

PATROLLING

Summer 2025

75th Ranger Regiment Association, INC.

Volume 37 Issue II

CONGRATULATIONS



**Ranger Hall of Fame
Inductees**

★ Robert Foti, Tom Sove, & Al Stewart ★



COLT 01911C RAFFLE

BENEFITING NATIONAL RANGER MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

\$10 per entry **OR** 6 for \$50

RANGERMEMORIAL.ORG/RAFFLE



01911C

NATIONAL RANGER MEMORIAL FOUNDATION



Drawing to be held:
Friday, June 27, 2025
Alan's Armory
4185 US Hwy 27 Cataula, GA 31804

All proceeds benefit the National Ranger Memorial Foundation which is dedicated to its primary objective of preserving and maintaining the National Ranger Memorial, located at Ft. Benning, GA. The Ranger Memorial is a testament to the history and legacy of US Army Rangers-past, present and future. In addition to our main mission, the NRMF also provides college scholarships for Rangers-active duty/retired and their family members.

All State and Federal Laws Apply. Must be 21 to enter.

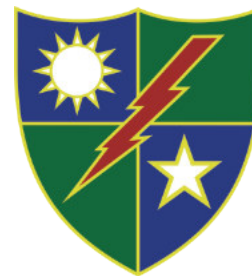


PRESIDENT'S BRIEFING

RICK MERRITT



CMS (retired) Rick Merritt



Gentlemen,

Allow me to introduce myself as your new 75th RRA president.

I am humbled to replace Art "Doc" Attaway after he served as our president for four years. I salute him in his efforts and extend him a much-earned, heart-felt, thank you.

I retired from the U.S. Army in October 2019 after serving 35 1/2 years on active duty. I was honored to have served 25 years in your 75th Ranger Regiment; last serving there as your 14th Regimental Sergeant Major from 2010 until 2012.

Prior to military service I graduated from Shawnee State University near Huntington, West Virginia as a Paramedic/Firefighter. I joined the Army in early 1984 at the ole ripe age of 23.

My wife Elizabeth and I reside in Richmond Hill, GA (near Savannah) and have two children; our son, Lindsey, a senior attending Georgia Southern University and our daughter, Bonnie, a junior at Charleston (South Carolina) Southern University.

I want to lead our association's Rangers and our elected Officers into the future. A priority for me is to continue growing our membership from the Veterans within our 75th Ranger Regiment.

Currently our ranks from WWII, Korea and now even Vietnam are starting to thin... as even most of them are nearing 80 years old!

Secondly, I will continue the pursuit to gain national honors and Army recognition for our Vietnam Ranger Companies.

Last but not least, I will support our Unit Directors in their efforts within our association.

It is an honor and privilege to continue serving our Rangers and their lineage.

Never forget our fallen & their Gold Star Families.

God speed to those serving in harm's way.

75th RRA LEADS THE WAY!

V/R,
Rick Merritt
75th RRA President
Ranger for Life



CHAPLAIN'S PRAYER

RANGER DAN KNIGHT



Greetings Ranger Brothers!,

My name is Dan Knight, and I am pleased to introduce myself as your new 75th RRA Chaplain.

I retired from the Army in 2017. I am a black and tan Ranger—serving the Regiment both before and during the GWOT. My 30+ years of Army service were spent in a variety of Airborne, Ranger and Special Operations units, including time in 3/75, 2/75, and the Regimental Headquarters. I completed combat assignments as an Army Chaplain in both the 82nd Airborne Division and 1st Special Forces Group.

I completed 11 combat deployments and was twice combat wounded, so I am familiar with many of the physical, emotional, and spiritual wounds faced by many in our Ranger Community.

I enjoy spending time on my small farm in Mississippi with my wife of 37 years Gaye. We have three kids (4 with a son-in-law), and three grandkids. I also serve as an Associate Pastor at Star Baptist Church where I often lead short-term groups of Christian missionaries on overseas missions.



I had seen the 75th RRA chaplain position empty for a long time. I thought about it a lot and began to pray about, then one day as I was reading my Bible, I came across Isaiah 6:8 that says, *"And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' Then I said, 'Here I am! Send me.'"* I knew Rick Merritt was soon to become our new Association President, so I called him and offered my services. In true Rick Merritt fashion, he replied, "Welcome aboard Chaplain!"

My goals as the Association Chaplain nests well with those of our new President—to lead us into the future, continue to grow our Association' membership, all the while, helping us all to remember to live the Creed and to keep ourselves "mentally alert, physically strong, and morally straight."

I covenant to meet the spiritual needs of our association and our Gold Star Families. It is a blessing to be counted among your ranks, and I look forward to supporting the 75th RRA.

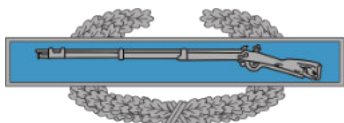


Chaplain Dan Knight @ the 2025 75th RRA Reunion in Savannah GA

RLTW!

Dan Knight
75th RRA Chaplain





WHO WE ARE :

The 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc., is a registered 501©19 corporation, registered in the state of Georgia. We were founded in 1986 by a group of veterans of F Co 58th, (LRP) and L Co 75 (Ranger) Inf. The first meeting was held on June 7, 1986, at Ft. Campbell, KY.

WHAT WE DO:

The 75th Ranger Regiment Association participants in a variety of events that support our members and the active duty regiment. Each event is reviewed by the Board of Officers for merit and how it will promote the Association. Our current projects include; awarding scholarships (to qualified individuals) through our coordination and with the support of the National Ranger Memorial Scholarship Foundation. We also provide support to the Best Ranger Competition and any other events the officers regard as beneficial to the association ethos.

We hold biennial reunions (in conjunction with the 75th Ranger Regiment Rendezvous) and business meetings. The association officers (President, 1st & 2nd Vice Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer), are elected at the biennial association business meeting. This reunion is held at Columbus/Fort Moore, GA Subordinate units hold off-year reunions at various locations across the United States per their unit schedule.

