

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



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SEPTEMBER 2019

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 THE NEWSLETTER SHOULD SUBMIT THE MATERIAL TO:

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713 DIAMOND STREET
FAIRMONT, WV 26554-3713
304-366-0022 (EVENINGS)
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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

5810

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

From Bob **RAAB**

WOW!!! What a reunion. A double barrel of fun, fellowship & frolicking. Not only that but what a great turnout for the Killeen/Ft. Hood location. We had an astounding number of 37 members, plus around 70 total in attendance. You have to go all the way back to our first reunion in 1987 to have had more as 49 attended that year.

A lot of exciting things happened.

For all of us who would rather be almost anywhere but Killeen for a reunion, starting in 2021, we will only be in Killeen every 3rd year. That's correct, every 3rd year. Next year, we will be in Louisville, KY, the site of 2006, where we had the most ever attendees ever . . . 64 strong!

Doc **Gilcrest** came! As most of you know, Doc was within a whisper of leaving us this past year, but with GOD's grace, he saw fit to send Doc back to again. PRAISE GOD!

Naughty boisterous Bob **Gill** finally brought his wife, after years of promising "next year". Lots of us were starting to wonder if he REALLY was married. Pat is a real sweetheart. I have met a lot of salesmen in my life, but I sure wish I could have heard the line of bravo sierra he fed her. We all hope that Pat is with us in Louisville.

Mike **Brennan** and Pete **Dencker** agree to co-chair our unit's history. Mike came into the unit in 1969. Pete was there in '70-71 & a part of '72. What they don't have, they will be contacting Jim **James** and Mike **Gooding** plus some of "old guys" to fill in some blanks. If you have something that you think warrants their attention, please don't wait, pick up the phone and call. Mike's number is (336) 644-2044. Pete's number is (615) 202-4804. If by chance you don't reach them, leave a message for a call back. All this, plus Bill **Carpenter's** newsletters, with stories in them, we should have a fairly complete picture of our existence in Nam.

Two new committees were established.

A. Historian – Pete **Dencker** – we have touched on this.

B. Service Officer – John **Simones** – with John's background and vast knowledge of the VA, he will keep us up to date on medical rulings and changes in the VA and congress on items that will affect us. Mike **Davidson** (ret MG) will be working on fun things for us to do in the Louisville area for the 2020 reunion. We will again be going on a riverboat cruise (dinner included), on the Ohio River.

Craig **Leerburg** (68 – 69) our 2019 nominee to the "Ranger Hall of Fame" came so close to entering that hallowed group of elite warriors. He lost out on a coin flip. So, we are having his "packet" reworked and resubmitted for this year. We are all behind you Craig. Many, many thanks to Jim **Regan** for his efforts in this endeavor.

Anita **Lyons** gave a very heartfelt eulogy for **Stacy Lyn Carpenter Nichols**, Bill Carpenter's daughter. Stacy, for years was her Dad's right hand. She assisted Bill in his veterinary practice, as well as our newsletter and helped in our hospitality room at the reunions. Stacy, darlin' – you are and will be sadly missed by all!!!

A thought several of us had for the reunion in Louisville is to raffle off a shotgun. This raffle would be separate from the normal raffle. Unless we get a positive response from you, the membership we will not do this. IF you support this, call me (517) 525-0747 or email me at rjbarsr@yahoo.com. If we have a positive response, we will have other items as well. Let me know, it only takes a few minutes.

Because Louisville is centrally located, we want to break our all-time record for membership attendance at a reunion. Get on the phone, email or send a carrier pigeon, whatever it takes and get your old team members and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

5811

(PRESIDENT'S COLUMN
CONTINUED)

buddies to attend the reunion in Louisville. It is being held at the Crowne Plaza, Louisville Airport on June 10th – June 14th. Call for reservations at (888) 233-9527, sooner rather than later as rooms go quickly. Be sure to tell them you are associated with the 1st Cav in order to receive the special room price. They also accept pets.

Per your request (the membership), I have called the office of the 1st Cav and put in a request for a hospitality room at least twice the size as the rooms we normally have. With the anticipated number attending the reunion in 2020, hopefully we will have more elbow room and not be tripping over each other.

A big debt of gratitude should go out to a few guys who work behind the scenes, to help our organization, who work to streamline things and make things better. My thanks and a big HOOAH goes out to Bill Hornbuckle, our treasurer, Chaplain Jim Regan, out traveling merchandisers Benny and Sandy Gentry and last but certainly not least, our Vice President and newsletter editor Bill Carpenter. Without these people working very diligently behind the scenes, our organization would be in big trouble.

