

THE LRRP/RANGERS



OF THE FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION DURING THE VIETNAM WAR

Number 4

ORLANDO MISSION SUCCESSFUL

The reunion in July was outstanding--nothing less! The forty-six LRRP/RANGERS and their families were a mixture of '87 reunion returnees and first-time reunion attendees. As a returnee I can tell you it was great to see those people who attended last year's reunion again and to meet those who "came home" for the first time in Orlando.

In addition to the officially scheduled reunion activities there was an infinite variety of things to do in Orlando. LRRP/RANGERS and their families reconned Disney World, EPCOT, Boardwalk & Baseball, Cypress Gardens, the Kennedy Space Center, and other points of interest in the area.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

It goes without saying that our first two reunions would never have occurred without the tireless efforts of Bonnie and Mike Echterling. Mike and Bonnie have tracked down LRRP/RANGERS at an amazing rate, but not without cost. At the present time approximately 350 veterans have been located and there are even more that yet to be found. As an organization grows it becomes increasingly difficult to manage and it was agreed that Bonnie and Mike need help as we continue to find more people. To assist with the work and financing of this operation five committees were formed in Orlando. The committees and their leaders are as follows:

Reunion '89	- Joseph L. (Doc) Gilcrest	- (817) 752-3886
Finance	- Augustine (Chico) Garcia	- (817) 283-6429
Organization	- Michael A. Brennan	- (301) 942-2228
Locator	- Michael Echterling	- (219) 696-6589
Correspondence	- Bruce Judkins	- (703) 889-0827

The committee heads form the Board of Directors. The Board unanimously selected Mike Echterling as its chairman, to serve until next year's reunion in Killeen.

Practically everyone at the reunion is serving on one or more of these committees. There is much work to be done. Many issues will be addressed throughout the year and their progress will be reported to you via this newsletter. All LRRP/RANGERS are encouraged to volunteer their services on any of these committees. Pick up the phone, call a committee chairman and let them know you are willing to help.

WHO WE ARE - SHOW YOUR COLORS

As you have probably noticed from our newsletter banner, the board has officially designated our organization as "The LRRP/RANGERS of the First Cavalry Division During the Vietnam War". Our official crest which appears on the banner was designed by George Paccarelli. The crest is copyrighted and says it all.

In Orlando, as at Killeen in '87, some enterprising LRRP/RANGERS brought T-shirts and hats with various insignia commemorating our units. The following items are available for purchase at this time:

Decals with our official crest - Available from Bonnie Echterling, cost \$1 each. (Paccarelli says, "Your pickup truck is out of uniform if it doesn't sport our emblem along with a rifle over the seat, an NRA decal, and a bumper sticker proclaiming something about how and when they'll take your gun away!")

T-shirts with a large full-color crest - Available from Lee Fix, cost \$10 each. These shirts were a big hit in Orlando. They were produced by Harry Miller and are absolutely first rate! Be sure to specify size, S-M-L-XL.

Baseball caps with our official crest - Available from Donna Brennan (Mrs. Michael Brennan), cost \$10 each. Make check payable to Donna or Charles Burckhardt. We need more orders (money) to place a minimum order. We're almost there! These are really sharp and colorful hats.

Baseball caps with 75th Inf crest - Available from Julie McElroy (Mrs. Rex McElroy), cost \$6 each. Make check payable to Julie. One size fits all. Looks great.

The folks who are providing this merchandise are contributing their profits to our organization. It's all top quality; when you order, you support our LRRP/RANGER family!

ROSTERS

Rosters, current at the time of the reunion, were distributed to reunion participants. Postal increases, copying costs, and the sheer magnitude of the rosters prohibit mailing to all LRRP/RANGERS. If you would like a copy of this roster send \$1.25 to Bonnie Echterling and she'll get one out to you.

As we continue to grow our expenses continue to grow also. In the early days of locating LRRP/RANGERS the costs were born by the Echterlings, the Paccereillis, and whatever contributions trickled in from folks who wanted to help. We are too big to continue financing in this way and still do a good job. Chico Garcia and the finance committee are generating ideas and considering alternatives to meet our financial needs. You'll be hearing more on their progress soon. In the meantime, if you wish to make a contribution to help our cause send your checks to Augustine Garcia.

THE BEGINNING

This year's reunion is over. It was exciting and rewarding for those of us fortunate enough to attend. Getting organized was an important item on the agenda and we've taken steps in the right direction. Plans are already under way for Reunion '89 in Killeen, Texas. It will be the last weekend in June. Mark your calendars, put in for your vacation, and make the moves you need to BE THERE! You won't be disappointed!!

REUNION REACTIONS

A list of LRRP/RANGERS attending the reunion in Orlando is given below. Members of the correspondence committee provide some personal insights on the reunion on the next two pages.

A special thank you and tip of the beret to George Richardson for his art work. SEE YOU IN TEXAS!!!

Dear LRRPs and Rangers,

My wife, Sharon, our new LRRPette, Sara, and I wish to thank all those that made the reunion possible.

It was good to see the new faces mixed in with those that attended the first reunion. This year I met up with a few guys that I pulled missions with. Well, after a few "You look familiars" and with the help of name tags, we were reunited again.

