

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



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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.

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**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

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PRESIDENTS REPORT

From John LeBrun

Greetings and salutations from Big White Ski Resort in the heart of British Columbia, Canada. The reunion in Chicago was a tremendous success with 29 members attending. The facilities were superb and there was a lot of entertainment from a number of sources for all that were there.

Once again we hosted our raffle after the luncheon. Members continue to bring excellent prizes that are available to be won and this year was no exception. I personally want to thank all those that made, bought and brought items for the raffle and the many members that purchased tickets for the raffle. The prizes seem to get better each year. Once again thanks to all that participated to make this event so successful. We will once again have another raffle at the next reunion and if you have items please bring them,

Chicago was election time for the following two years. We were fortunate that this year a number of members stepped forward and all the positions were filled. We need this to happen each election cycle to keep the executive fresh with new ideas and to reinvent all the old idea that we have all forgotten. To hold one of the positions requires relative little time. The membership needs members to fill those positions to keep the organization going. It does not require you to attend every reunion but it is helpful. As a non profit organization we need to have a full and active executive. Think about it and make a commitment to fill one of the positions over the next few years. We all need to participate to make the organization work.

As was said earlier the next reunion is in Killeen 10-14 June 2015; at the Shilo Inn, and the reunion after that is in Las Vegas 8-12 June 2016. I do not know the hotel for Las Vegas but once I fine out will let everyone know. For the Las Vegas reunion I would book real early as I expect a large attendance.

Well that it for now hope everyone had a great summer and I'm looking forward to a great winter of skiing again here on the mountain. Enjoy Thanksgiving and Christmas and before you know it Killeen will be on the horizon.

Take care, John LeBrun

2014 REUNION ATTENDEES

Mike Brennan	Bill Carpenter	Bob Carr	Larry Curtis
Greg Chavez	Leonard DeClue	Pete Dencker	Sam Dixon
Bill Elliott	Pete Eisentrager	Mike Echterling	Jim Faulkner
Stan Freeborn	Bennie Gentry	Bob Gill	Ron Hammon
Dave Klimek	John LeBrun	Pat Lyons	Doug Matze
Wayne Okken	Doug Parkinson	Myron Prchel	Bob Raab
Dan Roberts	John Trumbull	Chuck Windham	Ken White
Richard Zilka			

OBITUARY

Doug and Debbie **Matze's** son Ben Pllum died March 17, 2014 from a brain tumor. Ben was 32. Ben had attended several of our reunions as a young man. Ben was a Marine with two Iraq tours before the medical condition developed.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

From Bob Carr

start bal 12/1/13	\$10032.06
income	
dues, merch, donations	\$1987.00
expenses	
meta pros-domain	[\$98.40]
UPS store newsletter	[\$685.31]
UPS return shipping	[\$15.23]
Doug Matze WWP	[\$100.00]
Dan Roberts WWP	[\$554.00]
Merch for Benny Gentry	[\$127.86] shipping
1st cav scholar ship	[\$500.00]
reunion cash	[2000.00]

we have \$914.00 in the brick fund same acct

closed acct 7/7/2014 \$7938.26 check

ACTIVITY AFTER THE REUNION

reunion funds	[\$550.00]
Expenses from \$2000.00 reunion cash	
deposit check	\$7938.26
from acct closed	
raffle	\$1035.00
membership	\$ 640.00
pete dencker & peter eisentrager for life	
merch	\$1015.00
donations	\$ 485.00
expense fund	\$1450.00
returned to acct from \$2000.00	
end bal	\$12563.26

we have \$ 1399.00 in the brick fund, same acct

reopened acct on 7/17/2014

BROKEN VETERANS MYTHS

From Jim Kraft

I saw a good article in the January 2014 issue of VFW magazine. Actually it was a letter to the editor, "Mail Call."

Not sure if and how we could get permission to reprint something like this, but think it would be of interest to our members. The title of the submission is "Debunk the Whole 'Broken Veteran' Myth," by Mark Anich of Omaha. It is well written and makes a number of good points that are rarely addressed publicly.

We have a long history in America of fickle public attitudes toward the military and service members. Generally, we run long periods of ambivalence, punctuated by short periods of misdirected hero worship, usually followed by a period of contempt and scorn, and once that burns itself out, we are back to another long run of ambivalence.

