



Sua Sponte

www.lrrpranger.org

First Quarter 2016

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Deadlines: Sua Sponte is published quarterly in March, June, September and December. Absolute deadline for submitting material for the newsletter is 45 days prior to the month mentioned above.

Submissions:
Please send to Stephen Johnson,
Editor. Address page 2 inset

2016 Reunion Norco, CA



INVITATION - REUNION - VACATION
NORCO, CA. OCTOBER 6 - 8, 2016

Time to make plans for next Reunion!

Think about extending your vacation here in Southern California as there are so many things to do and see in the surrounding area, i.e. mountains, beaches, deserts, Disneyland, Universal Studios, Knotts Berry Farm, Museums, Live theater, Hollywood, Los Angeles, and much more. All of this is about one hour from Norco.

Steve Deever

**Company G (Ranger)
75th Infantry Association**

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Sua Sponte

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Tom Nash, Board Member

Steve Deever, Board Member

Chuck Ford, Board Member

Sua Sponte is the official newsletter published quarterly by the Company G (RANGER) 75th Infantry Association edited by Stephen "Tower" Johnson.

Change of Address: Any Address Changes should be sent to: Sharon Robison, 5523 North Ocean Blvd., Suite 1512, Box 12, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577 or email: tomsharonrobison@msn.com

Membership Information: All former members of the 196th LRRPs, E/51st LRP, and G/75th Rangers are eligible to receive Sua Sponte. Membership applications can be obtained by contacting the Association at any of the addresses or phone numbers listed above.

Newsletter Submittals and Deadlines: see page 1



Photo caption from Aston Fire Tower located in Itasca State Park; Mississippi Headwaters with Pam keeping the guy on jump status steady!

On January 21st, 2016, Richard Corkan resigned his position as president of the association. On February 3, 2016, a meeting was called by Chairman David Moncada. The purpose of the meeting was to fill the vacancy of president as suggested by our legal counsel, Tom Robison.

A motion was made by Moncada to nominate Steve Johnson as president. Motion was seconded by Chuck Ford. The motion was unanimous with approval from Moncada, Nash, Ford, Deever, and Franklin. For those that do not know, the officers of our association are named by the board. The board is nominated for two years by the members of the association.

On behalf of the association, I would like to extend kudos to both Richard and JoJo Corkan for an outstanding job of serving its members, a task not always easy to do and they need to be commended and a huge thanks to them from all of us.

We will always remain Brothers!

Sua Sponte has been informed of the deaths of three Brothers: David Stanfield, Jack "Doc" Bronson, and Randy McGahan. Rest in Peace, Brothers!



David Moncada, concession manager would like to get some challenge coins for the Norco reunion to commemorate the start of our company 50 years ago in 1966 as the 196th LRRPs. He thought the company Association logo should be on one side and is taking suggestions for the other. His email is on page 11.

Steve Deever is putting together this year's reunion in Norco and with all the nearby attractions should make for a good attendance. October 6th, Thursday, is check in and we all depart on the 9th, Sunday. All the hotel info is on page 9. Start planning.

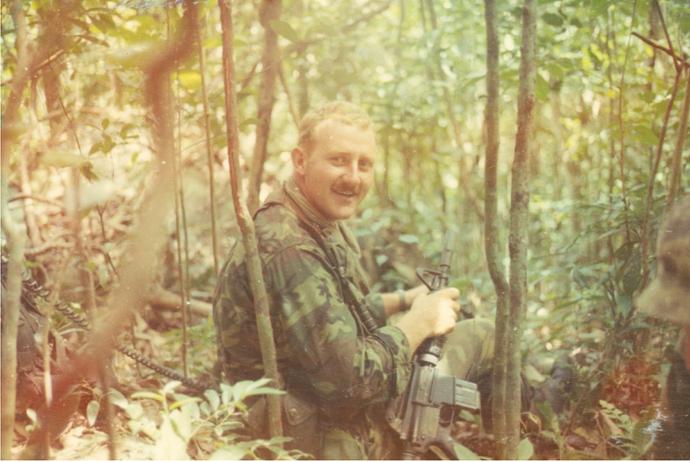
I will be definitely stepping down as president in Norco. As editor and the 75th RRA Unit Director of our association is more than enough on my plate.

