed to be a Brigade R&R spot for the NVA. Our artillery started pounding the area for about 30 minutes. The Air Force brought in 500# bombs and covered the area. That was followed by Napalm. We were given the order to move out, but again our advance was halted by gunfire. More artillery from FSB Speer. I heard one round explode close (you could hear the "wing-wings" -colloquialism for shrapnel that moves horizontally, vs. dropping in on top of you. I hit the ground. There was another round that followed the first. When the rounds started falling further away, I got up and began walking away. I heard a GI yell "Medic."

I went back to where the GI was standing over his buddy, SP4 Marquez, who had a 1" hole in the side of his helmet and head with blood oozing out of it. He was killed instantly from "friendly" shrapnel. I had been lying right next to him when the round landed. He was between me and death. I quickly thanked God once again for sparing me. The artillery and Air Force pounded the bunker complex for the rest of the day. That night, we were all alerted to the sound of a single gunshot coming from the hooches.

The next morning, we again prepared for a frontal assault on the bunker complex. We inched forward slowly. No fire. We soon got to the first series of hooches. Still no fire. The Air Force had done an excellent job. Sometime during the night, the NVA had moved out of the area and left behind the body of the missing GI. I was told that the NVA had strung up Ander's body to a tree with commo wire. By the time I got there, his body was on the ground, face bloated and dark, the eyes sightless. With one gunshot wound in his temple.

1LT Jack Downing <jdd3915@gmail.com>



Downing (L) Nelson (R)

**CONTACT THE SCRIBE TO SHARE YOUR 5<sup>TH</sup> CAV STORIES!**



## 12th CAV News



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



**SGT Fred C. Benning**  
WWI Ft Benning, GA  
new Namesake

Salute-Semper Paratus! An Airborne 'Strack' salute to Secretary of Defense, Peter B. Hegseth, taking the initiative to restore two of the world's most prominent defense facilities to their rightful and original glory. February 11, 2025, the order was signed to redesignate Ft Moore back to Ft Benning and Ft Liberty returned to its original name, Ft Bragg, February 14, 2025. Honored namesakes of this restoration, CPL Fred G. Benning was a DSC Awardee in WWI for Valor in Action at Exermont, France in the Meusse-Argonne Offensive, October 9, 1918. PFC Roland L. Bragg, awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart in the Battle of the Bulge WWII, Dec 16, 1944-end January 1945.

With all due respect to GEN Moore and the Moore

family, this was a proper decision by Secretary Hegseth to revert to the original names of these iconic bastions of tradition, history, and glory. GEN and Julia Moore are etched in history in the minds of all who served in the First Cavalry Division during Vietnam, by virtue of Joseph Galloway's Book, "We Were Soldiers" and the successive movie that brought us all into the consciousness of the public. I am sure that GEN Moore and Joe would agree that honoring the new namesakes in this way is a good decision that puts us back onto a path of sanity to preserve the established history of our country.

I went through Jump School at Benning in 1966. I have visited Benning several times over the years when it was named for GEN Moore, I had no problem with that but continued to refer to the post as Benning-Moore. I was assigned directly to the First Cavalry Division, 1st-12th (ABN), 1st Brigade. Rotating back, was assigned to Ft Bragg, 82D Airborne, B Company, 2D Battalion, 504th Infantry. Spent four and one-half years at Bragg, was married there and my first son was conceived there. I had a personal stake and some good memories there. When Bragg was renamed Liberty, it was like being shot in the gut and part of my soul had been sucked from me. Again, salute Secretary Hegseth for being bold enough to reassemble the foundations of defense that protect this country.

#### NAMING CEREMONY HONORS ONE OF OUR OWN

12th Cavalry legacy is in the forefront of the VA's presence. On 4 April 2025 the West Palm Beach, FL VA Hospital was designated and named to honor C Company, 1-12th Cavalry Trooper, Thomas H. Corey. West Palm Beach VA Facility is now, officially, Thomas H. Corey VA Medical Center, at 7305 North Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL 33410. Two, C Company, 1-12th Troopers attended the ceremony, Rich Valles, 1967-1968 and Thomas Crabtree, 1966-1967. Introductory music of "Officers and Gentlemen" opened the ceremony to release an honorary video produced by WPBVAHCS Medical Media, followed with special remarks by National President of VVA Jack McManus, Jerry Klein Vice President VVA Chapter 25 FL State Council, and Janet Alheit, Thomas's devoted caretaker, for 15 plus years. Brian Mast, FL U.S. Congressman (Iraq-Afghanistan Veteran) was guest speaker. Brian Corey (Thomas's son) closed out the presentation as keynote speaker, concluded by music outro "Officers and Gentlemen." After the ceremony the Corey family and other attendees congregated for lunch at the Plant House restaurant. Several of the key people involved in the push to have the facility named for Corey were recognized. Rich Valles and Thomas Crabtree presented Brian Corey with a Cavalry saber with C 1-12 engraved on it.

Thomas Corey served in C Company May 1967-January 1968. He was seriously wounded in Quang Tri, 31 January 1968, shot through the neck, the injury made him quadriplegic. He was officially medically retired from the Army in May 1968. He was awarded the Bronze Star with V, two Purple Hearts, an Air Medal, CIB, and an Army Commendation Medal. A native of Detroit, Corey relocated to West Palm Beach in 1972 where he served as an ombudsman and program specialist at West Palm Beach VA Medical Center and a Fisher House board member. In 1981 Corey founded and served as president for 21 years, Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 25, Palm Beach County. In 1991 the chapter was renamed Thomas H. Corey Chapter. From 1985-2005, Thomas served on VVA's National Board of Directors and as Secretary, Vice President, and President. He initiated the traveling Vietnam Veteran Wall as a stop in West Palm Beach. Corey led delegations to Vietnam 16 times, working with Vietnamese and Laotian officials to recover remains of American Soldiers listed as POW/MIA. Corey also took leadership in the efforts to study the effects of Agent Orange. He was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for his extensive work in Vietnam. Thomas H. Corey personifies our motto, 'Semper Paratus,' Always ready to do the right thing regardless of the roadblocks placed in the way. All the 12th Cavalry Regiment brothers 'Honor and Salute you' Thomas H. Corey! Corey departed from us in 2022.

#### REASONS TO CELEBRATE

For the 20th year gala capstone, 12th Cavalry Reunion, 9-13 September 2025, in Branson, MO, LZ Branson Hillside Hotel (Formerly the Welk), 1984 State Highway 165, 65616, we have 35 rooms currently blocked for our group. Loy, group sales representative, has assured us more rooms will be made available to us if these rooms are reserved by 1 July. We encourage all to make their reservations ASAP to accommodate the expectation that many of our Troopers will



**PFC Roland L. Bragg Ft Bragg new Namesake**

want to make this milestone event. Room rates are \$110.00 per night plus taxes of 12.35%. This rate is for two per room and includes the breakfast buffet. Charges for additional guests per room will be \$10.00 per guest and \$9.99 for breakfast. Rates apply Tuesday 9 September through Monday 14 September. Our favored event, the #1 Hits of the 60s, is scheduled for 2:00 pm, Thursday 11 September. Ron Rowden is working on a group outing at the 'Dolly Parton Stampede.' Fred Wilson is considering a full roll call ceremony for our 847 Fallen brothers in the Vietnam War, 1965-1972.

We do not have specific costs for Wednesday 10 September Reception/burger cookout or Saturday 13th banquet feed. We inform all by news flyer and registration form when these are made available. Likewise, do not have prices for 'Hits of the 60s' Thursday show tickets. We have 70 seats reserved for us. Make the '60s' a 'must do' this year as Amber pays special tribute to us in honor of our 20th year with them. For more information contact Fred Wilson at 740-331-1814, Ron Rowden at 314-616-8655, or Thomas Crabtree at 432-853-4851. Be sure to make your hotel room reservations now 417-751-0395-Specify 12th Cavalry Reunion!

#### D COMPANY 1ST-12TH VISITS LAS VEGAS

Troopers of Delta Company, 1-12th Cavalry got together in Las Vegas 1-4 April 2025. It was a gala gathering that hosted the marriage of LTC (RET) Chuck Rose and his new Bride Angela (Angie). A happy celebration for all who attended-Robert Ruiz, Walter Wilczak, Doug Warden, Tom Kjos, Andy Rios, Alex Barber. An awards ceremony

was held by COL (RET) Rob Choppa (President National Infantry Association), inducting several Troopers into the Order of Saint Michael (Patron Saint of the Airborne/Air Assault Corps). 17 Troopers were awarded this distinction. Receiving the award in person were COL (RET) John G. Gergulis; SGT Alex Barber; LTC (RET) Chuck Rose; SSG Doug Warden; SP4 Robert Ruiz; SFC Walter



**Robert Reiss Ft Benning 1965**

Wilczak. Troopers not present but inducted and acknowledged were SP4 David Corcoran; SP4 Donald Sines; MG Simon Trombitasa; SFC Julian Ynostra; SGT Thomas Crabtree; SGT Gerald Fell; SSG Mike Van Kirk; SP4 Frank Crary (DSC recipient 1966); SSG Robert P. March; SGT Don H. Trotter. An Airborne 'strack' salute to all and many thanks to COL John Gergulis and LTC Chuck Rose for their diligent work securing these awards. Thomas Crabtree and Doug Warden will be working to secure this recognition for other Troopers who were under the Airborne/Air Assault cloak during the years of 1963-1967.

I received an interesting letter from **Ronald Reiss**, Harpersfield, NY. Ronald served with C Company, 2-12th 1965-1966 and in the training phase 1963-1965 with the 11th Air Assault Division. 11th Air Assault was repatched into the First Cavalry 1965 after two years of training in Air Assault. Prior to repatching they were awarded 'Air Assault Badge' worn on right side pocket they had official orders continued person as members of the elite unit. In the 1st Battalion, 511th Infantry all were trained as 111s Light Weapons or 112s Heavy Weapons (Mortars). Although they made jumps off the struts loaded down with mortar baseplates, bipods, and barrels, they were not paid jump pay. He recalls many men who served at the time from all parts of the world and struck by the Combat Infantry Badges on Soldiers from WWII and Korea. At 81 he recalled memories of Sand Hill, Harmony Church, Victory Lodge, mess hall and of course K.P. and qualifying with M1, M14, M16 inspections, spit shining boots and polishing brass, guard duty and inspections. These were the experiences of pre departure to Vietnam in August 1965, this year 2025 marks 60 years since that historic day departing from Charleston on the USNS Buckner and USNS Darby that carried the 2D Brigade which 2-12th was assigned to at the time. He called the train ride from Benning to Charleston, a long lousy journey that was slow and sidetracked. It was an enjoyable letter that filled in some gaps preparing the Cavalry for their historic journey. Ron, if you are reading this column, I encourage you to do whatever you can to make the 12th Cavalry Branson Reunion 9-13 September. Will be looking for next two short stories about the sea voyage and your time served in Vietnam-Semper Paratus!

I want to say thank you to **Scott Jeter** for the manuscript you sent me. A well-documented and interesting story, straight and to the point. Troopers who might want a copy can contact Scott at <msjeter@cox.net> or call him at 405-514-5831. Scott served in D Company, 2-12th 1968-1969. It is a 45-page document titled, 'Walking Point' (one year in combat in the Vietnam War). The story is well organized from his time in school through ETS from the Army. Worth the read. Scott has given me permission to use his story in future columns. You will see some of it in the July-August issue.

#### WEIGHING IN PRESIDENT KAYE'S COLUMN LAST ISSUE

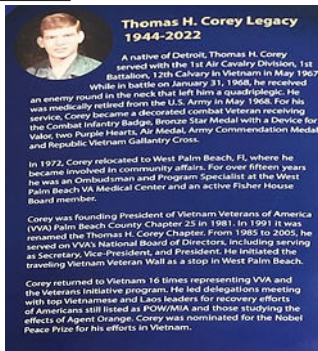
Three options presented for future issues of the *Saber* due to rising costs of printing and distribution; #1: is to continue as is one issue every other month and absorb loss; #2: is to continue as is but increase the subscription rate to break even; #3: is to decrease the frequency of publication from every other month to every third month. As one of the columnists, my preference is to increase the subscription rate. Most Troopers would be okay with this to remain in touch. I look forward to the paper every other month and read all columns. It is a wonderful way to enjoy that morning cup of coffee when it arrives. The *Saber* is an informative paper and keeps us in touch with ongoing activities that we might not otherwise be aware of. I have no problem paying an additional fee for every other month issue. That said, time to close out until the 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." TLC

'Boot to Boot' Crabtree Out!



**Receiving Order of Saint Michael Medal Las Vegas 4/4/25 L to Right Doug Warden-COL Rob Choppa-Walt Wilczak-Alex Barber**



**Thomas H. Corey Vietnam 1968**



## 7th CAV News



**Jack (Boz) Parente**  
143 Autumn Dr.  
Hauppauge, NY 11788-1039  
(631) 338-1365  
bozparente@gmail.com



Greetings, Garryowen Troopers! Welcome to the May/June 2025 issue of 7th Cav News. As many Vietnam Veterans know, there was a lot of satire, sarcasm, irony, snark, and farce associated with a combat tour during the war, but there wasn't a whole lot of actual humor. In this issue, **Buck Jones, Bravo 2/7**, has sent us a different kind of war story, one that made me smile. I hope it does the same for you.

Here's Buck: Boz, here's one of my funniest experiences: My father, MSG Bronell B Jones, deceased, served during WWII (Leyte Beach Invasion) and Korea (Frozen Chosin) and retired after 22 years of service, just as we got serious about Viet Nam. So, I grew up an army brat and one of the things my father told me was never to volunteer for anything. When I got to Cam Ranh Bay in February of '68 the daily drill before we got our unit assignments was 0 dark 30 wake up, chow call, then police call. We really got tired of the police call and the nighttime bunker guard, which was a real joke. The NCOIC would keep the Bravos and Charlies a little longer to use us as bunker "sergeants" and fill in the other 4-5 men in the bunker from permanent party, so we had cook's helpers, mechanics, clerks etc. as the guard team. We were given one M-16, one mag and 5 rounds, and were told to be sure to teach the other 5 guys how to use the M-16. I had thought they all had been trained, it turned out most of them were regular army and had not been M-16 trained. Anyhow we got really tired of these regular police call / bunker duty assignments and one morning at formation the NCOIC asked for a volunteer and a buddy from AIT, Dan Houtz, steps forward. He was not an Army brat and, just like my dad told me, I had told him *never* to volunteer for anything, but he was just plain tired of police calls.

