

**THE NEWSLETTER FOR
THE LRRP/RANGERS OF THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION
DURING THE VIETNAM WAR**



NUMBER 63 *ISSN 1941-7926*

SEPTEMBER 2011

THIS NEWSLETTER IS DISTRIBUTED IN JANUARY AND SEPTEMBER OF EACH CALENDAR YEAR. IT IS FOR THE MEN WHO SERVED IN THE LONG RANGE PATROL UNITS OF THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION DURING THE VIETNAM WAR. THESE UNITS ARE: LRRP DET., 191ST MI; HHC (G-2) LRRP; CO. E (LRP), 52ND INF.; CO. H, (RANGER) 75TH INF.; AND DET. 10, (RANGER) HHC, 3RD BGE.

THE NEWSLETTER IS MAILED TO ALL OF THESE MEN FOR WHICH AN ADDRESS IS AVAILABLE. FUNDING FOR THE NEWSLETTER IS BY THE LRRP/RANGER ASSOCIATION OF THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION DURING THE VIETNAM WAR.

ANYONE WISHING TO INCLUDE AN ARTICLE IN A NEWSLETTER SHOULD SUBMIT THE MATERIAL TO:

BILL CARPENTER
713 DIAMOND STREET
FAIRMONT, WV 26554-3713
304-366-0022 (EVENINGS)
lrrp.rangers@comcast.net



**You can generate \$2.00 for
the LRRP/Rangers
association**

The 75th RRA will reimburse
us for each 1st Cav
LRRP/Ranger who joins the
75th RRA

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT KEITH PHILLIPS

I have been Indicted for obstruction of justice, making false statement and perjury. My attorney feels we can defeat these charges but I feel I must step down as your President. God Bless each and all.

EDITOR NOTE: this is related to Keith's work with the EPA.

WEBMASTER WANTED

The man who has been taking care of our webpage has resigned because of work commitments. Anyone want the job? Contact Doug Parkinson

Vice President Report

From Doug Parkinson

Gentlemen. I am pleased to announce that the organization has remained fit physically and financially for another year.

First of all I would like to thank all the members both elected and unelected that contribute their efforts to keep the mission going. For those of you who encourage members to attend reunions for the first time, those of you who stay in contact with some of the reclusive members of the unit and those unnamed souls who have generously contributed financially to the unit for the brick fund or to get members to the reunion or slip a few extra dollars into the refreshment fund at the hospitality room. Thank you.

Please feel free to take on a project without having to be asked, tasked or elected. Individuals have stepped up in the past to perform duties that we have benefited from as a group.

Please try to encourage as many of your cohorts as possible to show at the reunions who have not attended in the past. The no-shows just need the little extra encouragement sometimes to get the momentum started to attend the reunions. It really is encourage when I see everybody make bail at the same time.

Still Running Missions Parkinson

TREASURER'S REPORT

From Bob Carr

START 1/20/11	\$10,802.75
Income:	
Donations, dues & merchandise	\$ 3750.00
Total	\$ 14552.75
Operational Expenses	
Newsletter & postage	(\$ 1024.20)
Cav scholarship fund	(\$ 500.00)
flowers	(\$ 80.55)
Hauensterins, Inc, (merchandise)	(\$ 1967.40)
postage	(\$ 16.90)
Reunion expenses	
Beer	(\$ 77.03)
Soda and snacks	(\$ 129.05)
ice	(\$ 23.71)
water and soda	(90.71)
room	(\$ 429.40)
Total expenses	(\$ 4338.95)

BALANCE 7/29/2011 \$ 10213.80

The brick fund has \$1,101.00, all money is in one account and in the total balance as of 7/29/11.

THANKS, BOB

2011 REUNION ATTENDEES

Bill Anton	Pat Blewitt (1 st time)
Bill Carpenter	Carlos Castro (1 st time)
Larry Curtis	Sam Dixon
Mike Doran	Ken Gallagher (1 st time)
Bennie Gentry	Doc Gilchrest
Bill Hand	John Hutter
Tim Joeckel	John LeBrun
Craig Leerberg	Pat Lyons
Doug Matze	Mac McSwain
Carlos Ochoa	Doug Parkinson
Dan Roberts	Howard Shute
John Simones	Bernard Wells
Ken White	

Donut Dollie Joyce Denke also attended
Many wives, family members and significant others were also in attendance

**PRESERVING THE HISTORY OF
THE LRRP/RANGERS OF THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION DURING THE VIETNAM WAR
IN THE VIETNAM ARCHIVES
AT TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY**

From Ty Lovelady, Associate Archivist

Founded in 1989 by a group of local veterans, the Vietnam Center and Archive at Texas Tech University collects, preserves, and makes available records of the Vietnam War. We believe all of the sacrifices made during this period were significant and the individual collections and stories of the men and women who participated in this event are equally important. All materials are preserved through modern archival practices to ensure they remain available for future generations.

The Archive accepts donations as small as a single item or as large as hundreds of boxes. Donations do not have to be organized and do not have to pertain to a famous person or event. We accept forms of material relating to the Vietnam War and Southeast Asia to include books, papers, photographs, slides, artifacts, maps, and much more. **We will create a collection in your name and if you notify us that you are an association member, we will make sure that your personal collection is linked to a larger umbrella collection we have created for the LRRP/Rangers titled "The LRRP/Rangers of the First Cavalry Division During the Vietnam War."**

Within the Vietnam Center and Archive, there are two major projects to help preserve your legacy: the Oral History Project and the Virtual Vietnam Archive. The Oral History Project is dedicated to preserving the history of the Vietnam War through the perspectives of the participants. If you are interested in being interviewed please contact us at (806) 742-9010 or at vaorallhistroy@ttu.edu. You can also read more at <http://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/oralhistory/>.

The Virtual Vietnam Archive is the Vietnam Archive's project to place its non-copyrighted material online for free access. Currently all of the historical occurrences sent to us about the LRRP/Rangers by Bill Carpenter are online. The following is a link to the LRRP/Rangers finding aid:

<http://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/resources/collections/fa.php?item=2161000000>. If you open this link, you will find another link titled "documents" which will take you to all of the digitized historical occurrences. To learn more about the Virtual Vietnam Archive please go to the following link:

<http://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/resources/digital.php>.

Material that is donated to the Archive does not circulate, meaning that it cannot be checked out or leave the building for any reason. It can only be viewed in our Reading Room or online if it has been digitized. This ensures that the materials can be preserved for future generations. If you would like to donate to the Vietnam Archive please contact us at (806) 742-9010 or email us at vietnamarchive@ttu.edu. Help us ensure your legacy and that of the LRRP/Rangers will continue by donating a collection or signing up for the Oral History Project today. I wanted to let you know that all the historical occurrences are online. The following is a link to the LRRP/Rangers finding aid: <http://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/resources/collections/fa.php?item=2161000000>. If you open this link, you will find another link titled "documents" which will take you to all of the digitized historical occurrences.

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Texas Tech University

Box 41041

Lubbock, TX 79409-1041

Phone: 806-742-9010

Fax: 806-742-0496

Email: vietnamarchives@ttu.edu

5542

LRRP RANGER REUNION
KILLEEN TEXAS
08-12 JUNE 2011

The executive meeting was held at 0900 hours, an agenda developed, and adjourned at 0930 hours.

OLD BUSINESS:

The meeting was called to order at 1000 11 June 2011. All members present (21) were verified as having current dues paid.