If you are interested in becoming the association president or board member, please contact us. We are blessed with leadership within our association and now that many of us are retired, we can assume a role of officer or board member. Speak up!

If you have any proactive suggestion or if you want to consider being a featured member let me know, please.

Thank you, Jim "Lotz" Lotzgesell for taking the time to be this issue's featured member! "Tower" out.

Photos by Father John Dane



Father John A. Dane is now retired in England, his homeland. He sent close to a hundred photos to be posted on our website and it will be there in the very near future. He gave us permission to use pics in the newsletter including the Americal Magazine article by Team Ohio that John was a member of where he was awarded a Silver Star and Purple Heart. As he informed us, "There were three missions ...and the last mission was to *chart all the mine fields* , the general's words, not mine. I had an inkling that something big was about to happen and it did and I remember watching all the action from the beach in front of my hut-where else?" Top left photo is Dane; Top right, from left to right is Dane, Mike Terry, Unknown, and "Jolly" Charles Haussler. Meal break, lower left and lower right is Dane with a French Mat 49.

Featured by Jim "Lotz" Lotzgesell



I don't have a lot to write, but I do have a picture that might be of some interest. It is a Polaroid that Ross "Corno" Cornoccio took of me, with Brad "Doc" Mandel behind me, just after all three of us had got back from a mission in about July, or so, 1970. An awful lot of people liked Doc, and it is nice to have a picture of him.

I came up from D Co, 75th with team Ranger 31. George "Psycho" Christianson was our team leader. Reggie "Jack" Monce ATL, Bob "Smiley" Salwin our Gunner, Tony Gross RTO, and me rifleman, and that is all I remember. All of us, except Tony and Jack, I think, got attached to George Beach's Team Texas. Texas had just got shot up and lost two guys, so we more or less took their place. All this was about March 1970. Tony had a supply clerk MOS so they wouldn't let him go out. Texas

hooch ended up with Beach, Psycho, Bruce "Pinky" Pinkerton, Corno, Smiley, and me. Of course, the actual missions ended up with other guys from other teams, or those not quite assigned to any yet.

Our first mission was out of Hawk Hill. I think that Shawn Ranahan was with us, then, too. There was someone else with us that a hooch maid really loved. I forget his name, but he was the epitome of the tall blonde California surfer. He was going back to the States, soon. I remember seeing his hooch maid back in Chu Lai, crying when he left. She was being taken care of by about three other hooch maids. Actually, it was a touching scene. You felt bad for her.

Anyway, we set down on a ridge and another team set down on the ridge parallel to us. We got chased by the enemy all day, until we got to a hill that had been dug in by someone else about nightfall. We spent the night in half-size foxholes. Very uncomfortable. They fired an AK burst close by to try and draw our fire. We did not answer, of course. Beach tried to get us pulled and they did send up the Birds, but the weather wasn't good enough for them to get in to pick us up. Well, we got out in the morning – the enemy left us alone – probably didn't want to have the Gunnies mess with them. While we were still out there, the other team got hit. Guess they lost a new lieutie who had just got into the company. Leaders did seem to have a hard time of it in LRRP companies, even those who didn't go out much. My count was three platoon leaders dead, one platoon sergeant alive but badly blown up, one team leader alive but shot up, and another TL also alive but blown up.

Beach took an R&R (or extension leave?) to see his honey in Bangkok, so Psycho took over at TL. Pinky was always Beach's point guy, but Psycho made me his after a couple missions. I really was thrilled, of course, if a little spooked.

Jim "Lotz" Lotzgesell Feature

Now, how did Doc Mandel get into G Co? He had been the company field medic for the Recon company attached to 1st Aviation in Long Binh that supported D Co. They always had a platoon staying in a hooch right alongside our rear area. Well, after D Co got broken up and *Ranger 31* got sent north (we were a heavy company with four platoons, and teams got sent all over the country to other LRRP companies), Brad went home on extension leave. When he got back, he showed up at the Americal. He walks into our company orderly room, talks to Top Wright and Captain Dinoto, and that was all it took. He was our Medic! Brad could talk his way in and out of things like no one I ever met.