Anyhow, the rest of us in the formation finally got our orders to the CAV and were told we were the luckiest SOBs in the Army as the CAV would fly out a hot meal every day because they had all the helicopters. Yeah, I think I'm still owed about 300 or so hot meals! Anyhow, when we got back to the barracks Houtz's gear was gone and the rest of us flew to Phu Bai, then on to Camp Evans. So now, very lucky me, 363 days later, I'm back in Cam Ranh on my way home. I'm doing the check-out drill - medical, finance, new jungle fatigues - and as I'm walking down the duckboard back to my billets, here comes this guy with a great tan, wearing shorts, Hawaiian shirt, zoris, sunglasses and a straw hat.

Walking toward me at about 20' he recognizes me and I him, and he yells, "Jones what are you doing here." I said I'm headed back to the world. I asked him what he was doing here, and he explained that when he volunteered at that formation a year ago it was for duty managing the in-country R&R ski boat dock on the bay. We then went down to his "hooch," which was a bunker with a refrigerator, lights and a stereo system. Needless to say, Houtz took advantage of the 150 day early out program and extended for about 30 days or so and went home with a hell of a suntan.

Buck is chapter president of C Co 2d Bn 7th Cavalry 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), 1st Cavalry Division Association, California Central Coast Chapter - *Honoring all who served. Vietnam 1968 - 69 'Pony Teams Six India'*

**I would like to send out Garryowen Happy Birthday best wishes to SGM (Ret) Jimmy Frank Capshaw** who turned 94 on 05May24. The Sergeant Major did two tours in Vietnam with The Cav, 1967-1968 and 1970-1972. Top Capshaw and his wife, Kitty have been married for almost 62 years. Kitty reports that they are doing much better following a year of health issues for both of them. They are very happy, still living in the same small Alabama town the SGM grew up in. Garryowen! SGM(RET) Jimmy Frank Capshaw. Happy Birthday! And, as always, Hello Kitty!

### **Stuff You Think About at Night by Boz**

It was the night of the new moon. The darkest night of that brutal spring. Battle fatigue and jungle silence had tempered the threat of imminent combat, and I was tired. We were all tired. The AO was evil. The newly constructed LZ Phyllis had been difficult to secure. Battalion losses had been high. Sleep had been rare.

We were in our ambush position for the night. The M-60 machine gun rested on the rotting old log, locked and loaded, pointed into the blackness. Next to the gun, an ammo bag filled with grenades and a pair of claymore detonators that would blow the mines along the trail. We knew what to do. We knew how to do it. We had done it all before. Let Charlie walk all the way into the kill zone. Wait. Be patient. Try to get all of them in the box. Let them clump up at that pile of brush we dragged across the trail. Then, do it. Blow everything. After, wait, stay silent. Don't move. Listen. If any survive, throw frags and call in the mortars. Stay low. Stay quiet. Never fire your weapon too soon. Never give away your position. Kill them all.

None of us ever really wanted to kill anybody, at least I don't think any of us did. I didn't, not seriously, not before Nam, but it became our job, to kill people, and now everybody's okay with that. When Charlie shows up we know exactly what to do. It's strange. Something happens. They hit the kill zone and reality changes. We become less human. More animal. A poisonous mix of fear and heart pounding excitement blends with training and muscle memory to create the most terrifying ultraviolet experience imaginable. Primitive, no doubt. Inhuman some would say, but I don't think so. I think it's natural, locked in our genes. Humans, especially the young males, have always loved killing each other. If they didn't love it so much, they would have stopped by now, right? It's the only explanation. We were just being human. Too bad.

Sixty-five minutes to go. Maybe it will be quiet all night. Dead quiet. Some guys say that it's the stillness, the blackness, the waiting, the silence, the not knowing. They say, "That's the worst part." That's bullshit. It's the fighting, the screaming, the killing, the dying, the utterly unexplainable violence of close combat... *that's* the worst part. The waiting part is okay compared to the rest of it... but damn, it sure is dark.

Charlie loves the dark. Same-same, every month under the New Moon. LZ Buttons, Hill 54, Ike, Lois, Jake, Grant, Andy, Joy, all of them during the week of the New Moon. That's when the real shit happens. Mister Charles gets serious during that week, when it gets really dark in the boonies. There's nothing darker than a jungle trail during a New Moon. Darker than a coal mine at midnight.

The sky, though... that clear black night sky. That's a different story. The sky in the boonies is amazing during the New Moon. Like it's on fire. Black fire. An uncountable number of stars. Stars I had never seen before. More stars than all the grains of sand on all the beaches of the world.

"Sixty-three minutes to go," I thought, as I stared deep into the Milky Way galaxy, hypnotized by its amazing expanse. It was something I had never imagined before 'Nam. We didn't have a sky like that back home, back in the clean world, on Long Island with its suburban shopping malls and nearby city lights washing out all but the brightest stars from our night sky.

Mixed in with the stars and planets and galaxies and nebula were satellites and comets and asteroids and great clouds of hydrogen gas mixed with black cosmic dust, and everything is in balance, orbiting everything else in an enormous cosmic dance, everything in eternal motion, everything moving. I wish we were moving... moving the hell out of this AO. Anywhere. Even to outside Quan Loi, with that red mud that built up on the soles of our jungle boots and burned out our legs in four clicks, and the dust that stained our skin redder and darker the longer we were there. But it don't mean nothin,' right? We ain't goin' nowhere.

Only an hour left. Gotta stay awake. Charlie's coming. Maybe now, maybe not now, but only an hour can be a really long time. Damn, it sure is dark..."

I am sorry to say that this will be the second year in a row when medical issues are going to keep my wife and I from attending our annual reunion. For Pam and I this was a high point of our year, and we always looked forward to seeing old friends and battle buddies, but old age and poor health are taking their toll and air travel is not getting easier. I know that many of Old Soldier are in the same position.

I would like to thank Garryowen Trooper Frank Kling for his inspiring and well-written story, "*A Life of Inspiration*," profiling Dave Domzalski who served in Vietnam from February 1968 to February 1969. The Dave Domzalski story had been in the works for almost a year, but I was not able to make any headway because chemotherapy had scrambled my brain. Frank offered to jump in and do it. And he did. Knocked it out of the park! Thanks, Frank, and please tell your wife she is a great editor. While we are on the topic, I would also like to thank Buck Jones for his great story about never volunteering for anything... except for maybe running the ski boat concession at Cam Ranh Bay. I hope to be able to publish more of Buck's stories in the future.

Usually when writing the 7th Cav News I hold the trigger down until my 2,000-word allocation is burned up, but this issue is going to be a little short. Circumstances caused me to blow the submission deadline for this issue, and it wouldn't be right for me to take further advantage of Tina and Dara who have both been as accommodating as humanly possible.

I hope that as many of our Troopers as possible will attend this year's reunion in Reno. That's it until the next issue. Boz, out.

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

## LRRP / RANGER NEWS

### **Continued from pg. 4**

because I could not guess his rank, I hesitatingly asked who the guy was outside the tent, who had waved me in. "Him? That's the First Sergeant. I see that you've already met him." With that response I just knew that I was in a far different unit and place than I had been accustomed to so far. But then, in May of 1967 I had been in the Army for almost 18 months, and the Engineers were the first and only unit that I had been assigned to. Damn - I still had a lot to learn.

The other first impressions that I have of this strange LRRP outfit still brings a grin to my face, but nevertheless it really emphasizes that I did not know what I was getting into, and that shot my personal anxiety quotient up and off the scale.

While I was still signing in at the orderly room. I realized that this outfit was what the name implied; that it was formed specifically to field teams to gather information and hard intelligence, much in the same manner as the old frontier scouts of American Western Lore.

As I was in the tent, an individual walked by the tent's front and said "Good Morning Top" to the First Sergeant in the lawn chair and kept on going around the tent. Now this guy was big! I was only 5'6" when I stretched and for four years in high school, I was the shortest one on the football team. Maybe not the lightest, but definitely the shortest. So, I was used to playing with the big boys - but this guy was huge! He was shirtless, was wearing some strange, camouflaged cloth pants that I had never seen before and his skin had been darkened by the tropical sun, but he still looked like a hulking gorilla posing as an NFL linebacker, or vice versa to me.

I looked to the clerk and asked him who, or what, that was that just went by... "Oh, that was SSG Torres - He's our Commo sergeant." *Commo Sergeant!*

*My God! If that's their commo Sergeant, just what in the hell do their field Troops look like?* I thought to myself - what am I doing here? And just what am I getting into? Over the next three days the rest of the training class trickled in from all over the place, it seemed. They came from various units that were scattered all over the First Cav's TAOR. And as they continued to arrive, I began to feel more and more out of place. I was one of only three radio operators in a class of approximately 42...and all of the others were infantry. And to make matters worse, from my perspective at least, they were all experienced infantry, as evidenced by the tales they related as we got to know one another in the tents.

Here I had thought that I had been anxious before, when I first reported into the engineering unit and having to learn a new radio set-up and its procedures. Now I was going through what amounted to a career change, as I realized the exact nature of this new LRRP unit and what my responsibilities would be. I would still be responsible for the radio, as a LRRP team's RTO, but in addition to my basic duties I was expected to be cross trained in all of the other team members' duties and responsibilities. In the back of my mind, I kept thinking of the special Forces brochures that I had picked up at the post office a lifetime ago.

This outfit, The LRRP Detachment, was operating on the same principle - independent and self-supporting 6-man teams with every man able to fill in for another. It was kind of gratifying to realize that I was getting what I had originally wanted in the service, but it sure was a circuitous route I had been given, and I was still coming in through the back door!



## 8th CAV News



James "Top Gun" Dotson  
P.O. Box 684  
Murray, KY 42071  
270-978-1075  
airmobile68@gmail.com  
www.8Cavalry.org



## HONORING OUR VETERANS AND THEIR STORIES

## Howard Bullard CSM, Retired (1960 - 1989)

I joined the 1st Cavalry Division in 1965, just before we deployed to Vietnam. I was part of the 1st Brigade, 2nd Battalion of the 8th Cavalry, which was Airborne at the time and stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia. We trained hard there, going through the necessary jumps and physical conditioning to prepare for combat. It was an honor to be selected for this historic unit. When we finally deployed, it was a long 30-day journey by ship, stopping in places like the Panama Canal, Guam, and Hawaii before reaching Vietnam. Once there, we operated out of a base camp and conducted missions in the Ia Drang Valley. That was a tough, intense year of combat. One story I'll never forget is how my brother, Robert, and I ended up serving together, even though he was in a different reconnaissance unit. When I was medevac'd out with malaria, the doctor went on R&R, so I ended up staying longer than expected. During that time, Robert came to visit me but couldn't access the non-commissioned officers club because of his lower rank. We ingeniously swapped ID cards, allowing him to come in with me. We had a good laugh about it later, but it struck us how easily things could have gone wrong - if one of us had died, the notification to our families would have been completely mixed up. Thankfully, that never happened, and we both made it home safely after that intense year of service in Vietnam.

## Al D. Rackley SSG, Honorably Discharged Veteran (1969 - 1969)

I went through Basic and AIT at Fort Lewis, Washington. After basic, I declined offers to go to OCS or a helicopter pilot school. Instead, I opted for non-commissioned officer training, earning my stripes at Fort Benning before deploying to Vietnam. Upon arriving in Vietnam in early March 1969 I was attached to C Company 2nd/8th, C Company, at that time, was set up on a six-day resupply schedule which meant all of the members of C carried around 70 to 80 pound ruck sacks that included 13 quarts of water on day one. The weight of the rucks plus the 90 or more-degree heat caused extreme discomfort. The realities of combat, came soon, seeing a dead person for the very first time as my unit killed two NVA on my first day in the field. The most intense engagement I participated in, was during a NVA ground attack against LZ Carolyn on May 6, 1969, near the Ho Chi Minh Trail. As a regimental size NVA unit began the attack by raining down rockets and mortars for about 30 minutes. I had gone into the bunker for safety. I came out of the bunker when the 'incoming' stopped, and I heard a bugle blow and then saw muzzle flashes as the NVA launched a ground attack. Bert Johnson and I were outside the bunker using an M79 grenade launcher and M16 to hold

back the NVA. Bert took a shard of shrapnel to the head and dropped to the ground. After dragging Bert to safety, I went to the next bunker, 20 yards away, to get a medic's attention. As I was returning to my bunker a rocket or mortar exploded behind me sending shrapnel into my back. All the men in my bunker were wounded that night. Overall, there were nine GIs KIA and over 160 WIA during this battle. There were approximately 200 dead NVA in and around the perimeter the next morning. We continued to clash with NVA regulars for the next seven months, finding their caches of rockets, rice, and bunker complexes, engaging in fire fights, sometimes up to four to five days of each week.

## Asdrubal "J.R." Rivera COL, Retired (1985 - 2013)

Since I was there in 1990 and that was my deployment to combat the Gulf War, I would like to share the preparation, the deployment itself, and what happened after. This experience would come to shape my career and perspective, as it gave me that invaluable combat experience and camaraderie that we had trained so hard for. When I found out I was going to be deployed, my initial reaction was one of readiness. This was what we had been preparing for all along, the reality that we had discussed many times before. There was the concern about leaving my newly wedded spouse behind, but overall, I felt a sense of acceptance. I knew our unit was one of the best, the main support battalion that everything flowed through, so I was confident in our capabilities. The deployment itself was fast paced, but the true change came after we returned home. Prior to this, the narrative had been about the lack of appreciation for those who served in Vietnam. It was the complete opposite. We met with gratitude and respect, our combat patch a badge of honor. The American people's mindset had shifted, finally welcoming home the soldiers who had performed their duty with such success. I came back prouder, not just for myself, but for my troops and our entire unit. Being in a leadership position, I saw firsthand how our accomplishments had earned the respect of both our fellow service members and the population at large. Gone were the days of being 'thrown at and spit at' - we were now embraced as the heroes we had become. This experience truly shaped my perspective and my career going forward.