Finally a note to a very special member . . . Jim Bracewell. You promised me you would drive to Louisville for the reunion, so Jim, be there or be square.

I thought all of you would like to read "The Meaning of a Flag Draped Coffin" on page XXX of this newsletter. . . . given the tumult our commander-in-chief faces on a daily basis.

Until next time, may GOD bless and keep you safe and well.

Bob Raab
P.S. Phil Bailey, please give me a call.
(517) 525-0747

**LRRP/Rangers Chapter
Treasurer's Report,**

Period 6/6/2019 - 6/18/2019

Prepared for LRRP/Rangers Association
of the Vietnam War,
Post 2019 Reunion

Starting Balance \$11,631.44
(From Treasurer's 2019 Reunion Report
thru 6/5/2019*)

Credits (+)	
Cash from Raffle Proceeds	\$1,300.00
Merchandise purchased	\$1,903.00
Dues paid	\$ 545.00
Donations	\$ 526.00
TOTAAL CREDITS	\$4,274.00

Debits (-)	
Hospitality room	\$(501.40)
Snacks and drinks	\$(382.12)
Merchandise bought/shipping	\$(760.37)
1st Cav Div Assoc Sch-ship Fund	\$(500.00)
TOTAL DEBITS	\$(2,143.89)

Closing Balance \$13,761.55

**Bill Hornbuckle
Treasurer**

*Please note that the Treasurer's Report for the 2019 Reunion showed the dates of 11/12/2018 - 6/7/2019. There was a typo in the date and should have been for the period 11/12/2018 - 6/5/2019.

75th RRA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE
From Pete Dencker

The 75thRRA is going to be pushing a membership drive – anyway I volunteered to sponsor 5 memberships from H Company (they're \$40 each). If you are not a member of the 75th RRA and want to join, contact Pete. My contact information is on page 2 of this newsletter.

Thanks - Pete

5812

YOUR STORIES IN A BOOK

For about the last 15 years, you have been contributing stories about your experiences in Viet Nam. SOME DAY there will be enough stories to compile them into a book. Well, SOME DAY is now. You have written a book over 500 pages long

THE BOOK WILL BE TITLED

HISTORICAL OCCURRENCES OF THE LRRP/RANGERS OF THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION IN THE VIETNAM WAR

Most of the work has been done. Anita Lyons, Jim Bracewell, Jerry Woods, John LeBrun, and Mark Keller did the proof reading.

LAST CALL

If you want to get your story in the book, get the story to Bill Carpenter by the end of October, i.e. Halloween.

Stories will still be printed in future newsletters so keep them coming. After this, if there are enough, they could be added for a second edition.

Bill Hornbuckle has taken on the task of getting the book published. He is a novice at this game so he will appreciate any help he can get on this mission.

Hopefully, the book will be published before Christmas, but don't get your hopes up.

Bill Carpenter and Bill Hornbuckle contact information is on page 2 of this newsletter.

Buy the book and it will answer your grandchild's / in-law's / question, "What did you do in the army."

Information on how to purchase the book **should** be available in the January 2020 newsletter.

The book will be printed in this size font so that old eyes can read it.

FORWARD from

HISTORICAL OCCURRENCES BOOK

For the reader who has not experienced combat, this book is not a movie script. It is not about the blue haze of gun smoke in the air, the smell of cordite, the vegetation being shredded bare by ordnates, or the blood and gore of an exit wound. This book was not written by someone whose only experience with combat is reading what someone else has written.

This is an anthology of first person stories from the men who served in the 1st Cavalry Division's LRRP/Ranger unit during the Vietnam War. These men are not professional writers. What they wrote was not reviewed by a professional writer. These stories are the 30-40-50 year old memories of what they did when they were 19-20-21 year old recondo men and chopper pilots. These stories are true events as they remember them.

Each man in the unit volunteered for the job. They knew they could un-volunteer at any time without repercussions. You put your life in another man's hands, just as he put his life in yours. Everyone accepted that obligation when he volunteered for the LRRP/Rangers.

There are still a lot of stories that have not been written. Many men have the memories, but the memories are too vivid to write on paper.

Ask ten ex-recondo men why they volunteered for the unit and you will get seven or eight different answers. Other army personnel considered us mentally imbalanced in some way. The Lurps were often referred to as "the crazies". But every Lurp will tell you that they felt safer in the jungle with a team than with any infantry company. The casualty data documents this as fact.

The LRRP/Rangers primary mission was to collect information on the enemy, see but not be seen. There were five or six men on a team. Most missions were planned for five to seven days, or until there was contact with the enemy. The teams were often several miles from the nearest friendly military, and greatly outnumbered. Their life lines were the radio and the chopper.