1. The previous minutes were presented, motioned and seconded with unanimous approval.
2. The 2012 reunion will be 06-10 June 2012 in Portland, Oregon. For reservations call 503-283-4466. It is the Red Lion Hotel; on the river, and mention you are with the Fist Cav Reunion to get the cheaper rate. The overflow hotel is the Oxford Suites apparently next door.
3. The 2013 reunion will be back in Killeen once again at the Shiloh Inn from 05-09 June 2013. Phone number is 254-699-0999.
4. Members moving without leaving a forwarding address are still a problem. Members need to remember to complete the form for the postal system or inform Sam, Bill or for that matter anyone who can pass the address on.
5. There were no recommendations for the associate member status. No one submitted a request to put someone in for this in the newsletter this year. The matter was left as is.
6. The members list for attendees to all past reunion was included in a past issue of the newsletter. There were no reports of errors or omissions. If members find such they can contact John LeBrun and he will make the corrections.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Short presentation from Ty Lovelady, from Texas Tech. University, Vietnam Archives, about members donating, providing or writing articles about their experiences while in Vietnam. More information will be sent for members to decide if they want to use the site for items they may have.

2. Bill thought it appropriate to give special thanks and kudos's to the Sprague's for the job they are doing printing the newsletter. Our costs are down and the quality and time to produce it has been shortened. Everyone agreed. Special thanks to the Sprague's.

3. The secretary's report was a reminder that elections will be next year in Portland Oregon. As of today we still need someone to run as the secretary for next year's election. Proxy forms will go out with the next newsletter

4. The Treasurers' report was not available. Doug will contact Bob Carr and include a copy in the next newsletter. Doug indicated that he thought there was approximately \$9,000.00 in the bank.

5. Bennie indicated that the merchandise is selling well.

6. A written Chaplains' report was presented. Once again a number of members expressed a great appreciation for the job that Jim Regan is doing.

7. Doug (Vice President) thanked everyone for attending and especially the first time attendees. Mentioned that the next years reunion is expected to be well attended and for members to make their reservations early. There is a indication that Colonel Paccarelli will attend as he has already made his reservation.

8. Doug passed on the regrets of Keith who could not attend.

9. Bill Anton spoke of the 75th Ranger Regiment association's next Ranger gathering at Fort Benning. He encouraged all that could, should attend. He also indicated that there is one of our members that is in the process of being considered for the Ranger Hall of Fame.

10. It was discussed that the names of all members attending the reunion should be included with the minutes. This year's minutes will include a list of all known members that have attended (*see page 3 of this newsletter*) as well as those who attended past reunions.

11. Meeting was adjourned at 1105 hours
Respectively submitted
John LeBrun, Secretary

PRESERVING OUR MEMORIBELIA

From Bill Carpenter

I got a phone call from Gary **Lorenz** last spring. The conversation got to the items we brought back from Nam. He has a pair of Ho Chi Minh sandals, three memorial cards for the men who were killed while he was in H-75, and other items. What could he do with them?

Then, a few weeks ago, Rick **Arden** sent me a CD copy of an interview he had with *Stars and Stripes*. It is the interview in this newsletter. He too, wanted it preserved.

Ty Lovelady, the associate archivist of the TTU Vietnam Archives came to our reunion last June. The bottom line is, they will take what we want to send them, except for live ordinance. The article on page 3 states what they have done, and can do, for us.

All of you authors, send them your books. Shelf space is limited at the library, so check with them before sending any books. They may already have a copy.

SO, if you have something that you think would be of interest to future generations, send it to the Vietnam Archives at TTU. The address is on the previous page.

If you want to get to our "Historical Occurrences" in the Vietnam Archives, and all of the computer program names confuse you, as it did me, the following computer mouse clicks worked for me:

go to; www.vietnam.ttu.edu.

click on "digital material" in the upper left

scroll down to the "browse" section

click on "veterans organizations"

an alphabetical list will come up, scroll down to, and click on "The LRRP/Rangers of"

(it is in "L" for LRRP, not in "T" for The)

our lead in page will come up

put the arrow on the red "The LRRP/Rangers of the" line. It will turn blue when the cursor is on it.

click on that and our stuff will pop up.

2012 REUNION

Portland, Oregon

June 6-10, 2012

The 2012 reunion will be held at the Red Lion on the River hotel, with the Oxford Suites hotel, which is next door, handling the overflow. There is a nice RV park on the river within a 10-minute walk of the hotel. There are also other hotels in the area. The annual Rose Festival will be underway during the reunion, so make your reservations early.

Red Lion Hotel on the River, Jantzen Beach

909 N. Hayden Island Dr.

Portland, OR 97217

1-800-RED-LION or 1-503-283-4466

www.redlion.com/jantzenbeach

Oxford Suites Portland – Jantzen Beach Hotel

12226 N. Jantzen Beach Dr.

Portland, OR 97217

1-800-548-7849 or 1-503-283-3030

www.oxfordsuitesportland.com

Jantzen Beach RV Park

1503 N. Hayden Island Dr.

Portland, OR 97212

1-800-443-7248 or 1-503-289-7626

www.jantzenbeachrv.com

Several tours will be arranged for the reunion. There are many points of historical and "Mother Nature" interest in the area. The volcanoes Mt. Hood, Mt. St. Helen and Mt. Adams are within sight.

Portland has a variety of restaurants and many microbreweries that brew their own beer. Wine tasting tours are available since Oregon produces some of the world's best Pinot Noir and Pinot Gris wines.

Expect occasional showers and cool evenings.

Airlines into Portland are Southwest, United, Delta, Northwest, American, US Airways, Continental, Hawaiian, and Alaska. Free hotel shuttles are available.

OBITUARY

Janeth Zebedee Coates Jr December 21, 1947 – March 8, 2011

Janeth Zebedee Coates Jr. of Grand Prairie, TX, passed away at home surrounded by loved ones on March 8, 2011. He was 63 years of age. Janeth was born on December 21, 1947, in Roscoe, TX.

He grew up and raised his family in Grand Prairie, TX. He graduated from Grand Prairie High School in the class of 1966. He also attended Mt. View College and U.T. Arlington. On February 5, 1968, he stood up and took his oath to the United States Army and served for 23 plus years. He took his LRRP Rangers training when he arrived in Viet Nam in August 1968. When he got out of the Army Reserves, he was a Sergeant First Class, and had received several ribbons and medals throughout his Military career.

He is survived by his loving wife of 43 plus years, Margarette. Together they lived a full happy life, both very strong Christians. He was a Deacon of Bowles Memorial Baptist Church. and was baptized there on November 1, 1959.

His favorite quote: SHOOTIST WORDS, "I won't be wronged, I won't be insulted, I won't be laid a hand on, I don't do these things to other people & I require the same from them." He will be missed and cherished by all that loved and knew him.

His final resting place in the DFW Veterans National Cemetery in Dallas.

Rogers standing orders

1. Don't forget nothing.
2. Have your musket clean as a whistle, hatchet scoured, 60 rounds powder and ball and be ready to march at a minute's warning.
3. When you're on the march, act the way you would if you was sneaking up on a deer. See the enemy first.

FOLLOWUP ON TIM HARPER

Per your Jan. 2011 newsletter, page 15 "Rangers Tune In Enemy" article, you quoted a "deceased" friend of mine (SSG Timothy "Tim" V. Harper). He was killed in action (if my memory serves me correctly) in January 1971. I was on R & R when he died as result of a VC bullet to his thigh. Evacuation was slow for some reason (that I can't recall) & he bled to death before he could be dusted off. Tim was a tremendous credit to the Ranger corps & all of its traditions. He was a hell of a man and a terribly missed friend. I have remem-bered & have had him in my thoughts for all of these 40 years since his death & 'Nam. If there is anyone left from "H" company that is still out there & remembers Tim, please contact me @ mackstrux@aol.com. You also mentioned Capt. Stewart. If he is still alive, I would like to hear from him--could you get me his e-mail address or give him mine? Thanks, SSG Jacob M. Thomas, "H" co 1970-1971.