As a soldier, I neither want to be pitied nor patronized. I am no hero and wouldn't want to be one, given the current culture. The word "Hero" has been so misused and abused that it has lost all meaning. It is a hollow cliché in the worst sense, having devolved into a squalid gutter of egocentric absurdity. Every time I hear the word "Hero," no matter how used or where directed, I cringe in utter disgust. (Please do not misunderstand. I am not bitter about this phenomenon, but I do have strong views on the subject.) The Vietnam Veteran is the most maligned veteran in U.S. history. We know a lot about this matter and don't expect too much from the general public.

Do not pity me or patronize me, or put me on a pedestal, or subject me to any misdirected attention. With modesty and *head up* humility, I, and most of the military people I know, hope only for a modicum of quiet respect. Beyond that, we would simply like to be left alone.

Jim Kraft

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REUNION TIDBITS

From Bill Carpenter

There is a serious push by some anonymous family members to stop having our Sunday breakfast at 0700. Their idea is, in the future, get up, check out, and then meet at a neighborhood restaurant about 1000. It will be a lot cheaper, too.

Bill **Elliott** brought a six pack of Ba Mui Ba.

I got to talk to a survivor of LZ X-Ray, the "We Were Soldiers ---" battle. He is now in a wheel chair from Lou Gehrig disease.

Heard a few stories about Survivor's Guilt. One person said that after a member on the team was killed, his Team Leader said, "It's not your fault he died. He committed suicide. He stood up".

It was good to see some faces that had not been to a reunion for a while, welcome back.

During the business meeting, Jim **Regan**'s absence was duly noticed. An anonymous voice in the crowd commented that they did not miss "that damn whistle" that Jim used in Viet Nam.

I understand that when **Barnes** was recruiting for our unit, his line was;

"We prefer men with no wife, no girl friend, no kids, and who have suicidal tendencies."

Bob **Raab** had a couple of very nice 2 ft. X 3 ft. posters of our unit crest. They were on display in the reception room. It wasn't until the Saturday luncheon that someone noticed the bottom line said "Long Ranger Patrol". If you missed the error, as we all had for a few days, read the line again.

Some troopers from West (by God) Virginia did some serious campaigning for the 2018 reunion. One little problem, there is no 1st Cav Chapter in WV to host it. That can be easily fixed. Look for some "Welcome Home to West Virginia" signs at Killeen next year.

Bill **Elliott** and Greg **Chavez** closed down the reception room about 0230 Sunday morning.

We had a guest, Bob Stein, who was with E-20 LRP, 1st Field Force. He is writing a book about that unit. His manuscript did not impress me. Some excerpts from the book:

** Each platoon had seven, six man teams and each team had six choppers and a bird dog for support (*ED: maybe on paper*).

*** One team was in contact. But there were no choppers available. They were pulled out by the Aussies. Where did those six choppers per team go?

** Each team carried a camera and took pictures of the enemy so that intel could ID the uniforms.

** A team found a couple of hooches in a free fire zone. There was food cooking over a fire and no one around. There was a pig and some chickens that they killed with a knife. Where were the people cooking the food? (*ED: I have killed a few pigs and chickens, none of them were quiet about it. They must have been a bunch of city boys.*)

** This same team found a hooch full of ammo. They doused it with bug spray and lit it. They didn't want to blow it up because of the noise. I guess when the ammo cooked off it didn't make any sound.

All of this was in the first four pages of the manuscript. I stopped reading it then.

The book is Ghost Warriors.

We are lucky to have so many writers in our unit. What they write may not be exactly the way we remember it, but as Greg **Chavez** said, "It is 75% accurate."

Today there are 1,644 American service members that are still unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War.

See you in Killeen next year

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LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

From Anita E. Lyons
Wife of Patrick J. Lyons

Monday, June 29, 1942, Fred D. Lyons of Bradford, Pa. was directed to report for his physical for the U.S. Army. After extensive training, Fred became one of Darby's Rangers and served with the 3rd Ranger Bn. He fought through the hell of Anzio, Italy and was part of a night march on Cisterna. The 1st, 3rd and 4th Ranger Battalions were surrounded in that battle at Cisterna and were hopelessly cut off.

It was at Cisterna that Fred was wounded and hospitalized in Italy. His wounds and hospitalization saved him from certain death at the battle at Normandy.

For his service, Sgt. Fred D. Lyons received two purple hearts, seven battle and campaign stars, and a Citation from the King of Norway noting his aid in the Liberation of Norway by the United States. Fred's name is listed on the acknowledgement page of the book called Devil's Brigade about Darby's Rangers.

