

82nd FA News



"Can and Will"
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I'm sorry to report that we've lost another Dragon of the 82nd FA Regiment. SSG Johnny R. POLK, 39, of Gulfport, Mississippi, died July 25 at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Landstuhl, Germany, of

wounds suffered when his vehicle was struck by an anti-tank grenade on July 23, 2009 in Kirkuk, Iraq. He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. Our sincere condolences go out to Johnny R. POLK's wife and five children. Please take a minute and say a prayer for his soul.



In my last article I mentioned my old friend, Al CATANZARO. I've attached a picture of Al taken in the spring of 1961. Here is his contact info, Al CATANZARO, B-5-82nd FA 1960-61, 27 Valley Rd., Stoneham, MA 02180, Phone: (781) 438-8419, e-mail: <alcat2@comcast.net>.

I've also attached some pictures of Bob SMITH. He can be contacted at, Bob SMITH, B-5-82nd FA 1962-63, 31 Union Ave, Freehold, NJ 07728, Phone: (732) 462-3062.

Al CATANZARO

I received the following e-mail from Bill THOMASON who served with E-82nd FA in 1969-70. Bill wrote, "The following is a short story about my adventures with E Btry, 82nd Arty, 1st Cav in Vietnam from 29 July, 1969. I arrived in Vietnam like almost everyone and processed through 90th Replacement Battalion and went through the same routines. I made all of the formations when it was time to announce assignments and the day I was assigned to the 1st Cav Division, I was the only one called for the 1st Cav and the last assignment given that day. At first my heart just dropped because I wanted to go to one of those typical Aviation units in Vietnam.

Well, now I am on my way to Cav Country I thought. I arrived at FTA and we had all kinds of orientations and training we had to attend and my shipment date came. I boarded a Hook and away we went. Looking out a window of the Chinook, I could see the destruction of war. I was amazed. I mean it was continuous and the more I saw the more anxiety built in me. I do not think that I ever became afraid but concerned.

The Chinook arrived at the Camp Gorvad, Phuoc Vinh landing strip and if my memory serves me correctly, we landed about 100 yards out on the PSP runway near the little 8th Aerial Port Terminal. I walked off of the back of the ramp on the Chinook and walked maybe 35 or so feet and a siren sounded. Now I learned that the siren at Phuoc Vinh may have meant the same as it did in Bien Hoa, but the results were far different at Phuoc Vinh. Almost immediately a big explosion took place. The Chinook took off and here I lay right in the middle of the runway with a duffle bag as cover. I stayed down a couple of minutes and the all clear was sounded. I picked myself up and went to the 8th Aerial Port and called the Btry. E Btry sent a ¾ ton truck that was virtually stripped of non essential metal to pick me up. Away we went. The Btry was a very short distance from the port. In a couple of minutes I was in the Btry. It did not take long to get assigned sleep space and get out on the line.

I was an SSG, 67V4H and the OH-6A was my specialty. We had 16 little LOH's for all of those missions. When I arrived, we had 4 H Models and 1 D Model Huey. One of our birds was the C & C Ship for the DIVARTY CO, COL Morris BRADY. If my memory serves me correct, he was a very successful General after the Vietnam War. I understand, he was a good commander. I remember his crew chief was a SP4 Donnie INMAN. Also, I vaguely remember the tail number on a couple of the UH-1's. I think one was 268 which may have been the C & C; one was 335 and another was maybe 975 or 935. Just too long ago to remember. Echo Battery also had a fixed wing section across the base and the NCO was SFC SHUMACHER. Here are a few pictures I have.

During my actual assignment I only logged 80 hours of official flying time. As the maintenance NCO, my need to fly was limited but I would fly to keep current or when I just plain did not have enough gunners or crew chiefs to make the flight. Only a couple of times I was flying did we really see some action and that was more fun than anything.

That was not necessarily true back on the ground. We had lots going on. We lost helicopters, crewmembers, we worked getting birds ready to fly and the long days just keep adding up. There was never a day that went by that we did not have a major event of some kind. It was routine and we worked through them and missions were flown.

But flight line duties were not my only responsibility. I was appointed the Btry Reenlistment NCO because of previous experience and I was also the Btry Ammo NCO. I saw lots of action in both regards. The Ammo NCO was a job and every time we came under attack, we could use some ammo. Also the 60's on the UH-1's and LOH's and the Mini Gun on the Night Hawk could burn some ammo. There were good days and there were bad days. We suffered lots of incoming and we lost some birds on the line. We took a direct hit on our hanger and a jeep near the hanger. We had some ground probes that created some most interesting moments. One happened late in the night and involved the sector where we were located. There were lots of gooks lying in the wire that night.

Our sister unit was a 2nd of 20th ARA Btry of Cobras and these guys did a wonderful job hammering gooks and eliminating the pressure they brought on us. I think the Hunter Killer concept that our two batteries used, worked out very well. I flew on a couple of these missions and I found that the anxiety of flying around just a few feet above the ground looking for targets or drawing fire, really took some guts. The closest I come to getting hit was on one of these flights as the rounds ate up the skid just below my feet. I used to fly with my chicken plate under me instead of on me and we took a round that came up and the chicken plate stopped it before it came through to my hip. Someone was on my side.

Now let's go back a bit and do some reenlistment. When I arrived in E Btry, we had a First Shirt by the name of AKERS. Shortly he was gone and a cannon cocker moved in and stayed a short period of time and he was gone. I think the new man was a true Arty 1SG and that is where he wanted to be. I am not sure where he went but he became the 1SG of one of the 1st Cav's Arty Btry's out on a Fire Base. His assignment was probably a temporary one with E Btry, as soon as he was gone; we received a reserve 1SG by the name of KIRKLAND. He was a great guy but he had very little active duty and was a 1SG in the reserves. I am not sure if he was recalled just to be sent over as our 1SG or we were just lucky. Believe this. He had been in the Army Reserve long enough to have been promoted to E-8 but he had never reenlisted. Now he had decided that he was going to make the Army a Career. He was a GS-9 Instructor at Fort Rucker and now he is a 67Z5H and our First Sergeant. I managed to get him reenlisted and he drew a \$10,000 VRB-4 bonus as being a first term reenlistment. Being in a combat zone, this \$10,000 is tax free also. Most of us NCO's reenlisted a half dozen times during our careers and still did not get our \$2000. So who is this lucky guy? Well, 1SG KIRKLAND was a good man and was later promoted to SGM and then became a CSM I understand at Fort Rucker.