IS IT A MOLE OR MELANOMA

From John Simones

1. Skin Cancer accounts for about half of all U.S. cancers.
2. Men and women are equal risk of getting skin cancer.
3. Melanoma's death rate is higher for those with darker skin.
4. Having a lot of regular moles increases the risk of melanoma
5. You can get skin cancer only on areas exposed to the sun.
6. Nearly all skin cancer is curable.
7. too many skimp on sunscreen.
8. Make sunscreen your first line of defense.
9. Using sunscreen prevents you from getting enough vitamin D.
10. Tanning beds are a safe alternative to sun exposure.

I still can't get the "teacher" out of my blood. Once the newsletter is mailed out, I have the answers on e-mail to Bill. Good luck on the test.

John

SITUATION REPORT

From Dick "Doc" Sweeney

The road to hell is paved with good intentions..... I meant to send this out a few months ago. In any case back in July 2010, I had the privilege to have lunch with Major General Edwin Scholes, USA Retired. Back in our day Ed Scholes was known by the call sign "Angry Skipper", CO, Delta 2/8th 1st Cav. Ed had been awarded the Silver Star in Viet-Nam, served in the first Gulf war and a few years ago inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame.... In short he is the real deal, a soldiers soldier.

I was surprised and honored when Ed followed up on lunch with the attached letter.... While, through circumstance the letter is addressed to me, it truly belongs personally to each of us. I ask that it be included in the next newsletter. Thanks.

"Doc" Sweeney LRRP '67-68

General Scholes' letter

3 Aug 10

Dear Dick:

It is with pleasure that I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to you for taking the time to meet with me, and to have lunch with John and me. I was thrilled to hear about some of the history of the hard work and efforts that went into the beginning of Keurig! (ED: *Sweeney's civilian company*)

I was also impressed to hear of your courageous service to our Nation as a member of one of the finest, toughest units in Vietnam. You are most certainly a member of the foundation of the Greatest Warriors of all generations, and I salute you for your dedicated service and demonstrated bravery.

I shall look forward to seeing you again and swapping more combat stories.

Rangers Lead the Way!

Ed Scholes

I SECOND THE NOMINATION (OF JIM MCINTYRE FOR THE RANGER HALL OF FAME)

From Bill Abbott

Quan Loi, Viet Nam

15 October 1969

**James McIntyre, Ricahrd Cramer, John
Rodriguiz, Rick Arden, Bill Abbott**

Our team found a well used trail and set up a quick ambush. I heard safetys click off and saw TL James McIntyre and ATL Richard Cramer take slow aim down trail. In a few seconds all Hell broke loose. We had an enemy line one on the trail 5 feet away.

Someone yells, grenade! I turned from firing up my AO to see Jim grab a ruck and fall face first, then roll to the right on the jungle floor. The team scattered like crazy on all fours. I made it 20 feet when the pack blew. We were all slightly fragged and had ringing ears but no worse because of Jim McIntyre's instant reaction.

I was not present when General Casey awarded "Mack" with the Silver Star and E-6. James McIntyre was my personal hero and certainly deserves a Ranger Hall of Fame position. I'm only sorry it must be post-humorous.

Brother in Arms

Bill Abbott

P.S.: This 41 years, 7 months past is as yesterday morning.

REUNION TIDBITS

I had 2 1/2 days that were some of the best days Of my life!! Wish you could have been there to help us shout the walls down!

And the Guys! Thank you from the bottom of my heart! You truly made me feel more than welcome and like family! And that goes for the wives as well. A very long and lonely journey has finally come to an end, thanks to all of you. God bless each and every one of you!

Pat Blewitt

5544

RETIRING THE LAST HUEY

I will always have bitter sweet memories of this old bird.

submitted by Jim Wright 1ST Cav LRRPs (67)

This is part of a speech given by CW4 Lawrence Castagneto, at Ft Rucker when they retired the last Huey on 17 May 2011

As a Vietnam Veteran Army aviator, I would like to thank everyone for coming to this special occasion, on this to be honest...very sad day,

This is the end of a era. An era that has spanned over 50 years. The retirement of this grand old lady "OUR MOTHER" ... the Huey

It was 48 yrs ago this month that the first Huey arrived in Vietnam . While in Vietnam, the Huey flew approximately 7,457,000 combat assault sorties; 3,952,000 attack or gunship sorties and 3,548,000 cargo supply sorties. That comes to over 15 million sorties flown over the paddies and jungles of Nam, not to include the millions of sorties flown all over the world and other combat zones since thenwhat a amazing journey....

I am honored and humbled to have been a small part of that journey. To those in the crowd that have had the honor to fly, crew, or ride this magnificent machine in combat, we are the chosen few, the lucky ones. Try to imagine all those touched over the years ...by the shadow of her blades.

Other aircraft can fly overhead and some will look up and some may not; or even recognize what they see. But, when a Huey flies over everyone looks up and everyone knows who she is... young or old all over the world she connects with all.

To those that rode her into combat... the sound of those blades causes our heart beat to rise... and breaths to quicken... in anticipation of seeing that beautiful machine fly overhead and the feeling of comfort she brings.

No other aircraft in the history of aviation evokes the emotional response the Huey does... combat veteran's or not... she is recognized all around the world by young and old, she is the ICON of the Vietnam War, U.S. Army Aviation,

and the U.S. Army. Over 5 decades of service she carried Army Aviation on her back, from bird dogs and piston powered helicopters with a secondary support mission, to the force multiplier combat arm that Army Aviation is today.

The intense feelings generated for this aircraft are not just from the flight crews but, also from those who rode in back ...into and out of the "devils caldron". As paraphrased here from "Gods own lunatics", Joe Galloway's tribute to the Huey and her flight crews and other Infantry veterans comments: Is there anyone here today who does not thrill to the sound of those Huey blades?? That familiar whop-whop-whop is the soundtrack of our war...the lullaby of our younger days it is burned in to our brains and our hearts.

To those who spent their time in Nam as a grunt, know that noise was always a great comfort... Even today when I hear it, I stop...catch my breath...and search the sky for a glimpse of the mighty eagle.

To the pilots and crews of that wonderful machine ...we loved you, we loved that machine. No matter how bad things were...if we called ... you came... down through the hail of green tracers and other visible signs of a real bad day off to a bad start. I can still hear the sound of those blades churning the fiery skyTo us, you seemed beyond brave and fearless... Down you would come to us in the middle of battle in those flimsy thin skin -chariots ...into the storm of fire and hell,.. ...we feared for you , we were awed by you. We thought of you and that beautiful bird as " God's own lunatics"... and wondered ...who are theses men and this machine and where do they come from Have to be "Gods Angels".

So with that I say to her, that beautiful lady sitting out there, from me and all my lucky brothers, that were given the honor to serve their country, and the privilege of flying this great lady in skies of Vietnam - Thank you for the memories...Thank you for always being there...Thank you for always bringing us home regardless of how beat up and shot up you were.... Thank You!!!!.

RA: A frag order is a fragmentation order. It is just an order we will get that tells us where we are going and what support we will have.

S & S: Puts you on the alert that you will be moving out soon?

RA: Right

S & S: Do you make any special preparations before you move out on one of these missions?

RA: Yes, we do, we coordinate with our intelligence sergeant about intelligence from the area. We rehearse everything we are going to do on the mission.

S & S: What do you think about this H Company? Is it a pretty good outfit or no?

RA: Well sir, I think it's the best.

S & S: How about the training? Is it pretty easy or pretty difficult?

RA: It is very rough, it is very worthwhile.

S & S: Rick, your soon to be a sergeant, I understand. When do you think that will come to pass?

RA: Very soon I hope

S & S: I'm sure you do. Where's your home back in the United States?