## Avery W. Hall SFC, (1965 - 1966)

My buddy and I were drinking in the downtown guest house. As we stumbled out, I spotted two young ladies and talked to them. My friend warned me against it, but I couldn't resist. I caught up with them, trying to communicate despite only knowing two words of German and them knowing very little English. The woman said that she never wanted to see me again, punctuating it by hitting me on the head with her purse. I was smitten. Three weeks later, I tracked down where she lived and worked, meeting her at the hospital gate. We were together for two years before getting married and then blessed with 61 wonderful years as husband and wife. Though she's gone now, I still talk to my lovely bride every night. We may not be able to see each other, but we sure do have lively conversations. She's in a better place, with our Lord and Savior. I'm a believer, and I take comfort in knowing I'll be reunited with my angel someday.

**Contact the scribe to share your 8<sup>th</sup> Cav stories! SUPPORT YOUR UNIT LEGACY!**  
**If you were ever a part of <sup>th</sup>CAV, join their Association <www.8Cavalry.com>**

**THIS IS ABOUT WHAT WE ALL DID** by Matt Grills, American Legion Magazine.

**Vietnam War documentary focuses on information, lessons learned that those who served want Americans to know.**

A group of Atlanta Veterans has produced a documentary film to counter what it calls "decades of misinformation" about U.S. involvement in Vietnam.

Featuring commentary by historians and those who served, "Truths and Myths of the Vietnam War" examines the treatment of returning Veterans, media influence, and humanitarian acts by U.S. Troops - and challenges the predominant view that the war was unwinnable.

"None of us had any experience making a film, writing a script or any of this," says Jim Dickson, secretary of the Atlanta Vietnam Veterans Business Association (AVVBA) Foundation and a member of American Legion Post 201 in Alpharetta, Ga. "It was something we put our hearts into .... We'd seen things written (about the Vietnam War) and movies and so forth, and thought, 'Gee, that isn't really the way it was.' We knew there was a strong need for it."

The documentary was screened last year at the National Infantry Museum in Columbus, Ga., on March 29, National Vietnam Veterans Day. "Truth and Myths" has also aired on public television in Georgia and South Carolina, boosting AVVBA's hopes to get it on the air in every state. The biggest audience, however, has been online, where the 47-minute film can be watched or downloaded at AVVBA's YouTube channel. So far, it's topped 613,000 views and has received nearly 1,700 comments, mostly positive.

"I would say the primary response we've been getting is, 'Thank you,'" says David Naglieri, the Emmy Award-winning filmmaker who steered "Truths and Myths" from paper to screen. Among the emails he's received are messages from sons and daughters of Vietnam Veterans "who saw their dads suffer because of the scarlet letter imprinted on them due to their service," and widows thanking Naglieri and his team for "presenting a different narrative, something you don't hear or read about in school."

Actor Sam Elliott introduces the film, noting that "we owe it to these Veterans to listen to what they have to say about the war they served in" - about 2.7 million Americans during 16 years of U.S. involvement in Southeast Asia. More than 58,000 were killed, and some 300,000 wounded. Roughly three in 10 Vietnam Veterans are living today, the last of a generation of warriors that President Ronald Reagan in 1981 said "fought as bravely and as well as any Americans in our history. They came home without a victory not because they'd been defeated, but because they'd been denied permission to win."

James Robbins, dean of academics at the Institute of World Politics and author of "This Time We Win: Revisiting the Tet Offensive," says Reagan's words reflect the feelings of most Vietnam Veterans, nearly 90% of whom say they're proud of their service. Yet they're concerned that much of what has been reported or presented in films and schools about the war "is neither factual nor complete,"



he says. Rarely mentioned are the "unprecedented humanitarian acts" by U.S. Troops, says retired Army MG Patrick Brady, who received the Medal of Honor in 1969 for risking his life to evacuate 51 wounded men in four missions and using three different UH-1H helicopters.

As an example, he points to the 54th Medical Detachment, a helicopter ambulance unit that evacuated 21,435 patients - including 8,904 civilians and 531 enemy Soldiers - in a period of 10 months. Beyond that, between 1964 and 1970, civilian action missions by the 5th Special Forces Group alone built 1,003 schools, 398 medical clinics, 6,436 wells, 1,939 kilometers of road, 670 bridges and 129 churches. "I've often said humanitarianism was our great victory in that war," Brady says.

Yet returning U.S. Troops were, in some places, vilified. A Marine Corps Veteran recalls landing in California and being hit by garbage and feces thrown from a "hippie bus." A former Army captain describes being surrounded in a San Francisco terminal by men yelling insults. One stood a foot away and spat on his chest. "People would look at you, but they wouldn't make eye contact with you," says Army Veteran Bryan Tate about his arrival at Chicago O'Hare. "Truths and Myths" also looks at the war's political front. Where the North Vietnamese could not or did not win on the battlefield, they sought victory through propaganda. Combined with Soviet and U.S. Communist Party funding of antiwar organizations at home, this had an outsized effect on Congress and media coverage.

Finally, the documentary argues that the Vietnam War could have been won at several points using sensible strategies, saving thousands of lives. Rather than employing forceful measures at the outset, the Johnson administration chose a policy of "gradual escalation" - strongly opposed by military leadership. In addition, U.S. Troops had to fight under highly restrictive rules of engagement, protecting civilian lives but leading to more American casualties.

The success of operations Linebacker I and II in 1972 brought North Vietnam to the peace table, but Congress soon sharply reduced funding for South Vietnam. Meanwhile, China and the Soviet Union had increased their support for North Vietnam by 50% between 1973 and 1975, and the North invaded the South again in violation of the treaty. What followed was a massive wave of refugees fleeing the country, many perishing at sea. Hundreds of thousands of others were murdered, executed or starved.

More people died in the decade after the communist takeover than in the previous 20 years of war, says Leonard Scruggs, author of "Lessons From the Vietnam War: Truths the Media Never Told You."

The team behind "Truths and Myths" wants this information to contribute to, and perhaps even reshape, public perception of the war - and why Americans fought.

"We often hear that this is something that's long overdue," Dickson says. "We don't want to make one penny on it. We consider the film our enduring legacy for future generations."

He adds, "This is about what we all did, and to try to tell that there was a purpose to our service - that it was for an important cause."

Watch "Truths and Myths About the Vietnam War" at <avvba.org>



DOCUMENTARY SERIES on MIA VIETNAM WAR VETERANS

My name is Calvin Grimm. I am an Iraq War Veteran of the US Air Force, since my military service ended, I have become a filmmaker and am currently directing a documentary film series about Missing in Action (MIA) Veterans of the Vietnam War. We are starting with MIA Veterans from West Virginia, as that is where my studio and I are located but hoping to eventually cover all MIA Vietnam War Veterans.

Our goal is to help tell their stories because they didn't get to come home and tell it themselves. As you are probably aware, many of those MIA Veterans are members of the 1st Cavalry Division. We are attempting to locate and speak with anyone who may have served with these MIA Veterans, and we have already located some of their family members.

The project is called "Bring Them Home - The Story of our MIA Vietnam War Veterans." Here is the Facebook page, "Bring Them Home - The Stories of our Missing in Action Vietnam War Veterans" and recent press coverage on the local WTAP website, <https://www.wtap.com/2024/06/12/docuseries-about-mia-vietnam-veterans-wv-seeks-public-assistance/>.

The 1st Cavalry Division MIA Veterans we are currently focused on, and would like to speak with anyone who may have known or served with them are:

1) **SFC Joe Harold Pringle**, US Army, MIA Feb 2, 1968. Unaccounted for after the UH-1 "Huey" we were aboard and went down 12mi north of Da Nang. *\*\*note - we have been working with his son, Fred Pringle, for over a year on this project and he is our lead consultant. He would like to speak to, or possibly meet anyone who served with his father\*\**

2) **SPC4 Dean Calvin Spencer III**, US Army, Jun 7, 1968. Went underwater and became missing while crossing the Tran River on foot. *\*\*note - we have spoken to one Veteran who served with him, but are seeking more\*\**

3) **PFC Albert Harold Altizer**, US Army, Oct 8, 1969. Went underwater and became missing after his small boat submerged while crossing the Song Be River. *\*\*note - we have not been able to locate or contact any of his family members or anyone who served with him\*\**

It would be instrumental in helping us tell the Veterans' stories. If anyone who served with them could feel free to contact me at this email or via call/text at (805) 588-6999 at any time. Thank you for your time and any assistance you may be able to offer on this matter.

Calvin Grimm, Owner/Director - Lost Valley Studios  
(805) 588-6999, <lostvalleystudios@gmail.com>

BOOK of INTEREST:

*The RTO Soldier, Engineer, Disciple* by Jim Hilts



Vietnam, so beautiful yet so deadly. Over there, reality bursts upon you like a white phosphorus round. How disgusted I was with the war. No peace for the living, no dignity for the dead. Trained as an Embassy communications expert but serving as an infantry "grunt" radioman, the RTO was usually in the thick of the action. Enough to be awarded a Bronze Star.

This book started out covering a relatively short period of my "fairly interesting life"; a phrase I often used to describe my life to my kids and grandchildren. However, I soon realized that the Vietnam War was just a small portion of my life to date, albeit a significant one. Still, my life after Viet Nam has been by far the more important, richer and deserves the greater coverage. I think the one question that every Viet Nam Vet must ask himself is: "Why did God allow

me to come safely home?" I ask this question because war is a "crap shoot," that is you have little or no control over whether you are going to be killed or wounded. To function well as a Soldier, you must go forth despite your fears or worries. If you are a Muslim, Jew or Christian you must trust in God. If you do not believe in God, you must hope you are lucky. In either case you must conduct yourself with bravery and discipline otherwise you will go crazy. Now that I have lived through most of my life, I hopefully can answer that question. So, this book is not just another story about one Soldier's year in Vietnam; it is a memoir of my life, my "fairly interesting life."

The book follows four tracks. The first and most complete is my military career, both Active and Reserve. The second is my engineering career. The third follows the love of my life, my wife, Chris, and our family. Finally, the fourth track, weaving its way through the others, is the work of God in my life. For without Him, I would have come to nothing.

My book will be available at Barnes & Nobles bookstore and at Amazon, Google books and all digital outlets within 4-6 weeks. I will also be issuing links to all outlets for your use.

Jim Hilts  
<jimchrishilts@verizon.net>

PAST REUNION PINS

\$5.00 per pin

FREE Shipping

1990  
Georgia

1991  
Texas

1992  
Montana

1993  
Texas

1994  
Florida

1995  
Texas

1996  
Wisconsin

1998  
New York

1999  
Texas

2001  
Texas

2002  
Colorado

2004  
Wisconsin

2005  
Texas

2006  
Kentucky

2007  
California

2008  
Florida

2009  
Texas

2010  
Minnesota

2011  
Texas

2012  
Oregon

2013  
Texas

2014  
Illinois

2015  
Texas

2016  
Nevada

2017  
Texas

2018  
W. Virginia

2019  
Texas

2021  
Texas

2022  
Ohio

2023  
Kentucky

REUNION PINS ORDER FORM

\$5.00 PER PIN

Please list, or circle the pins you want & be sure to return the ad with your order form.

Requested Pins: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please list the years.

Total # of pins: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Due: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Form of Payment:

☐ Cash ☐ Check Enclosed (payable to 1CDA) ☐ Credit Card

(Service Charges Apply)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

NEW PINS

2024  
Kentucky

Lapel Pin  
3/4"  
\$5.00

1st Cav Div Assn Pin  
1.5"  
\$6.00





## 1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION HISTORIAN

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



### The 1st Cavalry Division on the Korean DMZ 1957-1965

Changing world conditions and the decision to reduce the Army by 100,000 Soldiers resulted in the reorganization of the U.S. Army's Infantry and Armored Divisions in 1957.

In the Far East, the United States agreed to withdraw all ground Troops from Japan. Specifically, as these changes were applied on 15 October, in ceremonies held in Tonggu, Korea, the colors of the 24th Infantry Division were retired and the colors of the 1st Cavalry Division were passed to the Commanding General of the former 24th Infantry Division, MG Ralph W. Zwicker. The First Team had returned, standing ready to defend Korea against Communist aggression. For the 1st Cavalry Division, this type of transformation was the "first" of three major reflagging ceremonies that will occur in its continuing history. Each of which will enable the Division to maintain its long heritage throughout its organizational life and at the same time, enhance its "warring" capabilities.

In parallel with the reflagging, the Division was reorganized with an authorized staff level of 13,748 personnel structured into five battle groups. Each battle group was a self-contained force trained to conduct independent operations when necessary. Specialized firepower support was provided by artillery and missile units armed with conventional ordnance and nuclear warheads.

The divisional organization composed of five (Pentomic) Battle Groups was developed in 1956 to meet the emerging needs of nuclear battlefields. The goal was to field highly mobile divisions with great fire power and supported by state-of-the-art communication systems and logistics. In the implementation of the Pentomic structure to the 15 divisions involved, and in most cases only the division names and the "flags" moved, not the personnel and equipment. Most Soldiers did not understand the rationale, and the unit morale suffered greatly.

Concurrent with the reorganization and reflagging of the 1st Cavalry Division to the pentomic concept, the 545th MP Company, the 61st, 77th, 82nd, and 99th Field Artillery Battalions, the 26th and 29th AAA Battalions and the 70th Tank Battalion, which had served so nobly in Korea and Japan, were inactivated and relieved from assignment to the 1st Cavalry Division.

The redesignated and reorganized 1st Cavalry Division was assigned the mission of patrolling the "Freedom's Frontier" Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). The Order of Battle under the Pentomic System consisted of five Battle Groups per division and four rifle companies per group. Because of its extended area of operation, the 1st Cavalry Division was allowed the implementation of five Battle Groups, the 4th, 5th, 7th, 8th, 9th and 12th Cavalry and the 1st Reconnaissance Squadron, 9th Cavalry. Each group operated as a self-contained independent force, the isolation of each like the cavalry forts during the early Indian Wars.