OBITUARIES

Theodore (Ted) Michihiko Yoshimura

March 03, 1949 - August 18, 2017

Services were held on Saturday, September 9, 11:00A.M. at Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, 815 E. 1st St, Los Angeles, California.

He is survived by his son, Ryan Scott (Jessica Gau) Yoshimura and daughter, Jamie Akemi Yoshimura; mother, Elsie Yoshimura; grandchildren, Audrey Rose and Conor Grant Yoshimura; sister, Karen (Glenn) Nishida; nieces, Annie and Katie Nishida; also survived by many other relatives.

Pete "Dutch" Eisentrager

Died October 18, 2018

Dutch died from kidney disease and diabetes.

It is understood that Pete's ashes are buried at Fort Snelling Veterans Cemetery in St. Paul, Minnesota.

He died peacefully in his bed in his sleep at home. He lived alone and was not discovered until he missed a VA appointment.

Jeff Talbot Eulogy

From Ken "Tater" Storm

Mac, Barney, George, and the others who have passed on troubled me to no end. But Losing Jeff Talbot was a real shocker. I was Jeff's ATL for the last several missions that either of us pulled for the company. They were all successful in that we brought back a lot of intel, weapons, confirmed body counts, and our people safe and sound.

Of course, George Pacerelli would have had a stroke if he had known how we sometimes accomplished those missions, and though it's been fifty years since, I think I'll keep that information to myself a while longer. (Not sure what the military's statute of limitations is on those kind of things!) The point is, Jeff was a great team leader who knew his team and how to use each man's personal talents to get the job done successfully.

LOOKING FOR MONTAGNARDS

From Mike Gooding

One of the Mountagards, "Disch", stayed with us, after we moved to I Corps, and was there when I left the unit. His picture is on my wall, next to my desk and I think about him every day.

They has suffered greatly, since the war; and I don't think many are left. Nothing has been put down about them. They served loyally, and bravely. I've been thinking about trying to put something down for the record. I talked with Col **James**, and he's going to try to help. LTC Tom, **Campbell** is going to work with me as best he can.

We feel the best chance to reconstruct the time and people, including wives, children, village, etc. is with pictures that members took of them.

We need pictures, and if you have them, put the day, and month, and year, their names, the location and any summary of what took place at the taking of the picture. Then send them to me. It may be the only way we will have to try to reconstruct their lives and their service with and for us.

Sincerely, Mike Gooding

Editor's note: Over 10,000 Montagnards have been resettled to North Carolina. This effort was started, and is still supported by ex-Special Forces veterans who initially focused on their "strikers". They can be contacted at:

*Montagnard Dega Association
Greensboro Main Office
611 Summit Avenue, Suite 10
Greensboro, NC 27405*

*Telephone: 336-373-1812
Fax: 336-373-1832
Monday – Friday
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM*

*There are other Montagnard settlements in the USA. Leo **Corey** met a 'Yard who was on the cadre at Recondo school*

5814

LRRP/RANGER MERCHANDISE PRICE LIST

LRRP Crossed Sabers Pins	\$4
T-Shirts: Black/White sizes to 4X	\$18
T-Shirts Recondo: Grey sizes to 2X	\$18
T-Shirts Long Sleeve: Grey sizes to 4X	\$18
Golf(Polo)Shirts:Blk/White sizes to XL	\$30

Sweatshirts M to XXL	\$20
Hats: Black or White	\$15
Ranger Ring: size 10 1/2 only	\$50
Belt Buckles: numbered	\$20
Ranger Lapel Pin: On Hold	\$4

Sm Cloth Scroll Patch: (H - 75th)	\$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
Decals: interior/exterior	\$2

ANNUAL DUES	\$15
LIFETIME DUES	\$200
Shipping per order	\$10

Send orders to:
Bennie Gentry
1347 20th St.
Tell City, IN 47586
812-619-6111
No email

Make check/money order payable to
LRRP/RANGERS

The \$10.00 shipping charge covers
only one or two shirts.

Donations are gladly accepted

NONFICTION BOOKS by and about 1st Cav LRRP/Rangers in Viet Nam

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

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

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

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

Above All Else by Ron Christopher, Publish America. 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.

Lurps at War Vietnam
An anthology of personal stories by the LRRP/Rangers and the chopper pilots who supported them, compiled by Ron Christopher. Christopher has added some personal foot notes.