RA: Marmet, West Virginia

S & S: All right, Sir, thank you very much, and the best of luck to you for the remainder of your tour. Specialist Four Richard Arden, a team leader with Company H Rangers, 75th Infantry /Airborne, 1st Air Cavalry Division, in the Republic of Vietnam. This is Army Master Sergeant Revis Taylor.

Quotes from Sun Tzu The Art of War

Chinese general, 4,000 years ago

Thus we may know that there are five essentials for victory:

(1) He will win who knows when to fight and when not to fight.

(2) He will win who knows how to handle both superior and inferior forces.

(3) He will win whose army is animated by the same spirit throughout all its ranks.

(4) He will win who, prepared himself, waits to take the enemy unprepared.

(5) He will win who has military capacity and is not interfered with by the sovereign.

THE WALL From Royce Clark

On a cold, black sheen of granite
Too many to recall
Are the names and the dates, and the faces
Of the men upon the Wall.
These are the fallen warriors
The young, the old, the brave
Who gave their last full measure
To a land, to a cause, to a grave.
Each had an unfinished story
Each had a song left to sing
Now all that remains are their memories
That fade like the winter to spring.
At night when the world falls quiet
And the orb in the sky grows cold
The spirits of the Wall talk freely
And reminisce of the days long ago.
Aging years have passed since the struggle
Youth has run far away
But the Wall and the cries of battle
Return like the sunrise each day.
Someday when the last soldiers fallen
And the last flag drapes the last grave
The Lord up above will say, "Welcome home"
And the wall will at last fade away.

Minorities

We need to show more sympathy for these people.

- * They travel miles in the heat.
- * They risk their lives crossing a border.
- * They don't get paid enough wages.
- * They do jobs that others won't do or are afraid to do.
- * They live in crowded conditions among a people who speak a different language.
- * They rarely see their families, and they face adversity all day ~ every day..

I'm not talking about illegal immigrants

I'm talking about our troops!

Doesn't it seem strange that so many are willing to lavish all kinds of social benefits on illegals, but don't support our troops?

STARS AND STRIPES

Interview of Rick Arden

The following is a transcript of a recording of an interview I did with Stars and Stripes, after a mission in March 1970. I had it converted to CD a few years ago. I have been thinking that I should send it to you to be part of our archives because it is probably very rare and a piece of our history. I don't remember exactly why they interviewed me, if they ever told me, but I remember that because the area we went to was so far from any firebase in an area so remote and unknown and the fire fight so long and intense that it was something of a big deal at the time.

Hope you can use it

Rick Arden (69-70)

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW

Stars and Stripes Reporter: this is army Master Sergeant Revis Taylor with the 1st Air Cavalry Division in the Republic of Vietnam speaking with Specialist 4 Richard Arden, a team leader, Company H Rangers, 75th Infantry Airborne with the 1st Air Cavalry Division.

Rick, you just completed a mission. Would you tell us about it, please.

Rick Arden: I was working for the 2nd Brigade of the 1st Air Cavalry Division. They put us in an area far north in 2nd Brigade, near Cambodia, where they wanted us to recon an area where there has not been any U.S. troops for about five years.

They wanted us to check it out and find out what was up there. After we were inserted, we moved west toward a road that was on our map, to check out and see if the enemy was using it.

On the way we found what looked like a pretty good, well used trail. I marked it on my map and went to check out the road, and came back to the trail two days later and set up an ambush on it.

About two o'clock that afternoon we had six come down and engaged the ambush. We killed three of them and had a firefight and had helicopters come on station and they killed eight more.

S & S: were the North Vietnamese in any special type of formation when they came down the trail into your ambush?

RA: No, they were just walking behind each other.

S & S: After you had sprung the ambush, about how long were you engaged in this firefight?

RA: About one hour.

S & S: And did it complete the mission for you once you had killed the North Vietnamese?

RA: No, after contact was broke, we moved out on the trail and checked the bodies.

S & S: You Rangers travel in very small groups, you are in hostile territory. Once you see that perhaps you may need assistance, does it take very long for that assistance to arrive on the scene?

RA: No. When we sit up beside the trail, we call them and tell them if we are going to just monitor or ambush and when we call and tell them we are in contact, they get the support out right away.

S & S: I imagine being a Ranger takes a special kind of courage. Do you get very lonesome out there?

RA: I don't know about the special kind of courage, but it sometimes does get pretty lonely.

S & S: What about your supplies? Do you carry all you need on the mission?

RA: That's right, we carry all our food and water and everything we need. Sometimes, the pack we carry weighs up to 90 pounds.

S & S: That's a heavy load for you. A moment ago, you mentioned that helicopter gunships came to your assistance. How long did it take for them to arrive on the scene?

RA: Well, usually it only takes them 10-15 minutes for them to get out there. But because we were so far away this time, it took them about 45 minutes.

S & S: Well, you are back in Phuoc Vinh now. You have been back for a day or two, how much longer do you expect to be here before going back to the reconnaissance area once more?

RA: I expect to get a frag order tomorrow, and we will pack up and leave the next day.

S & S: What do you mean when you say frag order?

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HISTORICAL OCCURRENCES

Editor: this story is about the mission that was referred to in the "Stars and Stripes" interview on page 10 of this newsletter.

GOING WHERE NO U.S. SOLDIER HAD GONE BEFORE

From Rick Arden

I will try and not repeat what is on the audio but flesh out some of the detail.

This action took place in March 1970 on the Cambodian border. This particular area was very remote, there had not been any US troops or even a helicopter fly over for five years. The nearest firebase was almost an hour helicopter ride away. As we learned later this was one of the areas being considered for the Cambodian invasion. I was the TL of a five man team sent to recon this area. Chuck Coffin was my ATTL. We left our base and flew to some tiny firebase. The AO was so far that there was to be no fly over we would do it cold. The only clearing the copters could find was not level with a lot of stumps. The left skid was close to the ground the right was 2 or 3 feet off the ground. As the copter hover I was on the side that was off the ground. I thought I didn't come this far to abort so I jumped. Everybody jumped and we were ok. As soon as we were inserted I knew we would see some Gooks the place just had that feel to it. As I said in the interview, we located a well-used trail; it was very wide three men could walk abreast. Obviously the Gooks were used to being left alone in this area.

After being in the AO for three days we could tell this whole area was a super highway for troops moving south from Cambodia. I didn't think staying in the AO any longer would tell us much more so I decided to set up an ambush to try and get some stuff to take back.

We didn't have to wait very long. 6 of the cleanest regular NVA troops I had ever seen were coming down the trail. Their uniforms looked brand new. As a matter of fact I still have one of the uniforms they were carrying, it has never been worn.

They were spaced farther apart than usual so I couldn't get them all in the kill zone, we managed

to get 3 with the others scattering. We called in the contact and took a little fire from the ambush area that we quickly suppressed.

I was thinking about getting out on the trail when all hell broke loose. We started taking heavy fire from our left; a much larger force was trying to flank our position. I don't know how big but from amount of small arms and 30 caliber machinegun fire probably a company. Our helicopter gunship support was almost an hour away. I wasn't overly worried, we had a good defensive position and as long as we didn't burn through our ammunition I thought we could hold out.

The biggest worry was B-40s, we took a several rounds that were luckily off the mark but one of my guys took a piece of shrapnel. I think it was PFC Tomlinson. The shrapnel was in the calf, I was the closest to him so I bandaged his leg. We were in contact about an hour when the gunships showed up and started to scatter the Gooks. The Ranger with the wound could walk but with great difficulty. I asked the pick-up copter to find a place close by where we could get McGuire rigged out.

The situation was total chaos so I took the radio from the RTO to keep dialog with the helicopters. I told Chuck to lead the team on the trail while I was trying to find us a way out.

When Chuck stood up we took fire from the trail and he dropped like a sack of potatoes, I thought he was dead. He wasn't and we killed the Gook that had fired.