For some reason I was chosen to become the 1st Cav DIVARTY Reenlistment NCO. I had just been promoted and now they have decided that I have bigger and better things ahead of me. At first I was very reluctant because I had just made E-7, got a new 67N4H primary MOS. That did not matter. As it turned out, it was a good move as I now have one big commitment and that being every Arty Btry in the 1st Cav is my responsibility. Every fire base will have a battery of 105mm Howitzers or some other form of artillery that comes under the command of DIVARTY. My abilities to travel were now enormous. I took full advantage of this by getting approval to travel with the Flying PX. They went out daily to a different location and I would be with them. It did not matter where, I had business there. As it turned out, in addition to all of the Arty Btry's out there, other units were there also. Most of my success as a combat reenlistment NCO was the result of first term reenlistments from soldiers from the supporting units and especially the grunt companies.

Now E Btry never escaped my mind during all of my travels. I would cross paths with helicopters from E Btry and I kept in touch with them and went to lots of functions they had. 1SG KIRKLAND was still there when I departed in July, 1970. I wish I had some pictures of the events regarding the reenlistments. I have no idea why I did not take pictures but I can find nothing. I hope that these pictures will bring back memories to lots of guys out there. Also, anyone that reads this, stand up and be recognized. It took me over 40 years to get over that tour and now I would love to be a part of some of the people that I served with.

I see very little regarding E Btry in the *Saber* and as time goes on, when something comes to my mind, I plan to send it and have it published. Some of the memories we had are good and some are bad. The good thing is that we are still alive and can now look back on what we did and came home safe. I am going to provide my e-mail address for those that have that capability and my home address for anyone who does not. MSG (Ret) William C. THOMASON, Sr., 1000 Lightnen Road, Parrottsville, TN 37843-3146. Phone: (423) 613-9214, E-mail: <bthomason12400@aol.com>."

Thanks Bill for the story and pictures. It's been awhile since we received a good story from our E-82nd FA "Wood Peckers." Can and Will ~ Sir!

CSM (Ret) RODNEY B. CAESAR – 1949-2009



CSM (R) Rodney B. Caesar died on 22 July, 2009 after a lengthy illness. CSM Caesar was a former member of the 1st Cavalry Division Association Board of Governors of the Association and recently stepped down from his position as a Trustee of the 1st Cavalry Division Association Museum Foundation because of his failing health.

He served with the 1st Cavalry Division on three different occasions, all at Fort Hood, Texas. CSM Caesar culminated his 28-year military career as the Command Sergeant Major of the 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division in 1996. His first assignment with the First Team was as the First Sergeant of B Troop, 1-9th Cavalry in 1982 at

Fort Hood. He later served as the CSM of the 2-8th Cavalry at Fort Hood in 1992. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War serving with the 3-4th Cavalry and

received the Purple Heart for wounds received in combat. He also served in the Gulf War with 1-37th Armor, 1st Armored Division.

After his retirement from the Army, CSM Caesar worked in the private sector and served his community in a variety of different roles. He was the Vice President of the Crossed Sabers Chapter and a member of the Souvenir Shop Council in addition to his service on the Board of Governors and the Museum Foundation. He and his wife, Sue, trained guide dogs for the blind and he would often be seen at meetings and First Team ceremonies with the dog they were training.

CSM Caesar is survived by his wife, Sue Caesar; his three children, Chris, Ryan and Jenny Cresswell; a newborn granddaughter, Sylvie Grace Cresswell; his brothers, Matt and Steven, and his sister, Lisa Hall.

The family requests that memorials be made in Memory of Rod Casesar to the Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division Association, 302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522 or to Southeastern Guide Dogs, 4210 77th St., East Palmetto, FL 34221.

Museum Notes

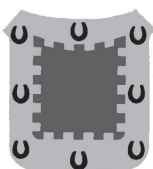
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continuing a Brick and Paver campaign.

Recently, in 2005, the Museum Foundation sponsored the construction and placement of a Memorial honoring the Division's Troopers serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. In May 2008, the Foundation rededicated the memorial and added an additional 493 names to the memorial. With an estimated cost of approximately \$250,000, the Museum Foundation successfully raised more than \$280,500 through support from individuals, businesses and foundations.

A need exists to raise an additional \$40,000 to add the names of the fallen from the current deployment and to add a mission plaque to the memorial similar to what was done after the last deployment. Send donations to the 1st Cavalry Division Association Museum Foundation, 302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703. Please indicate if the donation is for the Memorial or for the Museum Foundation general fund. All donation to the Museum Foundation are tax deductible and donors will receive acknowledgement from the Museum Foundation and be recognized in the Honor Roll of the *Saber*.

ENGINEER NEWS



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Best Sapper Competition: The fifth annual Best Sapper trials took place at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Early this year 31 testing events took place over three days with 34 teams starting. Among the events were helocast/swimming, rucksack road march, land navigation, stress pistol firing, preparation of breaching charges, log sawing, picket pounding, door breaching, rope climbing and descending, medical trauma evacuation and rope bridge construction and traversing. The winning team for 2009 was 1LT Shawn HOGAN and MSG Michael BEHKENDORF representing the 7th Engineer Battalion, 20th Engineer Brigade, Fort Drum, New York. Fort Hood's 20th Engineer Battalion, 36th Engineer Brigade was represented by SSG Boulina RASAVONG and SGT Alan FORESTER. The photograph was provided by Dennis STEELE representing the Association of the United States Army, July, 2009 issue.

EQUIPMENT REVIEW M728 COMBAT ENGINEER VEHICLE (CEV):

The M728 is a Combat Engineer Vehicle used by engineering units for construction of defensive positions and demolition of enemy fortifications. It is designed to provide maximum ballistic protection for the crew. The vehicle is heavily armed, being a basic M60A1 tank, modified to provide a mobile and maneuverable weapon or combat support of ground troops and vehicles. It is equipped with a hydraulically operated dozer blade mounted to the front of the hull. A winch and boom are mounted to the turret for lifting, carrying and winching. The vehicle is used for breaching, obstacle removal, transportation of demolition teams and pioneering operation. It has the same 152mm gun as the M551 Sheridan. A crew of four operates this vehicle, with the power train and chassis being the same as the M60A3. It saw combat service in Vietnam and Desert Storm. A mine-clearing rake was specially designed and fabricated to be a "tool" for the CEV in Desert Storm. The full width rake allows the CEV to clear minefields in non-cohesive, granular soils. The Mine Clearing Rake is a V-shaped tined plough that performs countermine activities by lifting buried mines with its tines and pushing them to the side as it moves. Attached to a M728 CEV or M60 tank via a Dozer Kit, the Mine Clearing Rake also utilizes an aluminum skid shoe, which protrudes from the front of the tines and allows the rake to maintain a consistent plowing. It clears a path measuring 180 inches wide, accommodating heavy tanks and other armored vehicles. The devices operations are limited to soft sandy soil. Additional features are that it weighs 4000 pounds, and is easily assembled and installed.