OUR MISSION:

1. To identify and offer membership to all eligible members of the 75th Infantry Rangers and those who served in the Long-Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) Companies, Long-Range Patrol (LRP) Companies and Detachments, Vietnamese Ranger.
2. Advisors of the Biet Dong Quan (BDQ). Also eligible are those members of LRSU units that trace their lineage to Long Range Patrol Companies that were attached to Brigade or larger units during the Vietnam War and the members of the 75th Ranger Regiment.
3. To sustain the Association. To promote and establish fellowship of the Special Operations ranger community by recruitment and encouragement of active duty and recently separated Rangers to become members.
4. To assist, when possible, those active units and their members who bear the colors and lineage of the 5307th Composite Provisional Unit (CPU), 475th Infantry Regiment, 75th Infantry (Ranger) Companies (Merrill's Marauders), 1st and 2nd Battalions (Ranger) 75th Infantry, the 75th Ranger Regiment, consisting of Regimental Headquarters 1st, 2nd, 3rd, STB, and MIB Ranger Battalions, successor units, or any additions that are activated and assigned to the 75th Ranger Regiment.

Who is Eligible

75th Ranger Regiment

1st Battalion (RANGER) 75th Inf., activated in 1974
 2nd Battalion (RANGER) 75th Inf., activated in 1974
 3rd Battalion (RANGER) 75th Inf., activated in 1984
 75th Ranger Regiment HQ Company, activated in 1984
 75th Ranger Regiment, designated in 1986, and all subordinate, assigned and attached units
 75th Ranger Special Troops Battalion, activated in 2007
 75th Ranger Military Intelligence Battalion, activated in 2017

Long Range Patrol

Co D (LRP) 17th Inf.
 Co E (LRP) 20th Inf.
 Co E (LRP) 30th Inf.
 Co E (LRP) 50th Inf.
 Co F (LRP) 50th Inf.
 Co E (LRP) 51st Inf.
 Co F (LRP) 51st Inf.
 Co E (LRP) 52nd Inf.
 Co F (LRP) 52nd Inf.
 Co C (LRP) 58th Infantry
 Co E (LRP) 58th Infantry
 Co F (LRP) 58th Infantry
 70th Infantry DET (LRP)
 71st Infantry DET (LRP)
 74th Infantry DET (LRP)
 78th Infantry DET (LRP)
 79th Infantry DET (LRP)
 Co. D (LRP) 151st Infantry

Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol

V Corp (LRRP)
 VII Corp (LRRP)
 9th Inf. Div (LRRP)
 25th Inf. Div (LRRP)
 196th Inf. Bde. (LRRP)
 1st Cav Div. (LRRP)
 1st Inf. Div. (LRRP)
 4th Inf. Div. (LRRP)
 101st Abn. Div. 1st Bde. (LRRP)
 199th Inf. Bde. (LRRP)
 173rd Abn. Bde. (LRRP)
 3rd Inf. Div. (LRRP)

Vietnamese Ranger Advisors BDQ

All units of the Biet Dong Quan (BDQ)

Long Range Surveillance:

Any Long Range Surveillance Company or Detachment that can trace its lineage to, or is currently assigned to a Brigade or larger element, that was deployed to Vietnam as listed in section 2, 3, or 4.

75th Infantry Ranger Companies

Co A (RANGER) 75th Inf.
 Co B (RANGER) 75th Inf.
 Co C (RANGER) 75th Inf.
 Co D (RANGER) 75th Inf.
 Co E (RANGER) 75th Inf.
 Co F (RANGER) 75th Inf.
 Co G (RANGER) 75th Inf.
 Co H (RANGER) 75th Inf.
 Co I (RANGER) 75th Inf.
 Co K (RANGER) 75th Inf.
 Co L (RANGER) 75th Inf.
 Co M (RANGER) 75th Inf.
 Co N (RANGER) 75th Inf.
 Co O (RANGER) 75th Inf.
 Co P (RANGER) 75th Inf.
 Co D (RANGER) 151st Inf.

Presidents

1986 - 1988..... Bob Gilbert
 1988 - 1990..... Billy Nix
 1990 - 1992..... Bob Gilbert
 1992 - Roy Nelson (resigned)
 Milton Lockett (resigned)
 1994..... Duke Dushane (selected by Directors)
 1994 - 1996..... Roy Barley
 1996 - 1998..... Rick Ehrler
 1998 - 2000..... Terry Roderick
 2000 - 2002..... Emmett Hiltibrand
 2002 - 2004..... Dana McGrath
 2004 - 2005..... Emmett Hiltibrand
 2005 - 2007..... Stephen Crabtree
 2007 - 2009..... William Bullen
 2009 - 2011..... John Chester
 2011 - 2013..... Joe Little
 2013 - 2015..... Bill Anton
 2015 - 2019..... Richard Barela
 2019 - 2021..... Stephen Johnson
 2021 - 2025..... Art "Doc" Attaway
 2025 - Present..... Rick Merritt



From the Editor

Rangers,

My name is Samuel, and I have been afforded the privilege of looking after Patrolling Magazine. As I assume the responsibilities of Editor I am supported by the Officers, Unit Directors, Advocates, Gold Star family members and Volunteers who make this publication a reality. Patrolling would not exist without these Patriots' time and effort - they have my respect and appreciation!

Special recognition and thanks go to Ranger Stephen Odin Johnson who looked after these pages from 2017, but that's not all he has done – he served the 75th Ranger Regiment Association as the 1st Vice President from 2017 to 2019, and the President from 2019 to 2021 - I'm sure I'm only scratching the surface. He has given much to our Ranger community and continues to do so as he helps get me up to speed. Thank you Ranger Johnson!

With any change of editors will follow other changes, and I have no doubt you have already noticed some. My goal is to build upon the outstanding foundations built by this publication's previous editors. Rangers such as Jim England, Roy Boatman, John Chester, Stephen Johnson and others. My intentions are always towards excellence!

I chose to delay the release of this issue for various reasons. Primarily, I wanted to produce the highest quality publication for you, and this delay has allowed me to add polish, several articles and messages from new leadership which I feel was worth the wait.

What follows is a brief history of your new editor:

I served in 1/75 until late 1999 when I was medically boarded after a bad jump. I later earned a BA in philosophy from San Francisco State University, (I know, I know) and continued to graduate school in the same field. When I left academia, I quickly realized I should have studied something more practical. I proceeded to follow a rather eclectic professional path that led me through freelance journalism to writing in the video game industry, real estate and working in government, I even spent some time brewing beer and baking believe it or not. I now spend my time writing, scuba diving and with my family. I have moved house almost as eclectically as I have professions having called Wyoming, Northern California, Southern California (yes there's a difference), Massachusetts, Connecticut, Georgia, Oregon, Montana, England and France home. I currently hang my hat in the State of Washington about an hour's drive from 2/75 – for how long is anyone's guess, but I'm hoping for at least 9 years here in the Pacific North West...