Thursday, June 1, 1967 another young Lyons from Bradford Pa. was inducted into the U.S. Army. Patrick J. Lyons was shipped to Vietnam where he also underwent extensive training with the Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRPs) and with the Recondo School taught by the Special Forces. He became a part of the E Co., (LRP) 52nd Infantry which later became part of the Rangers. Patrick was seriously wounded during a combat mission.

For his service, Sgt. Lyons received the Purple Heart and the Silver Star for Valor. He is currently battling diabetes brought on by continuous exposure to Agent Orange while serving in Vietnam.

This country has had many brave men and women who have served unselfishly by giving everything to guarantee our precious freedoms. I am very blessed to know a number of the LRRPs. And I am proud to say that I am the daughter-in-law of one of Darby's Rangers in WW II and the

wife of a LRRP/Ranger in Vietnam. God bless all our brave men and women and God bless our great nation. Thank you all for your service.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICA!

WHO ARE THESE GUYS?



From: "Walker Jones"
<dashingcavalier@yahoo.com>

I was a helicopter pilot in Vietnam, I took my Spotmatic with me every day, taking photos of everything and everyone.

This is the most important photograph I took that survived Vietnam. These faces are those of the young Americans that I was sure that I had killed from my Cobra above. For so many years after Vietnam, I could never really be sure that I actually saw these guys at the Phouc Vinh POL (refuel point). Sometimes, I thought that I had created a vision - and photograph - as some mental self-defense. And now I stare at those eyes and realize that they are not looking at the camera, they are looking at me. It's an iconic photo from our war.

I'll tell my story again when the time comes.

I recognize all 5 faces. Jackie **Stobaugh** (died 9/20/83) is in the middle, hatless, wearing the chest gear.

Darrell "Smitty" **Smith**

Patterson is on the right, I should know three others, but memories 888888
Andrew **Allen**.

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THE BARNES TECHNIQUE FOR PRISONER SNATCHES

From Ken **White**

I remember one mission in particular. We were working the eastern side of the Da Dan Mountains, approximately 10 kilometers northwest of Bong Son, in the vicinity of Cu Nghi, when we spotted an NVA rice-carrying detail about 200 meters east of our position parallel to our northward movement. They had just emerged from the village and were moving northward balancing bags of rice across their shoulders. We called in the sighting and were directed by brigade to get a prisoner.

Suddenly, the enemy soldiers spotted us, dropped what they were carrying, broke formation and bee-lined it back to the village. Well, our team leader, Sgt. John **Barnes** (Barney, Clarksville, TN, just as suddenly ripped off his rucksack, dropped it in the elephant grass, reached into the pocket of his fatigues and pulled out a big fat cigar, and lit it. Then with a .45 caliber Smith & Wesson in one hand and a CAR-15 automatic rifle in the other, he bolted down the hill towards the village right after them.

Spanky **Seymour**, the team's RTO, and Sgt. Burt **Penkunis**, assistant team leader, Elk City, Idaho, decided that they better go after him if we ever hoped to see him again, so off they went down the hill towards the village. Jim **Dempsey**, Laredo, TX, and I stayed behind taking cover in a cluster of trees on the hillside.

Several hours later, who do we see coming up the hill but Sgt. Barnes with two enemy prisoners in tow. The prisoners were wearing khaki pants rolled up above the knees, black pajama tops, and sandals. Spanky and Sgt. Penkunis were right behind them.

By then it was dark and the nightly monsoon rain had started. The summer monsoon was petering out by this time but it still had some punch left to it. We knew that because of the rain we would likely have to hang on to the prisoners until daybreak before a 1st Cav helicopter would be able to come out and get them.

By midnight, however, we started hearing movement around our position, but because of the rain, which was now heavy, it was difficult to determine if in fact it was enemy movement that we were hearing or if our minds were simply playing head games with us.

By about 3:00am or so, we were getting anxious about the prisoner situation. We knew that we would have to move from our position to a more defensible one before dawn as a precautionary measure, but taking the prisoners with us could be a fatal mistake — both for us and for them.

If there were enemy soldiers nearby, the prisoners might try to hinder our movement or make noise to give away our position, and we knew that we couldn't just leave them there to fight another day. By about 5:00 am, the rain started to let up and Sgt. Barnes was able to convince brigade to come get the prisoners.

Shortly afterwards, a helicopter arrived on site, picked up the two of them, and off it went to LZ English or An Khe, or wherever they took prisoners for interrogation.

I can assure you that we wasted no time in getting off that hillside and into a tree line at the base of the hill that offered some protection from approaching enemy soldiers.

I never really heard the story of what happened in that village anyway.