The photo must have been taken about my 33rd mission. It wasn't an exciting mission, but I was walking Point this time, so there was always that. We set up an ambush in a flat spot off a trail. That night we found we weren't the only things living there. About half the flat was owned by big-ass spiders. I was lucky - that time, at least. I had had my spiders, too, a couple of times before. Anyway, much to our enjoyment (that is, us without spiders), the others spent the whole night swatting at them. I remember we had Cliff Price with us that mission, too. He was always making these morbid jokes about becoming a mortician when he got back and got out. He and Brad were on the spider side of the flat. Anyway, as soon as we got back, Corno started taking pics, and this is one of them.

When I think back of those guys, it warms my heart. Half the team is gone now. Bob Salwin died a couple of years ago, and Cliff had a heart attack a couple years before that. I ran into both Cliff and Shawn Ranahan, separately, in the 90s in Spokane. Cliff had been a First Sergeant, but had gotten out and was in the Postal Service. Shawn was a contractor up in Edmonds with his great Geologist wife Linda. Cliff and I were talking with his son about camping, and when the boy made some complaints about how uncomfortable it was, Phil laughed and said to me. "

He just doesn't know, does he?". Cliff was on his second tour in Nam when I was there. He had been in E 51st. He took another tour and joined, I think, the 1st Cav LRRP company as a team leader. He told me that his team made the last LRRP kills in the war.

Doc went back to school when he went back to West Covina in L. A., but he was unhappy, so he ended up joining the Navy as a hospital Corpsman. I don't know how that went except he got attached to the 3rd MAR (Navy Corpsman act as their medics) but I do know he didn't stay in after his first enlistment. I lost touch with him after that. About 1979, I called Brad's sidekick in the Recon company down south, trying to locate him. He told me that Doc had blown himself away that January. So, that is the way he went.

Well, that is my jumbled tale about the picture. I have very few pictures of that time. I always thought my memories would be enough. I find, though, that my memory is not as good as a lot of you guys. The different missions kind of run together. Oh well, it was another time, in another age. I will say this about us, though. I am a little guy, and not overwhelming to look at, but not one person ever said a wrong word to me about Vietnam, so I guess some of it shows.

Yours,

Jim "Lotz" Lotzgesell

Editor's note:

Should anyone want to become a featured member, it's not that hard; page and a half of writing and a picture or two to fill up two pages.

Sua Sponte thanks everyone that has submitted a story and we would be more than happy to share yours!

Stephen Johnson- towerg75th@yahoo.com

LRPs Make 'Hide-and-Seek' An Art

By SP4 ALFRED ANTHONY Jr.
198th Inf. Bde.

In the midst of an endless sea of bright green, a small group of men sit hiding. Like animals of the forest, they look no different than their surroundings. Their clothes, their boots, even their skin is colored green. Bush hats are pulled low on their heads.

Each carries 60 pounds of gear and has rations for five days; each holds a Russian weapon or M-79 grenade launcher and AR-15. One man looks down at the radio by his side, checking the frequency. His friend takes a compass reading with his map to get an azimuth. Another, his eyes peering through the foliage, watches for the enemy.

They are LRPs—Long Range Patrol members who know their job and wear their black berets with distinction. These teams of elite guerrilla fighters penetrate terrain where in the past only the enemy has stalked. Their assignment: find, report, and, if necessary, fight "Charlie."

Two of these teams, working for the 198th Inf. Bde., wait on Chop Vum Mountain, well to the northwest of the "Brave and Bold" AO. They are on a "hunter-killer" mission.

One team is called Ohio; the other,

500 meters to the west, is Kentucky, and the enemy is familiar with them both. Ohio has been here before, and knows the terrain as well as the enemy. Kentucky is new to this area, but has outwitted "Charlie" before in other places.

Ohio's men, led by SGT John Dane (London), an ex-British Army commando, sit looking down the slope of the mountain. In the center of the broad valley they see an ordinary Vietnamese reed and bamboo hootch. An aerial reconnaissance team the day before noticed an unusual concentration of military-age males in the area.

"Traffic seems a little too organized," observes Dane. "Let's have a look."

Quickly, expertly, silently, they are down and in, just eight meters from the hootch's walls, close enough to read "Charlie's" tired face. Kentucky, led by SGT Tom Robinson (Jackson, Mich.), closes in from another angle.

