



Sua Sponte

www.1rrpranger.org

Second Quarter 2016

Inside this issue:

2016 RHOF "Chief" David Moncada	— 1
Board and Officers President's Report	— 2
Moncada RHOF Info Sua Sponte Staff	— 3
America Magazine Father John A. Dane	— 4
Guess Who Photos Facebook	— 8
CA Association Reunion Sua Sponte Staff	— 10
50 year Challenge Coin Concessions-Chief	— 11
Webmaster Piss Tube Justin and Maureen Stay	— 12

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

Moncada RHOF in July

I wish to thank the Officers, Board Members, and men of 196th LRRPs, E/51 LRP, and G/75th Rangers of our Association for nominating me to the Ranger Hall of Fame. It is difficult for me to express how I felt when I was informed of my nomination, and of being accepted for this great honor. I have never considered myself to have been an extraordinary or special Ranger, but I fully accepted those responsibilities and did the best I could under trying and challenging conditions. It is at moments like this that I cannot help but to think of my fellow Rangers and friends who lost their lives in Vietnam, and wish that they were still among us. The rest of us were given the opportunities to live our lives as we chose, and for that we are all grateful I am sure. As we grow older our ranks are thinning, and we all miss our friends and teammates who finished their last patrol. My thoughts and memories of those friends and teammates are what make this moment of being selected to the RHOF even more special – it is for them and for all my Ranger brothers that I humbly accept this great honor. I know with full certainty that I will never meet or know a finer group of men than my Ranger brothers!

God Bless and Rangers Lead the Way!

Dave "Chief" Moncada



The Ranger Hall of Fame Ceremony is to be held July 14, 2016 at Marshall Auditorium, McGinnis-Wickam Hall, Building #4 at Ft. Benning 1330 hours.

The Fairfield Inn and Suites in Columbus, GA is our hotel and information on this hotel with rates and other amenities are in a special section of the newsletter; page 3.

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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

Fishing Lake Winnie for walleye to put in the fry pan



Congratulations to Dave Moncada for being selected into the Ranger Hall of Fame! For those that want to attend that prestigious ceremony the information for you is located on page 3. Please be aware of where we are going to be staying, the Fairfield Inn and the cut off date for booking a room, etc.

Our Reunion in Norco, CA is shaping up and a reminder for those of us flying in, it is suggested using the Ontario Airport as our destination, not the Los Angeles LAX. You can rent a car in Ontario or pay for a shuttle service to the hotel.

We mail out 420 newsletters each quarter and the monies from membership cover the costs of Sua Sponte, or at least that is how it is supposed to work. There are only 46 paid memberships to date and the number of lifetime members and annual paid members amount to only one-quarter of the entire

mailings. Help! Please pay if you have not done so. Not only do you get a quarterly newsletter but also included is our website which is used extensively by its members and others who are interested in our organization, maintained by Webmaster Justin Stay.

Father John Dane has provided us with a second Americal magazine article archive and in the next issue we will feature his personal account of events that he experienced.

The new challenge coins look very nice and on page 10 there is more information for the purchase of this special challenge coin.

Hope to see those that can attend the RHOF for Chief and in Norco for this year's reunion.

Tower

Moncada RHOF Citation

MSG Jesus David Moncada is inducted into the US Army Ranger Hall of Fame in recognition of a lifetime of service to the nation and during which he served as an example of a life well led in the Ranger tradition. MSG Moncada served in a variety of capacities for the United States, including as a team member and team leader in the Rangers (G Company (Ranger) 75th Infantry) during the Vietnam War, Ranger School instructor, the California National Guard and the Defense Investigative Services of the Department of Defense. MSG Moncada is admired and respected by all those with whom he served, both subordinates and superiors, as a quiet but very effective leader. No more effective leader than MSG Moncada can be found, both in his military and post-military lives. He demonstrated exceptional leadership skills as a LRRP in Vietnam and was quickly named a team leader. As a team leader, he led many missions in Vietnam, often involving fire-fights with the enemy. He served as Team Leader of the highly regarded Team Hawaii, consisting of Hawaiians, Native Americans and Hispanics. Twice, while serving as team leader, he was wounded during firefights. He nonetheless maintained control of his teams, displaying uncommon valor and courage, providing effective covering fire while his team was able to reach the extraction point where they were lifted to safety. His exemplary leadership skills and "lessons learned" were easily applied to his time as Assistant NCOIC at the G Company Recondo School and especially as patrolling instructor at the Mountain Ranger Camp. Moreover, after serving in the California National Guard, he became an effective investigator for the Defense Investigative Services of the Department of Defense, a sensitive position requiring not only exceptional leadership skills, but also his ability to deal effectively with special operations groups in Europe. He serves as a positive role model to all those who strive to become Rangers. MSG Moncada's post-service life remains committed to his beloved Rangers, serving as co-founder, board member and officer of the G Company Ranger Association, and to his family. MSG Moncada truly exemplifies the Ranger Creed.