At that time, the 1st Cavalry Division was the only US division in direct contact with the enemy. If attacked by North Korea, there was a last line of defense plan in place that specified the amount of time (4 hours) each element had to hold its position and fight in place before being relieved. The objective was that the 1st Cavalry Division had to hold its position for 24 hours while the 7th Infantry Division (located south of the DMZ) could be moved up for support. Additionally



Camp Young FDC Hootch 1961

airborne and US Marine units from Okinawa, the 24th and 25th Infantry Divisions from Hawaii along with the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Lewis, Washington, would be deployed immediately should the situation warrant.

The 1st Cavalry Division spent the majority of its time in field operations patrolling along the southern border of the DMZ itself and adjacent areas in observation and listening posts which were manned 24 hours a day. During a typical thirteen-month tour, Troopers spent 193 days in the field, two weeks of daytime patrol followed by two weeks of nighttime patrol. In addition, combat patrols searched the surrounding areas at night. Other assignments included the building and maintenance of defense positions (trenches and bunkers) and training exercises. Training remained a number one priority for the Troopers and unit commanders.

In January 1958, the largest training exercise in Korea since the end of hostilities, Operation Snowflake, was conducted. US Troops, combined with the Republic of Korea, Turkish and other UN units participated in maneuvers in deep snow and sub-zero weather. In May, this exercise was followed by Operation Saber which was designed to test the tactical, logistic, and administrative condition of the Division. In August, Operation Horsefly utilized long range Troop airlifts and a combined infantry/tank force in an attack on an "enemy" airfield.

One of the most unique, and certainly most outstanding units of the 1st Caval-



DMZ Camp Young 1961 sign

ry Division, was the Demilitarized Zone Police Company (Provisional). The 150 Troopers and officers of the company had the important mission of maintaining law and order in the United Nations Command section of the demilitarized zone forward of the Division sector. In addition, the unit had responsibility for civil control of Tae Song Dong, a small village located in the DMZ, which was under control of the United Nations.

An all-volunteer outfit, the company, composed of a headquarters platoon and three line platoons, performed its mission 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by manning observation posts and patrolling in and along the demilitarized zone. One platoon would cover the zone in the daytime and two were assigned to night operations. A patrol consisted of three men, carrying the equipment that they needed for their specific mission. They always reported every thirty minutes. Diligent performance was achieved by screening applicants for ability, experience, and intelligence. Duty was rugged, but high spirits were maintained by the keen sense of mission importance shared by members of the unit.

Unlike most of the other subordinate units of the Division, The DMZ Police Company had never been in combat, nor did it have a long history. However, in its short life span, it constantly performed one of the most important and toughest duties of the Free World defense. On 1 April 1960, the DMZ Police Company was inactivated and its security mission, along with assigned personnel, was transferred to the 1st Reconnaissance Squadron, 9th Cavalry.

The 1st Cavalry Division had taken over the facilities of the former 24th Infantry Headquarters Compound located in the western defense corridor at Bong il Chong in the Paju City area. Previous tenants, the 1st Marine Division, had relocated the summer villa and converted the rice paddies at the entrance to the valley into an attractive lake. By the time the 1st Cavalry Division arrived, they were able to be billeted in permanent Quonset huts which had been constructed during a major program to improve the living conditions of the Troops.

In 1959, the 1st Cavalry Division made several modifications to its headquarters installation and filled in the lake at the entrance to create a parade ground. It was named "Brown Field" in honor of PFC Melvin L. Brown, D Company, 8th Engineer Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for heroic actions on 4 September 1950. Along with the parade ground, the camp landscape was further altered by the construction of a gymnasium and theater. After being designated a headquarters compound for many years, the installation was redesignated "Camp Howze" on 25 March, 1960 in honor of MG Robert L. Howze, Medal of Honor recipient and the first commander of the 1st Cavalry Division from 1921 to 1925 at Fort Bliss, Texas. Camp Howze was deactivated and turned over to the South Korean Army in 2005.

In 1962 the 1st Cavalry Division was the first division to be totally equipped with M14 rifles, M60 machine guns, M79 grenade launchers, Claymore mines, and Huey helicopters for "dust off" medical evacuations. In the spring of 1963, units received H-19, H-21, and H-37 helicopters. The Division conducted extensive air assault familiarization and training. In order to recruit potential helicopter pilots, personnel records were screened to determine individual results of initial induction testing. All Troopers who had scored well were asked to volunteer for helicopter training. After passing a flight physical, all who volunteered (regardless of time remaining on their tour of duty) were transferred to Fort Rucker, Alabama for pilot training.

Duty in the DMZ was hazardous duty and "alerts" were continuous. On 23 November 1962, A Troop, 1-9th Cavalry, manning Outpost Susan, was attacked by a barrage of grenades that killed one Trooper, SP4 James A. Johnson, and wounded another. On several occasions in 1962 and 1963, Troopers were attacked by marauding North Korean soldiers. Less than a year later, on 29 July 1963, a jeep patrol of A Troop, 1-9th Cavalry was ambushed, killing PFC Charles T. Dessart, III and PVT David A. Seiler. In the resulting pursuit of the raiders, another Trooper, CPL George F. Larion, was killed on 30 July.

The 1st Cavalry Division remained headquartered at Camp Howze until 1 July 1965 when it was reorganized as the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), officially activated at Fort Benning, Georgia and prepared for a new mission. It was made up of personnel and equipment resources of the 11th Air Assault Division (Test) and brought to full strength by transfer of specialized elements of the 2nd Infantry Division. One month later, the 1st Cavalry was enroute to Vietnam to prove the effectiveness of airmobile operations. The personnel and equipment of the former 1st Cavalry Division, which remained in Korea, were reorganized and redesignated as the 2nd Infantry Division.



B Troop, 1-9th CAV 1962



2-8th CAV patrol 1964

Source: Written by William H. Boudreau with minor corrections and some additions. Taken from his web page, which is no longer on the web, and was previously printed in SABER in 2015. Harry served with the First Team in Japan after World War II and as the 1st Cavalry Division Historian until his death on 15 June 2014.



Military Police date unknown



15th MED/15th FSB/15th BSB

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



From the 15th Medical Battalion Association website are the following recent deaths and obits: Valerio Dobrich and Larry L. Ash.

**VALERIO DOBRICH** Valerio was born August 20, 1942, in Brovinje, Croatia. At age eight, Valerio emigrated from Croatia to Trieste, Italy, where he lived until age 14, when his family immigrated to the US and lived in Queens, NY. He became a United States citizen at 19 and was drafted into the U.S. Army at 22.

Valerio and his wife were on vacation, June 2024, in Europe when he suffered a heart attack on their third day there. He passed away a week later in Pula, Croatia. It then took weeks to have his body cremated, paperwork completed, and clearance from the US Embassy to bring him back to the United States.

Valerio served in Vietnam as a combat medic in the 15th Medical Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, earning 2 Bronze Service Stars. Nothing more stated.

After completing his service, he worked as an electrician for 39 years, including 23 years for the NYC Transit Authority. He owned his own business, Dobrich Electric, in Cobleskill, NY, and served as an electrical inspector in Albany, NY. He was a 100% disabled Veteran who had lost a kidney and underwent two open-heart surgeries due to his time in Vietnam. He was a lifelong learner, constantly pursuing new skills and ideas and reading broadly. It is reported Val was an avid gardener who enjoyed growing his own food, especially figs and radicchio. He was particularly interested in genealogy, researching the history of his family and home region of Istria, Croatia for over twenty years, and authoring a book about his findings for his family.



**LARRY L. ASH** Larry passed away on January 27, 2025, at the age of 75. He was born on July 15, 1949, in Marietta, Georgia. Larry served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. In Vietnam, Larry was a door gunner in the Medevac Platoon of the 15th Medical Battalion. It is said that he did an excellent job protecting the Medevac helicopter when the aircraft started receiving enemy fire. Larry was a charter member of the 15th Medical Battalion Association and attended many reunions until his health prevented him from attending.

Although not mentioned in his 15th MED Assn obit, Larry told me that before being a MEDEVAC door gunner he was an 11 Bravo infantryman in A 2-12 Cav, Ace High. To my knowledge, Larry was in MEDEVAC after I left in July 1970. I

never met him. So, his time in A 2-12 Cav had to have been '69-'70. A rough estimate, but better than not knowing.

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

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

NEW MEMBERS:

SSG AKLEY, JUSTIN TX 3CR  
WO1 ALKHOURY, WILLIAM TX 1- 553  
PFC AVALOS, MATTHEW R. TX B 1-9C  
SGT AVERY, LEEZA TX A 1-115BDE  
SSG BAEZA, JORGE TX 2-7C  
SGT BAKER, ROBERT C. CA 8ENG  
CPT BARABER, NICHOLAS FL 1-15BSB  
CPT BATES, BORIS AL HHB 1-82FA  
CPT BAYLESS, CHARLES GA C 1-9C  
MAJ BETTERHEAD, ELIZABETH TX 4-9C  
SPC BLACK, COLBY ME 1-12C  
SSG BOTTOMLEY, JUSTIN CO A 1-7C  
PFC BOYD, GAGE FL B 1-8C  
SP-4 BURKE, DAIVD LEE IN 1-77  
E-4 BUTTS, BYRON TX 15AG  
SPC CAUDLER, DENNIS L. TX CS 1-7C  
2LT CLARK, ALAN TX HHB 2ABCT  
SPC CLARK, ZURIEL AZ D 1-82FA  
1SG COLLIER, JONATHAN TX A 1-553DSSB  
PV2 COLON, CRISTOBAL T D 6-56C  
CPT CROSS, RICHARD PA B 1-227  
LTC DAVENPORT, CHRISTOPHER SC HHC 1-115BSB  
E-4 DAWSON, LARRY E. CAA 2-20ARTY  
PFC DOMINGUEZ, DANIEL CA HHC 1 1CD  
SSG EASTERHOUSE, JEFFREY SCOTT TX B 3 82FA  
MR. EVANS, GABRIEL LA 1462 ASSOC  
SPC FLORES, ELIAS TX A 2-8C  
SPC FOEGE ZACHARY WI 1-7C  
CPT FRAZIER, FININA TX HHC 2ABCT  
CPL GILKEY, ALPHONZO LEON JR TX HHC 1-2ABCT  
2LT GRIMES, NICKOLAS IN C 1-8C  
SGT HALGAT, JOHN TX B 1-615BSB  
CPT HERNANDEZ, RICHARD A. TX 1-1CD  
SPC HERRERA, PEREZ JOSE OH A 2-12C  
PFC KENNEDY, MAXIMILIAN J. AZ C 1-82FA  
PFC KLINE, KYLE MI A 2-12C  
SPC LAMPKINS, KILIN B TX D 2-227ACB  
MAJ (RET) LEPORI, KENNETH B. TX HQ DIVARTY  
CPT LIEDMAN JACOB H. TX 2-8C  
PVT LLOYD, GLENN A. TX D 3-227AVN  
E-3 MATHNEY, CAISON TX 3CR  
MR. MOHLER, ROBERT PA 173 L-ASSOC  
SPC MORALES, MATTHEW TX B 2-5C  
SGM MUNROE, RYAN P. TX C 1-9C  
SGT MURRAY, BRENT TX B 1-115FSB  
SGT OLIPHANT, DAIVD TX B 2BDE  
PV2 OSTROM, BRANDON J. TX 615AHB  
SPC OTHOUDT, AARON MN 1-45ADA  
SP4 PADILLA, ORLANDO NM C 1-9C  
E-2 PEAVY, DIEGO J. IL B 1-82FA  
MRS. RESCORLA, KIMBERLY NJ 174 L-ASSOC  
SGT REYNOLDS, MICHAEL AL A 1-227ARB  
PV2 ROGERS, BILLY J. TX D 4-9C  
E-4 SABIN, ANDREW WI E 115FSC  
1LT SCHEFFLER, JOHN TX B 1-12C  
MR. SHEERS, BILL PA 1465 ASSOC  
PV2 SHEPHERD, CARLY MAE OR A 3-16FA  
SGT SIMMONS, MATTHEW TX D 1-227ARM  
CW4 (RET) STEELE, SHANE TX 1-8C  
CPT SUH, DON TX HHC 1-1CD  
SSG SUMMERFORD, BRANDON TX A 1- 5C  
SSG SWANK, CASEY TX A 2-8C  
PFC SWANSON, WILLIAM ID HHC 2-7C  
MR. TAFOYA, DANIEL TX 1463 ASSOC  
SGT TOMLIN, MACKENZIE TX 3-717MI  
2LT VASSALOTTI, JUSTIN TX 2-12C  
MR. VAUGHN, CLAYTON TX 1464 ASSOC  
E-5 WIGGINS, DAVID WA C 2-8C



TAPS:

We were notified of the following deaths:  
**ABODEELY**, COL (RET) Joseph E., D Co, 2-7 CAV, 1968-69. 25 April 2025.  
**ADAMS**, SP4 Vester, 1-5 CAV, 1963. 17 April 2025.  
**ASH**, Trooper Larry L., A Co, 2-12 CAV & 15<sup>th</sup> MED, 1969-70. 27 January 2025.  
**BECK**, SP4 William "Satch," A Co, 1-7 CAV, 1965-66. 19 March 2025.  
**CRISP**, MSG George T., G Co, 1-30 FA, 1967-68. 19 April 2024.  
**ECHTERLING**, SSG Michael J., H Co, 75<sup>th</sup> INF, 1968-69. 17 March 2025.  
**GUINN**, SSG, George C., HHC, 1CDH, 1971. 3 April 2025.  
**HASTE**, SP4 Larry D., B Co, 1-5 CAV, 15SS, & 229 AVN, 1971-72. 11 March 2025.  
**JACKMAN**, COL Timothy, 15MED, 1970. 30 March 2025.  
**KOLNOK**, SGT Michael J. Jr., A Co, 1-7 CAV, 1968-69. 27 November 2024.  
**SENSKE**, SGT Robert W., HHC, B Co, & C Co, 2-7 CAV, 1967-68. 11 March 2025.  
**SMITH**, SP4 George P., C Co, 1-12 CAV, 1964-66. 15 June 2024.  
**WOOD**, CPL Robert D., HHC, 2<sup>nd</sup> BDE, 1970-71. 27 March 2025.