BROTHERS IN ARMS

JIM KRAFT & STEVE VIROSTKO
FIRST REUNION, 45 YEARS LATER

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Team 31 mission on 30 April – 1 May 1969

**From Tim Greenly (TL), Steve Curtis (ATL),
Mike Blymyer (RTO), Dan Roberts (Medic).
Sorry, we can't remember the fifth member**

It seemed like it was going to be a normal mission. There was nothing out of the ordinary as we prepared at our rear base at Phouc Vinh. As usual the mission was recon and surveillance. We had planned for a late afternoon/early evening insertion (suicide insertions as Steve Curtis called them) into our AO (area of operation).

As we helicoptered into our LZ (landing zone) it was approaching twilight. Exiting the Huey we moved off the LZ and into the tree line to monitor the LZ for any movement/enemy. As the bird cleared the LZ and headed back to Phouc Vinh the silence was deafening. After feeling it was safe we moved towards our planned night position in our standard patrol formation.

We hadn't moved very far before we found what appeared to be an overnight position for a platoon of US army infantry. There were a lot of discarded and unopened C-rations. As we paused to take a look at what had been left, rounds started going through the foliage around us. We hit the dirt and got "small" as our TL (team leader), Tim Greenly, got on the radio to find out what was going on.

We were told that the 11th ACR (Armored Cavalry Regiment) was in contact on the other side of the river. Our position, apparently, was getting the "spent" 50-cal rounds from that engagement; kind of spooky. We quickly moved on towards our night position. A short time later we came across a "high speed" trail (looked like a dirt road). Tim decided this would be an excellent ambush site and night position. We set up to monitor the trail in our classic pinwheel formation (our packs set back to back in the middle, with our feet towards the trail, sides, and rear like a wagon wheel). We only put out one claymore on the trail hoping for a fast ambush. After setting out our claymore we watched the trail and jungle around us for movement and waited for darkness.

As we continued to maintain full alertness, we heard movement to our left. Within a few seconds NVA (North Vietnam Army regulars) soldiers came into view and Tim told us to get ready to engage the enemy. As they approached the team, Tim observed another group coming behind the first group and we hunkered down to wait for a better opportunity. The first group went past, the second group went past, and more and more enemy came down the trail.

When we had set up our night position it seemed that we were hidden within the jungle behind bushes and trees with no clear or open view of the trail. Now, however, with the enemy moving through our ambush zone we could see two to three soldiers at a time from their boots to their faces with full NVA uniforms and weapons. It was unsettling to consider that any of these NVA soldiers, if they were alert or attentive, only had to turn their heads to the side and they would see us.

Part of the enemy column stopped right in front of our position and we could hear the moans of their wounded. The NVA started pulling bicycles out of the brush across the trail from us and used them to move the wounded. As the column continued to pass in front of us Tim attempted to make radio contact with Slashing Talon, our TOC, informing them of the high number of NVA passing us.

Tim remembers when Xray picked up our squelch-code and asked if we had enemy close by and he coded back "yes". X-Ray then asked him to break squelch once for each one in sight, and he coded back "no". They finally asked him to break squelch once for each five enemy in sight and Greenly started breaking squelch. With that change in squelch-code they finally figured out the problem and relayed to Talon 65 that Team 31 was in deep doo-doo.

As the TL was communicating that we were approaching 300+ NVA passing our position it became dark. About that time the NVA column stopped and set up their night position in front and around the team. Tim was talking about blowing the claymore and getting out of Dodge. Blymyer

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remembers thinking that he really, really didn't want to attempt an E&E (escape and evasion) with that radio on his back slowing him down. He was also wondering how healed his ankle really was and if it would hold up to a run in the dark (he had goofed it up pretty badly on a fumbled attempt at a PLF on another mission about a month earlier).

As the NVA settled into place they moved their security soldiers out around their column. Roberts recalled that we heard movement to our left and when the soldier stopped we heard a metallic clicking sound (like our old Halloween/4th of July clickers) coming from that soldier, and then movement of another soldier to that location. The original soldier moved on to another location and stopped, which was to the rear of us, and once again we heard a metallic clicking sound and another soldier moved to that location.

This action went on for a long time with a number of NVA now surrounding the five of us and the enemy column still directly to our front. As these soldiers continued to move to their night guard positions we hoped they would not trip over or into us. We were lucky that none of the sentries they put out around us discovered we weren't NVA.