STATUS: The CEV was placed in service in 1965 with a total of 291 vehicles. Currently improvements for operations readiness are being implemented. These improvements will ensure that the CEV remains a valuable asset until replacement vehicles are fielded. During Operation Desert Storm the CEV proved unable to maneuver with the heavy force due to the inability of the M60 chassis and power train to keep pace with the M1A1. Many maneuver units simply left the CEV behind rather than slow their advance. Such was the case with the Mine Rake mounted on the CEV. Commanders planned for their use as a part of the deliberate breaching operation, but left them behind once they began the pursuit and exploitation phase of the operation. Commanders were unanimous in their opinion that the engineer force needs M1 chassis' for heavy breaching and gap crossing equipment.

EMPLOYMENT CONCEPT: The CEV provides Engineers in the forward combat area with a versatile, armor-protected means of performing mobility tasks under hostile fire. Tasks include reduction of roadblocks and obstacles; filling craters, ditches and short dry gaps; limited construction of combat trails; construction of obstacles; and clearing of rubble and debris.

BASIS OF ISSUE: The CEV is issued two per Engineer Company in the Heavy Division, two per Engineer Company in Corps (Mechanized), three per Engineer Company in Armor/Infantry Separate Brigades and three per Engineer Company in the Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Those who wish to see an engineer briefing may go to web site: <http://proceedings.ndia.org/3500/Carter_Zavalza_NDIA_Brief.pdf>

Book Review: *Illumination Rounds* by Peter GUINTA and Randy CRIBBS.

Drawing from their experiences, imaginations, sufferings and elations, Guina and Cribbs present readers with 12 vignettes that can be pondered, laughed at, or recalled as being so real as to be painful. From Randy in his story titled *Once A Warrior* as the central character ponders a voluntary return to Vietnam we quote: "Would she understand? Did anyone understand? Hell, did he even understand? What was the lure? To some, it would seem that he was choosing his men over his family. It was the lot of a professional soldier. Almost a no-win situation. But it was as if there were no choice. It was something pushing, guiding his thoughts pulling him, as if he were not in control. Frazier sighed, then thought, smiling slightly, of the melodramatic news anchorman doing his evening commentary on the TV back at the O'Club, pronouncing that the history of man was to wage war. Among men, he had said, there were always those who were at home on the battlefield but lost in peace. Guess he got my number, Frazier spoke aloud, realizing he had pulled into his driveway. Taking a deep breath, he stepped from the car and headed to the door." From Peter in his story titled *No More Weepin' and Wailin'* as the central character sulks after his return from war: "Nowadays punks spray paint on the trains, covering them with their alien symbols and filth, mouthing off to cops. Show nobody respect. An Uzi would clean out this place,

Division Doings

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to find out what they need and to find out what their concerns are regarding security in their communities. This is what we've done in Mosul and its surrounding areas, and it has been successful."

As the helicopters landed in the operating base known as TAO Tripoli, Volesky and Pippin were greeted by the 3rd LAR commander, Marine LTC Kenneth

vigilante style. Sneak into a train yard one night, locked and loaded with an extra bandoleer of ammo. Catch the entire compound full of low life punks. They'd sh-- in their pants and die crying for their mummies. How many do you think I'd get? Most of 'em probably. That hunk of iron would hum." For those who may wish to read the entire book, the Library of Congress number is 2004115929.

Movie Review: Best movie about how soldiers care for each other in combat; *Blackhawk Down*. Best movie about how political decisions made elsewhere cost lives on the ground; *Blackhawk Down*. Best movie about how soldiers take care of business against all odds; *Blackhawk Down*. Closest adaptation of a movie from a book based on real life probably because the author kept screen edit rights; *We Were Soldiers Once and Young*. Best movie featuring the 1st Cavalry Division; see previous award. OK, I take back part of my earlier remarks about Jarhead. At least it's the one that properly documents living through Desert Shield and Storm. And, the sets are ok. As to that other Iraq movie where they are searching for gold, no way. Do you Iraq vets agree? If so or not, see e-mail address above. For that matter, any Somali vets out there want to chime in?

Music Review: Best song about why and what we did and would do again if asked or able; *Some Gave AP* - Billy Ray CYRUS. Best music to have playing or being performed while July Fourth fireworks are exploding; *1812 Overture*. Best music to have playing when you are reflecting on the way things were; *Adagio for Strings*. Best song to have on the jukebox while you knock down a cold one, shoot some pool and have a smoke without any reprimands; *I've Got Friends - In Low Places*. Best CD to have playing real loud in your car possibly with a sub woofer in your trunk while you drive on an interstate and sing along between gas stops; *Greatest Hits- Lynard Skynard*. Best album to play on your actual record player before needles no longer are available; *The White Album - Beatles*.

Person Review: Best Hollywood type other than Bob HOPE who does not just mouth words about patriotism and soldiers but actually puts his boots on the ground, Gary SENISE. The reason the mullahs have some justification regarding the degrading influence of the west thrust upon their children, Paris HILTON.

CHARLIE ALPHA: At 3000 feet the air is chilly, so chilly as the wind whips around the Huey doorways that one might wish for one's poncho liner left on the cot as a pillow. At 3000 feet bomb craters look like pock marks distributed in an oddly linear pattern across rectangular rice paddies as though the bombs detonations were meant to demonstrate a geometry lesson on an earthly scale. You think "what was that thing about the rock carvings in Peru or Ecuador or somewhere that are only visible from the air?" Then the bird starts to descend and you slam your bolt forward on the M16 that bears the pit marks of your sweat on the upper carrying handle. One more swig of water. At least this canteen was filled at base camp where the water can be somewhat trusted not like those portable canvass pools the engineers construct then expect you to drink what they have been swimming in. Then you smirk. You are a 12B engineer. You are just like a grunt only you carry C-4, det cord, blasting caps and a mine detector. You drop your legs out of the deck of the Huey onto the skids and point your rifle down towards some yet unseen and hopefully not real reception party of NVA'S. At 2000 feet the door gunners let rip their 60 cal. "What do they see?" you wonder and figure probably nothing, just icing down the area. Already your platoon sergeant is hollering in your wind deafened ear to get ready. "Get ready?" You smirk again. You don't even know where you are and you're supposed to jump into some paddy fertilized by God knows how many generations of farmers dropping their pants mid day or any time. At 1000 feet you see something worthy of shooting at and empty a clip of your own joining the stereophonic orchestra of both 60 cal on full rock and roll. You can't see the expression on the door gunners face because of those oversized goggles he wears but you know he's having fun smoking whatever comes across his sights. You figure the 11B's went in first and you're on about the sixth chopper so if any serious NVA were in the area the grunts would not be so casual about moving out, at least the ones you can see below. At 500 feet the familiar smells of the land sustained by the midmorning humidity hit you. "Home again" you figure as your E7 is pointing out where he wants you to jump. The Huey does that circus like elephantine up lurch to cut air speed and hovers at 5 feet. You jump and your back pack plus the blade wind of the departing bird shoves you forward. You remember to get away from the tail blades above all other considerations. You stumble of course and get a face full of pond water. "Another day in paradise" you spit while slogging to the nearest dry ground. Somebody told you that you get an Air Medal for so many flights like this. At this moment you'll settle for dry feet and could care less about air mobility. The ride is over. The work begins.