5815

HONEY BUCKET BRIGADE ARSONY

From Howard Shute

Event in question was early "69" in what the Cav called "P" training which consisted of 3 days adjusting to the heat, smell, lack of water and the bodies adjustment to the life of being in a war zone. Like all of us arriving in country we had to make adjustments to the new life style. Part of my personal endeavor was the task of learning to dispose of the waste material that the human body naturally creates.

For those that recall the bathroom facilities being a wooden shed ranging four-seat Econo models to sometimes the large six to eight deluxe models. On my second day in country I was give the mission (with 3 other volunteers) to dispose of the semi-solid and mostly liquid waste material. The Army being run by NCO's that assume that most soldiers are born knowing just how this complex operation is completed!

So the shake and bake who's main goal in life is to please the butter bar just out of OCS! Our instructions we as follows: 1. Open rear doors of the outhouse. 2. Secure the door with a 4 foot long stick. 3. Put gloves on and remove the cut-in-half 55 gallon drum. 4. Take diesel fuel and fill can to cover the contents. 5. Take toilet paper and ignite the diesel fuel. When burning, stir the concoction until all contents are gone!

Instructions were easy to follow, with the exception of some question arising during fulfillment of said instructions. Like how far does one have to slide the almost full half of a 55 gallon drum with the contents spilling everywhere? Answer not far! Next how does one ignite diesel fuel diluted with waste material and the toilet paper gets wet? So the assigned soldiers including myself discovered that several rolls of toilet paper soaked in gas helped us accomplish this task!

Well we got the cans burning and could not get close enough to stir the mixture. Discovering that the containers were simply not far enough from the wooden facilities we found that through the dense black smoke that the sheds had also caught fire.

The resulting visual bellowing smoke and the wooden structure were well involved, possibly even called a three alarm fire. Thank goodness those crappers were located far from any other structure because of the fragrance that was standard to all such facilities!

The Army in its way just let it burn, which meant a new model had to be requested. It only took 24 hours to get a new one, I believe there was a stock pile of these somewhere in Vietnam.

The only two good things came out of the destruction of the shi_ house. First a nice new came for which I was not allowed to use and the best is I NEVER HAD TO BURN SHI--- AGAIN!!!!

This was also one main reason I joined the Company and you might wonder why the Army did not send the four FNG's to Long Bin jail; remember there was a war going on and they needed us in the field! I guess that was worth an outhouse!

This is the reason several of my pals (Lt. **Brennan**) decided to write the following letter from the President!

THE WHITE HOUSE
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20307-0000

August 12th 1995

Mr. Howard Shute
111 East Miller Ave.
Munhall, PA 15120-3225

Dear Mr. Shute:

Greetings from the President of the United States. (Gee, I love to hear the sound of that title, but the sentence itself never did thrill me.)

As your President and your Commander-in-Chief, I regret to inform you that a special investigating committee, chaired by former Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara, has found you liable and culpable for destroying government

5816

property shortly after your arrival in Vietnam in 1969. As described by Secretary McNamara, a man who, like me, always tells the truth, you intentionally and with malice aforethought, committed the crime of arson. To wit, you criminally burned down a Personnel Evacuation Disposal Device, Field Expedient, more commonly known as a "shitter".

I must inform you that not all of the members of my cabinet wanted to hold you liable. The Attorney General, MS Janet Reno, herself an expert at settings buildings on fire, feels that you didn't do anything worse than she did at Waco. Of course, since I have always held the military to a higher standard than I did civilians like myself, I have decided to hold you accountable for your actions back then in 1969. Therefore, although the voters forgave me my failings of courage in 1969 and 1970, I have chosen not to forgive you your heinous crime.

The Secretary of the Treasury, Robert Reich, has totaled up the bill for your arson in 1969. Accounting for the original cost of the outhouse, interest compounded daily for 26 years, and a fudge factor to allow for all of my unkept campaign promises, you now owe your government the sum total of \$367,483,794,236.47. Just by coincidence, that is the sum of the increase in the national debt since I took office two years ago.

I recognize that this action may be viewed by you as another example of your government being unfair to Vietnam veterans. On the contrary, I am very proud of all the good things I've done for veterans since I came into office. Just look what I've done for the Veterans Administration. Just as in 1969, there's nothing that's too good for the Vietnam vet, and that's exactly what you're going to get.

It's always nice for me to keep in touch with our Vietnam vets. Hope to see you at The Wall on Veterans Day. In case you have trouble recognizing me, I'll be the person on the VIP platform who won't be wearing a military unit pin.

Bill Clinton

President and Commander-in-Chief

HALLOWEEN PARTY

From Timothy **Greenly**

Our team was sent down to Phouc Vinh to check out our new company area and we busted in on an REMF Halloween party at the service club. Of course we were fresh out of the field and **Bull** still had the crotch of his pants ripped out.

between that, our cammied faces and the fact we were still holding our weapons the Donut Dollies didn't know what to do.