Ohio's men tread softly; their lives depend on their stealth. The small hootch is not as innocent as it appears. It contains an enemy hospital. It is empty, but the LRPs are extra

cautious—no reason to get careless now.

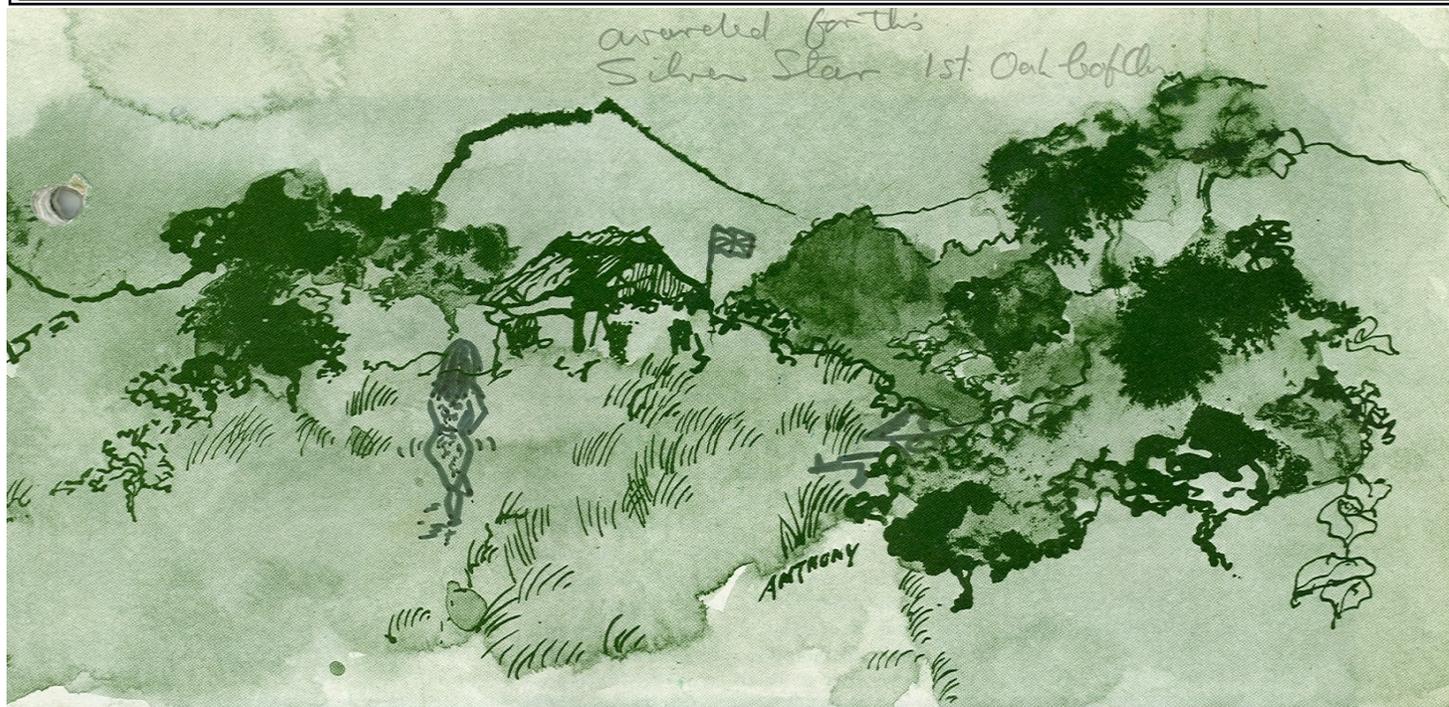
Assistant Team Leader SGT Clarence Avery (Anniston, Ala.), probing the ground outside of the hootch, discovers a hollow spot. Inside are medical instruments, detailed surgical instructions, and documents. With few words the well-trained men complete their search and turn to leave.

As if with a stage director in the wings, the teams act as one man and move across a rice paddy. They have radioed for extraction. Five of the men spread out into a perimeter, deep in the heavy muck.