The enemy starting laying down around us and Blymyer remembers that his stomach started to growl and rumble. One NVA came over next to him to relieve his bladder and Blymyer knew the enemy had to hear his stomach and wasn't sure how long he was going to be able to keep the ol' sphincter muscle tightened up. He remembers not being very optimistic about living to see the sun come up.

Roberts recalls that he sat there, trying to be motionless and calm, watching soldier after soldier carrying their wounded, heavy machine guns, mortars, AK-47s, RPG's, and a complete arsenal of weapons. He remembers becoming more and more fearful as each soldier passed. The NVA soldiers were close enough for us to see and hear everything they did. The smallest sounds they made; packs creaking, water sloshing in canteens, the moaning and groaning from their injured,

playing grab-ass with each other, laughing, talking, and playing music from transistor radios. It seemed surrealistic and odd but it made them seem human.

The scariest thought Dan had was if any one of the 300+ soldiers turned their head to the right they would see our team and we would have the firefight of our life. Dan remembers shaking so much he made the jungle floor under his body make noise. He tried to control his fear, but continued to make noise that could have given our position away. Greenly leaned over and told him that he had to try and stop making noise. Dan acknowledged that he'd try (while still watching soldier after soldier passing us). Dan became aware of just how scared he'd become. Never before, during, or after Vietnam had that level of fear gotten a hold of him (that was a sentiment probably shared by all the team!).

Dan thought he would die that night and began to negotiate with the Man. He can personally attest to the fact that "There are no atheists in the foxhole". He vividly remembers that he negotiated with God telling him if he lived or got out of this he would go back to church and at some time build him a shrine.

Greenly decided that he and Curtis would stay awake for the remainder of the night and we would not rotate guard as we normally do. Tim whispered for the remaining three of us to get some sleep; that it'd be a long night.

As Dan continued to negotiate with God he fell into a deep sleep. The next thing Roberts noticed were birds singing their beautiful songs. He knew there had to be birds in heaven and said to himself, "I made it to Heaven, thank you God!".

As he lay there with his eyes closed and listened to the birds singing he felt warmth on his cheek. Curious about the source of the warmth Dan opened his eyes one at a time to locate the source. He saw a ray of light shining through the double and triple jungle canopy and it was the only direct light making it through the trees. It was this ray of light shining on his face and warming his cheeks.

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RECONDO SCHOOL TEST

From Jim Ross

Jim Ross supplied the following. It is a single page from a Recondo School test. How many can you get right now?

PART III: FILL-IN

51. The final thing you should do before departing your RON is to _____ the area.
52. The two types of polarization are ____ and ____.
53. Sound travels at approximately ____ meters per second.
54. The US team leader is the ____ man to unload the helicopter on insertion and the ____ man to load it on extraction.
55. You should wait at least ____ hours before administering the second dose of morphine.
56. The maximum effective range of the Sten gun is ____ meters.
57. When constructing a jungle antenna the radiators are cut to ____ wave length.
58. Three fingers held extended at arms length represents approximately ____ mils (sic).
59. Move out of the RON at ____ degrees from the direction you plan to travel.
60. There are two methods of range estimation. One is ____ and the other is ____.
61. The HT-1 uses ____ modulaiton.
62. The best of all visuals signal devices is the ____.
63. The test strength of the 120 foot climbing rope is ____ Lbs.
64. The maxiomum number of pictures you can take with the Pen EE is ____.
65. The rated range of the AN/PRC-25 radio is ____ kilometers.
66. The method used to locate a distant point from two known points is called ____.
67. The first group sent when using the USKAC-199 is the indicator for the ____.
68. The FAC can home on you when you transmit on either the ____ radio or the ____ radio.
69. The maximum effective range of the AK-47 is ____ meters.
70. The left wing of an aircraft is ____ o'clock.

As Dan considered if this was truly heaven or a Divine intervention, he heard laughter coming from his right and turning his head towards the laughter, he saw his team members laughing at him. Roberts then knew that this was not Heaven but was still deep in the jungles of Vietnam and in harms way.

“What happened?” Dan asked. They told him the NVA pulled out about sunrise and the Huey and pink team (a Cobra gun ship and a light observation helicopter, LOH) were on their way to pick us up, but they wanted to ensure that the NVA got further away before they picked us up. Dan wanted to know why no one on the team woke him up. Someone replied, “You looked liked a sleeping baby and no one on the team had the heart to wake you up”. Dan then wanted to know when we were getting outta' here and was told “shortly”.

After the NVA had clearly left the area Tim called in a fire mission on where he thought they might be. The team collected the claymore, which to our amazement had blood from one of the wounded NVA on it, and packed our packs.