FSB DAVID JUNE 13, 1970

Ken **White** received the following email last spring. Can anyone help this guy out?

I am Mike Crutcher, and was the Company Commander of Echo Company 1/5th Cav in 1970. On June 13/14, 1970 our Fire Support Base David was attacked by a strong NVA force reinforced with VC sappers. Fortunately we were warned of the impending attach when survivors of an LRRP team radioed for permission to enter our perimeter late in the evening or early morning hours. I recall being told that one of the Rangers said, "They are about 45 minutes behind us."

I would like to write an account of the battle for FSB David, and I think inclusion of the related Ranger Team's actions is an important part of the story. I would like to get an account from someone who was involved, although at this date getting any information would be helpful.

Thank you.

Michael H. Crutcher
809 Nesbit Dr.
Carlisle, PA 17013-1732
717-243-7215
mcrutcher6797@me.com

5817

RANGER TEAM 41 IN CONTACT

August 2-5, 1969

From Craig Leerberg

Early August '69 my Team was to conduct the usual Recon & Survey of our A.O. for 3 ½ days. It appeared to be just another "Dry A.O." As usual I always walked front scout and suddenly I came to a heavily used trail with tons of Ho Chi prints, all moving in the same direction.

I turned to my ATL and signaled (using my fingers) you want to move on the trail (which was not allowed) and the entire team shook their heads "NO" so I circled the team about 12 meters off the trail in a slightly sunken spot with my concern that this many gooks could mean a possible large enemy strong-hold could lie ahead. I didn't want to set up next to it if it was close by, so I signaled I was going to follow the trail a short distance so we wouldn't get a big surprise from front or rear.

The short distance went on to be more than 500 meters when I smelled Gooks! I froze just off the trail and began smelling a stronger and closer smell. I assumed it was a large element or a very close element. I walked backwards towards the team and felt I was being followed so I scrambled back and told the team "put out claymores, FAST" and turned towards the trail to retrieve my rucksack and there on the trail were five NVA staring at me (in total camo, painted).

I glanced at the team and they were getting their claymores out to set up! As I turned back they began to raise their A.K's so I fired-full auto and they all went down and so did I. The team opened fire and the gooks not dead or wounded returned fire.

As I didn't know how many there were behind them I bounced "Max" (Cobras) and called in Redleg (artillery) to hopefully suppress incoming fire. When the gunships arrived on line I directed their fire as well as artillery.

During the exchange of fire we took an RPG and most of us were hit. Two of my team were on their first missions but they did their jobs returning consistent fire so it would sound like there were more of us than we were.

One of the new team, Mike **Bakkie**, was hit in the head and was bleeding a lot. We tried to stop the bleeding as best we could while still taking fire-but to no avail. I called for MEDEVAC to extract him.

Finally when the MEDEVAC came on line he asked where they could get close enough to drop a jungle penetrator. I told them to find an opening and give us distance and direction so John **LeBrun** and I could take Mike to the opening and strap him into the penetrator. They did and we did so up and out he went.

Now, having spent most of our Ammo, frags, and C4 I requested for the third time a lift bird to get the remaining four of us out. The two previous birds had taken fire and could not do so.

Suddenly I got a call from "Long Knife 6", the Commander of the 1st of the 9th Cav and he said, "Get to the same clearing the MEDEVAC used", and he would try to descend close enough to extract us. He came in cutting Bamboo and trees with his rotors hovering just long enough for us to be extracted.

During most of the contact General **Casey**, 1st Cav Commanding General had been observing the contact from above and was impressed how we all had survived. Later, he came to our Unit to congratulate Colonel **Booth** and my team for a job well done.

Regards
Craig Leerberg

PASSING THOUGHT

Our webpage has been dead for years. How about getting on Facebook? Every month or so something comes along to be passed to the membership. We have about 150 email addresses, but Facebook would get to more than that. It would also advertise us to others.

5818

A YOUNG MAN'S DREAM

From Jerry Wood

I don't know how some guys remember dates and locations so well. I remember events and that is about it.

I remember a time on a mission when we had set up an ambush in triple canopy jungle, with 5 claymores and a couple WP frags. We had monitored the trail for a night and in the early morning along comes a patrol of Dinks that appeared to be around 7, and we were about to blow the ambush when I saw two of the people had long beards (5-6 inches) and were taller than the others and carrying large packs.....POW's being used as 'mules'.