While I waited for an answer from the copters we went out on the trail to strip the bodies. When we got out on the trail someone called to me that one on the NVA was still alive. I saw he was badly wounded but alive. I did not want to deal with a wounded POW along with my wounded, a company of NVA running around, and all the other problems I was dealing with so I shot him in the forehead with my M-16. I don't tell this because I am proud of it, it happened. Team Leaders made life and death decisions every day in the field. I guess it would be easy for someone who has never been there to second guess me but, given that same

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set of circumstances I would do the same today.

The helicopter pilot radioed there was a small clearing about 25 meters away so we took off in that direction. When we got there the McGuire rigs tangled up just under the skids. The helicopter pilot slowly descended cutting bamboo and tree limbs with his blades. He got to just over head high and we managed to climb in.

Because of the damage to the props he could not get back up so we threw everything overboard except weapons and the radio to lighten the ship. Finally the bird shuttered up in the air and we were on our way home. I thanked the pilot when we got back and he took off, I never saw him again. 1st Cav. Troops later went back in force and gathered up all the stuff and brought it back.

Does anyone know what happened to Jim Horne after he came back to the real world?

The next issue of the newsletter will have a story by Jim **Wright** about a chopper crash at LZ Uplift. Horne saved his life. He is trying to find **Horne**. All that is on the roster about Jim Horne is "VA hospital in Arkansas".

The next issue will also have the first installment of a story by Bill **Hand** about one mission where the team became the hunted, not the hunters.

Chuck **Coffin** has also committed to writing his version of the Never-Never Land mission.

Keep the stories coming, it can go in the newsletter only if you send it in.

STAFF SERGEANT BARNES, WHERE ARE YOU

From Tom **Campbell**

One crash I remember at LZ Uplift was an over-the-perimeter-wire crash that happened after a mission I was running to help find John **Barnes** and his team, which was operating west of Uplift, was lost, and we had no radio contact with him. We were flying around trying to get him to identify us so that we could give him a location plot. High-tech equipment was all the rage back then: I had the pilots fly a pattern and, using a psyops bull horn, I would call out for SSG **Barnes**! No shit: "SSG **Barnes**, can you hear us? Pop a smoke if you can."!! Needless to say, the NVA just loved our search for a lost puppy, and decided we were just too delicious an opportunity to pass by!

Concurrently with locating SSG **Barnes**, our new-found friends began shooting the hell out of our hole in the sky. The aircrew wanted to get out of Dodge City. I gave them an alternative of leaving and getting shot by me, or staying until we could tell SSG **Barnes** where to evade to for extraction. We stayed! By this time, the NVA was getting the hang of how to deal with us! The helo was like a duck in a penny arcade! The pilots had armor-reinforced seats but I and the two crew members in the back were like little kittens. Nothing excites one more than bullets coming up through the deck....talk about a literal pucker factor! We left the area, limped back to Uplift, and crashed landed just over the perimeter wire.

I found out later that the two pilots got Distinguished Flying Crosses for their bravery in an air operation, and the crew members got some lesser gongs for flying for the wrong airline at the right time! I was really proud of forcing the pilot in command to stick around to become a Hero of the Republic! Suffice it to say, I was happy just to have my ass intact...I already had two PHs and didn't need another for a perforated colon! Using our directions before we left the area, SSG **Barnes** evaded, and was successfully extracted and brought safely back to Mommy! In retrospect, I thought the whole exercise was a hoot!

Tom **Campbell**

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UPDATE FROM MYRON PRCHAL

Obviously we did not make it to the reunion. For that we are both sorry, but things have been wild around here. The Tomah, WI VA has been absolutely wonderful for Myron, as has Dutch **Eisenrager**, and we can't be more thankful. We continue to work closely with them and the Rockford, IL VA representatives.

Myron has some very exciting things going on right now. Back in September the Illinois School Board sent out a notice from NASA inviting urban teachers to apply for a special program to take place on one of four NASA bases.

Teachers from all across the nation were invited to apply for the program, but only 32 teachers were chosen. Myron and three other teachers from his high school applied as a team and we found out the end of May that all four had been chosen. They will be going to Moffit AFB, CA for seminars in July.

The last day of school was June 8 and Myron had VA appointments in Tomah on the 9th. We had to choose and NASA won out. It will be such an experience and honor for all of them.

Once they return from the program they will all be giving seminars and teaching what they learned. They were sponsored by Northern Illinois University and Sunstrand Industries; both will want lectures in the fall. As well, the Rockford Burpee Museum has already asked them to give a talk there.

But we didn't want to just drive to California and back. So, we are leaving Friday, July 1 and taking a northern route through Montana, Idaho, Washington and Oregon, then down to California. Myron has a brother in Oregon that we will stop to visit with. We will also take this opportunity to visit Jim **Faulkner** who served with Myron and has been very helpful with buddy letters and all kinds of pertinent information.

I just wanted you to know that we hadn't forgotten about all of you or the help you gave us. We hope to see you next year at that reunion in Oregon.

Toni Prechal

PTSD: AN EDITORIAL

From Bill Carpenter

I have always said that I was one of the luckiest people to have been to Viet Nam. There are several reasons I say this and I won't bore you with that. Most of you pulled more missions than I had days in the unit. I was one and done, I came home after my first mission. The reason I am so lucky is that I was not there long enough to have the bad memories. But this is not about me.

There is one of us, whom I will not name, who has contributed to the newsletter through the years, who I had regular email contact with between newsletters. Last year I received an email from him asking to be taken from the newsletter mailing list and his email address be removed from my email address book.

I only got the fringes of the story, but I am guessing that his Viet Nam memories had become too strong, again.

I do not pretend to understand what those of you with "The Memories" are going through. All I can do is count my blessings that I do not have them. But there are a few things that I think I understand. First, half of the cure is openly admitting there is a problem. The second is, you need to talk about it to someone who understands. I realize that it can be hard to find a "therapist" who understands, and will help you.

I know that a lot of you are in therapy. I love Bob Carr's comment to Spanky **Seymour** when Spanky finally went to the VA, "So you are finally admitting that you were in Viet Nam." It would be nice if our "network" could, in some way reach out to those who have not ask for help. This network, this Band of Brothers, is what got us home alive. Let's keep it going.

No one will know your situation unless you speak out. Make a phone call to your old TL, that super-LRRP that everyone admired, you may be surprised at how much you have in common. Just talk to someone who has been there and done that, it sure ain't gonna hurt.

The network is there, do yourself a favor and use it.

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NOW THEY ARE FEELING GUILTY

The "I-missed- Vietnam" Guilt

Christopher Buckley wrote an article in *Esquire* magazine titled "Viet Guilt," and it addresses itself to those millions of young American men who did not go to Vietnam - and who are beginning to realize, all these years later, that by not going they may have proved something about their own lack of courage - their own, lack of manhood, if you will - that ought to make them very uncomfortable. Enough words have been devoted to the moral issues of the war. The point that Chris Buckley makes is that, if the truth were really to be told, most of the men who managed to stay home from Vietnam did not do so for reasons of morality alone. Their real reason for not going was that they did not want to die, did not want to get shot at. And they found out that there were many ways to avoid Vietnam. Young men of my generation got out of Vietnam because of college deferments, because of medical deferments, because of having a "lucky" number in the Selective Service birthday lottery that was initiated toward the end of the war. Three million men of fighting age went to Indochina during the Vietnam War; 16 million men of fighting age did not.

Reading his article made me realize the truth of the emotions I have been feeling lately about that particular subject. I sense a strong feeling - "shame" is not too strong a word - among many men who did not go to Vietnam, and perhaps now is the time to bring that feeling out into the open.