Finally, and forgive the hyperbole, I will leave you with this thought – Our brotherhood is potent: It spans generations, endures peacetime and wins wars, it braces us when we are low and celebrates our triumphs. Reach out to a Ranger brother for we are few and ours is Legend!

Rangers Lead the Way!

- Samuel H. Chartier



FNG Editor, Death Valley California, 2022

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The opinions expressed by the Officers, Unit Directors, Editor and other writers are entirely their own and are not to be considered an official expression or position of the Association.

Advertisements for products or services do not constitute an endorsement by the Association. Manuscripts, photographs, and drawings are submitted at the risk of the individual submitting the material. Captions must be submitted with any photographs or graphics.

The Officers and the Editor reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity and space constraints. Every precaution will be taken to preserve the intent and scope of the author. The Officers and Editor reserve the right to refuse any submission that is in bad taste, offensive, or discredits unnecessarily an individual or group.

Deadlines are the 7th of February, May, August, and November for the four yearly issues of March, June, September, and December respectively. POSTMASTER Send address corrections to:

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OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ART "DOC" ATTAWAY



Ranger Attaway



Rangers,

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as part of the leadership of this organization of Warriors-Rangers-Men, which makes it an extraordinary organization in its own right.

It has been a rewarding 4 years as the President, and I have enjoyed it immensely. I had many initiatives I had hoped to accomplish. All were started, many finished, and some I will be still helping move forward.

One major goal was to position the association to move into the future and still be viable in 15 years. I had no idea how I was going to accomplish that, and then God blessed us with Rick Merritt. Rick has been instrumental in achieving this initial goal and is committed to it in the future.

I want to thank Tom Sove and Roger Crunk, who were initially tentative about me as President, but along the way provided their maximum support to me, but more importantly to the association they both love.

As VP's, Rick Merritt and Kurt Buchta were strong supporters, leaders, and sometimes the Devil's Advocates. That is what makes for a strong leadership team. They will now be leading the organization through the next few years and into the future.

Thanks to the UD's for keeping your units fit and ready, and contributing valuable input into the direction and needs of the association. Your input on our quarterly meetings was always insightful.



Art 'Doc' Attaway

Too much to say and not enough space! I will close by saying that I cannot imagine anyone better and more capable of leading the association than Rick Merritt, and I know the next years will be something to watch! Rick is a Warrior, a Ranger, and a leader of extraordinary character and experience.

Rangers Lead The Way!



Doc and Mrs. Attaway



TREASURER'S REPORT

RANGER ROGER CRUNK



Notice

Joe Posato was elected Treasurer of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association replacing Roger Crunk who chose not to stand for reelection after serving our association for 14 years as Treasurer.

Ranger Posato assumed all roles and responsibilities of Treasurer at the Biannual Reunion in Savannah Georgia in May of 2025.

Thank you Ranger Roger Crunk for the many years of service and time you volunteered as our Treasurer - and for the time you continue to give as the Unit Director for K/75th - E/58th LRP - 4th Division LRRP!

Rangers Lead the Way!

75th Ranger Regiment Association

Statement of Financial Position

As of April 30, 2025

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
1000 Affinity / Operations	7,471.96
Paypal legacy Transfer	0.00
Total 1000 Affinity / Operations	7,471.96
1002 Affinity / Family fund	10,961.79
1030 Affinity / Savings	154,839.63
1040 Benevolent funds MM	43,903.61
1041 Legacy funds MM	0.00
1042 Life funds MM	18,263.53
1050 Paypal funds	7,523.28
Total Bank Accounts	\$242,963.80
Total Current Assets	\$242,963.80
TOTAL ASSETS	\$242,963.80
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Total Liabilities	
Equity	
3000 Net Assets - Unrestricted	280,667.27
Net Revenue	-37,703.47
Total Equity	\$242,963.80
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$242,963.80



TREASURER'S REPORT

RANGER ROGER CRUNK

continued

75th Ranger Regiment Association

Statement of Activity

April 2025

	TOTAL
Revenue	
4000 Program income - DNP	
4002 Membership dues	280.00
4006 Reunion income	3,191.20
4015 Quartermaster sales	249.02
RifleRaffle	1,251.36
Total 4000 Program income - DNP	4,971.58
4900 Interest income	139.90
Total Revenue	\$5,111.48
GROSS PROFIT	\$5,111.48
Expenditures	
6000 Program expenses - DNP	
6002 Cash awards & grants - Battalions	2,500.00
6020 Website maintenance	300.00
6025 Intuit Subscription	
6027 Quickbooks Online	65.00
Total 6025 Intuit Subscription	65.00
Ballot Tabulation	99.00
Google Suites	64.80
Ranger Scholarship Fund	1,000.00
RRA Promotion	3,750.00
Shopify Account Subscription	39.00
Website Subscription	50.00
Total 6000 Program expenses - DNP	7,867.80
6100 Patrolling expense - DNP	
6102 Patrolling printing	4,182.73
6104 Patrolling postage	1,171.44
6106 Adobe subscription	19.99
Total 6100 Patrolling expense - DNP	5,374.16
6500 Operations - DNP	
6502 Bank and merchant fees	108.80
6540 Postage-Secretary	28.94
Virtual Assistant	1,673.90
Total 6500 Operations - DNP	1,811.64
6560 Uncategorized Expenditure - DNP	
Treasurers computer security	119.99
Total 6560 Uncategorized Expenditure - DNP	119.99
Total Expenditures	\$15,173.59
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$ -10,062.11
NET REVENUE	\$ -10,062.11



1st BATTALION, 75th RANGER REGIMENT

UNIT DIRECTOR - RICK MERRITT



Hey Ranger Buddies,

We are gearing up for another 10-month long costal Georgia heatwave here in Savannah. The boys of summer will be flocking to Tybee Island chasing all the college girls & tourists! We always enjoyed our water jumps, PT sessions and Company BBQs along the pier...well 1st even issued me a wife while serving here!