Opportunity Lost: It was one of those things husbands learn to do. In order to play guilt free golf on Sunday afternoon, I "volunteered" to do the grocery shopping on Saturday, a pretty good trade where both marriage partners get and give. Doing such keeps things in working order. So, there I was scratching off my list somewhere between cranberry juice and reduced calorie mayonnaise. Out of the corner of my eye I noted a man wearing one of those caps you see with diminishing frequency. In letters bold enough to read across an aisle, the cap read WWII, Korea, Vietnam Veteran. Having seen them before, I sort of shrugged and headed towards the frozen pizza. When I reached turkey breasts, I spoke out loud to my self. "You idiot. He might even be 1st Cav." I parked the shopping cart, went back and searched. He was gone as quickly as that. Buddy, if by some miracle you are reading this section, **Thanks**. I don't care if you are double or triple dipping on your retirements. You made possible all the joys of my life. **Thanks**.

Final Thought: As print deadline approaches, I have no new news from you guys to report. Remember that as you are reading this sentence the deadline for the next issue of *SABER* is upon me. Therefore, if you have items of interest or are provoked into writing, do it today. That is why you are reading cut and paste material and my opinions above. Where are yours? I tread on thin editorial waters when I approach submitting opinion. The facts of your experiences will always pass editorial muster. Submit them.

Kassner, and the 3rd LAR sergeant major, Marine Sergeant Major Michael Parks, who seemed happy to see their future replacements as they prepare for their redeployment.

Kassner and Parks escorted the group for a short tour of the installation and then broke into groups so that each of the staff members could interact with their counterparts and discuss operations in the area.

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545th MP COMPANY



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Greetings Fellow 545th MPs!

After a long dormant spell our unit web site is finally back up and running. If you have never seen our award winning web site or have not viewed it in a while go to <<http://545thmpcoassn.com/>> and enjoy. Please note that this is a new link so save this one and delete the old one if you have it saved in your favorites. We have added dozens of additional Tabs and most with music and a personal message from the Provost Marshal General, BG Rodney Johnson has been added as well. If anyone has photos that they would like to share with us for inclusion in the web site, please send them to me at the address shown above.

If you are a veteran of the 545th MP Company and not yet a member of our association, please go to the main page of our web site and you will find a place to register. Once you have filled out the form just click on the SUBMIT Button and when I have received your application you will be added to our Buddy Roster and sent a Membership Certificate which is suitable for framing. If you are presently serving in the 1st Cavalry Division as an MP and have never served in the 545th MP Company you can register as a Supporter and you will also be added to our Buddy Roster, just type in SUPPORTER in the comments section before you click on the Submit Button.

In our member news, we have COL Robert Byrd who served with the 545th MP Company both in Desert Storm as the 2nd Platoon Leader and later in OIF as the Division Provost Marshal who is now at the War College. COL Richard Swengros who was the 545th Company Commander at Fort Hood as a young Captain, is now back in the states after a deployment in Baghdad as the PM there who has received an assignment in the DC Area. SFC's Fred and Carey Killea have just had a baby boy at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Fred and Carey both served with the 545th in Iraq and at Fort Hood. SSG Tiffany Anderson/McKearn



Baby Killea



SFC Carey Killea

Carey Killea with baby.

THE HICCUP - Health Care Information Committee Report



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This issue's HICCUP is submitted by one of our Committee members, Dr. Barry McALPINE, who served with the 1-9th Cavalry in Vietnam. He

has served on the Foundation of the 1st Cavalry Division as a Trustee for many years.

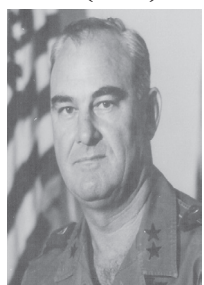
THE VA: CLOSE, BUT NOT YET GOOD ENOUGH

Over the last 50 years the VA has received much criticism regarding the quality of health care offered to America's veterans. I can confirm first hand that I had a negative experience with the Veterans Administration health care system after I was discharged from the Army in 1967.

Admittedly, many VA hospitals have been updated with new diagnostic equipment. And the staffs are being re-trained and educated in today's new systems. There are more 16,000 medical physicians working at the VA facilities across the United States to serve our veterans. But the full range of medical services is still not available.

If ever there was a time for plain speaking, realistic dialogue and respect for the needs of veterans, it is now. The multi-billion dollar question is how to reform the VA's complicated system in order to use the most current technologies and expertise in treating the different type of injuries and wounds that are flooding the system. It's vitally important to inject a new element of candor and practical problem solving in this discussion. Since my health care specialty is Chiropractic, I will focus on how the VA is upgrading the manner in which Chiropractic care is delivered. In the early 1980's I testified at a Congressional hearing regarding providing Chiropractic services for active duty soldiers, retirees and veterans. Even though Chiropractic care was a licensed profession in all 50 states and was covered under Federal laws with Medicare and Medicaid, the American

MG (Ret) GEORGE W. PUTNAM, Jr. - 1920-2009



MG George W. PUTNAM, 89, the last man to command the 1st Cavalry Division while the entire division was in Vietnam, died at his home in Arlington, Virginia on 6 August, 2009. He had congestive heart failure and cancer.

MG Putnam entered the Army as an enlisted man in October 1941 and was commissioned in 1942 subsequently serving as an instructor, battery commander, operations officer, and battalion commander in artillery units. He was a veteran of World War II in the European Theater, the Korean War, and served three tours in the Vietnam War. MG Putnam was a member of the Army Aviation Hall of Fame who began his time with Army Aviation in 1956.

Born in Fort Fairfield, Maine on 5 May, 1920 MG Putnam began his military service as a member of the Maine National Guard in 1936. He retired from the Army in 1987 after completing his military career with an assignment with NATO in Southern Europe. After his retirement from the Army he returned to the Pentagon to work as a civilian advisor until 1991.

MG Putnam was first assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division as the Commander of the Division Artillery in Vietnam. He served in that position from March to

who served with the 545th MP Co in Iraq and at Fort Hood, recently graduated CID School and is now a full fledged CID Agent. SFC Wayne Nash who served in the 545th MP Company at Fort Hood, Texas has recently been accepted to CID School and by the time this publication goes to print will be there.

