



THE LRRP/RANGERS

OF THE FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION

DURING THE VIETNAM WAR



NUMBER 34

SEPTEMBER 2001

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings One and All!

I hope everyone has had a great summer. Things have been very hectic for me since early spring and will not slow down until after the first week in October. I truly have not had time to work on this newsletter till now. This newsletter should have been in the mail in June, but the reunion was two months early this year and that made it fall in June. After each reunion, I write an article for the Saber. I am planning on getting the next newsletter out to everyone some time after the start of the new year. I will be putting out two more newsletters before the 2002 reunion. This year is an election year again, so the board will be working on officer elections. The next reunion will be the Fourth of July week at Colorado Springs. As I get the info from the 1st Cav, I will be posting it in our newsletter and my email.

There were a few of our regulars who were not able to make this year's reunion. Every one of them was greatly missed. I am looking forward to seeing them and their families next year. We had 28 LRRP/Rangers plus family, friends, and special guests. Those in attendance were: Roger and Barbara ALBERTSON; Paul ALFARO; Henry AVILA; John BUTKOVICH; Terry COMBS; Larry and Jeannie CURTIS; Sam and Cathy DIXON; Stan FREEBORN; Bennie and Sandy GENTRY; Doc GILCHREST plus daughter Jennifer, son-in-law Brian Edwards and their three children; Ron HALL; Bill HAND; John HUTTER and friend; Curtis KIMES; Doug MATZE; Mike MCCOY; Jim and Sue MCINTYRE; John MCSWAIN; Bob OAKS; Charlie OCHOA; Keith and Frankie PHILLIPS; Dan and Bonnie ROBERTS; Dave RUSSELL and friend; Danny SVOBODA; Rudy TORRES; John TRUMBULL. We had a special guest with his family; Joe DURHAM, brother to KIA Monty "Bull" DURHAM; Joe's wife Linda; and his two daughters Mandy and Joy.

This year's first time reunion guys were Terry COMBS; Mike MCCOY; Curtis KIMES; Keith PHILLIPS; and John MCSWAIN.

One of this year's surprise new guys was John "Mac" MCSWAIN. He had only found out about our chapter two days before the reunion. Mac had a business meeting in Austin and stopped in just to find out about the Cav reunion and our chapter. Mac ended up staying two days and it was a good thing he only

had a 4-hour drive to get home. He had to get home, pack, and leave again for an out-of-state trip.

I would like to thank Joe DURHAM and his family for coming this year. I hope the healing that has begun will continue. I believe that, every reunion we have, we learn something new, we meet some new friends, we enjoy the company of old friends, and go home a better person than when we came.

One of our core group of members who attend the reunions has made a major job change. When a lot of us are looking forward to retiring in a few years, John HUTTER, at the age of 53, graduated in the top of his class from the Sheriff's Academy. That has got to rank high on the list of accomplishments anyone could make. John, we all wish you the best of luck.

You never know whom you will run into at the reunion. Well, Charles SWEENEY made a point to find me. Major (Ret.) SWEENEY worked as a test director on some test programs at APG, MD. I was one of the crewmembers firing the test weapons back in the late 70's. We lost touch when he was transferred to his next duty station. It was great to see him again.

There are several guys in our group looking for any Montagnards or KCS's that may have made it to the U.S. If anyone out there has information that may help, please contact Bill CARPENTER at 304-366-0022 or email vetvet@sbccom.com; Doug PARKINSON at 707-822-8421 or email dpa@humboldt1.com; Bill ELLIOTT at 937-927-5702 or willyworld@ameritech.net.

I have a short list of new names sent to me by the Cav Association. If anyone knows someone on the following list, please let me know. I would not want to have the Cav Association remove names from our listing that may belong there. The list is Hugh E. LAMB, Jerry S. TESHIMA; Jerry Scott TROMBLEY; Lewis RHODEN; Dennis LAWRENCE; Bruce E. BELL; Russel D. WARD; Walter J. Przybysz; George E. HARVIN; Gary E. WATERHOUSE; and Kenneth YEISLEY

If I don't hear from anyone soon, I will be requesting that the names be removed from our listing. We now have 256 confirmed names listed with the 1st Cav Association, but not all with correct addresses. We have more than 440 names with good addresses on the LRRP/Ranger roster. I will be working again this year on

getting our chapter listing to a higher number.

During this year's general membership meeting, I brought to the floor some proposed changes in our bylaws and the reason for making the changes. After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed upon that there were some big holes in the bylaws that need correcting. I have had some input by email from some of the members who attended the meeting. If any of you who were at the meeting would like to still provide some input, please email or write to me. I would like to get a draft out to the board members who were not at the meeting and to those who were there.

LRRP/RANGER MERCHANDISE PRICE LIST

T-shirts (black) S, M, L, XL, XXL (white) XL, XXL	\$12.00
Hats (black or white)	10.00
Decals (interior or exterior)	2.00
Watches (Man's or Woman's)	35.00
Belt Buckles (Numbered)	20.00
Training Video (Recondo)	10.00
Lapel Pins (Chapter Logo)	3.00
Golf (Polo) Shirts (black or white) M, L, XL, XXL	24.00
Wind Shirt Pullover (black or khaki) M, L, XL, XXL	36.00
Sweatshirts (black or gray) M, L, XL, XXL	25.00
Cloth Scroll Patch (CO H 75th INF)	4.00
Cloth Logo Patch	4.00
Annual Dues	15.00
Shipping (Additional)	4.00

