



THE LRRP/RANGERS

OF THE FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION

DURING THE VIETNAM WAR



NUMBER 30

MARCH 2000

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings One and All!

Well, the year 2000 is here, and I don't know about the rest of you, but I am having a difficult time writing the date with such a number. It just plain does not look right. I realize that it is just my age showing, but that is the way I see it. For those of you who subscribe to the Saber, you may notice that this article is a lot like that one. Truth of the matter is that I will be repeating myself because it is my opinion that a lot of it bears repeating for those who have not read it yet.

It has been several months since our last visit, and I hope that each and everyone of you and your families had a wonderful holiday time. As most of you know by now, Veterans' Day is still the predominant holiday for me. I take great pride in having served in the military and in this unit in particular. A lot of years have passed since my service time, but I met a lot of really great people during my active duty; and with the support of this organization, I am most fortunate to continue to meet new and interesting individuals. That fact was once again borne out during this past Veterans' Day week when Bob Gill, Larry Curtis, and Doug Matze journeyed out to the great plains to join Tony Schutty and me in the Third Annual Iowa Pheasant Hunt Extravaganza. Jeannie Curtis came along, and she, Danita, Lindsay, and Lisa did some serious "power" shopping while here. When Tony and I picked Doug up at the Des Moines airport, he was a little leery of going out on a five-man team. He must be superstitious. Seems the last time he did that was in 1970, when he got wounded and was medivaced out of Vietnam. We told him that Tony's son Jason would be joining us to make the count six, and his apprehension, for reasons known only to God, seemed to subside!

I realize that this may sound like a copout, but the pheasant population was way down this year due to the tremendous amount of rain that we received in the spring and early summer. In a word, hunting was lousy. "Dead-eye" Bob blasted the only two birds we got. The problem is the man has no humility! The good part of the whole experience was, of course, the camaraderie. When the breaks came, of which there were many, the stories and jokes flew. The weather was

warm and probably the best times were those we spent sitting on the tailgates of the trucks along a gravel road or in a field driveway and talking about everything from politics to work and family. Most evenings were spent at Tony and Judy Schutty's home. As well as all of the wives, Judy is the consummate hostess and makes certain that everyone feels welcomed and comfortable in her home. This entire event is not unlike the great times that we have at the reunions. No schedules. No pressures. No place to be at the moment other than where you are. It was great.

As you are aware, the next reunion will be August 9-13 in Fayetteville, NC. I would anticipate a good turnout for this event. The largest number of members we have ever had at a reunion was at Ft. Benning in 1990. Ten fast years having passed, we will be in the military south once again. For those of you who have attended in the past, I urge you to make a concerted effort to come to this one. For those of you who have yet to attend a reunion, there is no time like the present. The past is past. The future is owed to no one. I had a call from Bill Anton recently, and if "things" go well, he has a surprise for us at the reunion. Those of you who are military historical buffs will not want to miss this.

Mike Brennan is reported to be living in the Goldsboro, NC area; and, hopefully, the region has been able to overcome the massive floods they were subjected to this past year. For all of us who have experienced such calamity, we know the resiliency of the human spirit and how lives and communities can be rebuilt from the ravages of these forces of nature. I would also speculate that our recreation chairman, Mr. Bill Hand, has already hatched a plan for this year's physical endurance test. For those who don't have a clue what I am talking about, please come to the reunion and join in. Howard Shute will be there.

With the year 2000 comes an opportunity to elect new officers to serve your organization for the next two years. It has always been my intention to serve only one term as the Chapter President and then turn it over. I believe that there is a wealth of abilities and knowledge out there, and I am at this time asking each of you to consider stepping forward and serving in a new capacity. I welcome any and all recommendations for a list of officers. We will be contacting others in the near future

to ask them to consider serving. Keep one important thing in mind. It is our organization, and it belongs to each of us. Your input and vote count. If you choose not to participate actively, then please consider not participating negatively. Neither I nor any of the other board members have a political agenda. If we did, we would be running for the Presidency of the United States. Everyone else seems to be.