After several months of extensive preparation and a trip to the National Training Center in the desert of California, the 545th once again deployed to Iraq on 28 May 2009 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom 09-10. After a short time in Kuwait to acclimatize, the unit was further deployed to Northern Iraq with the Command Element and HQS Platoon at LSA Anaconda, 1st Platoon at COB Speicher/FOB Bern-



545th MP's in Operation Iraqi Freedom

stein, 2nd Platoon at FOB Summerall and the 3rd Platoon at FOB Warhorse. This will be the first combat deployment in the unit's history with the 545th MP Company not being assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division. We all know that the 545th will continue to carry on the traditions of the First Team's Finest now that they are the Polar Bear's Finest and they will continue to be the first and best at all they do! CPT Mike Mixon confirms that the unit has already mixed it up a bit with the insurgents and let them know the 545th will take no nonsense from them!

Upon arrival in country the 545th MP Company was immediately assigned to conduct Police Transition Team Operations in support of the Multi-Division North-Iraq Command, in order to assist the Iraqi Police with continued security and stabilization of that area. In order to accomplish this, the 545th was spread over a large geographical area of northern Iraq.

I am seeking personal experiences from old timers from Japan, Korea and Vietnam for our unit history and I will also publish them in this column. If you would like to take the time to document your experiences with the 545th MP Company and send them to me (either snail mail or email), I would greatly appreciate it, and I will also send copies of such information to the MP Museum and the 1st Cavalry Division Museum.

On 10 September, the Department of Defense announced the death of 3 545th MP Troopers when the enemy attacked their vehicle with an explosive device. Killed were SSG Shannon M. Smith, PFC Thomas F. Lyons and PFC Zachary T. Myeres. I'll have more on them in the next column.

This column will be somewhat short as there is a lot going on with our unit association right now, but I promise a much longer column in the next issue. Lets all be careful out there.

Medical Association lobbied extremely hard to not allow Chiropractic services to be provided in the VA setting. After over a quarter of a century of grassroots efforts by retirees and various veterans' organizations, Congress finally passed legislation that would initiate Chiropractic care for active duty military and retirees. Since the introduction of Chiropractic services to the VA in 2004, there have been a number of developments at the national and local levels. In 2008 alone, more than 30,000 medical residents, 20,000 medical students and 50,000 other health professionals have received some or all of their clinical training at VA facilities. This has been accomplished through partnerships with more than 1,300 academic institutions—including schools of medicine, dentistry, optometry, podiatry, nursing, and chiropractic.

It is estimated that between 45% and 50% of returning eligible veterans have neuromusculoskeletal injuries that need to be treated by the VA. It is also estimated there are more than 16,000 medical doctors presently on staff at the VA...and yet only 20 to 25 are chiropractors. These few chiropractors are overwhelmed with their workload. The need for expanded chiropractic services has never been more crucial. On February 12, 2009, the U.S. House of Representatives saw introduced H.R. 1017, which is similar to previous legislation aimed at providing chiropractic care to all veterans. This bill would require the provision of chiropractic services by all VA medical facilities by the end of 2012. Passage of H.R. 1017 would be a great thing for our Nation's veterans!

What would passage of H.R. 1017 mean? It would mean that injured veterans and active duty soldiers would receive much needed neuromusculoskeletal care that is readily available to the rest of America. If effective chiropractic care were provided and if that treatment were to result in less pain, less medication, and less surgery, then the VA system would be working much more supportively.

Please feel free to contact your U.S. Senator and Congressman and thank them for their efforts to improve health care for veterans...and remind them that there is much progress still to be made.

September, 1967 and then served as the 1st Cavalry Division Chief of Staff. During this period, the division fully developed the airmobile concept in the battles of Hue and Khe Sanh and an assault into the stronghold of the Ashau Valley. MG Putnam returned to the 1st Cavalry Division in July 1970 as the Commanding General replacing MG George W. Casey who had been killed in a helicopter crash. MG Putnam commanded the First Team from July 1970 until May 1971 when the Colors of the division, minus that of the 3rd Brigade (Separate), were moved to Fort Hood, Texas.

He was a member of the President's Advisory Council of the 1st Cavalry Division Association, a member of the Army Aviation Historical Society and the Army Aviation Association of America where he worked in the association's scholarship programs.

While serving in Japan after World War II MG Putnam met and married his first wife, Elaine Anderson Putnam, who died in 1973. In 1995, he married Helen Guerin, the widow of a close friend, Army Colonel Vince Guerin, who had died in 1976.

MG Putnam is survived by his wife; a son from his first marriage, J. Glenn Putnam, four step-children, Leslie MacCallum, Philip Mahine, Jeanne Duffie and Vincent A. Guerin; six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. A son from his first marriage, Dr. James M. Putnam died in 2005.

77th FA News



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Never in the history of the U.S. Army have individuals involved in developing and testing new Army doctrine, techniques, equipment and procedures taken their final product directly to the battlefield. This changed when

those individuals initially assigned/attached to the 11th Air Assault (Test)/1st Air Cav Division completed more than 29 months of testing at Fort Benning, Georgia and then deployed the division to prove its mettle in Vietnam, the ultimate test. Thanks to these individuals, the concept of airmobility has proven itself to this day. Our story begins:

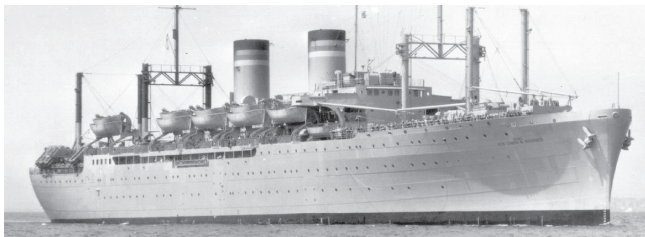
On 14 September, 1965, forty-four years ago, the 1-77 FA came shore at Qui Nhon, Republic of Vietnam (RVN) along with the 2nd Brigade Headquarters, 1st and 2nd Bn., 5th Cav and the 2nd Bn., 12th Cav, 1st Air Cavalry Division. The journey started at Fort Benning, Georgia, moving via rail to Charleston, South Carolina and on 15 August, 1965 boarded the USS Buckner and sailed south through the Panama Canal, stopping in Long Beach, California for fuel and rations before finally crossing the Pacific and anchoring off-shore of Qui Nhon that fateful day in September. Thus began the battalion's almost seven-year sojourn in RVN before finally returning to the United States with duty station at Fort Hood, Texas in June, 1971.

This journey actually began 15 February, 1963 at Fort Benning, Georgia with the formation of the 11th Air Assault Division (Test) with the sole purpose of determining if Army troops could be moved effectively about the battlefield via organic helicopters. This test took months of trial and error, initially with a small group assigned to the division and later expanded to include troops "borrowed" from the 2nd Infantry Division also stationed at Fort Benning. Most involved with the testing process felt the mission had been accomplished and it would just be a matter of time before the 11th AAD became a full-strength active Army airmobile division especially with all the activity that was going on in RVN at the time. The division did not have to wait long to find out its future for on 16 June, 1965 Secretary of Defense Robert McNAMARA announced the authorization of an airmobile division in the Army and it was to be known as the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). The division would have only eight weeks to reach REDCON-1, the Army's highest level of combat readiness. On 28 July, 1965 President Lyndon B. JOHNSON formally announced "I have today ordered to Vietnam the airmobile division".