Our honeymoon was blissful... literally, at Fort Bliss, TX for the Sergeants Major Academy where my son Feedtray was born just as we headed to 3/75.

In a few days we kick off our annual reunion, being held this year here in Savannah and at the HAAF/1/75 Compound. It kicks off a few days after

the due date of this article. Legendary CSM (R) Don Purdy, a Veteran of Savannah's Imperial 1st Ranger Battalion is our keynote speaker for our banquet. Thanks in advance Don! It is being held ICW our battalion annual Memorial Day Ceremony for all our fallen since WWII and the bracelet ceremony for our KIA & KIT since our reactivation in 1974.

As well, we are joined by the A Company annual reunion/MSG Andy Fernandez Memorial events too. (KIA Iraq 2003 with CAG). More stories and photos of the reunion week will be published in our next article.

As I perhaps become the President of our 75th RRA in a few days (I think I might get a few votes as no one is running against me:) I would like to thank our current President, Art "Doc" Attaway for his dedicated leadership for the last four years. I have asked him to stay aboard as one of our Board of Advisors with Past President, Rick Berera.

With my new duties coming, former 1/75 CSM (R) James Spencer has volunteered to replace me as your new Unit Director. He is no stranger to danger nor the 1st Batt as he spent many years in combat within the Regiment during the GWOT & now lives locally with his Family.

His duties will become official on 22 MAY 25 after our reunion. I know James very well as we served and fought alongside each other for two decades; he is an excellent choice. I prefer to surround myself with folks better than I and with James replacing me I see I am still doing just that.

Thanks James!!! YOU ARE THE EPITOME OF A RANGER FOR LIFE.

As y'all may already know we lost a legend...RSM & former 1st Batt CSM Walter "Wally" Rakow. I know we already shared his bio & obituary within our association but wanted to let ya know his Regiment buried him last weekend in Wisconsin. Rest in eternal peace RSM and our heartfelt condolences goes to his Family.

Now over to the our active duty Rangers staying busy keeping us safe as they quietly deploy in harm's way and stand ready. Enjoy the following story lines and photos of their busy last quarter.

HHC CoC

HHC held its Change of Command Ceremony for outgoing Commander, CPT Ky Schmidt, and incoming Commander, CPT Mark Hanna on 17 March at Forsyth Park. The Company farewelled CPT Schmidt and thanked him for his leadership, expertise and commitment to the Rangers of HHC. The ceremony took place before the St Patrick's Day Parade.



HHC conducts Change of Command Ceremony

C-47 Jump

In preparation for the D-Day Anniversary in Normandy, members of 1/75 participated in a C-47 Airborne Operation at Fort Benning, GA. This was a great opportunity for jumpers and jumpmasters to familiarize themselves with a unique airframe and pay homage to their Airborne heritage.



1/75 Rangers prior to jumping the C-47



1st BATTALION, 75th RANGER REGIMENT

UNIT DIRECTOR - RICK MERRITT

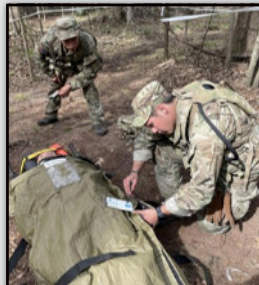
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E2B: From 03-14 March, 308 Rangers across the Battalion executed train-up and testing to earn the Expert Infantryman's Badge and Expert Soldier Badge. Of the 308 Rangers who began testing, 211 earned their EIBs and 63 earned their ESBs. During the award ceremony the command team



Rangers attach CLUs to their Javelins

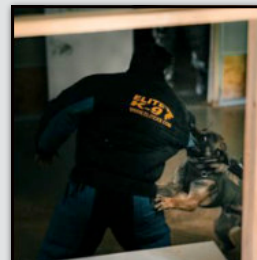
recognized the 174 "True Blue" Rangers and 46 "Perfect Edge" Rangers for passing all testable events with a first-time go. Additionally, 1/75 hosted personnel from 31D and the Warrior Training Center, resulting in 26 Soldiers earning their EIBs and ESBs.



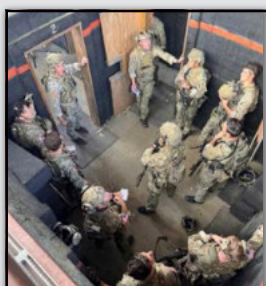
Candidates conduct medical lanes

Dense Urban Terrain

Bravo Company conducted day-time training and night-time Full Mission Profiles at Guardian Center. Bravo Company tested and practiced non-standard INFILs, UGF clearance, CQB techniques, wall and door breaching, and integrating enablers such as K-9 and sUAS at Guardian Center.



K-9 on bite of TI

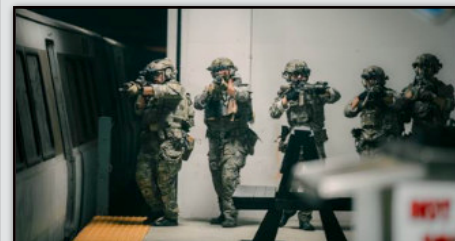


Rangers conduct an AAR during BD6 LFX at the CQB Shoothouse

BD6 Live-Fire



Rangers executing training at the machine gun range



Clearing a subway tunnel during INFIL for a Company Raid at Guardian Center.

BN Machine Gun Battle Rattle

1/75 executed a BN-wide MG Battle Rattle for all Weapon Squads. Weapon Squads shot over 40,000 rounds and tested mentally and physically.



Written testing



Marksmanship training

HHC MED SECTION RMAV

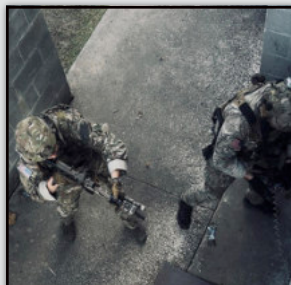
1/75 medical section conducted Ranger Medic Assessment and Validation 06-16 January 2025 at HAAF. Over a two week duration, medics from 1st Ranger BN and the SOCOM community were assessed and validated on the knowledge base, scope, and practice expected from a Special Operations Combat medic. Students conducted two days of didactic classes followed by cadaver labs and hands on trauma lanes. Week 2 consisted of Tactical Combat Casualty Care lanes where medics were faced with stress induced medical lanes requiring them to identify and treat a myriad of wounds and provide lifesaving interventions. To end the week, medics had the opportunity to work alongside a platoon from A,B,C, and D Co for a culminating MASCAL exercise. The medics



were tasked with providing point of injury (POI) care under the instruction of their senior medics and a multitude of casualties and wound patterns. With the help of each company, senior leaders and medics created a CCP and evacuation teams utilizing a variety of platforms to execute CASEVAC procedures.