Just a few more items before I close these ramblings. On a sad note, we have received word that Paul (Blinky) Morgucz passed away from liver disease. His services were held on February 5, 2000. I had the opportunity to serve with Blinky in 1972. Blinky served two tours with the Rangers. He was predominantly an L Company Ranger, who came to H Company in December 1971 when the 101st Airborne stood down. I extend to all of the L Company Rangers our sympathy.

On a brighter note, I have exchanged a couple of e-mails with Dave Hanson. Dave and I served on the same team in Vietnam along with Jim Smith (another L Co. Ranger) and Steve Arntz to name just a few. Dave pointed out that, whenever things seems a little more physically demanding,, he thinks back to our Vietnam days and tries to answer that age old question, "How in the hell did we do what we did?" Answers anyone?

Ron Hall is alive and well. I was used to getting several jokes a day from Ron, but after the first of the year, they just stopped. I wasn't sure if I made him mad and he took me off his list or whether something had happened to him. I recently got a reply that he had been out of the state of Texas for a month. He gave us full warning that he had to clear 200 messages off his e-mail and to stand by.

The Website continues to expand and new e-mail addresses are added all of the time. I would like to once again commend Bruce Judkins on the fine job he does with that system. Over the past almost two years now, Bruce has made contact with a lot of people, both good and bad and has handled himself graciously. Remember, folks, he is our point man out there. He does not need any grief from any of us. He has connected with misplaced or lost members and brought them back in. When you get a chance, drop him a line and tell him how much you appreciate his efforts. Also, visit the website. You'll see a very young Bruce Judkins along with a very young Mike Brennan and other. MY, how we have changed?

The last people I need to commend are Sam and Cathy Dixon. They have been bringing you this newsletter for close to two years and doing an excellent job. Other than my slowing them up a little, they have been very timely at getting these issues to you. Sam and others will have more information for you elsewhere in the newsletter. Drop me a line or a note sometime, and let me know what you are up to. Until next time. Take care and take the time to keep in touch with one another.

Stan

LRRP/RANGER MERCHANDISE PRICE LIST

T-shirts (black or white) M, L, XL, XXL	\$12.00
Hats (black or white)	10.00
Decals (interior or exterior)	1.75
Watches (Man's or Woman's)	35.00
Belt Buckles	20.00
Ranger Training Video (now in stock)	10.00
Lapel Pins	3.00
Golf (Polo) Shirts (black or white) M, L, XL, XXL	24.00
Cloth Scroll Patch (CO H 75th INF)	4.00
Shipping (Additional)	3.00

Please mail check or money order to: Doug Matze, Jr., 9623 Springhouse Drive, Chesterfield, VA 23832. Payable to: LRRP/Ranger

ANNUAL DUES \$15 PAYABLE TO LRRP/RANGER

LRRP/RANGER FINANCIAL REPORT 8/1/98-1/31/00

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$5294.46
INCOME FROM REUNION 1999	\$1945.50
LESS REUNION EXPENSES	(816.10)
NET FROM REUNION	1129.40
INCOME:	
DUES, MERCHANDISE, DONATIONS	292.00
EXPENSES:	
INVENTORY PURCHASES	494.61
SHIPPING	6.40
NEWSLETTER, WEB PAGE	287.45
TOTAL EXPENSES	(788.46)
ENDING BALANCE	\$5927.40

SUBMITTED BY DOUG MATZE, JR., TREASURER

WEB NEWS

<http://www.geocities.com/Pentagon/5346>

The web site has been doing well lately. We've topped 20,000 visitors. We have about 110 e-mail addresses on the e-mail page and have added quite a few photos from Nam. In fact, we have over 500 photographs on the site at this time and a lot more promised. It's interesting and gratifying to see the things that happen as a result of the web site. Some of our own folks see the web site, are quite familiar with it, but still don't come forward and join us. That puzzles me. A few have found

the site and readily made contact with me to let their whereabouts be known. Others have contacted other LRRP/Rangers and made themselves known that way. I am reasonably sure, however, that there are some who still maintain anonymity and visit the site. Of well, I guess they have their reasons.