ACTIVE-DUTY TAPS:

We have been notified of the following non-combat Active-Duty deaths.  
**RIVERA-COLON**, PFC Christian L., B Btry, 2-82 FA, 2024-25. 8 March 2025.

OTHER REUNIONS:

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

**27<sup>th</sup> MSB 20 Year Reunion, 26 July 2025, 1100-2200.** Belton Lake Outdoor Recreation Area. POC is Ricardo "Rico" Cruz, (254) 423-1071 or <[ricardocruz-rivera@yahoo.com](mailto:ricardocruz-rivera@yahoo.com)>.

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

*Have your upcoming reunions  
posted here!*

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

## LODGING

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

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

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

## RV PARKING

Unfortunately, the GSR is closing their RV park in May 2025. However, I have done the homework for you, in locating additional options for RV parking during the reunion.

River West Resort - (775) 322-2281, 1300 W Second St, Reno, NV  
(approximately 4.7 miles from the GSR)

Shamrock RV Park - (800) 322-8248, 260 Parr Blvd, Reno, NV  
(approximately 5.5 miles from the GSR)

Keystone RV Park - (775) 324-5000, 1455 W 4th St, Reno, NV  
(approximately 4.6 miles from the GSR)

Victorian RV Park - (775) 356-6400, 205 Nichols Blvd, Sparks, NV  
(approximately 3.3 miles for the GSR)

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

## REUNION EVENT OVERVIEW

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

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

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

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

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

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

## THE BEST PART OF THE REUNION

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

## OFFICIAL NOTICE

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS – REUNION 2025

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

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

**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President**  
**Foundation Executive Trustee**  
**Foundation Trustee**  
**10 Board Members**

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

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

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

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

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

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







2024 Reunion Photos, Louisville, KY

REUNION SILENT AUCTION BASKET COMPETITION

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

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



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

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

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

**SATURDAY JUNE 14**  
0730-0945 Purple Heart Breakfast\*  
0900-1100 General Membership Meeting  
0900-1500 Registration Desk Open  
0900-1800 Gift Shop Open  
0900-2400 Reunion Room Open  
1200-1400 Unit Lunches\*  
1745-1845 Cocktails (Cash Bar)  
1900-2230 Association Banquet\*

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

MAIL TO:

1\*CAVALRY DIVISION ASSN REUNION, 302 N. MAIN, COPPERAS COVE, TX 76522-1705

The 77<sup>th</sup> Annual ICDA Reunion is at the Grand Sierra Resort & Casino, 2000 E. 2nd St. Reno, NV (800) 648-8080, June 11-15, 2025.

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

\*\*REFUNDS: Cancellations must be received by 5:00pm May 1, 2025, to our office (254-547-6530) for a refund. Registration fee is non-refundable.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

	Quantity		
<b>THURSDAY JUNE 12</b>			
* Bus Pass: Truckee Riverwalk District	_____	\$ 10.00	\$ _____
* President's Reception/Muster Cash Bar, Buffet	_____	\$ 45.00	\$ _____
<b>FRIDAY JUNE 13</b>			
* Legacy Breakfast	_____	\$ 45.00	\$ _____
* Ladies' Luncheon	_____	\$ 40.00	\$ _____
<b>SATURDAY JUNE 14</b>			
* Purple Heart Breakfast	_____	\$ 36.00	\$ _____
* Unit Lunch (Circle your unit) 5C 7C 8C 9C 12C ENG AVN ARTY HQ LARP	_____	\$ 53.00	\$ _____
* Association Banquet (Circle your unit) 5C 7C 8C 9C 12C ENG AVN ARTY HQ LARP	_____	\$ 60.00	\$ _____
<b>SUNDAY JUNE 15</b>			
* Group Breakfast	_____	\$ 36.00	\$ _____
* LARP Breakfast	_____	\$ 36.00	\$ _____
REGISTRATION FEE (before May 1, 2025) (For member only, not guests)	1	\$ 40.00	\$ _____
Active Duty w/ID	_____	\$ 20.00	\$ _____
Reunion Donation	_____	Donation	\$ _____
Saber Newspaper Renewal (\$20 per year or \$75 for 5 years)	_____		\$ _____
REGISTRATION FEE AFTER MAY 1, 2025:		\$ 50.00	\$ _____
GRAND TOTAL			\$ _____



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 **Thursday, July 3, 2025.**  
Please send to [Memberships@1CDA.org](mailto:Memberships@1CDA.org)

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER



Next meeting is Wednesday, **July 23, 12:30** at the **Hayes Marina**, Chester, CT, 06441. All members, prospective members and guests are invited no matter what branch of service. Call president Keith Moyer for details, 860-885-4330 or email [<kpmoyerco@hotmail.com>](mailto:kpmoyerco@hotmail.com).  
L-R: Al Johnson, Glen Bentz, Bob Waz, Jack Kranyak, Tom Uznanski, Tom McBriarty.



COL Dawson and Robin Bartlett

providing reflections on his service in the post-9/11 Global War on Terror. He discussed how the Army has evolved in structure and doctrine to remain the preeminent fighting force in the world. A highlight of his discussion was how the Army is prepared today to combat terrorism and interdict enemy forces in various parts of the globe. He also discussed changes in Army policy for the care of current and future Veterans. We learned how Army strategy has changed since the Vietnam War as well as how it has stayed the same.  
The NY/NJ Chapter will hold our next meetings on **September 20** and **October 25**, starting at **10:00 am** at the Elks Lodge in Ridgefield Park, NJ. Guest

speakers TBA. Our meetings are open to all service members regardless of branch, division or unit assignment. We welcome spouses, relatives, friends and interested parties. There are no dues or charges to attend. Coffee and a buffet lunch is served and a donation to the chapter is requested.  
To be added to our email list, send an email to [<rbbartlett01@gmail.com>](mailto:rbbartlett01@gmail.com) or call Robin Bartlett, Chapter President at 201-856-7530. Please join us to greet old friends and make new ones.



NY/NJ group photo

FLORIDA'S FIRST COAST CHAPTER



You congratulate yourself. You finally retired and moved to Florida, the state with no income tax. You found a condo with a view somewhere between Switzerland and Yulee. And yet you still miss your 1st Cav Days. You read this and say, "I'm going." "Hope they have

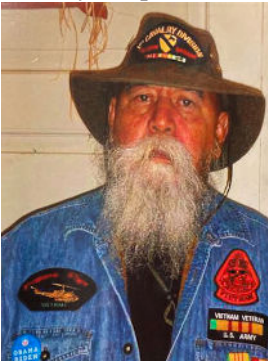
something of interest going on."  
Well, between your lunch order and its delivery, our programs in the past few months have included briefings on City Rescue Mission, creating your financial security, American Legion briefing, women's cancer awareness.  
In other words, this is a chapter of 1CDA that participates in the community. So, if you live north of Ormond Beach, south of St. Mary's, and east of the Okafanokee Swamp why are you not joining us?  
And you will need to get your official Florida's First Coast Chapter cap and shirt to avoid the fine that you see displayed, and shortly to be collected, here. Your first meeting out of uniform is forgiven.

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION CHAPTER

In our April 2025 chapter meeting we welcomed Dr. Richard Love who spoke about his experiences living, working, and studying in the USSR at the time of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Dr. Love is a professor of national security strategy at National Defense University's College of Information and Cyberspace.



On 29 April, Chapter President and Vice President Linda Jantzen and Gordon Tillery represented the 1st Cavalry Division Association at an interment ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery honoring SGT Fabian Mariscal Contreras at the request of his daughter. SGT Contreras (1943-2024) served in Vietnam with B Company, 27th Maintenance Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division from December 1965-January 1967.



Fabian Contreras



Photos on left are Chapter President Linda Jantzen presents a coin to Mrs. Carol Contreras and Fabian Contreras' family: (L to R) daughter Chavella, wife Carol, and daughter Wenonah.

Fabian was American Indian (Apache) & Mexican from the deserts of Arizona. His wife and two daughters loved and adored him. They told us he was very proud of his time in the 1st Cavalry Division, and he wore his Stetson or 1CD baseball cap everywhere. The family made a quilt featuring the 1CD patch for him.



Handmade Quilt

NY/NJ CHAPTER

Our recent meeting welcomed **Colonel Matt Dawson** who is the 2024-25 US Army War College Fellow at the Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies at Columbia University. COL Dawson is an Army Infantry officer with more than 20 years of experience. He has served in leadership and staff positions in the US, Korea, Europe, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Afghanistan. His most recent assignment was in the Office of Security Cooperation at the Embassy in Iraq.  
COL Dawson spoke with chapter members



ATTENTION  
CHAPTER OFFICERS/POCs:

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

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

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

HAVE YOUR CHAPTER NEWS  
UPDATES POSTED HERE!

SEND US YOUR CHAPTER PHOTO!

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

Send your submissions to:

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

IF YOU DO NOT BELONG TO A  
LOCAL CHAPTER

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

Refer to the Chapter Index found on next page.



CHAPTER INDEX

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

**COLUMBIA-WILLAMETTE**  
Pres: Terry Low  
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'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 11am at Camp Knox Masonic Lodge #919, 1158 N. Dixie Hwy, Radcliff, KY.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

302 N. Main St Copperas Cove, TX 76544

254-532-2075

1stCavGiftShop@gmail.com

WE OFFER STETSON RE-SHAPING!  
(FOR DONATIONS)

Get all your Cav-Tastic souvenirs here!

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

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

We accept telephone orders with payment by MASTERCARD, VISA, DISCOVER or AMERICAN EXPRESS or you can order online at shop.1CDA.org using your credit card.

Printed Catalogs Are Available for \$5.00!

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

Stop by to visit the  
Crossed Sabers Gift Shop  
at the Reno Reunion  
to check out some new merchandise &  
meet the new Gift Shop Manager, Tisha!


GOT CAVALRY HISTORICAL QUESTIONS?  
Did you know we have a 1CDA Historian?  
Reach out to Dennis Webster with any questions,  
or information regarding 1st Cavalry Division history!  
Dennis.Webster7@gmail.com or 254-220-2164



From the  
Director's Desk

Office of 1CDA

WE SUPPORT



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

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

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

**IF YOU'RE VISITING FT CAV  
(FT CAVAZOS/FT HOOD)**

If you’re visiting Fort Cavazos, be sure to visit the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Headquarters (Bldg. 28000). They have a free 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Walking History Tour. The tour is outdoors. It starts at the south entrance of Heritage Hall (1<sup>st</sup> Cav HQ) and walks around Cooper Field. Open to the public. If you want to watch from the comforts of your home, check out this link:  
<<https://youtu.be/zE5npJiKpUo>>

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

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

**COMMEMORATE A  
FALLEN COMRADE**

with our **Brick & Paver Campaign**

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

**BULLETINS:**

**As of 1 January 2025**

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

**1 July 2023**

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

**1 January 2022**

**ALL Bounced Checks will incur a \$25 fee.**

The next *Saber* newspaper is the **July / August 2025** edition.

Deadline for submissions of your stories or photos is **Thursday, July 3, 2025.**

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

**LOOKING FOR 9<sup>th</sup> CAV SCRIBE**

We still do not have a 9th Cav writer. Consider sharing your 9<sup>th</sup> Cav stories and write for the 9th Cav column.

Please call the office or email us at <[Programs@1CDA.org](mailto:Programs@1CDA.org)>

**SUPPORT YOUR UNIT LEGACY!**

***We want to hear from YOU!***

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

Share your treasured thoughts with your 1st Cavalry Division Association Family.

Items for submission are due the 1st of every odd month; Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept, Nov

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

***We THANK YOU for your service!***

**DONATION CHECKS**

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

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

***Many Thanks!***

**USEFUL VETERAN ASSISTANCE INFO:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**SPECIFICALLY FOR TEXAS VETERANS**

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

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



1ST CAV VEHICLE MEDALLION

NEW ITEM!!



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

Embossed Aluminum Medallion

1CDA Cav Medallion Order Form  
Full Color Metal Cav Patch, 3"x 2", 0.07" thick,  
Embossed Aluminum Medallion  
with 3M Automotive Grade Adhesive Back

\$30.00 ea

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

Form of Payment:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FREE  
SHIPPING

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!  
We are restocked with Tribute & Vietnam Shirts  
Both are available in short sleeve & long sleeve!

TRIBUTE SHIRTS

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



Front



Back Design

1st Cavalry Division Shirts Order Form

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

FREE SHIPPING

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

Description: Black shirt w/white Cav patch

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

CIRCLE YOUR PREFERRED SIZE

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

Description: Gray shirt w/black Cav patch

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

CIRCLE YOUR PREFERRED SIZE

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

Form of Payment:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SHIPPING & HANDLING IS FREE

VIETNAM SHIRTS

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



Front



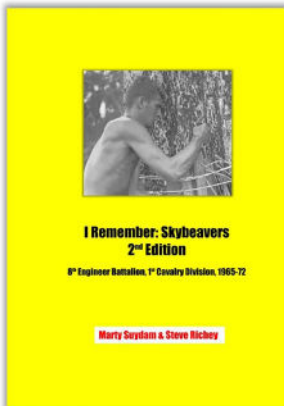
Back Design



## ENGINEER News



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



This year 2025 is the 60th anniversary of the start of the 1st Cavalry Division's deployment to Vietnam 1965-1972. We decided to publish a series of articles in each 2025 edition of the *Saber* from extracted and selectively edited from the book, *I Remember Skybeavers*, 2nd edition.

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

Of note, the second edition included a change in the cover picture from the 1st edition (a grader being lifted by CH-54). The 2nd edition picture was taken in late 1969 to early 1970. We were never able to name the Combat Engineer. To the first person who can positively identify and name the man, we will send a free copy of the book.