Moncada Ranger Hall of Fame Hotel Information

Fairfield Inn & Suites Columbus
4510 Armour Road
Columbus, Georgia 31904 USA Phone:1-706-317-3600

President Rick Barela 75th Ranger Regiment has made a block of rooms for members of the 75th RRA. Our association has 10 rooms available with the name, address, and phone # for reservations directly above this paragraph. Mention the rate of \$89.

Would you please let me know if you are planning to attend; that way I can coordinate with Rick Barela for more than 10 rooms if need be.

Cut off date for special rate is June 14.

Stephen Johnson 1-218-333-1541 (leave voice mail) or towerg75th@yahoo.com

The Ranger Hall of Fame Ceremony is to be held July 14, 2016 1330 hours at Marshall Auditorium, McGinnis-Wickam Hall, Building #4 at Ft. Benning.

The editor apologizes for having Cooksey's quote for the last Americal magazine article. The quote by General Cooksey referred to the Americal article entitled "The Noose around Batangan" and not the operation involving Teams Ohio and Kentucky. As General Cooksey informed us, "There were three missions...and the last mission was to chart all the mine fields.

Article given by Father Dane

THE NOOSE AROUND BATANGAN

By 1LT CECIL GREEN



Norland

Wary infantrymen and watchful cavalymen move into place in the tangled underbrush to seal off the Batangan Peninsula.

8

The morning of Jan. 13 was an infantryman's nightmare.

The angry, silver-black clouds covered the sky with an ominous glow and unleashed monsoon deluges, which soaked everything and made rain gear useless.

The mud was already there from earlier storms, but the new rains gave it a life that infantrymen dread. One rifleman described it as "trying to walk through a mountain of C-ration peanut butter."

But the day was D-Day, and the hands on the clock were nearing H-Hour—0800.

Things began to happen rapidly:

- Infantrymen from the 5th Bn., 46th Inf., 198th Inf. Bde. moved into action like foot soldiers down through the ages, slogging across the muddy hills and flooded lowlands toward their goal.

- The 4th Bn., 3rd Inf., 11th Inf. Bde. moved from their encampment near Quang Ngai City to waiting helicopters that would churn through the lowering skies in a massive combat assault.

- Marines, two battalions strong, arrived aboard a flotilla of ships in the South China Sea. Two companies climbed down the nets into landing craft, while others swarmed over the decks of the USS Tripoli into helicopters that would carry them ashore.

- Two battalions of soldiers from the 2nd ARVN Division also shouldered their packs and headed into the region.

- Navy swift boats roared into life and plowed through the swelling sea, forming a water blockade.

The fighting men from the two countries had a common objective: the Batangan Peninsula, a mushroom-shaped VC stronghold for the past 20 years, jutting into the South China Sea about 20 miles southeast of Chu Lai.

Their tactic was a textbook example of a cordon—an 11½-mile solid ring of men and firepower across the neck of the peninsula. The circle was completed with Navy ships. At the action's peak, almost 8,500 men choked off the Batangan Peninsula. This was the start of Operation Russell Beach.

The Marine participation was called Operation Bold Mariner, but after the ground troops reached a phase line on Jan. 25, the maneuver became Operation Russell Beach entirely. BG Howard H. Cooksey (Alexandria, Va.), Americal assistant division commander, was the overall commander of the Army and ARVN forces forming Task Force Cooksey.

The phases of the combat/pacification program were clearly defined: deception, establishment of the cordon, psychological operations (PSYOP), collapse of the cordon, and pacification.

Intelligence experts reported that the area was a popular

AMERICAL

Americal Magazine

VC supply route. Tacticians learned that enemy troops in the area, when running from a pitched battle, always headed for the peninsula's heart.

"The deception phase of the operation actually began about 10 days before D-Day," explained BG Cooksey. "The 5/46 and the 2nd ARVN Div. began conducting sweeps far away from the peninsula, working their way closer as the starting time drew near. We were taking advantage of the enemy's tendency to head for his sanctuary when faced with combat."

