



# Sua Sponte

www.lrrpranger.org

*Third 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

## "Chief" RHOF Induction



**RHOF ACCEPTANCE REMARKS**

I would like to thank the Executive Board Members of the RHOF committee; the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regt Association, and the LRRPs & Rangers of G Co, 75<sup>th</sup> Rangers Association. A special thanks goes to my wife Megan, and to our family, without whom none of this would have been possible.

A few of us are lucky enough to somehow run into a group of extraordinary people; young men who on a daily basis faced their fears and physical demands with unbelievable strength and determination. Men such as these teach us to believe – and to trust – that when a Ranger teammate and friend tells you that he “has your back”, he truly means it. My journey with these men is without equal to this day...men whose code names were Prunes, Peach Fuzz, 9 Toes, Buffalo, Elephant Boy, and other unique names. It was my honor and privilege to have led Ranger Team Hawaii in 1969, a pretty damned good group of men!

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Lynn "Cowboy" Walker, Treasurer

Frank Svensson, Secretary

Ed Carey, Historian

Tom "Dolly" Robison, Corporate Counsel

Stephen Johnson, 75th Regiment Representative

## Board of Directors

David Moncada, Board Chairman

Steve Franklin, Board Member

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 LRRPs, 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



For those that are planning to attend this year's reunion in Norco, you have until the 14th to make your reservations for the special rates. An itinerary and contact information are found on pages 8-9 in this newsletter.

The above picture is a celebration meal for Dave's induction hosted by Dave and Megan. In the foreground left is Dave Parson and across the table from him is John and Cindy Gaffney. Thanks to the Moncadas for sharing.

We had several association members who were at Dave Moncada's RHOF Ceremony including: Kermit Dixon, Bob Fullerton, John Gaffney, Dan Linehan, Bill Martin, Dave Parson, Roger Peet, and myself. Forgive me if I have forgotten to include others that were there.

If there is someone interested in hosting the 2017 reunion on the East Coast next year, please contact a board member or officer of the association.

2017 marks the 75th Anniversary of the establishment of the 1st Ranger Battalion in 1942. The Ranger Rendezvous 2017 will be from June 26th– 30th. If you want a room at the 75th RRA hotel,

which is the Double Tree you need to call ASAP for a reservation as these rooms will sell out fast. The number for the Double Tree in Columbus, GA is 1-706-327-6869 and make sure you mention Ranger Rendezvous for the special rate of \$109 + tax.

It is important to the association if we could have suggestions. But in order for that to happen you need to let one of the officers or board members know your suggestions or concerns; in a pro-active way, please.

The officers of the association are named by the board. The board is named by the association members at its annual meeting. Right now there are three board members who are up for reelection and that would be Deever, Ford, and Moncada. All have expressed an interest to continue as board members, but that is up for the membership to decide.

We have lost 2 Brothers to the Big Ranger in the Sky: David L. Swires and Robert Leon-Guerrero.

See you in Norco. "Tower"

RLTW!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Chu Lai Insertion-photo  
By Father John Dane



It was 1971 and I was living in Southern California in an apartment on Harbour Blvd in Fullerton and not far from Orange County Airport (now John Wayne International). I'd been recruited by some "interesting characters" and was based in Pomona working for a company called "Security Factors". I know, a daft name and one that managed to fool absolutely no one! My "business card" identified me as the company pilot and the aircraft, when I wasn't flying it, was parked at Orange County Airport.

The two-bedroom apartment I occupied was basic and furnished in typical tasteless Americana circa 1930 – but it was anonymous and quiet and served me well for a place to doss, do my laundry and occasionally check on the various botulinum and penicillin strains growing in the refrigerator. I didn't keep anything personal there and other than a certain lady-friend from the office,

there were no visitors.

Not far from the apartments was a congenial watering hole that served that king of brews: Guinness (not for the faint-hearted), and when I wasn't otherwise involved flying here, there and anywhere, this was where I could be seen engaging with the local natives. I knew most of the regulars and most of them knew me – by sight at least.