As we were leaving we even found an NVA helmet. As the team moved towards our LZ for extraction, we saw the pink team come into view. Shortly the Huey was on his final approach to the LZ to pick us up. We loaded onto the Huey and flew back to base for debriefing and a warm beer.

An overflight the next morning didn't find anything and nobody believed us at Division. A day later that Regiment attacked a fire base. The CO made mention of that mission in his farewell letter where he says we proved the doubting Thomas's wrong.

Dan (and the rest of the team) are still not sure if our mission had some Divine intervention or just dumb luck by our not engaging them or the NVA not physically falling over us!

FOUND RANGER

Fred Alber

105-30 66 Ave. Apt. 5

Forest Hills, N.Y. 11375

FRED.ALBER@YAHOO.COM

I AM LOOKING FOR STEVE ARNTZ. LAST I HEAR HE LIVED IN NEW JERSEY.
THANKS, FRED

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**LRRP/RANGER
MERCHANDISE PRICE LIST**

LRRP Crossed Sabers Pin	\$3
T-Shirts: Black/White sizes to 4X	\$13
T-Shirts Novelty: White sizes to 4X	\$13
T-Shirts Recondo: Grey sizes to 2X	\$13
Golf(Polo)Shirts:Blk/White sizes to XL	\$30
Sweatshirts M to XXL	\$20
Hats: Black or White	\$12
Ranger Ring: size 10 1/2 only	\$50
Belt Buckles: numbered	\$20
Ranger Lapel Pin: On Hold	\$4
Sm Cloth Scroll Patch: (H - 75 th)	\$4
LG unit crest patch	\$20
Recondo patch	\$3
Wooden Nickel:	\$1
Koozie can coolers	\$3
Ankony's book; LURP's	\$30
Seymour's book - Camping	\$15
DVD's 1 Jungle- Forged Brothers 2 Bear Cat Training 3 Tribute To Our Fallen Comrades 4 History Channel LRRP's	\$15 each
Decals: interior/exterior	\$2
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LIFETIME DUES	\$200
Shipping per order	\$5

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NONFICTION BOOKS

by and about LRRP/Rangers
in Viet Nam

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 Chau, and Quang Tri by Bob Ankony
University Press of America, of Rowman and Littlefield Publishing group, 1967-68

In The Jungle ---Camping with the Enemy
By Jim "Spanky" Seymour, Outskirts Press
Memories of Spanky's LRRP missions, 1967-69.

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.

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H Company 75th Ranger / Company E, 52nd Infantry (LRP) 1st Cavalry Division

From Bob **Ankony**,
as published in *Patrolling* magazine, Fall 2013.

On December 20, 1967, HHC Company (LRRP), 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), was redesignated Company E, 52nd Infantry (LRP) in Vietnam, and on February 1, 1969, it was redesignated 75th Infantry (Ranger). In November 1966 Major General John Norton, Commanding Officer, 1st Cavalry Division, ordered Captain James D. James, a Special Forces-trained officer, to establish a long-range reconnaissance patrol detachment, HHC Company, based on other all volunteer LRP units forming in Vietnam. Company E (LRP) participated in some of the most notable battles of the Vietnam War and as Company H, 75th Infantry, it became the most decorated and longest serving unit in LRP/Ranger history. Company H, 75th Infantry, also lost the last two Rangers of the Vietnam War: Sgt. Elvis Weldon Osborne Jr., and Cpl. Jeffery Alan Maurer, both killed in action June 9, 1972. In all, approximately 1,000 men served in this unit of which 45 men were killed in Vietnam and Cambodia and approximately 400 were wounded or injured on combat patrols.

Company E was commanded by Captain Michael Gooding and his operations and intelligence section was commanded by Staff Sergeant Thomas Campbell. In January 1968 Operation Jeb Stuart commenced and Company E and the 1st Cavalry Division with its vast air assets moved north to Camp Evans, north of Hue and up to LZ Sharon and LZ Betty, south of Quang Tri City, near the coast in the I Corps Tactical Zone. Jeb Stuart was conducted because the 3rd U.S. Marine Division and the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) were engaged in heavy combat at the Khe Sanh combat base and along the DMZ. As a result, the 1st and 3rd Platoons, Company E, 52nd Infantry (LRP) were based at Camp Evans to support the 2nd and 3rd Brigades, 1st Cavalry

Division, while the 2nd Platoon was stationed at LZ Betty (Headquarters 1st Brigade).