In minutes the throbbing sound of the "bird" filters through the heavy canopy surrounding the men. It appears over the trees and begins to settle on the LZ. Suddenly, from deep within the thick leaves, two enemy machineguns open up on the men and the helicopter. The pilot drives the chopper hard into the sky, although he takes seven hits. With a broken oil line, the helicopter aborts the extraction and limps back to LZ Bowman and safety.

The LRPs are pinned to the mud, getting heavier fire each minute. CPL George F. Moreno (Tucson,

Americal Magazine



Ariz.) lifts his head long enough to fire an M-79 smoke round into the enemy position. The 198th's command and control chopper flies in to the rescue, blanketing the marked VC with its M-60s.

"The ship's all that saved us," Moreno later said. "The chopper kept them down just long enough for us to get back out of the paddy."

Five men are wounded, and, with the coming darkness, they must spend the night in this forsaken place. Their heavy return fire now gets them from the edge of the paddy to the safety of the mountain's shadow, and its foliage closes behind them. Moving up the narrow trail, climbing higher, they contact the enemy again. Firing LAWs (light anti-tank weapons), one VC is killed and one wounded.

Team Ohio sets up a protective observation post; Kentucky climbs Chop Vum. Nosing through the triple canopy, they find the bush gives way to a clearing, and there, right at the mountain's peak, they discover a fortress of giant wooden planks. A strange structure compared with the delicate hamlets dotting the valley's floor—there are no

windows or doors.

SGT Tom Steele (Chelsea, Mich.) assistant team leader, and Moreno climb in through a thin slit between the walls and roof. What they have come across is a building formed like a safe. "Recoilless rifle rounds!" shouts Steele's excited voice, muffled by the enclosure surrounding him. "Armor-piercing rounds, HEAT rounds, mortar fuse caps."

Ohio moves up to join Kentucky, and they set up a hasty night laager. During darkness, the Viet Cong are relentless with their M-79 fire. Steele bravely stays atop the captured ammo bunker, under fire, guarding the prize.

The morning of the next day turns the spiteful blackness of the sky to a hazy gray. The 198th Inf. Bde.'s Co E, 1st Bn., 6th Inf., led by 1LT Warren G. Randolph (Charleston, S.C.), is coming to help. SGTs David Swires (Bayard, Colo.); Dane, and Steele, along with CPL Moreno, volunteer to remain behind when the other LRP's are finally extracted. The four battle-toughened soldiers lead the infantrymen to the ammo cache and the hospital.

Once again atop Chop Vum, Dane

and Moreno plant two pounds of C4 explosive, amid the thump of M-79 rounds and the staccato of machine-guns. In the wake of the giant blast, the four LRP's again try for extraction.

Gunships rip across the sky now, as the quartet dodges across 600 meters of rice paddies to the chopper's LZ. They crouch in the center of the wet field, again taking everything the determined enemy can throw their way. E Co. tries to protect them from the surrounding woodland.

Nobody knew whose helicopter it was that dropped down into the middle of this hell, but as Moreno later remarked, "Man, am I thankful for that 'bird' that got us out."

The mission speaks for itself. The LRP's leave Chop Vum Mountain and the valley below, having destroyed the enemy's supply of heavy ammunition, a number of documents, and killed 14 Viet Cong.

On the trip back to LZ Bayonet, a tired, but satisfied SGT Swires speaks with a slight smile on his face: "Those VC were shooting at us, not at the company out there... We must have got them mad."

75th Anniversary Darby Rangers



Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you may know, 2017 marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the 1st Ranger Battalion - Darby's Rangers (19 June 1942). 2017 is also a Ranger Rendezvous year. Many a Ranger Regiment vet felt slighted during the 30th anniversary - as the focus was placed on the GWOT Ranger and did not include representation of the Panama, ODS, Somalia, and Haiti vets.

My hope is to reconnect all eras of Ranger Regiment veterans during Rendezvous.

I provide you the logo above to be used as you see fit, or to be modified as you wish. Since I am in military, the logo above cannot be trademarked by me. It also cannot be trademarked by others as it is in the public domain (that is what the lawyers tell me).

Appreciate any feedback you are willing to provide.

The logo above or a similar variation will start appearing on Regimental recruiting and messaging products beginning this fall.

Rangers Lead The Way!