The rain, cursed by the GIs on the ground, was actually an important consideration in the opening moves of the operation. "We wanted the start of the operation to coincide with the monsoon rains, so the enemy's tunnels would be flooded and no good to him," the task force commander stated.

The weather tactic worked. "Although we were uncomfortable, I believe it was worse on the VC," said LTC Ronald R. Richardson (Colorado Springs, Colo.), CO of the 5/46. "My men were near a river during the PSYOP phase, and we had a number of suspects come out of flooded tunnels and holes just in front of us. They had been in water so long that their skin was shriveled up like a prune."

"By D-Day we figured there might be a good-size VC force trapped out there," related LTC Jack C. Davis (Maudlin, Ark.), CO of the 4/3. "But even if there were just a handful, the plan was still to clear the area on foot, step by step, to locate every tunnel and bunker, destroy the minefields and empty 'Charlie's' breadbasket."

Noon of D-Day found the soldiers of the cordon line still chest-deep in water in the flooded rice paddies with mud as their toughest enemy. The men, less than 10 meters apart, were in visual contact along the entire route. By late afternoon, the weary infantrymen got the order to dig in for the night. The human wall was formed.

But for more than 20 days, night did not come to the Batangan Peninsula.

"There's just no such thing as night out here," a rifleman noted. "Those flare ships do a good job."

The flare ships remained on station overhead throughout the night hours of operation, dropping an average of 600 flares per night.

"The flares were very significant in this operation," said CPT John R. Blanks Jr. (Macon, Ga.), the commander of D Co., 4/3. "They took the night away from the enemy and made any fighting on our terms. The light also made the infantrymen more secure and boosted morale."

After the cordon was established, the operation reverted to a battle of words for four days as PSYOP crews went to work on the ground and in the air with broadcasts and printed leaflets.

The most important phase of the operation was beginning—evacuation of as many people as possible from the peninsula before any fighting actually began.

"There were no reliable statistics available on how many people made their homes on the peninsula," related CPT Banta York (Sumter, S.C.), 198th PSYOP officer, "but we were concerned with evacuating as many as possible because Russell Beach is a pacification operation. And

Schwarz



MAY, 1969

Green



'Brave and Bold' soldiers of the 198th Brigade's 5th Bn., 46th Inf., always expecting the unexpected on Batangan, use everything from rifles to mine detectors to make certain that Charlie's vital supplies and deadly mines and booby traps are located.

9

Americal Magazine



Shingledecker

CPT Banta York examines 'home-made' transmitting rig that later called many Vietnamese from their tunnels and hiding places during frequent psychological operation broadcasting.



Hebert

to be successful, you must have the people.”

A helicopter specially equipped with a homemade 1,000-watt transmitting system was rigged up at the 198th S-5 office. It cruised over the peninsula area up to eight hours a day, sometimes as low as 400 feet. The Kit Carson Scouts and interpreters aboard each flight told the people over and over where to move, how to move, and what to bring (clothing, identification papers, and one day's supply of food).

As the refugees moved through pre-arranged checkpoints on the cordon line, they were gathered at temporary detention centers located at each battalion CP.

A medical team was stationed with each battalion for emergency treatment, and each refugee received an initial inspection to insure that none with serious diseases were housed with the larger groups.

“The first refugees to arrive were, very naturally, confused and scared,” CPT York recalled. “They told our interpreters that the VC had threatened them and warned that anyone who went to the Americans would be put in labor camps at Cam Ranh Bay.

“As the first helicopter loads of refugees were taken from the battalions to the Combined Holding and Interrogation Center (CHIC) near Quang Ngai City, they were positive that they were at Cam Ranh and refused to leave the helicopters. When the province chief heard this, he came out personally and talked to the people until they realized they were less than 12 miles from their homes.”

The CHIC was a key factor in the success of Russell Beach. “This is where many of the refugees first became aware of the South Vietnam Government,” CPT York stated.

At the CHIC, each refugee was carefully interrogated by GVN officials to locate and isolate VC prisoners of war, members of the VC infrastructure, VC suspects, possible Hoi Chanh, and innocent civilians.

As the slow process to determine and separate each group continued throughout the operation, the GVN provided medical care, clothing, and hot food, in addition to drama teams, speakers, newspapers, and music, all stressing patriotism and unity.