Tet Offensive

In the early morning hours of January 31, 1968, the largest battle of the Vietnam War, the Tet Offensive, was launched by 84,000 enemy soldiers across South Vietnam. In the 1st Cavalry Division's area of operation, the NVA and Vietcong forces struck the Marines at Hue, south of Camp Evans. As the 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, fought to cut off enemy reinforcements pouring into Hue, at Quang Tri, five enemy battalions, most from the 324th NVA Division, attacked the city and LZ Betty. To stop allied troops from intervening, three other enemy infantry battalions deployed as blocking forces, all supported by a 122mm-rocket battalion and two heavy-weapons companies armed with 82mm mortars and 75mm recoilless rifles. At LZ Betty Captain Gooding and his 2nd Platoon, Company E, commanded by Lieutenant Joseph Dilger, directed mortar and artillery fire and led members of the platoon firing against charging enemy troops from atop the LZ's forty-foot water tower. After two days of intense fighting by the 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, and the 1st ARVN Division (Mechanized), 900 NVA and Vietcong soldiers were killed in and around Quang Tri City and LZ Betty. However, across South Vietnam, 1,000 Americans, 2,100 ARVNs, 14,000 civilians, and 32,000 NVA and Vietcong lay dead.

Operation Pegasus:

Relief of the Khe Sanh combat base

In March 1968 the 1st Cavalry Division and Company E moved west to LZ Stud, the staging area for Operation Pegasus to break the siege of the Marine combat base at Khe Sanh---the second largest battle of the war. All three brigades participated in this vast airmobile operation, along with a Marine armor thrust from Ca Lu along Route 9. B-52s alone dropped more than 75,000 tons of bombs on North Vietnamese soldiers from the 304th and 325th Divisions encroaching the

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combat base in trenches. As these two elite enemy divisions, with history at Dien Bien Phu and the Ia Drang Valley, depleted, the 1st Cavalry Division deployed Company E reconnaissance teams to flank its airmobile advance as the division leapfrogged west, seizing key hilltops as fire support bases so the Marines could continue pushing forward. At 0:800 hours April 8, members of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, linked-up with the Marines at the combat base, ending the 77-day siege.

Operation Delaware:

Air Assault into A Shau Valley

On April 19, 1968, as the 2nd Brigade continued leapfrogging west to the Laotian border, the 1st and 3rd Brigades (about 11,000 men and 300 helicopters) swung southwest and air assaulted A Shau Valley, commencing Operation Delaware. Since satellite communications were a thing of the future, a daring long-range penetration operation was launched by members of Company E, 52nd Infantry (LRP) against the North Vietnamese Army when they seized "Signal Hill" the name attributed to the peak of Dong Re Lao Mountain, a densely forested 4,879-foot mountain, midway in the valley, so the 1st and 3rd Brigades, slugging it out hidden deep behind the towering wall of mountains, could communicate with Camp Evans near the coast or with approaching aircraft.

Operation Jeb Stuart III

On May 17, 1968, Operation Jeb Stuart III commenced in Quang Tri and Thua Thien Provinces from Hue City up to the DMZ. By this date the 1st Cavalry Division had completed its mission in A Shau Valley, disrupting the flow of troops and supplies from North Vietnam through Laos, and resumed security operations in these two provinces. Operation Jeb Stuart III continued until November 3, 1968, when the division moved south near Cambodia in Operation Liberty Canyon.

75th Ranger Regiment

In 1974 Company H, 75th Infantry (Ranger) colors and lineage was passed to the 2nd Ranger Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment.

Company E in film

Oliver Stones' movie *Platoon* (1986) was based on two soldiers from 2nd Platoon, Company E, 52nd Infantry (LRP). Specifically, S/Sgt, John Barnes portrayed by Tom Berenger and Sgt. Juan Angel Elias portrayed by Willem Dafoe.

Oliver Stone served as a rifleman in both the 25th Infantry Division and the 1st Cavalry Division. In April 1968 Oliver Stone volunteered for the 1st Cavalry Division's Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol training, but was dropped from the course because "he was too aggressive and was not a team player." Nevertheless, Stone melds his line experience as an infantryman and the characters of Barnes and Elias through the eyes of a green young soldier, Charlie Sheen. The film depicts troops of Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment in 1967, who are often drug-induced and undisciplined, and divided between Sgt. Elias' integrity and the battle hardened, but heartless Sgt. Barnes---a dark portrayal of American servicemen and exaggeration of facts (the drug epidemic did not reach the battlefield till near the end of the Vietnam War).