The prior installments in *Saber* were 1965, 1966-1967, 1968-1969. This, the last column extracted from the Preface, is about 1970-1972, a period when the battalion was reduced to a single company, C Company augmented with equipment from HHC Equipment platoons, then renamed the 301 Engineer Company.

## 1970-1972

During this period of time, 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 can't tell what was there before an Arc Light strike because they completely destroy the entire area and everything that's 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 very effective. It actually 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 very 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, with local females for rent, 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 couldn't hear the exploding rounds. The Cav was preparing to leave and closed down 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 didn't 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 couldn't 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 enemy 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 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.

See Preface Figure 8 for a final request as US Forces departed Vietnam.<sup>1</sup>

*Preface Figure 8 Extract from Senior Debriefing Report 25 Jun 1972*

4. (C) Experiences in Command.

a. Concept of Operations: The size of the AO in mid-December 1971 (and the deployment of Brigade forces) was inconsistent with the mission of dynamic defense of the Long Binh/Bien Hoa/Saigon complex. This situation dictated the shift of combat power closer to Bien Hoa to protect the northern approaches and occupy the area vacated by the Royal Thai Army Volunteer Force. Two factors inhibited the speed with which the reorientation of forces could be accomplished. First, the Brigade was dependent upon a heavy Forward Operating Base (FOB) Mace, at the base of Nui Chua Chan Mountain. This sub-installation had to be dismantled and demilitarized. Concurrently, the Forward Supply Element of the Army Aviation Support facilities had to be relocated. Secondly, a large engineer effort was required to close out the old fire bases occupied by the maneuver battalions and to construct 3 new main bases and three mini-bases in the new AO. These requirements exceeded the Brigade Engineer Company's capabilities within the time constant. The shortfall between requirements and capabilities was offset by the use of non-brigade engineer assets, under the direction of MG James F Hollingsworth, CG, Third Regional Assistance Command.

A KEY LESSON LEARNED IS THAT AIRMOBILE BRIGADE ENGINEERS MUST BE AUGMENTED AS THE BRIGADE MISSION DICTATES A STRONG DEFENSE POSRURE OVER AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME.

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

## DIVISION DOINGS:

*1st Cavalry Division Uncasing Ceremony* by SGT Lyca Williams

The 1st Cavalry Division officially marked its return home from the U.S. European Command (EUCOM) with an uncasing ceremony at Fort Cavazos, TX, March 27th, 2025. "Today's uncasing ceremony symbolizes the completion of our mission in Eastern Europe and is a declaration that the 1st Cavalry Division as a whole is back in Fort Cavazos, back in Central Texas, and back to building warfighting readiness," said MG Thomas M. Feltey, 1st Cavalry Division commander.



ICD's deployment to EUCOM was the largest deployment of the division Troopers since the 2007 Surge into Iraq. "Over the past year, our Division has demonstrated its ability to fight and win in any environment, conducting operations and exercises across multiple theaters," said Feltey. Each of our brigades has played critical roles in ensuring that we remain ready, lethal, and adaptive to any challenge."

1st Brigade, ICD was dispersed across four different countries and staged in seven different Forward Operating Sites. "They successfully built combat credible units and continually maintained a combat ready presence throughout these geo-strategic locations," said Feltey.



**Horse Cavalry Detachment, ride a mounted cavalry charge on their horses to close the division's ceremony**

The Division Artillery Brigade, ICD showcased exceptional flexibility and operational reach, initially taking command and control in the Baltics before transitioning to the Jasionka Base Cluster and integrating into the SAG-U mission during its deployment to Poland. "Their logistical expertise ensured the movement of millions of pieces

of equipment and munitions, all while synchronizing field artillery capabilities with our NATO allies" said Feltey. "Their ability to seamlessly transition between these important roles highlights the agility of the Red Team."

The Air Cavalry Brigade (AIR CAV), ICD demonstrated daily operational proficiency while deployed in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve, logging more than 9,000 flight hours and actively participating in six battalion- and brigade-level training exercises. "Throughout the deployment, AIR CAV consistently enhanced its Aviation Training Program readiness, producing 28 newly certified Pilots in Command and executing 191 Gunnery Table VIs, 123 Gunnery Table

**Continued to pg. 20**

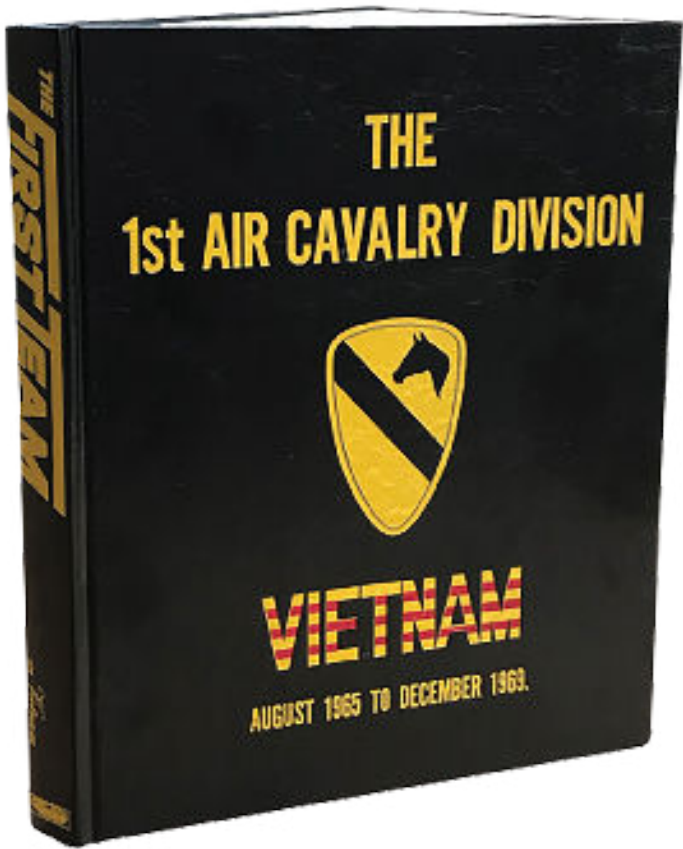


THE 1ST AIR CAVALRY DIVISION: MEMOIRS OF THE FIRST TEAM IN VIETNAM-  
SPECIAL REPRINT EDITION

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!**

LIMITED QUANTITIES  
AVAILABLE



MEMOIRS OF THE FIRST TEAM IN  
VIETNAM-SPECIAL REPRINT EDITION

Amount Due: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **\$85**

Form of Payment:  
☐ Cash    ☐ Check (payable to 1CDA)    ☐ Credit Card  
(Service Charges Apply)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

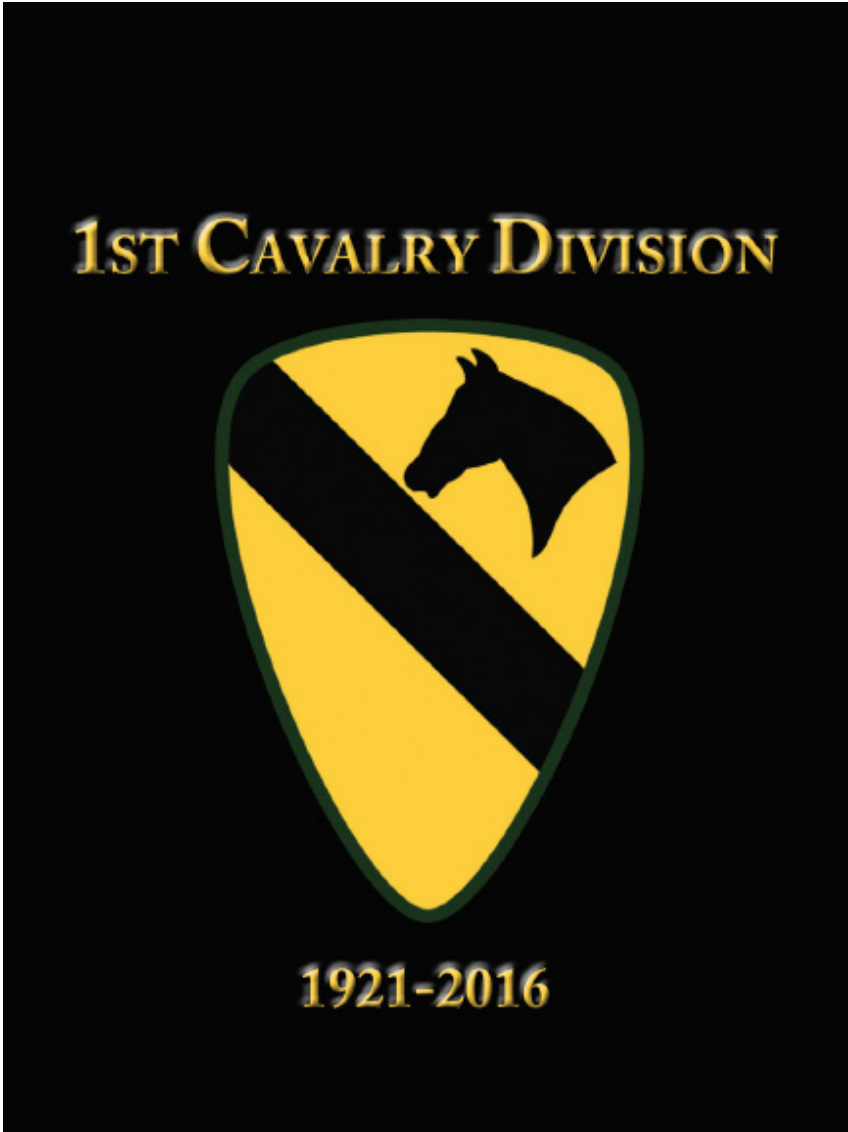
Mail to: 1st Cavalry Division Association  
302 N. Main St.  
Copperas Cove, TX 76522

SHIPPING IS FREE

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.
  - Richly illustrated with historic and modern photographs, charts and diagrams
  - 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.



FIRST TEAM HISTORY BOOK

Amount Due: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **\$55**

Form of Payment:  
☐ Cash    ☐ Check Enclosed (payable to 1CDA)    ☐ Credit Card  
(Service Charges Apply)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SHIPPING IS FREE



1st CAVALRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WASHINGTON D.C.

VETERANS DAY RECEPTION

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

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

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

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



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

\$50 per TICKET

Tuesday, 11 November 2025

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

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

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY & LEGIBLY

Mail to:

1st Cavalry Division Association

302 N. Main St.

Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703

**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.



DIVISION DOINGS

Continued from pg. 18

IXs, and 81 Gunnery Table XIIs across multiple MDS platforms, highlighting AIR CAV’s commitment to sustained combat readiness and operational excellence,” said Feltey.

Sustainment Brigade, 1CD sustained operations across the expansive European theater, managing a distribution network spanning more than 740,000 square miles. Their contributions were critical to generating readiness across the total Army force, integrating support from 12 National Guard and Reserve units. “Their efforts resulted in the delivery of over 6.2 million gallons of fuel, 462 ammunition shipments, and a fivefold expansion of regional sustainment capacity-an incredible feat that ensured combat effectiveness across our task force,” said Feltey.

“As we look ahead, we know the coming year will demand even more of us as a Division,” said Feltey.

The ever-changing battlefield requires the 1CD Armored Brigades to operate on a fully transparent battlefield while preserving combat power. “This is truly an All Arms mission, and the First Team stands ready to take the lead on this important shift in the way we fight and win,” said Feltey. “It’s a great team, it’s our team, we are the First Team!”

Armored Formation Kicks Off Second Round of Transforming-In-Contact With Pegasus Charge

by Mark Pomerleau,

DefenseScoop.com

1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division will be participating in the second round of the Army’s transforming-in-contact initiative.

1st Cavalry Division is helping the Army determine what the future of armored formations will look like.

1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, or Iron Horse, has been designated as one of the next so-called “transforming-in-contact” brigades, a top initiative for Chief of Staff GEN Randy George. The effort aims to speed up how the Army buys capabilities and designs its forces by injecting emerging capabilities into units and letting them experiment with them during exercises and deployments.

The first iteration, TiC 1.0, featured light infantry units and saw them transition to either mobile or light brigades. TiC 2.0 now is turning its attention to armored formations, which have typically been left out given integrating capabilities on their platforms is difficult, along with divisions as a whole to include enabling units such as artillery and air cavalry brigades.

1st Cav’s experimentation efforts will be nestled under what it calls Pegasus Charge, which kicked off last week. “Everything that we’re going to do across the transformation-in-contact effort lines will be under Pegasus Charge,” MG Thomas Feltey, commander of 1st Cavalry Division, said in an interview. “We’re not just looking at it from a purely organizational and material solution, whereas that’s part of it, [but] we’re looking at it more comprehensively across the” doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership and education, personnel, facilities and policy aspects.

Pegasus Charge started with a deep dive on what an armored brigade should look like in the future. That will evolve as the unit receives new gear and gets to test it, but that transformation is pivotal to the TiC effort. Unlike the lighter units, which have been evolving for many years, Feltey noted that armored units have been relatively unchanged since the early 2000s.

“We’re developing options for battalions, for our armored cavalry squadron. We’re going to change the way our cavalry fights and then we’re also going to change the way that our brigades fight with the divisions,” he said. As the Army moves from the brigade as the main fighting unit to division, Feltey noted that brigades will need to rely more on division assets. His division through TiC is seeking to inform us what that will look like in the future.

1st Cavalry Division headquarters recently came back from Europe, where it served as the higher echelon over the last TiC 1.0-unit, 3rd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division. Feltey said he learned a lot of lessons as that unit tested new capabilities — namely, that his units will need longer-range drones. While 3rd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division had the Short-Range Reconnaissance unmanned aerial system, Feltey said his units will need the Medium Range Reconnaissance UAS and Long-Range Reconnaissance UAS.

“We’re more interested in the MRR that can see beyond line of sight and beyond the direct fire range of our tanks and our Bradleys,” he said. Similarly, Feltey also noted that 3rd Brigade, 10th Mountain was able to see farther than it could deliver effects on the battlefield, he said. In other words, the brigade did not possess the capabilities to strike some of the targets it saw with either direct or indirect fires. A main reason for that was the towed artillery platforms that unit had.