A thousand thoughts rush through your mind at these times in just a couple of seconds. First is not to blow up a couple of our guys, second is how do we 'save' them without getting them killed while running all the possible scenariosand by that time they are gone.

This 'haunts' me every day. I regret not jumping out and not chasing them down and attempting to kill their guards...realizing they would likely have been killed in the process. I will always wonder who these guys were and what happened to them.

Another time we had an ambush set up with claymores and in the early morning when its kind and the jungle is shrouded in mist. We were set up just 30 ' off the trail behind a giant log, just above it on a gentle slope when we hear 'traffic' coming along the trail. We are all set to blow the ambush when 7 or so are in the kill zone and we hear one of them say 'Hey Lieutenant' in a hushed voice. We all look at each other...totally dumbfounded.....(no one was allowed to be in the same area of operation that we were in. Ours was always a free fire zone) One of us said 'We are Americans...don't shoot. Then we hear their weapons locking and loading. We stand up and begin identifying ourselves. After we all recognize the situation, one of the guys in the ambush (must have been a newbie) says to us 'You guys are really lucky, we'd have blown you all away". We

just turn and look at this guy and one of our guys takes a step off the trail and uncovers a claymore pointing right at this idiot. He didn't say anything else. Come to find out, this was a grunt platoon that had been inserted into the wrong area.....our area. What a mess that could have been.

All of us served on many patrols and the conditions always kind of amazes me. I imagine normal people have no idea.

We would get our mission orders and pack for what we/they thought we would run into and/or the missions purpose. 85-95 pound packs doesn't really sound like a lot until you are climbing mountains, ducking under, climbing over everything imaginable while moving through impenetrable jungle while looking for people that want to kill you.

130 degrees during the day with a 50 degree drop at night. Sweating unbelievably during the day and freezing at night. Never removing your boots and growing black mold covering your body while being under attack by leeches and mosquitoes that could carry you off.

Sleeping on the ground with your body slowly creating a 'pit' in the jungle floor that would be full of water (during monsoons) and then having a 12-15" worm coming tearing out of the compacted soil under you (like being jabbed in the middle of the night) while being investigated by all the jungles occupants and our enemies in absolutely an pitch black environment.

We never spoke, always tried to be in camouflage, rarely made sound and contact was almost always sudden and violent. (Just a sample) Then we would be extracted by whatever means, return to our rear area and have no water in the shower bladder, go to our private company bar, get screwed up for a day, still moldy pack up and do it again.

A young man's dream.

5819

2019 US Mountain Ranger Association “Critter Cookout”

If you have never been to the Mountain Ranger Camp Open House...why not?

As you are...(or maybe not)...aware, the Mountain Ranger Camp in Dahlonaga, Ga has an open house each year and the US Army Mountain Ranger Association (USMRA) puts on quite a spread to feed all those hungry visitors.

Ranger Instructors conduct a number of demonstrations and displays to provide an overview of the training the Camp provides and of the capabilities of today's US Army Rangers.

This year's open house was on Saturday April 27th.. On Friday night guests were treated to fresh, delicious Rainbow Trout with French Fries. The Department of Georgia Department of Natural Resources provided over 300 lbs. of trout fresh from their hatchery on Mt. Yonah.

The big meal was on Saturday...and the title “Critter Cookout” certainly describes the array of food the team of cooks labored over for hours. The selection included, Wild Hog, Bear, Venison, Fish, Pork, Beef, Vegetables, Deep fried Quail, 12 Gallons of Brunswick stew, and some of Brenda Acebes' delicious Homemade Cakes. The chow line is usually a long one, but worth the wait!

The Critter Cookout cooks are all volunteers, including the Head Family who are local neighbors and always willing to help out, Army Veterans, Friends and Family,...and ..oh yeah ,.. that one Navy Guy who shows up but will work for food!

There is a “jar” for donations to help defray the cost of the Cookout to the USAMRA, but the cooks usually absorb their own expenses, and The cooks provide their own cooking implements, utensils, cookers, etc.

“Critter Cookout Alligator Jambalaya” was prepared for the cooking crew's lunch. Either it was tasty...or they were very hungry, because it was gone in about 20 Minutes. The only thing that went faster was the Deep Fried Quail provided by Michelle and Bob Head!

Heat up your pot (I like cast iron because it holds the heat), put in lard and Holy Trinity, sauté until onions are translucent. Add alligator and chicken (which has been preseason with Creole seasoning). Cook, stirring to prevent sticking, until meat is “about” done. Add the “Big ol” can of tomatoes, continue string until the tomatoes are cooked.

Your mixture should be a bit soupy...so put in the rice and stir. Lower heat with just a slight bubble. Keep stirring until the rice is done and has absorbed most of the liquid.