I remember being in there one evening and spotted one of the regulars looking very glum and down in the mouth. When I gently enquired what was wrong, he answered that his girlfriend had just chucked him out, and with all his worldly belongings now stuffed in his car, he had nowhere to go. He had a job but it would take a week or two to arrange some new digs and he was contemplating the prospect of life in the back of a Ford. (That really IS desperate!) *Continued page 4*

# It's A Small World

Since I wasn't using the apartment much in those days, and it did have a second bedroom, I invited him to stay until he could find a new place. I warned him about the strains of botulinum and penicillin growing in the fridge but the toilet was clean. But none of that seemed to bother him, happy as he was not to face the prospect of sleeping in his car, so after a few drinks to get him cheered up I led him back to the apartment to get him settled in.

As he unpacked his stuff in the spare room and made himself comfortable, he volunteered to fumigate the fridge and remove all random alien life – after all, he would be using it much more often than I would. Then in the sitting room, he started to talk about his travels and as he did, he opened up a box with some photographs inside. There were pictures of him with some oriental lass in Thailand, others of him in Laos with a different Sheila on his arm this time. Then he spoke about his time in Vietnam as a civilian engineer working for the Army. I started to take interest at this point and watched as he dragged out some pictures he had taken there. And there they were: one after the other, all familiar scenes from Saigon, Da Nang and yes, from Chu Lai.

Then, in an excited voice, he said he had been there late one afternoon when he spotted a Huey getting ready for a departure. Walking closer out of interest, he saw a bunch of "tough-looking serious types" climbing in – all dressed in camouflage outfits which wasn't the standard US Army uniform of the day. He also noticed that one or two of the lads had some non-standard issue equipment: one had an AK-47, another had what he called a "silencer" on the end of an AR-15. He said he got really excited then because he had heard some of the others in his hut talking about this "super-secret special unit" that did some really dangerous operations. Convinced that he was now looking at them, he decided to take some surreptitious pictures to show to the rest of the fellows in his hut. He said he didn't know if he was allowed to but he was going to risk it anyway, so raising himself up above the sandbags, he took some quick snaps.

He seemed so pleased with himself at his boldness and it

was obvious in his excited telling that not only was this one of the highlights of his stay at Chu Lai but also that he'd managed to get a lot of mileage out of this particular war-story, especially when he had such clear photographic evidence to support it. It was obviously a tale he had told many times before, but what was also very clear was that he hadn't made any connection between the photograph and his present company, so I debated with myself as to whether or not I should tell him. Finally, I decided not to (I mean, why pop his bubble), and simply asked him if I could have one of the spare prints. He was happy to give me one ... and that is the picture at the top of this story.

Who would ever have thought it? I mean, we do our routine thing – all the while believing that no one is watching or taking any notice of us, then something like this happens. And there I was, sitting right there in a nondescript room in an anonymous apartment in Southern California across from a fellow who took a covert and surreptitious picture of me, sitting in a helicopter getting ready to do some damage to the VC, a few years before and in a place halfway round the world.

How do you calculate the odds of something like that happening?

He has the photograph because for him it is "proof" of his encounter with people and events he believes are extraordinary.

I have the photograph because it is proof for me of just how small our world really is.



**SECURITY FACTORS**  
DRAWER 2627, POMONA, CALIFORNIA 91766

John A. Dane - Company Pilot

(714) 622-1515

# Tribute to Michael Chu

By Dan Linehan

## In Memory of Michael Chu...a brother.

**The Players in "the Band":** Dave Moncada-Team Leader (TL), Michael Chu-Assistant Team Leader (ATL), Ramon Santamaria, Julian Serna, Dave Motlow, Wayne Morishige, Leo Nakagura, Pedro Martinez, and one gentleman with the surname Rodriguez...and others who sat in from time to time. Usually six players perform per mission.

The TL is the front man for the band and the ATL is the rhythm section, i.e., the glue that holds the rest of the band (the team) together.

### The Mission:

The mission comes down from TOC.

Get ready, we have a gig!  
Forty-eight hours to ETD.

What's the AO...what's the objective...what's in this AO...have we been there before?  
How long is the mission...what's our support...plan the logistics.

Off to the overflight...the TL and maybe the ATL,  
Select primary and secondary LZs...  
What is visible from the air? Hooches, trails?  
Swimming-pool size craters left by 1000-pound bombs?  
Anyplace for an extraction if we are "in the shit".