Those of us who did not go may have pretended that we held some moral superiority over those who did, but we must have known - even back then - that that was largely sham. A tiny, tiny minority served jail terms - the rest of us avoided the war through easier methods. The men who went to Vietnam were no more involved with the politics of the war than we were. They were different from us in only two important ways: They hadn't figured out a successful way to get out of going, and they had a certain courage that we lacked. Not "courage" as defined the way we liked to define it; not "courage" in the sense of opposing

the government's policies in Vietnam. But courage in an awful, day-to-day sense; courage in being willing to be over there while most of their generation stayed home. When I meet men my age who are Vietnam veterans, I find myself reacting the same way that Chris Buckley indicates he does.

I find myself automatically feeling a little lacking. "I have friends who served in Vietnam..." Buckley writes. "They all saw death up close every day, and many days dealt with it themselves." They're married, happy, secure, good at what they do; they don't have nightmares and they don't shoot up gas stations with M-16s. Each has a gentleness I find rare in most others, and beneath it a spiritual sinew that I ascribe to their experience in the war. I don't think I'll ever have what they have, the aura of I have been weighed on the scales and have not been found wanting, and my sense at this point is that I will always feel the lack of it..." "I will always feel the lack of it."

I think many of us are just beginning to realize that. I know when I meet those men of my generation who did serve in Vietnam, I automatically feel less worthy than they are; yes, less of a man, if you want to use that phrase. Those of us who did not have to go to Vietnam may have felt, at the time, that we were getting away with something; may have felt, at the time, that we were the recipients of a particular piece of luck that had value beyond price. But now, I think, we realize that by not having had to go we lost forever the chance to learn certain things about ourselves that only men who have been in war together will ever truly know.

But I think it may go even beyond that; I think it may go to the very definition of our manhood. I know that when I meet a man who, it turns out, has served in Vietnam, part of me wonders whether he is able to read my mind.

I don't know how widespread this feeling is among men of my generation who didn't go; but I can testify that, at least for some of us, it's there, all right.

By Bob Greene

MEETING A PRESIDENT

From Jim Regan

After more than a year, serving as the First Command Sergeant Major, for the White House Communications Agency (WHCA,) I finally had a chance/opportunity to "meet and greet," the President of the United States. It was a "Staged" event, no outsiders, and all the troops from the WHCA, who had served for the past year, and had been awarded their "Presidential Service Badge", were called to the Oval office for a "Photo Op"/opportunity!

As I stood in the hallway, outside the Oval Office, I could "feel/sense" the excitement from my troops. I tried to be nonchalant, did not work. I checked each and every troop to insure that their uniform was absolutely correct! There were about twenty or so; Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen/women in the group.

You may expect this, it was well controlled! The troops would enter the Oval Office, be greeted by the President, Ronald Wilson Reagan, and step aside move behind his desk. Appropriate photos were taken by the White House Photographer. (I'm certain the photos are still displayed on the walls of their homes, as mine are!)

Last one in line is "guess who!?" As I entered the Oval Office, I "SAW" the President and he was walking towards me!!! The Chief of Staff, Donald Regan, said to the President "And here is another REGAN!!!" The President stepped forward, grabbed my outstretched hand, looked at the Chief of Staff, and told him, "I know the Sergeant Major, and I know the "Patch" he wears on his right shoulder!!!" The President had hold of my hand, grasped my right elbow, and "Patted" the 1st Cav patch that I wore!!!

I was ready to die!!! His handshake was so; warm, welcoming, and sincere, that I don't think I'll ever meet another man such as him!

Time marches on. I am re-assigned to take the Fortress Belvoir, Virginia, and "Transition" it from the Engineer Center and School, to the largest Military of District of Washington (MDW) installation.

As I settle in, there is a phone call from the White House. The Protocol gal gets all "oopy doop," rushes in to tell me that the "White House" is on the line!! Okey, Dokey, "Sergeant Major here, I say." Hey Sergeant major, this is Major ..., from the White House Military Office. Okay, Can you be here this following Friday at about 16:00 hours, and have a "Meet/Photo Op" with the President when he departs for Camp David?

Jim Hesitates, sure thing Sir, can I bring some folks with me? Who, he asks. Well, my wife, Lois Ann and my son Rick. No problem Sergeant major. I tell him that the WHCA Sergeant Major has all the ID info necessary. Great, see you on Friday Sergeant Major.

Friday arrives; we take off, with my driver in charge, and enter the south/west gate to the "eighteen acres/White House grounds". My friend, CSM Randy Mix, my replacement at the WHCA, meets us. Super smooth, entry into the grounds/White House. Randy takes us to the West Wing, Diplomats Room, where the President leaves the White House, and boards his helicopters. Randy is busy and says to "stay put, the PRESUS will be down shortly.

Lois Ann, Rick, and I sit, and get comfortable. Several Uniformed Secret Service Agents look in, say "Hi Sergeant Major," and keep on going. Eventually, a "staffer" comes in and says that the PRESUS and the First lady are on the way down.

We walk out into the hallway and the entourage comes down the stairs. The President is in casual attire, the First lady is right with the PRESUS! The crowd thins and soon it is only the President, the First lady, Nancy Reagan, and our Family, plus a Photographer. The President says some really nice things to my wife and son; I give him a copy of the latest "SOLDIERS" magazine that has a picture of him on the front cover. "Wow," he says, "I'll read this on the way to Camp David!"

All this time, the photographer is snapping "happy snaps."

Finally, the President says that we need to get together for a group photo. Here's the way it went;

(The President of the United States is placing folks for a photo!) "Honey, (Nancy), you stand there, in between Lois Ann and Rick, Sergeant Major, you're on the right!"

Wow!!! Can you ever imagine, in your whole life, the President of the United States, taking time to "meet/greet/ have a photo op/ and position the folks for a photo!!!

These are memories that have not been "broadcast" before. We need more and more Leaders such as Ronald W, Reagan. He really "Got it!!!"

I still remember the early mornings, at the Old Executive Office Build, right about 07:00. The Vice President, George Bush SR, and I sometimes got to work at the same time. The CAT Team (Security for the VP) would be spread out and I'd have to make my way through them to get to work. Sometimes they'd say "Geez, Sergeant Major, you make us look bad!" I'd tell them that the crusty Sergeant Major had work to do!! They'd giggle!!! Every once in a while, the VP would look out to his left, as he walked up the steps to his office, "Spot Me" and holler, "Good Morning Sergeant Major!!!" He always got a salute and greeting from me.

I'll not forget my days at the White House and the Folks who were running the show for our country at that time!!! Bless them all! Jim RLTW

A THANK YOU TO VIETNAM VETS FROM A MARINE IN IRAQ

Submitted by Pat Lyons

A guy gets time to think over here and I was thinking about all the support we get from home. Sometimes it's overwhelming. We get care packages at times faster than we can use them. There are boxes and boxes of toiletries and snacks lining the center of every tent; the generosity has been amazing. So, I was pondering the question: "Why do we have so much support?"

In my opinion, it all came down to one thing: Vietnam Veterans. I think we learned a lesson, as a nation, that no matter what, you have to support the troops who are on the line, who are risking

everything. We treated them so poorly back then. When they returned was even worse. The stories are nightmarish of what our returning warriors were subjected to. It is a national scar, a blemish on our country, an embarrassment to all of us.

After Vietnam, it had time to sink in. The guilt in our collective consciousness grew. It shamed us. However, we learned from our mistake.. Somewhere during the late 1970's and on into the 80's, we realized that we can't treat our warriors that way. So ... starting during the Gulf War, when the first real opportunity arose to stand up and support the troops, we did. We did it to support our friends and family going off to war. But we also did it to right the wrongs from the Vietnam era. We treat our troops of today like the heroes they were, and are, acknowledge and celebrate their sacrifice, and rejoice at their homecoming ... instead of spitting on them..