Now the hard part....with a very large mess hall spoon drive away hungry folks, (because by now it smells gooooooood!) until the Jambalaya has time to blend all those flavors.

This should feed about 40 regular folks, or about 25 of those who have been “supervising” your cooking skills.

If you want to wait to try it for yourself...see you at the 2020 Open House and Critter Cookout
!

Marshall Huckaby
25 th ID LRRPs, RVN 66-67

PRECEPTIONS OF LRRP/RANGERS From Bill Carpenter

After the 2017 reunion at Killeen we went down to San Antonio to see the Alamo --- and a few other things of interest to my daughter.

We were eating lunch at a sidewalk café by the River Front. Three guys with 1st Cav Stetsons walked by. When they got near me, I said “Gary Owens”. Of course there was the what-outfit-when conversation.

When I said Lurp, one of them asked, “Does the clanging wake up your wife?”

I asked, “What clanging?”

“Your steel balls hitting each other when you roll over in bed.”

Are we living up to our mythical image, or are we just “the crazies”?

5820

CHOLANGIOCARCINOMA FROM FLUKES

From Janelle Arden
Rick Arden's widow

I got the newsletter (loved the articles :-)) and it reminded me that I had meant to send you some information on the rare cancer (cholangiocarcinoma) that took Rick too quickly. I am very sorry that I did not get it to you for the newsletter. Maybe you have a website for posting until the next newsletter?

I have a newspaper article that basically says it all as far as risks to Vietnam vets that may have consumed or come in contact with local fish. FYI, although, the primary way of being exposed to liver flukes is ingestion of undercooked, raw, and fermented or pickled fish, there are cases where people have been diagnosed with the liver flukes, but never ate fish.

If food is prepared in unsanitary conditions where the same utensils or cutting board are used during preparation without cleaning them, a person could be exposed to the parasite due to improper sanitation. The thing that finally started to catch attention is that this cancer is very rare in the US, but quite prevalent in Asia. I have pics of Rick in a boat with some locals but I don't know if he ate the fish or went to any eating establishments that served fish dishes. He loved fish/sushi so it would not surprise me....lol.

The VA has put out a warning (website is <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/infectious-diseases/cholangiocarcinoma.asp>) on its website but gets by with denying claims by saying that "currently the VA is not aware of any studies that show that bile duct cancer (cholangiocarcinoma) occurs more often in U.S. Vietnam War Veterans than in other groups of people (in the US)".

So on the one hand they are giving this enough credence to warrant warning the Vets to get checked (and they should!!), but then have the gall to deny most of the claims.....

FYI, that newspaper article is over a year old and I have heard that such a study is now taking place :-)

I would urge all of you guys to do as the VA suggests and have your health care provider check you out. This disease can take decades to surface. They can detect problems with medical imaging (Xrays, CT, MRI scans, and/or ultrasound).

A bit of good news is that even if there was any infection, sometimes it just causes cysts or lesions that, if caught, can be addressed before turning into this terrible cancer that kills so silently and swiftly. If only we had known, I would not be laying flowers on a grave.

On a happier note, again, we had a great time at the West Virginia reunion and will watch for the one in Kentucky? Texas was a bit out of reach this year, but hope you all had a wonderful time!

Take care and God Bless you,
Janelle

2019 REUNION ATTENDEES FT. HOOD

Henry Avila	Jack Bowles	Mike Brennan
Tom Campbell	Bill Carpenter	Larry Curtis
Alvino Deimes	Pete Dencker	Sam Dixon
Chuck Donohoo	Jim Faulkner	
John David Floyd	Stan Freeborn	Ken Gallagher
Rolando Garza	Bennie Gentry	Doc Gilchrest
Bob Gill	Bill Hand	Bill Hornbuckle
John Hutter	John LeBrun	Craig Leerberg
Pat Lyons	Oscar Martinez	Doug Matze
Charlie Ochoa	Wayne Okken	Terry Parks
Bob Raab	Gilbert Ramirez	Jim Regan
Dan Roberts	David Russell	Howard Shute
Terry Wanish	Chuck Windham	

That is 37 attendees, it seems to be the best attendance at the Ft. Hood/Killeen reunion since 1999.

----- KRIDER PHONE CALL

I got a phone call last winter from Chris **Kreider**, Marysville, CA. Saw someone I a grocery store with our cap on. He didn't get to talk to the guy. Who are you?

5821

PULLING SLACK

from Bill Carpenter

On a personal note, "thank you" to everyone at the LRRP/Rangers Luncheon at the reunion for my daughter, Stacy's remembrance. **Anita**, you did a beautiful job, and **Howard**, the red roses were above and beyond. Stacy loved the reunions.