"With airmobility, the soldier has been freed forever from the tyranny of terrain". This statement by the Division Commander, MG Harry W. O. KINNARD, made shortly after the completion of Air Assault II, the final phase of testing completed on 15 November, 1964, captured the new character of the 1st Cav. In anticipation of the kind of mission eventually given by President Johnson, the division began some initial planning. This involved mostly planning to move the organic aircraft, troops, equipment, as well as deciding what items would be needed that were not authorized by unit TO&E's. After Secretary McNamara's announcement planning began in earnest. Troops were scheduled for Annual Training Tests, short timers sent elsewhere and newly assigned troops trained in the operational techniques and procedures of the Army's first airmobile division. The division was also re-designated from the 11th Air Assault Division (Test) to the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) effective 1 July, 1965, this "formally" accomplished on 3 July, 1965 in a Division Review held at Doughboy Stadium, Fort Benning, Georgia.

With the completion of training, packing, making Will's and the inevitable shots and vaccinations required to keep the troops healthy, leave was authorized prior to the actual individual unit departure dates established for the entire division. One last-minute directive units received from Division was to dye green all their fatigues, white T-shirts, underwear and handkerchiefs since the white uniform name strips and other items acceptable for wear in the US were a very visible aiming point in jungle warfare. This final directive was accomplished although it left the sewage in Columbus, Georgia and Phoenix City, Alabama green for a long while afterwards. It also turned the yellow 1st Cav patch green and black which morphed into what later became the military uniforms subdued patch and rank insignia.

Movement of personnel was accomplished in three increments. An advance party of some 30 officers and men departed Fort Benning on 12 August. This was followed by approximately 1,000 officers and men and some 150 tons of cargo deployed from Warner Robbins Air Force Base, Georgia over a



USS Buckner

six-day period beginning 14 August. The rest of the division would follow on ships provided by the U S Navy and Military Sea Transport Service (MSTS) troop ships. In all six MSTS troop ships (Buckner, Geiger, Rose, Darby, Patch and Upshur) with the division's 435 aircraft carried on four U S Navy aircraft carriers (Kula Gulf, Croaton, Card and Boxer) were used.

The troop ships were combat-loaded, the premise being the division might have to fight its way ashore but more on this later. Though life aboard ship was relatively comfortable, food good, and training minimal due to space limitations, training was still conducted. The 1st Air Cav units were the first to receive the newly issued M-16 rifle which few had actually fired. So on the Buckner (on which I travelled) the crew rigged up a floating target which it towed from the ships fan tail. Rifle familiarization and firing was done from this position once the target was stabilized and didn't sink while being towed. One senior officer whose name I will not mention did put on a demonstration for his infantry unit by firing the weapon at full automatic and managed to slice a piece of the guard rail right off its mounting which the MSTS personal did not appreciate.

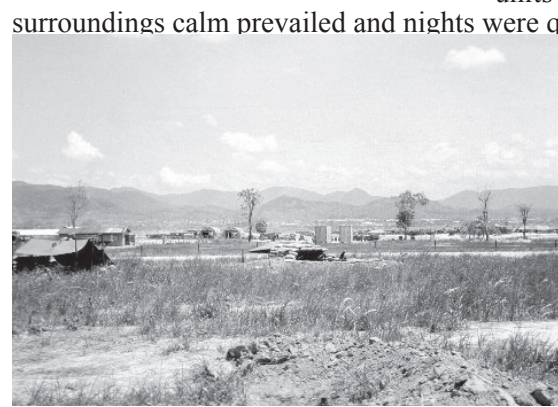
Just a few years ago I learned that at our stop in Long Beach, California with the troops confined on board ship, that the ship's stewards made a healthy side income purchasing booze for many on board. This was mentioned during one

of the many reunions I have attended and certainly came as no surprise knowing human nature as I do.

B/1-77 FA was the first unit off the USS Buckner landing on shore in Qui Nhon harbor via LST. Though the possibility of fighting our way ashore had been a possibility the first person I saw waiting for us on the beach was GEN John K. WATERS, CINCUSAPAC (Commander in Chief, U S Army, Pacific), whose son was in one of the infantry battalions, and I thought to myself that it can't be too dangerous if a 4-star general is greeting us. Once ashore all elements of the



B/1-77 FA coming ashore Qui Nhon harbor, 14 Sept., 1965.



An Khe Base Camp, circa 1965.

2nd Brigade were moved to our new base, Camp Radcliff, better known as the "Golf Course", in An Khe, RVN. Units occupied assigned positions, with the infantry units on the outer perimeter, artillery units next, and then higher HQ's near the center of the camp circle with the Division helipad in the center. Pup-tents were set up, guards posts manned and C-rations issued. The first few nights a lot of ammo was expended on shadows and other supposedly moving objects but as the units became acquainted with their surroundings calm prevailed and nights were quieter.

B/1-77 FA was the first to receive their equipment off the USS Buckner, which was initially five howitzers. The BC's jeep (mine!) was nowhere to be found but later was found (and recovered). It had been "confiscated" by Special Forces troops and traded to a medical battalion for something else they needed. B/1-77 FA fired the first artillery projectile for the 1st Cavalry Division in Vietnam on 16 September, 1965 thus beginning some hundreds of thousands of rounds fired by the battalion during its time in Vietnam.

On 18 September, 1965 B/1-77 FA was also the first 1st Cav unit to be tactically employed participating in Operation GIBRALTER, an offensive operation in an adjoining valley to the east of An Khe, in support of the 101st Airborne Division, the unit providing security for our arrival. CH-47 choppers arrived and B Btry flew to assist the 101st, the first of many such events during my tour, thus making this the first employment of artillery utilizing the Chinook helicopter in a combat zone for the U S Army. In just 95 days from Secretary McNAMARA's authorization of an airmobile division and 90 days after the general order activating the division, it was involved in combat, no easy task and one that has few comparisons if at all.

The balance of September was devoted to establishing the base camp, which meant digging howitzer emplacements, installing communication lines, Co, Btry and Battalion HQ's, latrines, and other necessary facilities. We had no permanent facilities, no mess hall or A-rations, just a cook, a fire unit, a pot and water to make coffee or chicken soup to keep us awake at night. Sand bags were in short supply, engineer equipment at a premium so no berms or buried Conex containers for the guns or FDC. Just a few small tents for the Btry CP and FDC. Being a 105mm unit we made use of the wooden ammo boxes to make floors in our hooch's and to reinforce parapet construction. We also used the fiber tubes for map storage. It was not the best of worlds but certainly not the worst of worlds! Once the base camp was set up it was on to, move, shoot, and communicate and then do it all over again sometimes several times a day.