10

“The success of the PSYOP operation became a reality after we convinced the first doubtful refugees that they would be well treated and safe with us,” CPT York said. “After they saw what was happening, many of them gladly made tape recordings to their families and neighbors which we played from our helicopters over the areas they indicated. Those tapes were invaluable.”

To show the people that they could trust and believe the American and GVN forces, CPT York personally landed his chopper in insecure areas.

“One man was obviously wounded, but was waving a white flag on a pole at us,” the captain recalled. “When we landed to pick him up, his entire family trooped out of a nearby bunker to go aboard.”

Several large groups—one of them numbering more than 700 persons—requested to be moved out, and Chinook pilots also landed on beaches and in insecure areas to get them all.

By late February, the population at the CHIC was near the 12,000 mark, with 257 Viet Cong infrastructure, 190 VC suspects, 104 prisoners of war and 32 Hoi Chanh. Of the 11,377 innocent civilians moved to the CHIC, 1,057 were men, 3,354 were women and 6,966 were children (under 15 years of age).

Officials at the CHIC reported that their population continued to grow even when no new refugees were coming in; more than 30 babies were delivered there by U.S. and Vietnamese doctors.

After the first four days of PSYOP, combat operations started on the peninsula as the cordon line began to tighten.

The tactical situation had the 2nd and 3rd Bns. of the 26th Marine Regt. in the northern sector of the line, the 5/46 and the 4/3 in the middle, the ARVNs to the south and Co. D, 4/3 and a platoon of ACAVs from H Trp., 17th Cav. anchoring the right flank of the line.

The idea behind the entire operation was to move slowly and carefully, and the goal was no more than 500 meters per day.

“Ordinarily, this figure would be very insignificant,” said BG Cooksey, “but on the Batangan Peninsula, it

AMERICAL

Americal Magazine

took quite a while just to move a yard because the men literally looked under every rock and behind every bush.”

And there was plenty to find. “Just like a big Easter egg hunt” was the way one rifleman described it.

Tunnels were everywhere. By the time the combat phase of the operation ended on Feb. 9, more than 14,000 meters of tunnels had been blown up, mainly by 26th Engineer Bn. teams assigned to each infantry platoon.

Nearly every village had a large tunnel complex honeycombed under its simple huts and dirt paths. Many tunnels were hundreds of meters long with sleeping niches cut out of the walls every four or five meters, and every tunnel had to be checked out before it was blown to locate any hidden enemy or civilians.

“If some of the refugees and Hoi Chanh hadn’t volunteered to show us some of the tunnels they knew about, we may never have found them,” LTC Richardson stated. “In one case a Hoi Chanh took us to an area we had already swept through. He then pointed to a dirt embankment where he said several VC had covered up the entrance to protect their friends below. Once we explored it, we found that it had four different levels with a winding staircase-type entrance hole. It was very elaborate.”

Several hundred “homemade” mines and booby traps were encountered during the 27 days of the combat phase of the operation, either by early detection or accidental detonation. Most U.S. and ARVN casualties were due to mines.

“I’ve been over here in the field for about eight months now, and this is the most treacherous area I’ve seen,” said 1LT Mark S. Richards (Los Angeles), a platoon leader with A Co., 4/3. “Some mines were found less than 10 meters from our encampments, where we had been walking back and forth for several days.”

On Feb. 3, the units had completed their slow search and clear and were on the South China Sea coast. Then, after a week of back-tracking and more searching, the combat phase of Operation Russell Beach officially ended (Feb. 9), and the pacification phase began.

More than 210 VC were killed in action on the peninsula by late February, besides the prisoners of war, VCI, and VC suspects held at the CHIC.