Stacy died instantly when an old propane tank on her grill exploded on May 23. The coroner said that the toxins from the explosion killed her, "Two or three breaths and you are dead." There was very little heat damage to her.

Stacy was honored by Larry and Jeannie **Curtis**, Sam and Cathy **Dixon**, Stan **Freeborn**, Doug **Matze**, and Howard **Shute** represented the LRRP/Rangers chapter at her funeral service.

The red, white, and blue roses on the wreath the chapter provided would have really made her smile.

Get rid of that old propane tank now. The kill zone is about 25 feet.

Our roster has about 1,100 names of men who served in the 1st Cav LRRP/Rangers. There are about 475 active ground mail addresses. I have about 150 email addresses.

Occasionally I will receive an email that is forwarded to the membership with known email addresses. The rest of you wait until the next newsletter (January/September) to receive the information.

Bill **Hornbuckle** has been persistent that the number of email addresses can be doubled by simply asking you to have your email address put in the LRRP/Rangers address book. This would greatly improve communication within the chapter.

So, do it for **Hornbuckle**; put your email address in the LRRP/Rangers address book. Send it to him, and he will forward it to me. He wants to count the responses. His email address, and mine, are on page 2 of this newsletter. Of course this is not necessary if you are already receiving emails from lrrp.rangers@comcast.net.

Last winter, I got a phone call from Chris **Kreider**, Marysville, CA. He saw someone in a grocery store with our cap on. He never got a chance to talk to the man. Who are you?

From: Edward **Moline** <llm627@aol.com>

June 11, 2019

I am looking for any information you could provide on a Ranger by the name of Roy R. **McGee** who was in Vietnam around 1968-1969. Trying to find out what unit he served with and any other info. anyone could provide.

Very much appreciated.

Ranger Ed **Moline**

My name is Robert S Taylor II. My father, CSM Robert S **Taylor** (deceased) served as 1st Sergeant with Hotel Company for a brief period of time, serving from December 71 through April 72.

Lt Colonel Bill Anton was personally acquainted with my father. In fact, they served together. About 15 years ago, I traveled to Las Vegas and met with Lt Colonel Anton. Unfortunately, I was not far enough along in my research of dad's career to ask pointed, intelligent questions. It is my understanding that Lt Colonel Anton passed away since then.

I am wondering if there may be anyone in the association that may have known my father and could provide me with information about his time with Hotel Company?

Thank you in advance for any consideration you may be able to provide on my quest for information.

Sincerely,

Robert S Taylor II

1116 Brockley Way

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(270) 784-0700

<rtaylor2nd@hotmail.com>

STRAWBERRY FIELDS FOREVER

5822

Chaplain's Box Summer of 2019

While attending/participating in a Memorial Day ceremony at our local National Cemetery, I had a chance to think of lots of the folks/comrades who have gone on to the Big Ranger in the Sky. Their names and sometimes faces marched across my mind's eye.

First was of my Dad, a crusty Navy Chief. He left us in January 1941, headed to the Pacific with his PT Boats. I was 15 Months old. Dad ended up; MIA, POW, KIA. On 24 October 1944, he was aboard a Jap cargo ship, the Arisan Maru. He was in the hold with approximately eighteen hundred (1800) POWs, The ship was torpedoed by our subs, sunk in Manila Bay. There were FIVE (5) POW Survivors. Dad was not one of them.

As the ceremony went on, and I even had a part in the program, I reflected on my Comrades who had lost their lives in Vietnam, and are memorialized on "The Wall!" There are forty four (44) LRRPS/Rangers from our company. Besides that, there are numerous comrades who have passed on since returning home. I pray for the dearly departed souls every night as I do my prayers at bed time.

We need to do a better job of; networking, reaching out, and stayin' in touch. With all the resources available, it should be easy. Wrong! We get wrapped round the axle with the living of our own life, and tend to forget others, until it's too late. As I've prompted in the past... DON'T WAIT!! Pick up that phone and call that person. If you know of anyone being in trouble or whatever, pass the word around. You never know, that call or note to someone may make the difference between life and death.

Our reunion in Killeen seemed to streak by. There just isn't enough time to sit and enjoy each other's company. Hope ya got refreshed and will pick up the phone or pen, and stay in contact with each other.

As we see, life is too short. Love and prayers, Jim RLTW/L&P,
homeofregans@gmail.com (H) 859-224-0062 (C) 859-559-1734

5823



THE LRRP/RANGERS

OF THE FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION DURING THE VIETNAM WAR



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5824