Celiz Training Area

C Company Rangers conduct raid rehearsals





1st BATTALION, 75th RANGER REGIMENT

UNIT DIRECTOR - RICK MERRITT

continued

Best Medic Competition:

SSG Busboom (HHC) and SGT Reichman (B CO) placed 3rd in the prestigious Army Best Medic Competition, a rigorous 96-hour event designed to test the physical fitness, medical expertise, and warrior skills of military medics. The competition included challenging components such as the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT), a 16-mile ruck march, stress shoot, land navigation, and Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) / Preventive Combat Care (PCC) lanes. Demonstrating exceptional skill and determination, they finished 3rd overall, proudly representing 1st Ranger Battalion and the 75th Ranger Regiment. Their achievement highlights their dedication, resilience, and commitment to the Regiment in the field of Ranger medicine.



SSG Bushboom and SFT Reichman placed 3rd overall at the Army's best medic competition

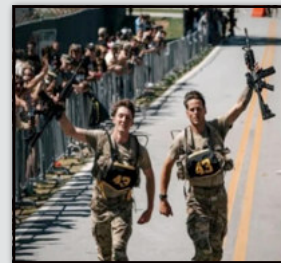
Guardian Center Off Post Training:

Bravo Company practiced operations in dense urban terrain at Guardian Center.

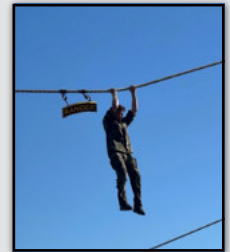


Rangers executing non-standard GAF INFILs

Best Ranger Competition



SGT Schroder (C Co) competing at BRC 25 - finishing 3rd place overall



Jumpmaster MTT



Jumpmaster Class 002-25



SGT Bussamonte represented C Co at the Lacerta Cup at FBGA

St. Patrick's Day Parade: On 17 March, 1st Ranger Battalion took part in the annual St. Patrick's Day parade in downtown Savannah. The Rangers of 1st Battalion represented the 75th Ranger Regiment in a professional and mature manner as they executed the three mile march through the city's historic streets.



Family Retreat

Company Commanders, 1SGs, members of the BN Staff, and Command Group met at the Omni Resort on Hilton Head Island, SC to rest and relax focusing on their family's holistic health.



1/75 Ministry team with Rangers

MSG Christopher Decker Freedom Run: Bravo Company partnered with the Georgia Southern University Army ROTC Program and with support from the Sua Sponte Foundation to honor MSG Christopher Decker, a former Ranger who was killed last year in a motorcycle accident, with a 5K/10K race on April 19th. Over 700 runners participated this year, with the proceeds supporting a scholarship fund in MSG Decker's name.



1SG Prince (right) placed 3rd overall in the 5K (18:35)





3rd BATTALION 75th RANGER REGIMENT

UNIT DIRECTOR - KURT BUCHTA



The 40th Anniversary of The 3rd Ranger Battalion and The 75th Ranger Regiment

Following operation “Urgent Fury,” in Grenada, the Department of the Army ordered the activation of the 3rd Battalion. In April 1984, a small cadre arrived at Fort Benning, Ga., to begin the selection process.

Rangers from all over the world were interviewed, selected and moved to Fort Benning. On October 3, 1984 at York Field, Fort Benning, Ga., the Secretary of the Army, the Honorable John O. Marsh, presented the colors and activated the 75th Ranger Regimental Headquarters and 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment.

The activation of the Regimental Headquarters and 3rd Battalion marked the first time since World War II that such a large Ranger force had been activated.

Colonel Wayne A. Downing was selected as the first colonel of the 75th Ranger Regiment. He is technically and officially titled as the third Regimental Commander after ceremonial commanders Robert Rogers and William O. Darby.



A group photo of 3/75 Rangers from 1984-Current taken at the 40 year activation anniversary in 2024.



MAJ Cummins, MAJ(P) Johnston, MAJ(P) Wagner, MAJ(P) Wiseman, MAJ Dailey

Former Ranger Focus - SGM Kannan Merriken

Kanaan Merriken began his military career in 2000 after graduating high school, completing Basic Training, AIT, Airborne School, and the Ranger Indoctrination Program at Fort Benning, Georgia. He was assigned to 2nd Platoon, Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, where he quickly found himself not only on deployment but also participating in the filming of *Black Hawk Down* in Morocco.

Following the attacks of September 11, 2001, Merriken deployed multiple times to Afghanistan and Iraq. During a mission in Iraq on June 26, 2003, his squad was struck by an IED. Despite suffering catastrophic injuries—including penetrating shrapnel wounds to the head, face, neck, and torso—he rendered aid to fellow wounded Rangers before losing consciousness. He underwent emergency brain surgery and was placed on imminent death status. After a prolonged recovery, including a medically induced coma and multiple surgeries, he was medically retired.

Defying expectations, Merriken fought to return to active duty. Just over two years later, after being cleared by Army medical specialists—including the very neurosurgeon who had operated on him—he successfully completed RIP a second time and rejoined the Ranger Regiment. He went on to serve in several elite roles, including as a squad leader in Delta Company 3/75, platoon sergeant in Charlie Company 3/75, and in various training and leadership positions within SURT, RSTC, and RSTB. He later served as the Regimental Master Breacher and was promoted to First Sergeant, leading both Alpha Company, 1-50th Infantry Regiment and HHC 3/75.

In 2011, as a Staff Sergeant, he competed in and completed the grueling Best Ranger Competition. Over the course of his career, he deployed 14 times with Ranger units and concluded his service as the Proponent Sergeant Major at the Office of the Chief of Infantry.

Sergeant Major Merriken’s story is one of resilience, dedication, and extraordinary service to his fellow Rangers and the U.S. Army.