By contrast, 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division will be getting the upgraded Paladin M109A7 artillery system, which can mass fires more quickly than the towed artillery 3rd Brigade had. This was an observation that 1st Cav is trying to get ahead of as it begins its TiC journey.

“We can shoot and move, shoot and move. We’ll be able to have an increased volume of fire. And that increased volume of fire will allow us to suppress and deliver fires more effectively across the brigades’ area of operations. When we see something in our brigades, we’re going to be able to hit them. We’re going to be able to strike them,” Feltey said. “Then systematically, our forward observers, like our artillery, should have MRR or LRR UASs. They’re the contemporary forward observers, so our artillery can be out there, hunting both key enemy

Continued to pg. 23



M2A3 Bradley from 6-9 Cav, 3rd BDE engages during a live fire exercise at Ft Cavazos



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

Lawrence Gardner Ketron

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



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

Alaska, just to see if he was there also. But then he asked if I remembered the “PSP” on the runway at Camp Radcliff, VN. He said that he was in an engineering company and that he put it down. PSP was “perforated steel plate that was laid on the ground to form a hard smooth surface. He then told me the story of how he received an Article 15 for insubordination. I suddenly realized this was legit. If you know what PSP is, you were there! If you are going to tell me a phony war story, I’m sure you could come with something better than getting punished for running your mouth. At this point I mentally apologized to him, shook his hand and welcomed him home. Wasn’t there an old saying about judging books?

GOING TO THE TEA PLANTATION

Around the first of November, the Third Brigade replaced the First Brigade in the search for the People’s Army of Vietnam (PAVN), or NVA, or whatever you want to call them. Brigade headquarters were set up in a building at the villa end of the plantation airstrip. The airstrip was of dirt running parallel to PL14 (highway 14). PL14 connected that area to Pleiku and was basically one paved lane. There was a Montagnard village on a hill at the north end of the airstrip. There was also a deep ravine at that end where a rock shelf forced large springs of water to flow out of the side of the ravine. A trench had been chiseled out of the side of the ravine and bamboo pipes inserted to give a constant flow of clear water.

A group of about eight MPs of the third platoon (including your author, Bob Stamey, NC, Bill Keller, NC, Charles Adcock, TN, Delmar Egan, TN, Ted Wilson, TN, Johnny Thompson, TX, Charles Allen, AL), a LT (Jim Lewis) and a sergeant (Jim Lee) were assigned to the brigade headquarters. Since PL19 from the Mang Yang pass to Pleiku was not exactly secure, the M-151 and MPs were loaded into a Caribou at An Khe and flown to the plantation airstrip. It was the first airplane flight ever for your author and some of the others. Taking off on a PSP covered strip and landing on a dusty dirt strip was a little different than what one would experience in the US. The group set up just across PL14 from the headquarters building. Other US Troops had been there prior to our arrival and had left some foxholes. Your author claimed a nice one that was body length and width and was about 8 or 10 inches in depth. Also was nicely lined with elephant grass to keep the red clay off one’s clothes (more about the foxhole later). Your author did not like the security setup there, so he found some sticks over which to stretch a poncho next to the foxhole. Sleeping fully clothed so that in case of attack, all that was required was to roll over into the foxhole.

Since there was civilian traffic (mostly foot) all day long on PL14 between the headquarters building and the MP site, it was no secret where we were. One day a lady who sold soft drinks and haircuts in An Khe showed up with her old WWII era Jeep and driver.

The plantation owner/manager (French?) lived in a villa and did not really want us there. He supposedly was kidnapped every so often and paid the VC for his release. We were told to stay away from the villa.

In the evenings a company from the 1/7<sup>th</sup> was flown in to provide nighttime security. Your author noticed that their pup tents were lined up neatly along the tea bushes on the west side of the airstrip. Your author thought, “Did we not learn from MacArthur’s loss of his neatly parked air force on the ground at Clark Field?”

At this point no contact with the NVA had been made, so we had no prisoners to deal with. The weather was warm sunny days, cool nights, no rain except for one brief shower. Meals were flown in for the headquarters personnel so most times they shared meals with us. A couple of Pathfinders (Air Traffic Control) were set up close to the MPs at the south end of the airstrip.

THINGS WERE ABOUT TO CHANGE! The 1/7<sup>th</sup> made contact with the NVA!

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

A STUDY IN CULTURE AS TOLD BY BOB DEAN

During my twenty-five years with the Baltimore PD, I chased several miscreants yelling “Stop! Police!” to no avail. That response was to be expected.

In late 1965 I was guarding the Highway 19 bridge over the Bong Son River in An Khe, VN. It was one that had not been blown by the VC. The water point for the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav Division was down an embankment at the river’s edge. Civilians were prohibited from the area. At one point a teenage boy waded across to sell Cokes to the personnel there. My orders were not to leave the bridge so there was nothing I could do about it. Luckily, one of the local police (in an all-white uniform) came by on his bicycle. I pointed at the boy and said “Didi” in Vietnamese which means “go away.” He got my meaning and started to go slowly down the hill. The boy saw him and turned and started to run back across the river. The officer said in a perfectly calm voice, “Dung lai” – stop. The kid froze even though he could have easily gotten away. He stood there dutifully waiting. The officer walked to the water’s edge and motioned for the boy to come to him. He then had a long talk with him, gave him a smack on the side of the head and propelled him back across. He slowly walked back up the hill, bowed, smiled, got on his bike and rode away.

A UNIQUE ASSIGNMENT

One day while back at the base camp, Harry Skalla and your author were summoned to the orderly tent where we were instructed to draw an M-151 from the motor pool and provide transportation for a doctor. Don’t remember any other specific instructions. The doctor directed us to the little village adjacent to the base. The doctor’s job that day was to go to each bar where he was to perform a health examination on each girl for the presence of venereal disease. Harry and your author were to make sure that all girls submitted to the exam. It was an interesting day, to say the least. Harry was from California and had the surfer’s tan. The girls were all ‘making eyes’ at Harry and ignoring your author. Kind of hurt the feelings of your author.

IT IS EASY TO MAKE A SNAP JUDGEMENT ABOUT PEOPLE BY BOB DEAN

Several years ago, my wife and I were visiting friends in Florida. We were in a Wal-Mart, she was shopping, and I was sitting on a bench near the exit. I had on a shirt with the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav patch. I was approached by a man who appeared to be just one step this side of homelessness. He asked what the patch was, and I told him it was from the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav Division. He then said that he was in the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav. I expected to be hit up for some spare change at this point. He asked where I was stationed and I said Ft Benning – yeah, he was at Benning. I said then we went to Vietnam – he was in VN too. I was going to say that we next went to Nome,

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

MEMORIAL DAY



Honor what was given.

They put on the uniform.  
They answered the call, knowing the risks.  
They stood alongside their brothers and sisters in arms.  
They made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our country.  
Beyond what was lost, let's remember all they gave.



usaa.com/memorialday

USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its affiliates.  
© 2025 USAA. NC-0525



SALUTING  
OUR  
FALLEN  
HEREOS



1<sup>ST</sup> Cavalry Division Assn

IS YOUR UNIT NOT REPRESENTED IN THE SABER?

You can change that by sharing your stories with us and come a column writer!

Email programs@1CDA.org for details!



# Rare Collection: New Medal of Honor Museum Brings Tales of Heroism to Life

March 20, 2025 | By Katie Lange, DOD News  
Imagine seeing the pin, screw and rod-riddled X-rays of Marine Corps CPL Kyle Carpenter’s injuries from a grenade blast in Afghanistan; reading the small inscription on the lighter used by Air Force BG George “Bud” Day during the Vietnam War; or viewing the curled corners of Navy Rear Adm. Bruce McCandless’ copy of “*A History of Sea Power*” that survived the World War II Battle of Guadalcanal.

Most people would never expect to see such artifacts from decorated warriors of different eras and conflicts in one place. But thanks to the one thing they all have in common — the Medal of Honor — that’s now possible.

The National Medal of Honor Museum in Arlington, Texas, held its grand opening ceremony March 22, 2025, calling in the Army’s 3rd Infantry Division out of Fort Stewart, Georgia, to unfurl the U.S. flag for the first time as 33 of the nation’s 61 living Medal of Honor recipients watch.

The museum opened its doors to the public March 25, 2025, to coincide with National Medal of Honor Day.

“When we located the museum here in 2019, we had zero Medals of Honor in our collection. When we open, we’ll have 50,” said retired Air Force COL Mike Caldwell, the museum’s assistant vice president of communications and Veteran engagement. Included in that collection is the first Medal of Honor ever presented, which went to Army 1LT Jacob Parrott, who served in the Civil War.

In one square acre, museum visitors can see courage and patriotism on display. The museum boasts an impressive collection of artifacts, from battle and dress uniforms of recipients to flags, dog tags, family photos and firearms dating back to World War I.

“We do go all the way back to the Civil War, but our focus has been post-World War I,” explained Alexandra Rhue, senior vice president of museum engagement and strategic initiatives. “Our modern population, their grandparents, probably that’s their first lived memory of history. So, we want to have that personal connection where you knew someone who could have served in that conflict.”

## From Ordinary to Inspiring

While the museum tells tales of war, its creators wanted to make clear that it’s not just another war museum, it’s a biography museum focused on shared values highlighted through stories of courage, sacrifice, commitment, integrity, citizenship, and patriotism.

“We don’t need to tell the World War II story or the Boxer Rebellion story. Other museums can do that,” Caldwell said. “All of the Medal of Honor recipients, if you look into their life stories ... you realize they’re ordinary people who, in a moment of time, courage meant circumstance, and they did something extraordinary.”

Instead of grouping the recipients by conflict, their stories are interspersed throughout the museum.

“We want [visitors] to think, what connects me to these recipients and what connects them to each other? It’s the values of the Medal of Honor that connect each of them, no matter when in time they served,” Rhue said. “We want people to feel like they see themselves reflected in these stories.”

## Interactive Features Offer Perspective

Several interactive exhibits have technological features that bring many of the recipients to life.

Two of the museum’s corners have 50-foot projection screens, which showcase war landscapes from the jungles of Guadalcanal to the frozen mountaintops of Korea. Each scene includes portals visitors can enter to learn more about various recipients from those eras.

Off the main gallery, visitors can gain perspective by stepping into the world of the Vietnam-era “Dustoff” — rapid helicopter medical evacuation missions during the war.

“You can put on a headset, and you can jump into the seat of a 1968 UH-1H Iroquois Huey helicopter,” Rhue explained. “You’ll be able to make rapid-fire decisions to either bring people home safely to base or potentially have a hard landing in the jungle, to bring you into those really difficult decision-making experiences.”

There’s also the interactive theater, where AI technology allows recipients to talk virtually with visitors. The recipients chosen for the project recorded more than 700 responses to potential questions, from their favorite ice cream to what it was like growing up to their combat experience and what they want their legacy to be.

“There are some really deep, as well as some really accessible, entry points for our visitors to have conversations,” Rhue said.

Thanks to cutting-edge audiovisual technology, visitors can physically step into time to hear Army Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael Novosel Sr. and others tell their stories. Just steps away, visitors can get a close-up look at the prominently displayed “Nancy Lee,” a Huey helicopter that Army MG Patrick Brady used to rescue Soldiers in Vietnam in 1968. The helicopter is named in honor of his late wife.

The museum worked closely with the Defense Department to bring the exhibits to life.

“We have displayed Medals of Honor that they have donated to us,” Caldwell said of DOD. “They have been very helpful in the research, providing us with documentation, photographs and things like that.”

## Difficult Decisions

The names of all 3,528 Medal of Honor recipients adorn the foyer ceiling on the museum’s first floor. While the museum boasts 40,000 square feet of space, that’s not nearly enough to tell all of their stories. Who the museum chose to highlight came down to the values each story reflected, as well as what artifacts were available to help tell the stories.

“I wish we could tell 3,500-plus stories. There’s no way we can,” said museum CEO Chris Cassidy, a retired Navy SEAL and former NASA astronaut. “It’s a hard process because there’s no story that’s more spectacular than another.” “Those are some very difficult decisions,” he added.



To highlight as many recipients as possible, the displays will rotate over the years as new recipients are awarded, more artifacts are collected and others on loan are returned.

## Getting It Right

The museum came together with the help of several Veterans, including five Medal of Honor recipients who served on its board. They all understood that the smallest details mattered, from the language to the uniforms.

“We worked really hard on making sure we could get those little things right so our audience, who we expect to be a lot of Active-Duty military and Veterans coming in here, can say, ‘Yeah, that’s accurately portrayed,’” Caldwell said.

For example, the curation team called Army SSG Clinton Romesha, who received the Medal of Honor for his 2009 actions in Afghanistan, to ensure they knew how to correctly attach the straps to his battle vest.

“We talk to the living recipients all the time,” Caldwell said. “They’ve been integral in how we tell their stories.”

Rhue added that the living recipients have been an incredible resource, sharing their memories and perspectives on what they want their legacy to be, and what they think the Medal of Honor represents.

Just as much effort has gone into the artifacts given to the museum by families of recipients who are no longer living.

“These are precious items to the families. It’s a very hard and emotional decision to say, ‘I’m going to turn this over to you,’” Caldwell said. “We have to earn their trust.”

As the museum prepares to open, Caldwell said he’s witnessed the burden that being the living representation of the Medal of Honor’s values has taken on many of the recipients and their families. He said the museum is a chance for the country to give them a vault to house their legacies.

“We really want people to be inspired by what they see here more than anything else,” Rhue said.

A wing of the museum is also home to the Griffin Institute, a nonprofit talent and technology accelerator for DOD. The institute has created a curriculum for K-12 students and leadership programs for professionals based on the values embodied by the Medal of Honor.