And that support continues today for those of us in Iraq . Our country knows that it must support us and it does. The lesson was learned in Vietnam and we are all better because of it.

Everyone who has gone before is a hero. They are celebrated in my heart. I think admirably of all those who have gone before me. From those who fought to establish this country in the late 1770's to those I serve with here in Iraq . They have all sacrificed to ensure our freedom. But when I get back home, I'm going to make it a personal mission to specifically thank every Vietnam Vet I encounter for THEIR sacrifice. Because if nothing else good came from that terrible war, one thing did. It was the lesson learned on how we treat our warriors. We as a country learned from our mistake and now we treat our warriors as heroes, as we should have all along. I am the beneficiary of their sacrifice. Not only for the freedom they, like veterans from other wars, ensured, but for how well our country now treats my fellow Marines and I. We are the beneficiaries of their sacrifice.

Semper Fidelis,
Major Brian P. Bresnahan
United States Marine Corps

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THE DIRTY HALF DOZEN

From

THE AIR CAVALRY DIVISION magazine

January 1969

Submitted by Dennis Johnson

Dennis' comments: My team was going to be the team in the article, but we were sent out on a mission unexpectedly, which changed our rotation. The funny part was the "combat" photographer refused to go out on a mission with us, so the entire article was "shot" in a rubber plantation in a "safe" area. That part of the story wasn't in the article. The photographer thought we were all crazy, and of course he was correct about that. (there are several photos with the original publication.)

Long Range Patrol Team No. 34, an element of the 1st Cav's Company E, 52nd Infantry, had just returned from the field, and, although their average age is 19 years, the men strongly resembled characters from the film *The Dirty Dozen*. Their boots were covered with fresh, damp mud, camouflage fatigues and makeup were still in place, fragmentation grenades still hung from straps on their packs.

They were standing in a group, scanning a backlog of mail. "How many letters you get, Chico?" inquired John **Hutter**, a tall, thin Specialist 4, and the team's radio-telephone operator. He was addressing SP4 Augustine **Garcia**, the group's medic.

"Nine," smiled Garcia. "Everybody loves Chico. Si?" "Si my ---," grunted SP4 Paul **O'Brien**, the team leader. "They're probably bills. Everybody loves Chico's money."

"Who are you kidding?" asked Sgt. Michael **Echterling**, the assistant leader. "Chico doesn't have any money. Everybody knows that. They must just love Chico." "Couldn't be," said **Hutter**. "Ever take a good look at Chico?" Everyone, including **Garcia**, laughed.

The men stood around for a time like this, laughing, needling each other, unwinding after being in the field. Eventually, the discussion grew a bit more serious and Paul **O'Brien** explained the fine points of a Company E, 52nd Infantry Long

Range Patrol. 'Hide and Seek': "We have specific missions for each patrol, but basically what we're doing is trying to find Charlie's position. When we do find it, which most of the time we do, we relay the location back to the base camp and they take over from there."

By "taking over from there" **O'Brien** meant that the usual procedure is the calling in of aerial rocket artillery (ARA), tube artillery, and, if necessary, air strikes on enemy positions.

"We rarely make contact with Charlie ourselves," continued **O'Brien**. "That's not our job. Our job is to find him. The only way we fire ourselves is if we're spotted. The key to the whole thing is finding out where Charlie is, but keeping hidden yourself. In a way it's like the kids' game hide and seek."

For an operation that is in "a way like a kids' game", Long Range Patrol teams take a lot of chances. Members are usually miles from the nearest friendly forces and their only source of protection is the radio-telephone that keeps them in contact with the rear areas.

"That's really enough," said **Echterling**. "Usually minutes after we make a call, all sorts of stuff is dropping in on enemy locations. We just sort of sit back, cool it, and watch the artillery and air strikes work out."

If the enemy force discovered is large enough, the Lurps (as they're called) can request airmobile combat assaults of infantry units. "I bet Charlie wonders what's going on when he sees all those birds flying in," grinned **O'Brien**.

The Long Range Patrol Teams of Company E, 52nd Infantry are strictly volunteer. Squad members usually have previous infantry training before coming to the unit, and many are airborne qualified.

Upon joining the 52nd Infantry, each future patrolman goes through a 12-day training period, where he is made qualified to perform the duties of a radio-telephone operator, medic, and scout. Other courses taught in the school are combat intelligence, map reading, the use of ropes, and escape and evasion.

By the time a man completes the course he is as fully qualified to call in artillery on enemy locations or treat the wounded as most artillery and medical specialists.

At one time or another, most LRPs travel to Nha Trang for Recondo School, that is a special course in Long Range Patrols. The school is operated by the 5th Special Forces, lasts three weeks, and goes deeper into the art of jungle patrolling.

Situation: Strange as it may seem, most LRPs seem to enjoy their work. Paul O'Brien said that he wouldn't trade his job "for any other in the Cav." Of course, there are certain times when probably every long range specialist wishes he were behind a desk somewhere.

Michael Echterling described one such situation: "We were on the third day of this one mission. We were moving down a hill toward a stream and river junction. We stopped, hearing what we estimated to be 10 or 12 enemy soldiers at a creek getting water. Being on the west slope, we moved back up the hill and started down the east slope when we ran face to face into a squad of NVA.

They didn't know how many of us were around, so they beat a trail through the brush. We couldn't get communications back to the base area because we were on the wrong side of the hill—our relay was blocked. We took up a position and looking down the slope, we could see bushes and brush everywhere moving. We knew then we were dealing with a large force."

"The only thing we could do was move to the top of the hill so we could get commo. We did and it worked. Within minutes a chopper was in, picked us up, and as we were flying away we could hear the aerial artillery pounding the position. Air strikes came in later and blasted some more."

The following day a line company moved through the area and discovered that we had been surrounded by a battalion. "If we hadn't gotten communications when we did, it could have been bad." It doesn't happen every time they go out, but once could be enough.

The Long Range patrolmen of the 52nd Infantry don't seem to think about the dangers involved too terribly much. "What we think about most of the time," said Paul O'Brien, "is finding the enemy and getting fire power brought in on him when we do. Any other stuff that pops up after that is sort of like extra duty."

LRRP/RANGER MODOLO CHALLENGES AUTHORITIES Vintage Coca-Cola Sign Causes Stir in San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO -- A vintage Coca-Cola sign decorating the side of a San Francisco house is falling flat with some residents.

City officials say the painted sign in the Bernal Heights neighborhood violates anti-billboard laws and must come down. And that's not the only offensive thing about **Richard Modolo's** sign. Some residents also want it removed, saying it promotes obesity by advertising a sugary drink.

Supporters of the sign, which may date back to the 1930s, argue that it's a relic from the neighborhood's working-class past.

Supervisor David Campos, who represents the neighborhood, is weighing both sides and will decide whether to introduce legislation to keep the sign.

Meanwhile, Modolo has been told by the city that he could face a daily fine of \$100 until the sign is gone.

There is a picture of Modolo standing in front of a Coca-Cola sign that was painted on the side of his house decades ago when his home was the site of a mom-and-pop grocery store, in San Francisco. City officials say the painted sign in the Bernal Heights neighborhood violates anti-billboard laws and must come down. (AP/San Francisco Chronicle)

LRRP/RANGERS MERCHANDISE FOR CHRISTMAS

YOU CAN LEAVE THE MILITARY -- BUT IT NEVER REALLY LEAVES YOU.

By Ken Burger, The Charleston Post and Courier

This was written by an Air Force guy, but we all understand what he is talking about.

Occasionally, I venture back out to the air base where I'm greeted by an imposing security guard who looks carefully at my identification card, hands it back and says, "Have a good day, tech sergeant."