Current Ranger Focus: SSG Parker McCray – Testimony of Leadership, Purpose, and Legacy

Staff Sergeant Parker McCray has spent six years with the 3rd Ranger Battalion, serving in both Bravo and Echo Companies. Initially driven by a desire to close with and destroy the enemy, he trained relentlessly for combat, embracing the Ranger Creed and his faith as guiding principles.

After graduating Ranger School, he was reassigned to Echo Company's logistics role—a move that at first felt like a punishment but became the most transformative chapter of his career. Supporting combat operations behind the scenes tested him mentally, spiritually, and emotionally. Though often unseen and under-appreciated, McCray came to understand the vital importance of the sustainment mission.

During this time, he faced his greatest personal failure—an unsuccessful selection attempt—and his greatest success: learning that leadership is not about self, but about service to others. Through these experiences, he shifted his motivation from mission-focused to people-focused, realizing that the highest honor is serving and caring for fellow Rangers, no matter the role.

While reattempting selection, SSG Parker McCray met his wife Kimberly and was introduced to family life, fatherhood, and a new sense of purpose. The leadership lessons he learned in the Ranger Regiment began to inform his parenting—shaping his vision of raising responsible, resilient children with the same values that guide elite soldiers.

This journey led him to serve as an assistant scoutmaster for his son's Boy Scout troop in Columbus, GA. Witnessing the parallels between Scouting and the Ranger Creed, McCray saw a powerful opportunity: to integrate Ranger mentorship into Scouting to help shape the next generation of disciplined, patriotic, and purpose-driven young men.

He encourages fellow Rangers to get involved in their local Scout troops, believing their lived experience and values can spark the kind of cultural transformation America needs. A joint Ranger-Scout event is planned for fall 2025 at Fort Benning.



Bravo Company Bar Renovation Dedication 3 OCT 2024

In the months leading up to the 40th Anniversary, Tara Harris—daughter of 1SG Glenn Harris and an interior designer—renovated the Bravo Company (B co) bar with the help of current B co Rangers. The updated space now serves as a place for Rangers to gather, remember the fallen, and reflect on their shared history and missions. A memorial and legacy wall preserves and showcases the history of Bravo Company, from Panama to the Global War on Terror.

Originally built by 1SG Harris after returning from the Battle of Mogadishu to support the morale and recovery of his Rangers, the bar has continued to serve its purpose for 30 years. Barely a year after coming home from Somalia, 1SG Harris tragically died in a training accident on December 4, 1994. It was officially dedicated and named the 1SG Glenn Harris B co Bar during the COF Open House.



Mogadishu Mile – Downtown Columbus 9 OCT 2024

Capped off a great week celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the activation of 3rd Ranger Battalion and the Regimental Headquarters by running the Mogadishu Mile in commemoration of the Battle of Mogadishu in 1993. Rangers from across the force, as well as veterans, families, and members of the community, came together to honor the moment the best way Rangers know how ... by doing some tough physical training!

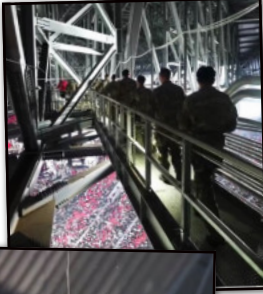




3rd BATTALION 75th RANGER REGIMENT

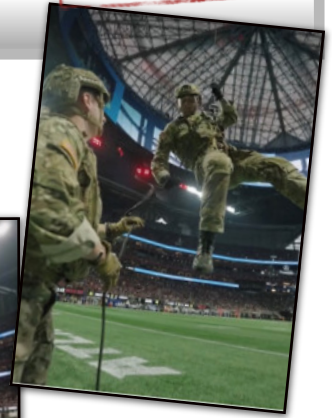
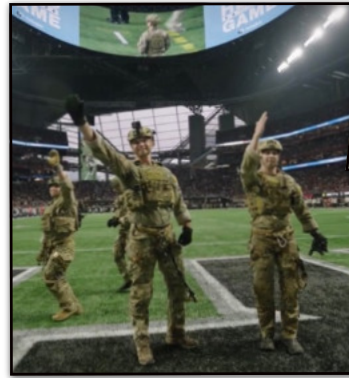
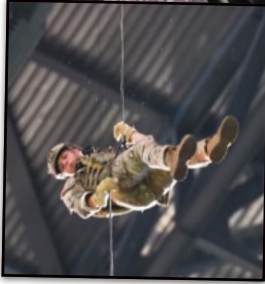
UNIT DIRECTOR - KURT BUCHTA

continued



ATL Falcons vs Dallas Cowboys - Call To Service Game 3 NOV 2024

For the second year in a row 3/75 Rangers descended from the rafters of the Mercedes-Benz stadium before thousands of spectators at the "Call to Service" game, delivering the honorary game ball. The Atlanta Falcons are the first team to dedicate an entire week of activities in honor of the military.



Notes From the Chaplain - SGT Jordan Rogers

Sgt Jordan Rogers, who served five years in the U.S. Army's 75th Ranger Regiment and is transitioning out of the military in November to pursue a career in psychiatry. He shares that he joined the Army to get his college education paid for, initially knowing little about the Rangers but driven by a desire to prove others wrong when told there was only a slim chance he'd be accepted. That motivation led him to make it his mission to join the elite unit. Rogers served in 2nd Platoon, Charlie Company (2C). He credits his military service for building his confidence and shaping him into the man he is today. He recounts the unique experiences and training he received, including weapons

handling, skiing, parachuting, and leadership development.

In his final year, he served as a religious affairs specialist with the unit chaplain, which gave him a deeper appreciation for past Rangers through stories shared by their families. Rogers expresses gratitude for his experiences and the enduring camaraderie with his fellow soldiers, proudly affirming the Ranger motto: "Rangers Lead The Way."

Thank you, Jordan for your service, and for your outreach and continuous support to Gold Star Families.



Change of Responsibility Ceremony 3 OCT 2024

We bid farewell to outgoing CSM Patrick Hartung, who led the battalion to unparalleled excellence, as exemplified by 3/75 winning the Army's Best Squad Competition, Best Mortar Competition, Best Sniper Competition, Soldier of the Year, NCO of the Year, to name just a few accomplishments.

We also want to welcome CSM Brandon Hollingsworth!

October 3rd was also the 31st Anniversary of the Battle of Mogadishu. Veterans of Mogadishu, Grenada, Panama, Iraq and Afghanistan joined the ceremony to share the moment with current Rangers.