Besides those "You'd never forget" I was privileged to hear from some special people at the unit luncheon. We gave thanks by honoring a chopper pilot that was present, one of many that came when a team was in need. One other high point was hearing from the members of the first LRRP team. Can you imagine being the first one with no one to learn from? My hat is off to them, and thank you. If the whole reunion was just the luncheon, it would be worth it.

To those that haven't tried it, plan for 1989. For those that experienced it check the roster for a couple of names "you'd never forget." Find them, persuade them, so this experience can be shared. It's one of the good feelings in life. See you again.

George Richardson

Andy Allen
James Barrett
Jack Bowles
Mike Brennan
Greg Catherwood
Waylon Chappell
Ron Christopher
Leo Corey
Sam Dixon
Mike Echterling
Tony Fabian
Gerald Farrow
Lee Fix
Doug Fletcher
Joseph Gilchrest
Art Guerrero
George Gentry
Augustine Garcia
Ron Hammon
Bill Hand
Fred Joyce
Bruce Judkins
Walter Kraft

Jim Ketrow
Donald Malcolm
Doug Matze
Edward Mendoza
Rex McElroy
Robert McKenzie
David McWilliams
Pat O'Brien
Paul O'Brien
George Paccereilli
Rusty Ratzlow
Cal Renfro
George Richardson
Jim Ross
Chuck Schwinn
Howard Shute
Eugene Simpson
Ronald Tavalero
Anthony Vaughn
Al Voelkel
Dick Wall
Chuck Windham
Ron Wood



To the Family

Reunion '88!! What a Success!!

I was unable to attend last year's reunion, but was determined to make this one.

Words fail me when it comes to expressing how I felt inside to once again meet some of the guys that I served with/by while overseas.

It is my understanding that last year's reunion was an emotional reunion that allowed many to really come home.

This year's reunion seemed to be more of a family reunion. Our family consists of those who first began as LRRP Det., 191st MI, then HHC (LRRP), Co. E (LRP) 52nd INF., and ended with Co. H Ranger, 75th INF. Although we changed our "unit" name several times we all had the same "common mission".

I believe that because of this "common mission" and knowing what each other went through is what gives our family a unique bond, one to the other.

Even though we lost several hours of sleep I really enjoyed just talking about some of the funny and weird things that some of us did when we were not out on a mission. I do think that if we were caught doing some of them today we would probably be committed.

Once again, words fail me as to how I felt when I got to meet you guys after so long of a time. If the Lord is willing I will see you for Reunion '89. May God bless each one of you and your families.

Chuck Schwinn

This was my first reunion and I must say it was excellent. It was great to see all the guys that I was with in the Rangers and also meet the Rangers that were there before and after me. After 18 years everyone seemed to look about the same. I have never been associated with such a great group of people in my life as the Rangers and their families. I hope everyone that came to the reunion this year plus all the ones that didn't will make it next year.

Dick Wall

Hello Fellow Vets

I was always proud of the unit I served with. After two reunions I understand why. Now I am also proud of the men I served with. The friendships that have been made with Rangers are far better than some of those with whom I work. It has been great to have someone to talk to that understands. I have gone home feeling better about myself. Some of us that live close by will be paying each other a visit throughout the year.

Hope to see you all next year.

Sam Dixon

- 14 Sep 87 Al gets rather strange letter from unknown woman in Indiana who calls herself "The Paper Pusher".
- 15 Sep 87 Karen says: "Al, did you see this letter you got yesterday from somebody in Indiana?" Al says: "Strange letter. Just put it down."
- 16 Sep 87 Karen writes letter to unknown woman who calls herself "The Paper Pusher" telling her letter received and please be patient because Al is a little shy.
- 26 Sep 87 Al and Karen get letter from "The Paper Pusher" saying she is glad Al got letter, she's patient, but maybe Al wants to go ahead and join the 1st Cav. Assn.?" Al says: "Just put it down."
- 27 Sep 87 Karen says: "Al, did you see this letter from the woman in Indiana suggesting you go ahead and join the 1st Cav. Assn.?" Al says: "Just put it down."
- 29 Sep 87 Al says: "Karen, did you send that check to the 1st Cav. Assn.?"
- 8 May 88 Karen says: "Did you see this registration form in the Saber about the reunion?" Al says: "Yes. Just put it down."
- 20 May 88 Karen says: "If we're going to that reunion in Orlando in July, you'd better put in for vacation." Al says: "I already did."
- 8 June 88 Al gets another registration form for reunion from "The Paper Pusher."
- 9 June 88 Al says: "Karen, did you fill out that registration form for the reunion?"
- 26 Jul 88 Al says: "Karen, I don't know if I want to go to that reunion in Orlando." Karen says: "We're only a three-hour drive away. We'll never do it any cheaper."
- 28 Jul 88 Al and Karen leave for Orlando.
- 29 Jul 88 (PM) Al says: "Karen, this is nice, but I don't think I'd want to go all the way to Texas for another one next year."
- 29 Jul 88 (eve) Bill Hand arrives at reunion.
- 30 Jul 88 Al says: "Karen, when we go to Texas next year, should we take the kids or not?"
- 31 Jul 88 Al and Karen take tearful farewell and leave for home. Al says: "Karen, we've got to get in touch with Hand--he says he wants to go back to Vietnam--and I'm going to write to Teagle and Flemming. And you've got to find Donahue and . . ."