Sgt. Barnes honorably retired from the U.S. Army as a Sergeant Major and Sgt. Elias was killed in action in Quang Tri Province on May 29, 1968, when a grenade he and his team were rigging as a booby trap on an enemy trail accidentally exploded causing the loss of his life and that of Pfc. Donald Robert Miller, and fellow team member, Sgt. Larry Curtis, to lose an eye.

Please note the article is only a started point. Once it's published guys can forward me information if they like and I can edited what I can into the Wikipedia site or they can do it themselves as it is a public site.

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PULLING SLACK

From Bill Carpenter

From: Billy Waters

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Just wanted to let everyone know I have just been put on liver transplant list this past June. I have liver cancer & cirrosis of the liver. Agent orange exposure... Vietnam. . appreciate your prayers I will be fine. I'm in God's most capable hands.

Billy Waters

Ron **Christopher** reports that his book on the history of our unit is almost complete.

Howard **Shute**, Larry **Curtis**, Stan **Freeborn**, Sam and Kathy **Dixon**, and myself attended the funeral for Doug and Cathy **Metze's** son, Ben.

Larry and Stan drove from Indiana and picked me up on the way through. Well, like a good recondo man, Larry trusts his GPS. There is four-lane divided highway all the way from my house to Richmond. While still in WV, the GPS shows a short cut on a two-lane road. Larry ask me about it. My reply, "It will save you about a half hour travel time, but it will be on West Virginia two lane road."

Apparently the Flatlander did not enjoy the "Country Roads" (now an official WV song) so on the way home, Larry decided to stay on the four lane and take the long way. Stan thanked Larry for driving the level and straight (by West Virginia standards) road coming back.

Book report from Spanky seymour

This is really awkward to me, but I have to tell you guys that my book is published and selling on-line. The publisher is Outskirts Press and it's also being sold on Amazon. Big surprise to me. They put it on Amazon before I got my copies (I checked- they're ok) and this is where we are.

No muss, no fuss, I'm done. The book is literally out there, on its own. Whatever happens now, happens.

Take care, Spanky

STRAWBERRY FIELDS FOREVER

A THANK YOU

From Stephania Ryan

This reunion was my sixth reunion and as always I enjoyed seeing the faces of both those I have met before and those who were at their first reunion.

With each reunion I have been so very blessed to get the chance to learn more about my dad, by talking to the men who knew and served with him, but also from all of the H Co LRRP/Rangers. As I was told during this past reunion, one wife had said "we all married the same man," at least in essence because of the shared experiences of those men.

I feel the same way, although I will always refer to you as my uncle Bill, Bob, Mike, Bennie, Jim, Wayne, etc... in my heart you are all the men my dad was and would have become.

I am seldom at a loss for words but I truly do not have the ones to adequately express how much each of you means to me. Suffice to say my relationships with each of you and your families is priceless to me, and has helped me to heal.

I especially want to thank Mike **Echterling** and Bob **Raab** for taking the time to sit down and talk with me about my dad this year. I just wish we had all had more time to keep talking.

My grief will never end but at times it does subside and I owe much of that to the time I spend with you at these reunions. It has made the rough days a little less so and sometimes those days are not even rough at all. I actually celebrate his birthday every year by doing something special now, but before the reunions it made me feel the same as his KIA date and I used to dread it.

I suppose this is really just a long winded thank you and I love you to all of you and you families, and I look forward to seeing you next year in Killeen "if the good Lord is willing and the creek don't rise."

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CHAPLAIN'S BOX

FROM Jim Regan

By the time this hits the streets, many things will have passed. Summer will be almost gone and we will be into football season. The last year has been a rough one for many, but we mostly survived. I missed our get-together in Chicago. Didn't want to travel too far from home yet. Had a "close call" w/ open heart / triple bypass surgery in November 2013. Got through it fine and counted my blessings. Thanksgiving Day took on a whole new meaning for me. Prayers work! Thank you all for your prayers and notes. We still have other fellows and family members out there who need our prayers. Stay in touch with each other. It may not seem like a big thing to you, but when a person gets an unexpected call, card or letter, it will surely brighten their day.

I know you enjoyed the reunion and fellowship in July. I know you gave thanks, 'specially at the luncheon, for all our blessings. I know that someone "stepped up" and said the prayer for us.

Hoping to see you all in Texas next year.

Jim RLTW/L&P

(Rangers Lead the Way, Love & Prayers)

If you may know anyone who needs a little boost. Let Jim know.

He can be contacted at :

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DURING THE VIETNAM WAR



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