CSM Hartung & CSM Hollingsworth



Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Jake Carlisle & CSM Hollingsworth



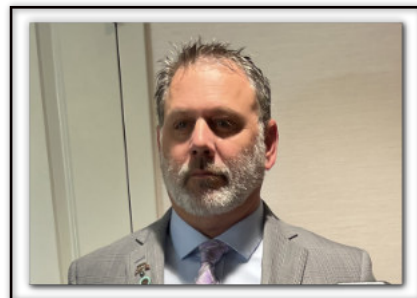
SPECIAL TROOPS BATTALION 75th RANGER REGIMENT

UNIT DIRECTOR - ROB CIACCIO

Ranger Brothers,

serving in the 75th from 1998 - 2014 mostly with 1st and 3rd Battalions with some RHQ time sprinkled in, it has been amazing to see the growth of the organization from additional units such as Eco in each BN, RSTB, RMIB, combined with the expansion of capabilities, and maybe most

important, the selection process which has evolved into what is now called Ranger Assessment and Selection Program. This has transformed the previous Ranger Indoctrination Program (RIP) and Ranger Orientation Program (ROP) into robust selections to ensure the best candidates are assessed and selected as Rangers and Leaders into the unit.



Rob Ciaccio - STB Unit Director

For those of you who may not be familiar with the selection and training process or background of the transformation, enjoy the overview of how the 75th Ranger Regiment continues to uphold the tradition of “Highly Selected and well-trained soldier” ensuring standards are known, met and exceeded everyday by every Ranger.

RASP 1 & RASP 2: The Gateway to the 75th Ranger Regiment – A Detailed Overview

The 75th Ranger Regiment is the U.S. Army's premier light infantry unit, renowned for its rapid deployment capabilities and aggressive special operations missions. Entry into this elite unit requires navigating two distinct, yet equally challenging, selection courses: Ranger Assessment and Selection Program 1 (RASP 1) and Ranger Assessment and Selection Program 2 (RASP 2). These programs are designed to identify individuals who possess the specific attributes – not just the ability to *complete* a physically demanding course, but the *potential* to operate effectively in small teams under extreme stress, and to consistently perform at a high level. Importantly, RASP 1 and RASP 2 are independent selection processes targeting different ranks and leadership roles within the Regiment.

A History Rooted in Refinement & The Role of RSTC

RASP was born out of a need to identify candidates who possessed the specific attributes required for sustained success within the Regiment. The program ensures the Regiment recruits individuals specifically suited for its unique operational demands. Crucial to its success, RASP is administered by the Regimental Selection and Training Company (RSTC) comprised of the best Team Leaders and Squad Leaders from the Regiment's battalions. They are carefully selected by their Command Sergeants Major to serve as cadre at RSTC, bringing a wealth of operational experience to the selection process. These cadre members undergo an onboarding program at The Company to hone their evaluation skills, professional demeanor with candidates, and ensure consistency in standards. This dedication to quality instruction and realistic assessment is a hallmark of the RASP program.

RASP 1: Building the Foundation (E-5 and Below)

RASP 1 is the initial selection process for enlisted personnel (E-5 and below) seeking to join the 75th Ranger Regiment. It's an 8-week Program of Instruction (POI) bisected into two four-week phases. This program is less about creating Rangers and more about identifying those *with the potential* to become Rangers.

Phase 1 (Weeks 1-4): Physicality, Standards, & Teamwork: This initial phase is a relentless assault on physical and mental endurance. Candidates endure daily physical training (PT) including running (often with rucksacks), calisthenics, obstacle courses, and a swimming assessment. Emphasis is placed on upholding rigorous standards in everything they do – from uniform appearance to task completion. While the process is an individual assessment and selection, teamwork and cohesion are paramount. Candidates are constantly observed and evaluated on their ability to work together, support their peers, and maintain a positive attitude under pressure. Failure to meet standards results in immediate repetition until achieved, or self-assessed termination.

Phase 2 (Weeks 5-8): Skill Development & Ranger Fundamentals: The second block builds upon the physical foundation established in Block 1, introducing core Ranger skills. Training includes Special Operations Combatives, honing close-quarters fighting abilities. Marksmanship is refined, focusing on speed and accuracy under stress. Candidates receive introductory demolition training and are introduced to Fast Rope Insertion techniques. Upon completion of RASP 1, graduates possess a base-level understanding of the warrior tasks and drills required to be a Ranger.

Successful completion of RASP 1 signifies that a candidate has demonstrated the initial physical and mental attributes required for service in the 75th Ranger Regiment and is eligible to continue the assessment and selection process we experience daily in the 75th. With their permanently assigned units, these Rangers will continue to refine skills learned in RASP 1 and develop new skills, knowledge, and experience they can apply at Ranger School where they will prove once again that they can “move further, faster, and fight harder than any other Soldier”.



SPECIAL TROOPS BATTALION 75th RANGER REGIMENT

UNIT DIRECTOR - ROB CACCIO

continued

RASP 2: Selecting the Leaders (E-7 and Up)

RASP 2 is a selection process designed to identify and assess potential leaders (E-7 and above) for the 75th Ranger Regiment. Candidates are identified through a screening process conducted by the Regiment's recruiting detachment and Battalion S1 teams. Candidates are then vetted by senior leaders and assigned a RASP 2 class date. Upon arrival candidates are given a series of physical assessments to ensure each potential Ranger Leader meets the high physical standards of the 75th. Candidates are assessed for two weeks in various capacities and oriented to the 75th Ranger Regiment during their third week in attendance. While personnel new to the Regiment gain an understanding through this orientation, Senior NCOs are afforded the opportunity to receive a holistic health assessment to address physical ailments collected through years of punishing adherence to our physical standards.

The core of RASP 2 is a comprehensive assessment conducted by a board comprised of four senior Ranger leaders. Candidates sit before this board and are subjected to a series of probing questions designed to evaluate four key attributes:

- **Character:** Assessing integrity, moral courage, and adherence to the Army Values.
- **Competence:** Evaluating professional knowledge, experience, and demonstrated skills.
- **Commitment:** Determining dedication to the Regiment, its mission, and the well-being of its Soldiers.
- **Leadership:** Assessing the candidate's ability to inspire, motivate, and guide others.