In early October, 1965 B/1-77 FA was supporting 1st Air Cav units east of An Khe in a relatively flat grassy plain. Ammo resupply was needed and this was to be done utilizing the Caribou aircraft via a Low-Level Aerial Extraction (LOLEX) procedure with the aircraft flying at about 500 feet (or less) with the ammo pallets (on rollers connected to a parachute) pulled out the rear of the aircraft. On this occasion the ammo was spread out over a very large area due to a malfunction. Many years later I learned that a "new technique" was being tested that day which involved hooking two ammo pallets to one parachute rather than having each pallet connected to a separate parachute. This worked fine on the first pallet but inertia took over on the second pallet and in effect dumped both ammo pallets over a wide area necessitating battery personnel to be exposed for a long period to recover the rounds. This took quite a bit of time and also resulted in several of the battery's Troopers getting punji stake wounds. I don't believe the two-pallet/one parachute LOLEX procedure was ever used again.

Because the division Tactical Area of Operations (TAOR) was so large each brigade was assigned a sector; 1st Brigade's being Pleiku Province, 2nd Brigade assigned Kontum Province and 3rd Brigade assigned Binh Dinh Province. Various operations followed such as "HAPPY VELLE" in Vinh Thanh Valley, "SHINY BAYONET" in Suoi Ca Valley plus Highway 19 security, support for the arrival of the Republic of Korea's (ROK) Capital Infantry Division, better known as the TIGER Division, which was located about midway between An Khe and Qui Nhon, CIDG camp support and other missions as assigned.

On 19 October, 1965 at 2300 hours the NVA fired mortars into the Plei Me camp, Pleiku Province, followed by heavy ground firing. Thus began what is commonly referred to as the Pleiku Campaign which lasted from 19 October to 25 November, 1965 and in which every assigned/attached 1st Air Cav unit fought. The most famous battles of this campaign are LZ X-Ray and LZ Albany . and will be discussed in my next article. Initially the 1st Air Cav response was provided by the 1st Brigade followed by the 3rd Brigade and ended under the control of the 2nd Brigade.

By 25 October, ARVN troops were sent to reinforce Plei Me, then bogged down and thereafter were reluctant to move without artillery support. To remedy this situation CPT John AVERA (LTC, Ret), LnO to 2-12 Cav was flown to a

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77th FA News**Continued from pg. 22**

position to direct fire from the two firing Btry's emplaced to support this operation (B/2-17 FA and B/2-19 FA). It was necessary for John to get in the lead ARVN tank and literally walk the artillery fire down the road in front of the advancing ARVN column. The ARVN troops finally arrived at their destination after several days delay.



CV-2 Caribou STOL (Short Take-Off and Landing) aircraft, circa 1965.

making it look like a porcupine. These aircraft flew at about 10,000 feet in a monotonous circle which extended the range of organic radio equipment greatly assisting in operational control.

This is just a brief summary of events that took place during September-October, 1965. I will try to cover other months of our initial deployment in subsequent articles and will include a list of all major operations by name and unit that were conducted by the 1st Air Cav during its first year in RVN. I am no historian but do have an interest in history and I have tried to depict events as close as I can personally recall and from what occurred to many of us at this time in our lives, as well as gleaned from other historical documents. If anyone cares to provide input, comments, or individual events that occurred during your tour with the 1-77 FA in RVN please send them to me. Thanks.

I recently heard from MAJ (Ret) Leo JOHNSON who began his career with the 1-77 FA in 1942 and ended it in RVN also in the 1-77 FA. Leo was wondering how many WW II names we had in our 77th Artillery Association (www.77fa.org) data base. I could only find 54 from both 1st and 2nd Battalions, and not sure if any are still with us. I did mail him a copy of the roster I printed and hope he recognized some of the names. Leo is now 90 years old and still hanging in there. Leo can be reached at Rural Route 2, Box 15-A, Stratford, OK 74872-9407; phone: (580) 759-2624.

COL Carl TROUT, 1-77 FA commander from 7 June, 2005 to 6 March, 2007 is presently attend the U S Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. He was promoted to O-6 the beginning of September, 2009 with the assistance of his wife and BG Jim BOOZER who commanded the 1-77 FA from 12 June, 1997 to 29 June, 1999. COL TROUT was the Dep CO, 214th Fires Bde, when BG BOOZER commanded this unit at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Col TROUT resides at C23 Forbes Ave., Carlisle Barracks, PA 17013, <carl.trout@us.army.mil>.

Jerry NORTON was kind enough to send along his updated contact information which has been added to the 77th Artillery Association master data base. Jerry served in both B Btry and HHS Btry from September to December, 1969 before transferring to the 42nd PID. His current address is Jerry W. NORTON, RA Editorial, 2F Thomson Reuters, 18 Science Park Drive, Singapore 118229, Cell phone: +65 9715 6352, e-mail: <remoteore@hotmail.com>.

John F MORAN also sent along his updating information. John served in HHS Btry, 1-77 FA from February, 1970 to March, 1971 as a Captain. John now resides at 1013 Willowdale Avenue, Kettering, OH 45429-4732, home phone: (937) 299-8729, cell phone: (937) 361-1333 and his e-mail address is: <johnjanmoran@woh.rr.com>. Always appreciate this information as it helps the 77th Artillery Association keep up with its many veterans.

About it for this issue. Keep those stories, inquiries, photos and commentary coming as I can use whatever is sent. I thank those that have provided their history previously and hope more will do so. Concrete 46 – out!

Division Doings**Continued from pg. 20.**

The 3rd Brigade's representatives then moved to an Iraqi Army operating base and broke bread with a deputy commander of 3rd Iraqi Army Division assets operating in the region. The staff was able to ask questions and address questions from the Iraqi Army representatives on how to best partner in the region. Both 3rd Brigade and the IA seemed satisfied with the outcome of the meeting.

"We were able to listen to our Iraqi counterparts from the 3rd Iraqi Army Division brief us on their current and future plans for operating in the area as well as share significant ideas on how we could better assist and complement one another with our joined assets," said Smith. "In addition, anytime we have the opportunity to sit down and meet with our Iraqi brothers, it almost always leads to a meal, which all of us enjoy. The sharing and friendship is where we make the most from these meetings. These meetings allow us to share information amongst one another as well as define the transparency we are striving for."

The mission ended near the border between Iraq and Syria, where the brigade staff got a tour of the point of entry between the two countries.