Every time I go back onto Charleston Air Force Base it feels good to be called by my previous rank, but odd to be in civilian clothes, walking among the servicemen and servicewomen going about their duties as I once did, years ago.

The military is a comfort zone for anyone who has ever worn the uniform. It's a place where you know the rules and know they are enforced -- a place where everybody is busy but not too busy to take care of business.

Because there exists behind the gates of every military facility an institutional understanding of respect, order, uniformity, accountability and dedication that becomes part of your marrow and never, ever leaves you.

Personally, I miss the fact that you always knew where you stood in the military, and who you were dealing with.

That's because you could read somebody's uniform from 20 feet away and know the score.

Service personnel wear their careers on their sleeves, so to speak. When you approach each other, you can read their name tag, examine their rank and, if they are in dress uniform, read their ribbons and know where they've served.

I miss all those little things you take for granted when you're in the ranks, like breaking starch on a set of fatigues fresh from the laundry and standing in a perfectly straight line military formation that looks like a mirror as it stretches to the endless horizon.

I miss the sight of troops marching in the early morning mist, the sound of boot heels thumping in unison on the tarmac, the bark of sergeants and the sing-song answers from the squads as they pass by in review.

To romanticize military service is to be far removed from its reality, because it's very serious business -- especially in times of war.

But I miss the salutes I'd throw at officers and the crisp returns as we criss-crossed on the flight line.

I even miss the hurry-up-and-wait mentality that enlisted men gripe about constantly, a masterful invention that bonded people more than they'll ever know or admit.

I miss people taking off their hats when they enter a building, speaking directly and clearly to others and never showing disrespect for rank, race, religion or gender.

Mostly I miss being a small cog in a machine so complex it constantly circumnavigates the Earth and so simple it feeds everyone on time, three times a day, on the ground, in the air or at sea.

Mostly, I don't know anyone who has served who regrets it, and doesn't feel a sense of pride when they pass through those gates and re-enter the world they left behind with their youth.

I wish I could express my thoughts as well about something I loved -- and hated sometimes.

Face it guys - we all miss it.....Whether you had one tour or a career, it shaped your life.

WELCOME HOME VETERANS!

Secretary of State Colin Powell, a Vietnam combat veteran and former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has often expressed anger about the class gap between those who fought in Vietnam and those who did not.

"I am angry that so many of the sons of the powerful and well-placed managed to wangle slots in Reserve and National Guard units," he wrote in his 1995 autobiography, *My American Journey*. "Of the many tragedies of Vietnam, this raw class discrimination strikes me as the most damaging to the ideal that all Americans are created equal and owe equal allegiance to their country."

By James Bamford for USA TODAY

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BOOKS

by and about LRRP/Rangers

The Ghosts of the Highlands by Kregg P.J. Jorgenson, Ivy Books. This is about the beginning of the 1st Cav LRRP/Rangers, 1966-67

LRRP Company Command by Kregg P. J. Jorgenson, Ballantine Books. The 1st Cav LRRP/Rangers, 1968-69

Acceptable Loss by Kregg P. J. Jorgenson, Ivy Books. Kregg's autobiography, 1969-70.

MIA RESCUE LRRPs in Cambodia by Kregg P.J. Jorgenson, Ivy Books. One mission gone bad during the Cambodian Invasion.

Above All Else by Ron Christopher, PublishAmerica. Ron's autobiography about being the TL of the first team to pull a mission as the 1st Cav's LRRP/Rangers.

One-Zulu by Curtis "Randy" Kimes, published by author. About one mission, May 7-9, 1968.

Lurps: A Ranger's Diary of Tet, Khe Sanh, A Shau, and Quang Tri by Bob Ankony University Press of America, of Rowman and Littlefield Publishing group, 1967-68

OTHER BOOKS

For What It's Worth by David Klimek, published by author. Dave's experiences during the Cambodian Invasion before he joined H-75th.

A Troop, 9th Cavalry by Ron Christopher. PublishAmerica. Ron's experiences with the "Blues" A-1-9 before he joined LRRP.

**THINK ABOUT IT
DO YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING
ON THIS PAGE**

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PULLING SLACK

From Bill Carpenter

Dale Markovich and I had a phone conversation a couple of months ago. He had a couple of stories that need a follow-up.

Dale talked about a 1/9 pilot with the nickname "Cowboy". Cowboy was too young to shave, wore cowboy boots and hat, and had a sawed-off double barreled shotgun. Seems that Cowboy did things with a chopper that seemed impossible. Does anyone have any Cowboy stories?

Dale told another story that I would definitely like more details on. A team was being inserted, but the LZ was hot. The TL told the pilot to abort, but the pilot refused to. So as the TL went out the door, he pulled the door gunner with him. The TL then told the pilot that if he wanted the gunner back, he could come and get him, along with the team. Someone out there was on that team. Give us the whole story.

FOUND LRRP/RANGERS

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SHAKE AND BAKE WEBPAGE

From Chuck Windham

I just learning what hi-speed internet is all about. I just joined an organization for NCOC graduates. I know there were several Shake and Bakes in our unit in 'Nam. These were soldiers who were selected for accelerated Promotion. A memorial was erected at Ft. Benning honoring NCOC Grads. A web-site is established for joining. (no dues)

Could you list in our newsletter the web-site? If so let me know. The organization is registering by Class, i.e.12-68. The web-site is www.ncoclocator.org.

Thanks

Chuck (Windy) Windham
chuckwind@bellsouth.net

ANOTHER SCAM

US Veterans be wary. When you come across The American War Library <http://www.amervets.com> you see a long list of links and web resources..One of the items they provide is information to help you determine your military service authorized awards. How do they do this? By asking you to send them some confidential documents with all of your personal information. From this, they will send you a response.

WANNABEE BUSTED AGAIN

Robert L. Deppe was commander of VFW Post 2015 in Lakeport, CA. But he has misidentified locations and no valid record was found of Deppe ever serving in the U.S. Army. Some of the research can be found on The POW Network web page about Deppe.

Deppe claimed to serve as an Army Ranger in Company H, according to Post 2015 and documents on The POW Network website.

Deppe had been busted previously in another state for the same claims. Where will he show up next?

STRAWBERRY FIELDS FOREVER

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CHAPLAIN'S BOX

From Jim Regan

The Last "Reveille and Taps!" When I had a chance to speak at my Cousin's Funeral, I had lots of memories. He had been my; Older Brother that I never had, my Boss at the Gas Station, My Platoon Sgt. In our Infantry Reserve Battalion, and a dear friend. Towards the end of my pitch, I said, as part of my remarks, "John has heard his last Reveille and his last Taps."

The other day, talking with his daughter, she told me something amazing. She was staying at her Dad's place in Dover, DE, not far from Dover AFB. She said that while she was out in the yard, early in the morning, she would hear "Bugle calls" apparently coming from the base. Then she talked about the sound and how it drifted peacefully across the neighborhood. There were other bugle calls that she did not recognize. When I asked her what time she heard them, she replied, about 6 AM and 5 PM. That's Reveille and Retreat, I told her. She said there were two bugle calls together at 5 PM. That's "Retreat and To the Colors" I told her. Then, one evening, while out on the deck, she heard "Taps," loud and clear.

All this amazed me, and I knew that John had probably made it a point to be outside to hear the bugle calls. You see, I did not know about this when I wrote my remarks for the service.

We never know when we will hear our LAST bugle calls! Take time to talk with, write to, or visit your friends and family. I always had a warm spot in my heart for those wonderful sounds. Still remember when I was a young troop; in the barracks, lonely and blue. I'd hear the last calls of the evening, "Tattoo, and then Taps!" In those years it was a restful tune. Today it has a new meaning to me. The final salute, tribute to a fallen comrade. It's our way of saying "AMEN!"

Jim RLTW

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OF THE FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION
DURING THE VIETNAM WAR



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