Tony Mayne

2016 Reunion Norco, California

The 2016 Reunion will be from Thursday October 6th through checkout on Sunday October 9th in Norco, CA at the Marriot Fairfield Inn and Suites.

A working copy of our itinerary of events and special coverage will be in the June issue of Sua Sponte. Steve Deever is the point man with assistance from George Merkel, and Frank Svensson.

Rates will be \$109 per night plus applicable tax



Reservations: 844-407-0718 or the hotel directly 951-340-4500
And be sure to mention yourself as part of the LRRP Ranger Association for the special rate. Cut off date is 9/14/2016.



HOTEL AMENITIES: The above rate(s) include a Hot Breakfast Buffet daily for all guests in this group, Wireless internet access, Pool, Flat Screen TV's, Microwaves, Refrigerators, Bus Parking, Business center with fax and Daily newspaper.

TAX: The rates are quoted exclusive of transient occupancy tax, currently at 11%.
Please note: Room tax is subject to change at any time without prior notice.

GUEST ROOM OCCUPANCY:

Please note that King Bedded Guestrooms can accommodate up to 2 people, and rooms with 2 Queen Beds can accommodate up to 4 people. Roll-aways are not available for our standard guestrooms.

RESERVATION PROCEDURES: Individual Call Ins.

Reservations may be confirmed by calling Reservations at 844-407-0178 or the Hotel directly at (951) 340-4500, attendees will identify themselves as part of the **LRRP Ranger Association** in order to get granted with the special discounted group rate from.

Any guestrooms not utilized within the contracted block of rooms will revert back to the Hotel's general inventory. After this date the hotel will take reservations on an availability basis and at the prevailing hotel rate.

In the event of a failure to show on the first night of the reservation, the credit card on record will be billed, and the reservation will be automatically dropped from the hotel system. Guests wishing to reinstate the reservation must contact the hotel prior to arrival. At that time, room and rate availability is no longer guaranteed.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: As required by the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Hotel has a limited supply of guest rooms that are accessible to, and assistance equipment and aids for, persons with disabilities. The Group should advise the Hotel no later than 4 days before the arrival date. Group Guests who may require such equipment or aids and whether any additional equipment or services are needed. The Group or the Group Guest in question will be responsible for the costs of any required equipment or aid beyond what the Hotel has available.

GROUP CANCELLATION POLICY: If cancellation of this event occurs within 7 days of arrival, the **LRRP Ranger Association** will be responsible for one night's room and tax for each blocked room reservation.

Complimentary Parking to hotel guests.

CURRENT FINANCIAL REPORT

10:38 AM

COMPANY G RANGER 75TH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION

02/17/16

Profit & Loss

Lynn "Cowboy" Walker,
CPA

Cash Basis

January 1 through February 17, 2016

	<u>Jan 1 - Feb 17, 16</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Direct Public Support	
Individ, Business Contributions	720.00
Total Direct Public Support	<u>720.00</u>
Program Income	
Membership Dues	1,255.00
Total Program Income	<u>1,255.00</u>
Total Income	<u>1,975.00</u>
Gross Profit	<u>1,975.00</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>1,975.00</u>
Net Income	<u><u>1,975.00</u></u>

Current Balance Sheet Continued

10:37 AM

02/17/16

Cash Basis

COMPANY G RANGER 75TH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION

Balance Sheet

As of February 17, 2016

	<u>Feb 17, 16</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Company G Ranger 75th Infantry	13,493.26
Total Checking/Savings	<u>13,493.26</u>
Other Current Assets	
Charter Oak Capital Management	11,021.21
Total Other Current Assets	<u>11,021.21</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>24,514.47</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>24,514.47</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Equity Prior Year	-4,303.63
Opening Balance Equity	26,843.10
Net Income	1,975.00
Total Equity	<u>24,514.47</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>24,514.47</u></u>



ASSOCIATION CONCESSIONS...

Great Bags for Travel @ \$25



email David "Chief" Moncada at:
meganmoncada1@comcast.net



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Quarterly Newsletter of
The 196th LRRPs, E51st
LRPs, and G-75th Rangers

www.lrrpranger.org

Rison Pig ambush by 2 man team: Nye & Jacks



2016 Reunion in Norco, CA