The 3rd Brigade is set to move into western Ninewah province as the 3rd LAR begins their redeployment process in mid-September. As the Marines leave, 3rd Brigade will ramp up and continue improvement of essential services and quality of life for the population in this region. The focus for the brigade is continued forward momentum on improving security, stimulating economic growth and improving stability throughout the Ninewah province.

Combined Force Clears Dangerous Route by PFC Justin Naylor, 2nd BCT, 1st Cav Division PAO

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, KIRKUK, Iraq - A combined force consisting of Iraqi and U.S. Soldiers, Iraqi Police and Sons of Iraq conducted a large-scale clearing operation, September 23, along a key road in Kirkuk province to prevent insurgents from staging attacks with improvised explosive devices. The road between Kirkuk and Hawijah has recently been the scene of multiple IED attacks targeting both Iraqi Security Forces and U.S. Forces.

"This road is the main artery from Hawijah to Kirkuk," said 1LT Patrick MERRISS, the executive officer of Company C, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

"We were attempting to find and clear out possible weapons caches and anything [insurgents] might have emplaced there."

VETERANS DAY 2009 IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

From Sunday, 8 November to Wednesday, 11 November 2009 the 1st Cavalry Division Association and the National Capitol Region Chapter will sponsor our annual Veterans Day Hospitality Suite and Gift Shop at the Hilton Crystal City at National Airport Hotel for all present and former First Team members and their families. The hotel is located at 2399 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202. The 1st Cav Division Association room rate was originally \$129 per night but we had to renegotiate the price for additional rooms at \$189 per night for a single or double room. We have contracted for a discounted parking rate of \$12 per night. You must be a hotel guest to get the discounted parking rate. Room reservations MUST have been made before 9 October 2009 in order to receive the discounted rate. Call the Hilton national reservations office at (800) 445-8667 for reservations.

On Wednesday, 11 November at 1300 hours, there will be a ceremony and wreath laying at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Times are being coordinated to place wreaths at the Korean War Memorial and World War II Memorial on Veterans Day. Details will be posted in the Hospitality Suite. Join us in remembering our veterans on Veterans Day.

VETERANS DAY DINNER IN WASHINGTON, DC

The National Capitol Region Chapter in conjunction with the 1st Cavalry Division Association will host the 1st Annual First Team Veterans Day Dinner on Wednesday evening 11 November, 2009 at the Hilton Crystal City/National Airport, 2329 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA 22202. A cash bar will be open at 1800 and dinner will begin at 1900 hours. For dinner reservations please send \$40 per ticket to the 1st Cavalry Division Association, 302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703. In order to ensure that you have tickets, full payment must be received no later than 22 October, 2009. Do not wait until October to order your tickets. We urge you to send in your reservations and check or credit card number as early as possible. We can accept VISA or MASTERCARD only. Please ensure that your card number and expiration dates are written correctly. Please provide your name, address, unit you served with and the name(s) of your guests with your payment. Tickets will be available for pickup in the 1st Cavalry Division Association Hospitality Suite or at the door to the banquet room. Since this is the first year for this dinner to be held, we have no previous history to judge the size of the response. We must make final coordination with the hotel before the event and we will not be able to accommodate late registrations.

We are still in the process of coordinating the speaker for the dinner but the 1st Cavalry Division Honor Guard will be present and we will have a good time.

VETERANS DAY DINNER - \$40 per Ticket

Name: _____

Address: _____

Guest(s) Name _____

Amount \$ _____ # Tickets _____ Credit Card _____ Check _____

EXP Date _____
 Credit Card Number - Print clearly _____

Date _____
 Signature - Credit Card Payment Only _____

The operation began before dawn, when U.S. Soldiers met up with their IA counterparts to begin checking the route. Both sides placed Soldiers in the fields on either side of the road and began the nearly 18-kilometer walk.

"We are showing power in the area," said LTC Ganem Hussein Shabeeb, an officer with 2nd Battallion, 47th Brigade 12th IA Division. "This lets the people know that we work together."

This mission will also help keep the civilians traveling the road out of harm's way, Merriss said.

"This is a very important road to keep safe," said Ganem. "There is normally a lot of traffic."

While the IA and U.S. Soldiers searched the fields and road, Soldiers and IP kept civilian vehicles off the road and ensured there were no insurgents traveling on the road to retrieve hidden weapons.

Merriss said this was the first time that an operation like this has been conducted along this route since his unit began operating there.

In addition to providing Soldiers to clear the fields, U.S. forces also provided

Continued on pg. 24

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The Crossed Sabers Souvenir Shop is a non-profit organization. Net income is distributed to the Association for application to the Scholarship Program and other ongoing programs as needed, to the Soldier Travel Fund which allows active duty soldiers of the Division to attend away Reunions as guests of the Association, to the 1st Cavalry Division Museum and to fund other activities for the Troopers and families of the 1st Cavalry Division Association. The manager, Michelle Wolfe, accepts telephone orders with payment by MASTERCARD, VISA or DISCOVER credit cards or you can order on-line using credit cards. Printed catalogs are available for \$3.00 from the Association, 302 N. Main St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1703. Make your check out to 1st Cav. Div. Assn.

Thank you for supporting the Souvenir Shop and the Troopers of the 1st Cavalry Division Association.



HONOR ROLL

Acknowledgement of generous donations from the following troopers:



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SP-5 McCRORY, Robert W.
MR. McKNIGHT, Bruce
SGT MERCHANT, John R.
SP-5 MILES, Fred C.
SP-4 MOORE, Alfred F.
1SG (RET) MURRAY, Thomas B.
SP-5 NAGY, Frank J.
SSG OAKES, Thomas D.
COL (RET) OAKLEY, Howard H.
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SP-4 REED, Richard C.
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SP-5 SPITZ, III, Charles W.
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SGT HENRY, Alfred C.
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Division Doings

Continued from pg. 23.

aerial support and military working dogs especially trained to find explosives. Although no weapons were discovered during the operation, multiple command wires used to trigger IEDs were found along the route.

"The operation was also successful in its secondary purpose, in identifying points of interest, confirming and denying cache locations and trigger points, and allowing reconnaissance of combined ambush emplacement locations," said Merriss.

Ganem explained this operation showed insurgents in the area that the military can go anywhere it needs to go to conduct operations and keep people safe. He added insurgents will think twice about emplacing IEDs on this route in the future after seeing this operation.

WANTED

IF YOU SERVED WITH, KNOW, KNEW OR HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING, PLEASE COMMUNICATE WITH THE CONTACT LISTED.



MAUSER, CPL Joseph R., A Co., 7th CAV, KIA 8 June, 1951 and MAUSER VALLEY, named after CPL Mauser for "Doing his job" See photo of stone memorial which is located "somewhere north of the 38th Parallel". If you have any knowledge of the monument or CPL Mauser please contact: John GILLESPIE, 178 Iceland Dr., South Huntington, NY 11746, (631) 421-1332.