Back in Chu Lai,  
The TL studies his map and makes up a plan;  
The ATL and team collect their gear and pack their rucks.  
Food, water, ammo, smoke, concussion, and explosive grenades ...  
Anything special? – M-79 grenade launcher, M-72 LAW, claymores, C-4?  
Radios, extra batteries, food and water...  
Soak your clothes in bug juice to deter the mosquitos and leaches...  
Clean your weapon...it has to work...  
You can't count on a second chance in the bush.

The gear is prepped, The ATL checks it out...good to go!  
The TL briefs the team "this is the mission".

Six men out for a walk in the woods...  
You'll be up long before dawn and ready to go...  
Now hit the sack...no partying tonight.

Mission time...  
Up and dressed...  
On the beach in the pre-dawn darkness...  
Check fire the weapons...pot-shots at the sampans off shore...  
Gear goes into the deuce and a half...along with the team...  
Off to the chopper pad and the trip to the bush...

On the bird...The whop, whop, whop of the rotor blades  
drones on...  
Twenty, thirty, forty minutes to the LZ...  
Maybe a false insertion...then the real thing!

Nervous pilot drops in quickly...everyone's on edge...  
The chopper stops just short of landing...pilot's ready to *di di mau*.  
Everybody out...as fast you can...  
Chopper is out of sight in a flash...  
Alone on the ground...The show is on!

Get to the tree line and STOP...catch your breath,  
Absolute quiet...listen as hard as you can...  
A different kind of "sound check!"  
Is there any hint of movement?  
Radio back to the mission commander...  
We are in...we'll wait five minutes and head out.

Local recon...  
Any signs of "unfriendly"?  
Trails, punji stakes, tire-tread sandal prints?

Move out...sometimes in the bush...moving silently  
Other times...Booking straight down a trail...

The TL directs the point...the ATL tracks the tail  
Everyone on full alert...  
And so it goes...for minutes, hours, days...

Sometimes you experience three days of silence...

# Tribute to Michael Chu

Nothing but jungle green...snakes and bugs...  
Heat or maybe rain...  
At night...  
You sleep like brothers in the bushes.

But there are other times when...

**KABOOM!**

You are in the shit...  
Bullets whizzing everywhere...  
TL on the radio...  
The ATL trying to direct traffic...  
Fire and move...somewhere...anywhere...quickly.  
Is there a way out...Who has the upper hand?  
Call for gunships, artillery, jets...whatever it takes to  
Gain momentary control and get out...

You are all in it together...  
Sharing the moments of insanity...  
Fighting to stay alive...  
Absolute reliance on your brothers...  
If anyone goes down, you have to pick up the slack...  
Instantly!

Most days, the team gets out unscathed...  
The support shows up and blasts an escape route.

The extraction chopper arrives and you are bound for  
basecamp...  
Smoking, joking and laughing...  
Just like a band heading home...  
After "a time on the town..."  
Another day's work...done.

But there are also those days  
When it doesn't work out...  
Someone goes down...one of the team is transformed,  
instantly, into a medic...  
Trying to stem the flow of blood...pop in an IV,  
And maybe...save a life.

And sometimes, someone won't get to go home.  
They give all for the mission...and their brothers.  
Then there is no joking, no laughter...only the reality of  
war!

Either way...the TL debriefs at Headquarters G2...  
playing the lead.  
The ATL and the team (the band) open their beer...  
maybe it's cold.  
And maybe get into something more exotic...  
Allowing them to feel a sense of home and safety.  
And they breakdown the equipment...  
Supplies and weapons are put away...

The next day, the TL plays his air guitar in the door of  
his hooch.  
The rest of the band relaxes...reading, writing home,  
listening to tunes  
Smoking and joking...

The mission has ended...  
The band has played its gig...  
It is time to rest and recover...

Until the next gig...

## **Glossary:**

TOC: Tactical Operations Center  
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure  
AO: Area of Operations  
Hooches: Houses or small buildings, frequently with  
thatched roofs  
M-72 LAW: Light Antitank Weapon  
Claymore: Directional, antipersonnel "mine"  
C-4: Plastic explosive (and cooking aid)  
Bug Juice: Insecticide  
Deuce and a half: Two and a half ton truck with canvas-  
covered bed  
*di di mau*: leave in a hurry  
punji stake: a sharpened bamboo stake used to mark  
trails and set traps for men and animals  
LZ: Landing Zone  
IV: Typically, serum albumin fluid delivered intrave-  
nously to replace blood lost and prevent shock  
G2: Military Intelligence

# Familiar Faces?



Upper Left to Right: Dianne Nash, Max and Terri Donovan wedding dance, and Ranger-LRRP wannabe at one of our reunions.