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

LRRP/RANGER FINANCIAL REPORT

8/1/99-8/30/01

BEGINNING BALANCE		\$6245.10
INCOME FROM REUNION 2000	\$2695.00	
LESS REUNION EXPENSES	(716.09)	
NET FROM REUNION		1978.91
INCOME:		
DUES, MERCHANDISE, DONATIONS	1855.75	
OTHER: LOCATING EXP. RETURNED	200.00	
		2055.75
EXPENSES:		
INVENTORY PURCHASES	4523.82	
SHIPPING	114.74	
NEWSLETTER, WEBSITE	510.16	
DONATION: MEMORIAL	500.00	
SCHOLARSHIP	200.00	
COPIES	44.52	
BANK CHARGES	10.00	
LOCATING	200.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES		6103.24
ENDING BALANCE		\$4176.52

WEB NEWS

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

There's been a lot of activity regarding several issues of interest to our members in recent months. A lot of activity has centered on the plight of the Montagnards. After our unit moved to Phuoc Vinh, we ceased working with them, but the LRRPs who worked in the Central Highlands have a lot of love and respect for them. Bill Carpenter has spent a lot of time contacting people who are working on behalf of the Montagnards in Vietnam and Cambodia. They are being treated very severely by both governments. There is now a couple of links on the LRRP/Ranger web page to very informative sites regarding these people and the problems they are having. Check out the site called "Vietnam Highlands Assistance Project" to learn more. It's hard to believe that people are abusing whole cultures like this today, but the communist Vietnamese never were known for their tolerance or brotherly love. Hopefully, we can do some good for these people by working with others and help enlighten others regarding the atrocities being committed on people who fought alongside us.

Another interesting new link on the LRRP/Ranger site is one called Found Dog Tags. This is a site created by a couple of guys who found G.I. dog tags for sale in Vietnam. They bought them all and are trying to return them to families of the men, most of whom were killed in Vietnam. I recently read of a set of those dog tags being delivered to a lady in Roanoke, VA whose nephew was killed in Nam. All of the names on the dog tags yet to be returned are posted on the site.

One new page is on our site and I especially need input from those of you who do not have email. This page is a photo page that shows vanity license plates of our members that relate to service in our unit. A photo of my plate "Talon 31" is on the site and Bill Carpenter's Purple Heart plate is on there also. If you have such a plate (and I know a lot of you do), please send a photo to me. I'll put the picture up and your name below it. I've seen a lot of these at various reunions that I've attended.

Another page will soon be up listing members of our unit that served more than the required 12 months as a LRRP or Ranger. I have several names already, but need to hear from those of you who don't have email. Just tell me the month you entered the unit and the month you left and I'll add this info to the page.

In late 1970 a Company H ranger was killed when a rotor blade struck him during an insertion. Many people remember the incident, but no one seems to be able to recall the man's name. We need this man's name. We need to have his name on the "Tribute" page on the web site and we need to make sure that there is a brick with his name on it at Ft. Benning. If any of you can recall this man's name, please let me or any of the officers know ASAP.

My address is P.O. Box 2124, Lebanon, VA 24266. My phone number is (540) 889-4974. Hope to see you all in Colorado Springs.

Finally, please keep me informed of any changes of address, phone number, email address, etc. and those of you with email, keep those boxes emptied out. If you don't, the emails that I send out bounce. If you haven't received several emails from me in the past month, that's why.

Bruce

**1st Cavalry Division Association
55th Reunion
3 to 7 July 2002
Colorado Springs, Colorado**

REUNION REMINDER FROM 1ST CAV ASSOCIATION

LRRP/Ranger members attending activities at 1st Cavalry Division Association Reunions are required to be a life member or associate member of the 1st Cavalry Division Association. Life member's family (spouse and children) are covered under the single registration fee. All other family or friend attending activities are required to be a yearly (\$15.00) associate or life (\$150.00) associate membership.

REUNION INFO

The 2002 reunion will be July 3 to 7 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. If you are planning on going to the reunion, here are some things to start thinking about NOW.

1. Are you driving or flying? If you are flying, start watching the airline specials. Right now, the airlines are running January/February specials.
2. How many are going to the reunion? The Cav will start some time soon running what the room cost will be in the Saber. The Saber comes out every 2 months. We will only have 2 more newsletters before the reunion.
3. Reserve early with the Cav Association. The Association prints the luncheon tickets based on our yearly average of luncheon members (about 50). If we are going to have more than 50, we have got to get our numbers in before the tickets are printed. Once the tickets are printed, that will be the only number of members allowed at the luncheon.
4. Are you a 1st Cav Division Association life member? If not, you will need to pay your one time \$10 fee. If you want to vote at the chapter elections, you will need to pay our \$15 dues.

OTHER NEWS

I have received the email below from Bill Carpenter:

"Kay Reibold of the Vietnam Highlands Assistance Project (VHAP) has suggested some type of formal arrangement between the LRRP/Ranger Association and them on this Montagnard relief effort.

My gut reaction is for all donations to go directly to them, earmarked for a specific use. They have the infrastructure in place to handle it, and are a non-profit organization. I do not see the need to add another bureaucratic layer to this, but at the same time, it would be nice for our organization to receive some recognition for the contributions.

You can contact Kay at kayreibold@mindspring.com

Bill Carpenter"

VETERANS' DAY at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington DC begins at 11 a.m. on Sunday, November 11, 2001. The keynote speaker is J. Craig Venter. Irish tenor, John McDermott, will be performing. In past years, the LRRP/Rangers met at the base of the steps at the Lincoln Memorial. This year we will meet at 10 a.m. Be sure to dress warmly. The Park Service has been known to change the time with little or no notice. If you have email, keep a check at the link for the Wall homepage or call 202-393-0090 for updates.