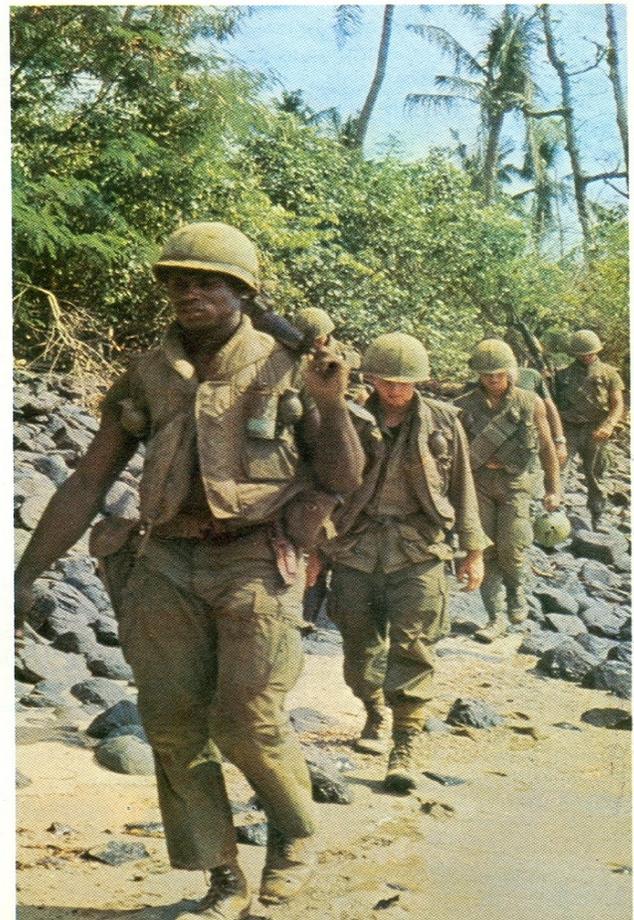
Also in their totals, the allied forces captured 15.5 tons of salt, 2 tons of corn, 13 tons of rice, and 59 individual and 6 crew-served weapons. Twenty-three sampans were destroyed as they tried to evade through Navy craft patrolling the peninsula waters.

“The resettlement of the peninsula and indoctrination of the people may take a long time,” CPT York concluded, “but we can already call Operation Russell Beach a definite success as we’ve effectively separated the VC from the people. There’s no more VC strongarm rule on the Batangan now.”



Green

A 4th Bn., 3rd Inf. ‘Old Guard’ patrol examines one of 59 individual weapons found. Below, another 11th Brigade platoon reaches the South China Sea coast as the operation’s cordon phase concludes.



Green

Facebook Out and About



Upper Left-Bob Weber living the "Dream"

Upper Right- George and Sophie Beach at home in Alligator Point, FL

Center Left- Frank Svensson retires and has a smile on his face

Center Right- The Kenners at Miramar Beach, FL

Lower Left- Linda Schuster shows one of many talents she has and is knitting a shawl

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 Sept. 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

Lynn "Cowboy" Walker, CPA

7:48 PM
05/10/16
Cash Basis

COMPANY G RANGER 75TH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION Profit & Loss January 1 through May 10, 2016

	<u>Jan 1 - May 10, 16</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Direct Public Support	
Individ, Business Contributions	720.00
Total Direct Public Support	720.00
Program Income	
Membership Dues	1,375.00
Total Program Income	1,375.00
Total Income	2,095.00
Gross Profit	2,095.00
Expense	
Operations	
Postage, Mailing Service	124.10
Printing and Copying	538.72
Supplies	678.19
Total Operations	1,341.01
Total Expense	1,341.01
Net Ordinary Income	753.99
Net Income	<u>753.99</u>

7:49 PM
05/10/16
Cash Basis

COMPANY G RANGER 75TH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION Balance Sheet As of May 10, 2016

	<u>May 10, 16</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Company G Ranger 75th Infantry	12,522.25
Total Checking/Savings	12,522.25
Other Current Assets	
Charter Oak Capital Management	11,021.21
Total Other Current Assets	11,021.21
Total Current Assets	23,543.46
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>23,543.46</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
National Ranger Memorial Founda	250.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	250.00
Total Current Liabilities	250.00
Total Liabilities	250.00
Equity	
Equity Prior Year	-4,303.63
Opening Balance Equity	26,843.10
Net Income	753.99
Total Equity	23,293.46
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>23,543.46</u>

Association 50th Anniversary Coin



It was 50 years ago that the 196th LRRPs were organized into the first of three LRRP groups within our organization; the 196th LRRPs, E 51st LRP, and G 75th Rangers, all doing the mission.

Our Challenge Coin will go on sale at our reunion in Norco, California in October. The tentative cost will be \$25 according to Dave Moncada, our concessions manager.

ASSOCIATION CONCESSIONS...

Great Bags for Travel @ \$25



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

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"of their own accord"

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

www.lrrpranger.org



It has been about 20 years since our webmaster has volunteered countless hours in developing and maintaining lrrpranger.org

Justin and Maureen Stay are displaying his "Piss Tube" with their dog Riz.

The award took place several years ago by Tower. The Stays live in Bemidji, MN

2016 Reunion in Norco, CA