Some interesting things have happened recently. In response to my e-mail message requesting photos of Joe Whitsitt, our president, Stan Freeborn, answered the call. He sent me a couple of photos with Whitsitt in them. I put them on the web site and immediately e-mailed Joe Whitsitt, Jr., advising him of the pictures. He was very happy to see them, as he had no photos of his father from his days in Vietnam. He told me that he would tell his sister and that she would be happy to see them as well. Joe senior died about 10 years ago and it did my heart good to be able to help his son keep the memory of his father alive. I've also heard from a few of you that folks have contacted you via e-mail that you haven't heard from in years. That's music to my ears!

Another interesting and totally unexpected thing resulted from the web site. I received an e-mail from my room mate at Ft. Jackson where I did my infantry A.I.T. I had not heard from him since June of 1968. He had found my name and a few pictures on the web site and contacted me wondering if I was, in fact, the same guy who endured Ft. Jackson with him. We've had a grand time comparing notes via e-mail and have even talked on the phone a bit. It made my day that a fellow remembered who I was after all those years!

The "Our Next Reunion" page is up with a countdown device telling you how many days until the Fayetteville reunion. It also have the dates, hotel information, and links to registration forms on the 1st Cavalry Division's web site that you can print out and mail in.

Every now and then when making changes to the web site I inadvertently mess up some links. If you discover any errors let me know ASAP. Broken links are frustrating for people trying to use the web page. They are relatively easy to fix, but I have to know they aren't working. If you discover one let me know the page you were on when the link failed. Remember to keep me abreast of any e-mail, phone, or address changes.

Finally, and this is mainly for those of you who are not regular users of the Internet, "Our Next Reunion" page lists all the names of LRRP/Rangers and their friends and/or family members coming with them to Fayetteville. If you are planning to come I'd like to add your name(s) to the list. If you don't have e-mail you can call me at (540) 889-4974 and let me know. If you want you can mail the info to Bruce Judkins at P.O. Box 2124, Lebanon, VA 24266. I'll get the names up there ASAP. Seeing your name up there may be

all that's needed to get a fence sitter off the fence and headed to the reunion. LET ME KNOW! Jeannie and I hope to see you there! Bruce, The Web Sarge

NEWSLETTER REPORT

For the October 1999 mailing, I sent out 428 newsletters and another one at a later date. I had 10 letters come back, of which 4 were remailed with address corrections. One of these four also came back. Our number of lost addresses still remains low for the recent mailings. We can thank Bruce Judkins for keeping track of all the address changes.

Bruce recently sent me a full listing for good and bad addresses. We have a list of 239 +/- addresses for members who have been found, but have moved with no forwarding address.

For our members who are not able to make the reunions, there is an organization roster available for a fee of \$5. Rosters are available by mail from Doug Matze. All members who come to a reunion get an updated copy free. Copies are only available to confirmed members. It is to be used only by members to contact each other and for newsletter mailings.

If you have not seen a roster, the information on it lists the confirmed member's name, address (or last known address), possible member's name, KIA listing, "Wall" listing, and known deceased members.

SHORT NEWS

The Chapter would like to thank John Butkovich and Art Niernberger for their donations toward mailing costs of this newsletter.

REUNION INFO

This year's reunion will be in Fayetteville, NC from August 9 to 13, 2000. Our hotel of choice is the Hampton Inn at 1700 Skibo Road in Fayetteville. Phone Number 910-487-4006. The Chapter has reserved a meeting room at no cost to be used as the Reunion Room. Rooms are block reserved under the 1st Cav Association.

Please reserve early so you will be able to get your room of choice. Be aware that the Cav will be working out of the Holiday Inn which is about 5 miles from the group of three other hotels (including the Hampton Inn).

Holiday Inn, Bordeaux \$70/night, Phone 800-325-0211
Hampton Inn \$65/night, Phone 910-487-4006
Days Inn \$64.95/night, Phone 910-874-9541
Innkeeper—Cross Creek \$62.99/night, Phone 910-867-7659

Hope to see you all in NC. Sam