Air Cav News writer, Shawn Perry will catch up with everyone in the next issue! Please continue to send him your Aviation stories and input!  
Stetsonlife1cda@gmail.com

ARMY BIRTHDAY

June 14, 1775

The U.S. Army was founded on June 14, 1775, when the Continental Congress authorized enlistment of riflemen to serve the United Colonies for one year. The 14 June date is when Congress adopted "the American continental army" after reaching a consensus position in The Committee of the Whole.

Are you Active Duty & serving in 1st Cav?

you or your spouse may qualify for a 1st Cav Division Association

SCHOLARSHIP

REQUIREMENTS:

- Become a member of 1st Cav Div Assn @ 1CDA.org to become a LIFE MEMBER
- Must be currently assigned to the Division for the length of scholarship
- CANNOT be on orders or ETS
- Letter of recommendation from Command Team for Active Duty / employer for spouses

Accepting applications only 1 April - 1 Aug 2025

NOT accepting early packets

This Scholarship encompasses FALL 2025, SPRING & SUMMER 2026 sessions

Email for further details

Memberships@1CDA.org





HONOR ROLL



SP5 ADAMS, W. Howard	\$100
MAJ AUSBORN, Darrell	\$100
SGT BALLOU, Richard A.	\$80
IMO SP4 Ralph R. Black	
BG BILO, Bill	\$500
IHO of Those Troopers of B Btry 1-77FA and SVC Btry 1-30 in 1970	
1LT BROUGHTON, Robert L.	\$100
IMO 1LT Greg Peters	
MAJ CAGLE, Norman	\$90
COL (RET) CHAFFIN, Jimmie M.	\$57
E-7 DODSON, Robert W.	\$300
COL (RET) FOLEY, William A.	\$100
IMO LTG, (LTC) Hal Moore	
MR. & MRS. FOX, Stephen	\$500
CPT HALL, Sanci	\$50
SP5 MARTIN, Marshall	\$30
IMO SP4 Lee Vinsen	

Thank you for the generous donations from our dedicated Troopers!



As of May 1, 2025

E-4 O'GRADY, Mike J.	\$50
SSG ROCKWELL, Dennis C.	\$100
IMO Jack "DOC" Devane	
CW4 SOMMERS, Jerry	\$100
IMO MAJ Geary Hancock	
2-20ARTY-1 <sup>st</sup> Cav 1967	
E-4 STEWART, Carl A.	\$200
IMO SGT Bruce Spring & SP4 Max Carroll, Vietnam 1970	
SP5 YOUNG, Jimmy R.	\$100
IMO William 'Satch' A. Beck	
Mr. John Atanasoff	\$10
Ms. Nancy C. Beshore	\$50
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Fox	\$500
Dr. J Wayne Heckert	\$25
Mr. Keith C. Kerns	\$25
Mr. & Mrs. George Martinaitis	\$100

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

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

WANT TO SEE YOUR NAME UNDER HONOR ROLL SECTION?

Honor Roll privileges are given to members who make a donation of \$50 or more to the Association, or scholarship donations to the IaDrang or the Foundation.

THANK YOU! to our members who graciously donate to YOUR Association!  
We appreciate your generosity, we could not do it without our members!

DIVISION DOINGS

Continued from pg. 20  
weapon systems, but also identifying those important places where we need to deliver suppressive effects to let our forces move forward. Again, organizationally, this will be something we look at DIVARTY, how do we shorten that kill chain to get those effective fires, massing those fires in the time and place that we need them to advance our forces on the battlefield?"

On the communications front, Feltey noted his units are likely slated to get upgraded network gear as well, to include Starshield, MUOS, and technologies associated with the integrated tactical network. The Army's network portfolio has largely focused on light infantry units given the ease of integration. It is now beginning to turn its attention to the heavier units to enable them to perform functions on the move as opposed to at the halt, a critical enabler in future warfare as units can't afford to stop for long periods of time.

In fact, the Army tested its prototype for Next Generation Command and Control with an armored unit at Project Convergence in March in order to start with the most difficult type of unit.

GETTING NEW KIT

1st Brigade will also receive new equipment in the way of the latest and greatest Army capabilities. Those include the aforementioned upgraded Paladin M109A7 artillery system, M2A4 Bradley Fighting Vehicle, Armored Multi-Purpose Vehicle and the Low Altitude Stalking and Strike Ordnance.

Along with that new equipment, the unit will also seek to reorganize similar to how the first TiC units created new company units designed to make them more lethal by combining drones, loitering munitions, mortars and other equipment to shorten the sensor-to-shooter chain.

However, unlike those units, 1st Cav already had brigade cavalry squadrons for reconnaissance whereas the lighter units had to create those formations.

The armored units will seek to enhance the cavalry squadron's ability to conduct reconnaissance through technical means by looking to integrate human-machine interface platoons such as autonomous robots, sensors and UAS.

"Organizationally, we're trying to figure out what's the best way to harness those formations to give us increased lethality, or not only increased lethality, but also increased understanding of the battlefield that allows the commander to make decisions, whether those are decisions to kill the enemy or decisions to move the enemy in a place where the enemy doesn't expect it," Feltey said.

1st Cav's timeline for when its activities will take place will be slightly longer than the units in the first iteration of transforming-in-contact.

The culminating combat training center rotation for 1st Brigade, the most realistic combat scenarios the Army can create for units to train, won't be until 2027. However, there were several other events before then. Small unit fielding and training of new systems will occur by the turn of calendar year 2026.

The big step between now and the combat training center rotation will be a warfighter exercise next summer. Unlike some events that are mostly tabletop or command post exercises, this one will be a blend of live and constructive training, which Feltey called a "dirt fighter."

VA ANNOUNCES MAJOR SURVIVOR BENEFITS REFORMS

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs recently announced a three-pronged approach to eliminate barriers and streamline the process for how eligible survivors and dependents of deceased Veterans and servicemembers apply for and receive VA benefits and services.

Specific improvements include:

- Starting this month, VA's Office of Survivors Assistance will be moved from the Veterans Benefits Administration to the Office of the VA Secretary, reversing a Biden-era decision that buried OSA under layers of bureaucracy.
- Starting this month, VA will create a "white-glove" survivor outreach team to guide and assist eligible survivors throughout their Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) claims process.
- Starting immediately, VA will begin work to identify areas where automation can be used to make the DIC claims process easier to navigate for survivors.

"The last thing survivors need in their time of grief is frustrating red tape and bureaucracy. That's why we are creating a better system to more quickly and effectively provide survivors the services, support, and compassion they've earned," said VA Secretary Doug Collins.

Background information on the changes VA announced today is below:

RELOCATING OSA

In 2021, the Biden administration moved OSA from the Office of the VA Secretary to the Veterans Benefits Administration, creating a siloed system at odds with the intent of the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2008. Starting this month, VA will reverse this decision and move OSA to the Office of the VA Secretary, where a staff of five full-time employees will advise the Secretary on all matters related to the policies, programs and legislative issues affecting survivors and dependents.

"WHITE-GLOVE" SURVIVOR OUTREACH TEAM

Under previous administrations, there were gaps in the survivor claims system and no defined outreach process for VA employees to gather information from survivors navigating the benefit process. VA's "White-Glove" Survivor Outreach Team will begin operations in May 2025 and consist of experts based out of the Philadelphia VA Regional Benefit Office. These experts will receive specialized training and guide and assist eligible survivors throughout every step of the DIC claims process with the goal of getting to "yes" on DIC claims decisions for eligible survivors.

AUTOMATION IMPROVEMENTS

VA now automates more than 1,000 DIC claims payments or adjustments per day and is in the process of ongoing enhancements to increase automation that will expedite survivors' claims and improve their experience. VA will also be identifying additional areas where automation can be used to make all benefits delivery processes easier to navigate for eligible surviving dependents.

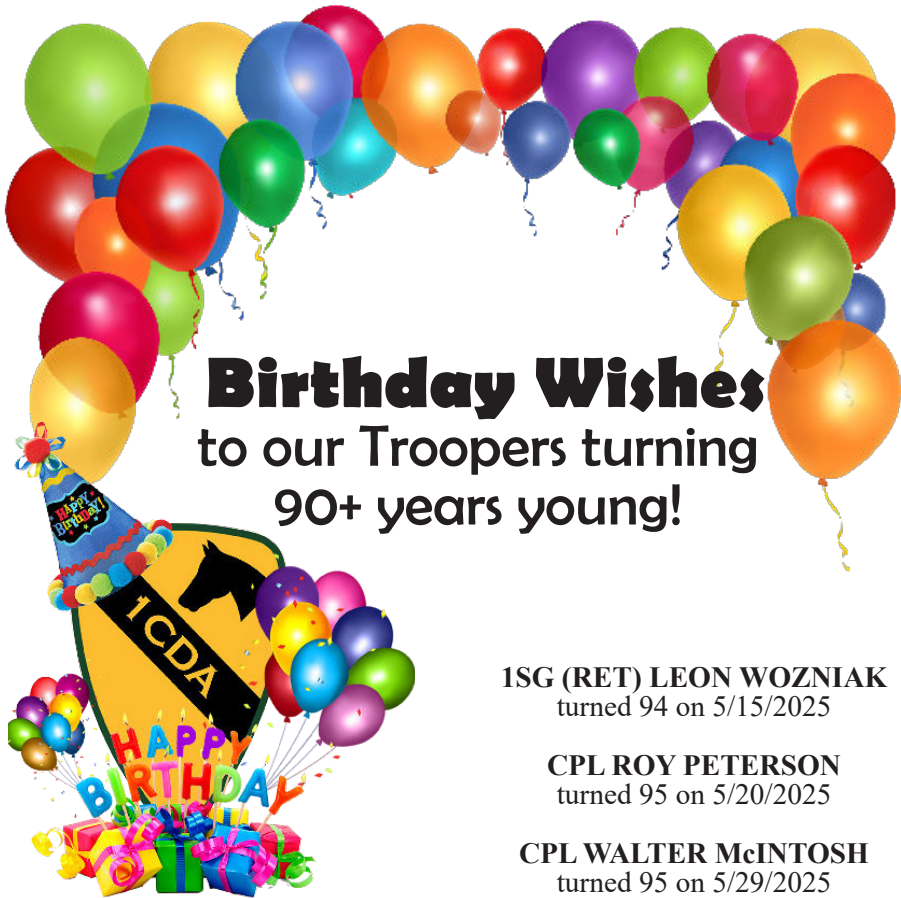
CROSSED SABERS GIFT SHOP

We have Stetson Cavalry Hats!  
5x Beaver Felt, 3" Brim w/Chin Strap  
Not available on the website.  
Call & order yours today, 254-532-2075!

RENEW your SABER today!

Have you checked your expiration date on your Saber label lately?





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

**SGM (RET) JIMMY CAPSHAW SR.**  
turned 94 on 5/2/2025

**SSG (RET) BENJAMIN JACKSON**  
turned 96 on 5/2/2025

**SGT RICHARD SCHULZ**  
turned 90 on 5/4/2025

**SP-5 BRUNO CHIESA**  
turned 91 on 5/6/2025

**SFC JIMMIE JEFFERSON**  
turned 94 on 5/15/2025

**1SG (RET) LEON WOZNIAK**  
turned 94 on 5/15/2025

**CPL ROY PETERSON**  
turned 95 on 5/20/2025

**CPL WALTER McINTOSH**  
turned 95 on 5/29/2025

**SSG JOHN SWEENEY**  
turned 98 on 6/1/2025

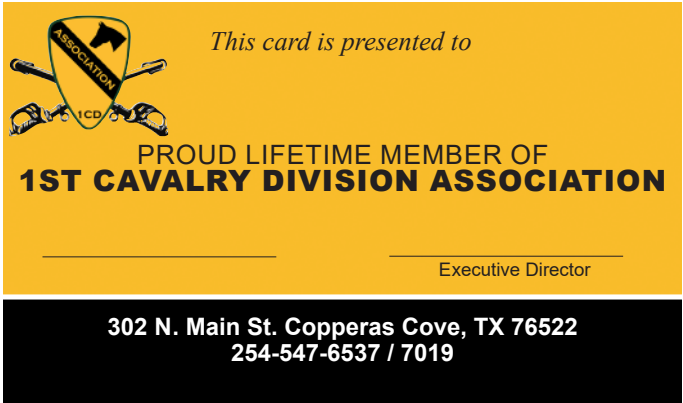
**CPL JOSEPH DAVERSA**  
turned 92 on 6/6/2025

**CPL TOMMY MOSER**  
turned 96 on 6/6/2025

**SPC STANLEY WEINSTEIN**  
turned 92 on 6/9/2025

**SFC RUSSELL HAYE**  
turned 96 on 6/28/2025

**Replacement Membership Cards**



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

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

**1CDA Membership Cards**

Total Due: **\$5.00 each**

Cash: \_\_\_\_\_ Check: \_\_\_\_\_  
**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**AWARD WINNING DOCUMENTARY:  
THE LONGEST MONTH**

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



“The Longest Month” is a documentary film dedicated to telling the story of the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade Soldiers that participated in the events during “The Surge” in OIF 06-08.  
Some of these interviews took place at the 1CDA Headquarters in 2019.  
The Longest Month is an unscripted documentary, covering events that took place in Iraq during February of 2007 at the beginning of what is commonly known as “The Surge.”  
This documentary examines the actions undertaken by members of the 1st and 4th Battalions, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, as described by the Soldiers involved in these events. More helicopters were shot down in Iraq during this time period than any time since the Vietnam War.  
The Longest Month chronicles four events that exemplify the challenges faced by these individuals to not only complete their missions but survive the unprecedented 15-month deployment.  
Produced by: Dan McClinton and Directed and Edited by: Kenn Christenson  
If you wish to read the story behind this documentary:  
<<https://www.hollywoodintoto.com/longest-month-movie-us-veterans/>>

**1ST AIR CAV BRIGADE DOCUMENTARY  
THE LONGEST MONTH**  
**\$26 ALSO AVAILABLE ON  
DVD & BLU RAY**

**131-minutes: includes promotional trailers & additional scenes**  
**CIRCLE DVD or Blu Ray** Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Due: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Form of Payment:  
☐ Cash ☐ Check Enclosed ☐ Credit Card (Service Charges Apply)  
Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_  
Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV on back: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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