Lower Left to Right: Mike-Gisela Maar, Tara, Tom Hardy's dog, and Sharon and Tom Robison.

# REUNION – GET ER DONE

*By Steve Deever-Norco Reunion Host*

Don't wait on reservations, cutoff date for discount is 9-14-16.

First night, Thursday will be a Jam session so bring your spoons, guitars, washtub base or whatever you make noise on and join the group.

You don't want to miss this one. We have plenty planned, but there are many things to do in the area, so it's your choice. Bring pictures to share, and to back up those wild stories.

Looking forward to seeing everyone and making great memories.

BE THERE OR BE SQUARE.

Steve Deever

Any questions, call 951-206-0105

## Itinerary for Norco Reunion

**Thursday October 6, 2016** Check-in  
Recon AO – Golf for Some – Shopping, Whatever  
Hospitality Room – Open Noon – 11:00 pm  
Jam Session - Evening - Pizza and drinks

**Friday October 7, 2016**  
8:00 – 9:00 AM Board of Directors Meeting – Hospitality Room  
9:00 – 10:00 AM Membership Meeting  
11:00 – 11:30 AM – Gather for trip to Chino Airport  
Yanks Air Museum and Lunch  
5:00 PM Return  
6:30 PM Trip Norco American Legion (Most meals cost about \$12)  
Music – Dinner – Dancing  
Noon – 11:00 PM Hospitality Room

**Saturday October 8, 2016**  
9:00 – 9:30 Gather  
10:00 – 12:00 Memorial Service @ Veterans Plaza  
Norco  
Mayor Kevin Bash – Guest Speaker  
2:00 – 4:00 PM Walk to “Sons of Liberty Aleworks  
Brewery”  
6:00 PM Banquet – Hospitality Room  
7:30 PM Auction – Hospitality Room  
**Sunday October 9, 2016** Check-out and Travel

Please remember to bring an item for our auction. That event covers the cost of the reunion which includes a free meal for members and guest.

# 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 is on page 8 of this 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

3:37 PM  
08/13/16  
Cash Basis

## COMPANY G RANGER 75TH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION Profit & Loss January 1 through August 13, 2016

	Jan 1 - Aug 13, 16
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Direct Public Support	
Individ, Business Contributions	875.00
Total Direct Public Support	875.00
Other Types of Income	
Coin Sale Income	175.00
Concessions	70.00
Total Other Types of Income	245.00
Program Income	
Membership Dues	1,550.00
Total Program Income	1,550.00
Total Income	2,670.00
Gross Profit	2,670.00
Expense	
Operations	
Concession Expenses	350.92
Postage, Mailing Service	243.49
Printing and Copying	1,616.16
Supplies	678.19
Website rental	155.40
Total Operations	3,044.16
Other Types of Expenses	
Other Costs	
Coin Costs	1,750.00
Total Other Costs	1,750.00
Total Other Types of Expenses	1,750.00
Total Expense	4,794.16
Net Ordinary Income	-2,124.16
Net Income	-2,124.16

3:37 PM  
08/13/16  
Cash Basis

## COMPANY G RANGER 75TH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION Balance Sheet As of August 13, 2016

	Aug 13, 16
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Company G Ranger 75th Infantry	9,644.10
Total Checking/Savings	9,644.10
Other Current Assets	
Charter Oak Capital Management	11,021.21
Total Other Current Assets	11,021.21
Total Current Assets	20,665.31
TOTAL ASSETS	20,665.31
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	-2,124.16
Total Equity	20,415.31
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	20,665.31

# 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.

**ON SALE NOW!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**Our Challenge Coin will go on sale at our reunion in Norco, California in October. The cost will be \$25 according to Dave Moncada, our concessions manager; plus \$10 if shipped (\$35).**

## ASSOCIATION CONCESSIONS...

Great Bags for Travel @ \$25



email David "Chief" Moncada at:  
[meganmoncada1@comcast.net](mailto: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](http://www.lrrpranger.org)

Left to right: Billy "Egghead" Martin, Dave "Preacher" Parson, Dave "Chief" Moncada, Dan "Elephant Boy" Linehan, Steve "Tower" Johnson



2016 Reunion in Norco, CA