The board interview is an intensive process, requiring candidates to articulate their leadership philosophy, discuss challenging experiences, and demonstrate critical thinking. The board is looking for individuals who possess not only the technical expertise but also the emotional intelligence and ethical grounding necessary to lead Rangers in high-stakes environments. Successful candidates demonstrate a clear understanding of the responsibilities of leadership within the 75th Ranger Regiment and a genuine desire to serve.

Preparing for RASP

Success in RASP, regardless of the program, requires dedicated preparation. Candidates should prioritize building exceptional physical fitness, honing land navigation skills, and developing unwavering mental resilience. Physical prowess alone is not solely sufficient for selection. The ability to remain calm under pressure, work effectively as part of a team, and demonstrate a positive attitude are equally crucial.



75th RANGER MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BATTALION

UNIT DIRECTOR - LEE GARCIA

SSG Bryson and SGT Watking, 12Y Geospatial Engineers, from the MICO/RMIB, won the 2nd Annual Best Mapper Competition. The competition was conducted over the weekend, testing both physical and technical tasks within the Geospatial community. The team was presented the guidon, signifying excellence in their tradecraft (*pictured below*).



A few brave souls joined them for PT and ran the Cardiac Hill and the Downing Mile.



CSM Justin Malone, COL (R)
Brendan Dunne, LTC Ricardo Henry,
MSG (R) Lee Garcia



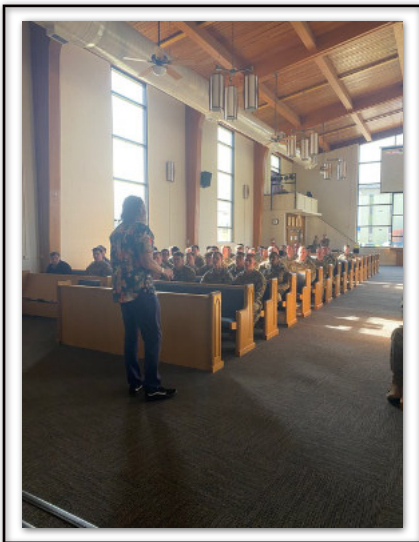
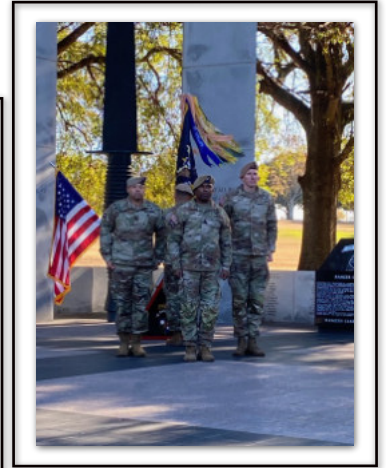
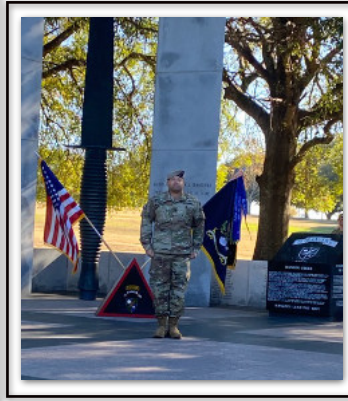
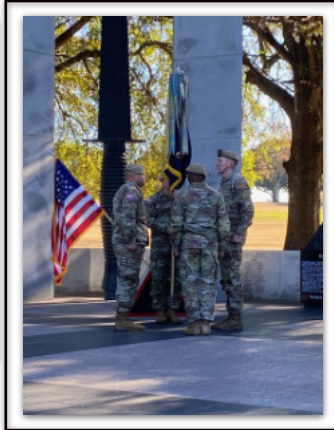
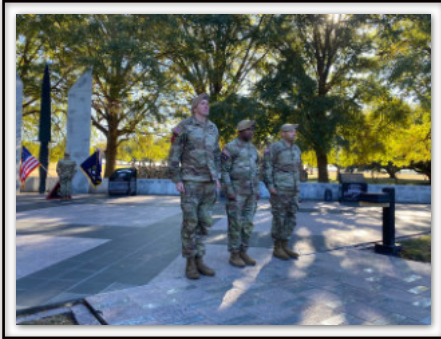


75th RANGER MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BATTALION

UNIT DIRECTOR - LEE GARCIA

continued

On December 6th, 2024 RMIB conducted a Change of Responsibility. CSM Kevin Faust relinquished responsibility to CSM Justin Malone. CSM Faust joined former RMIB Commander COL Ryan Irwin at USASOC as the G2 SGM and COL Ryan serves as the USASOC G2.



Retired MI Officers, Warrant Officers, and NCOs visited with the RMIB during their State of the BN Brief on March 27th, 2025. Members included COL (R) David Morrison (2/75, RS2), COL (R) Brendan Dunne (3/75, RSTB, RS2), CW3 (R) Mario Contreras (1/75, 2/75, RHQ), CW3 (R) Bill Burkett (RHQ, RSTB, RMIB), MSG (R) Lee Garcia (3/75, RSTB, RHQ, RMIB).

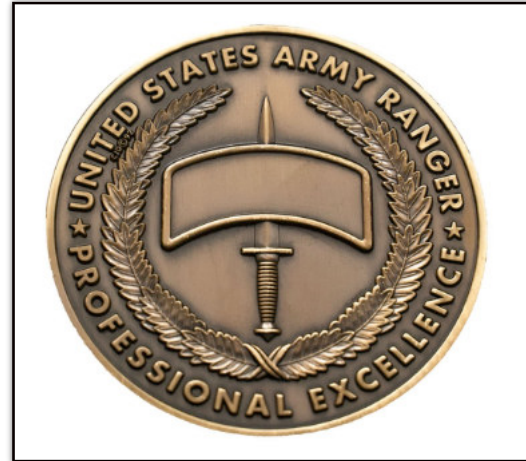
Discussion centered on the current state of intelligence, targeting, and lessons learned from the beginning of the Global War on Terror (GWOT) to the present.



SSG Horning (35G-Imagery Analyst) and SGT Gallant (35F Intelligence Analyst) placed 1st in the Best Intel Competition held in Hawaii. There are 100 candidates from different Intelligence disciplines. SSG Horning and SGT Gallant beat out Officers, Warrant Officers, and NCOs, displaying their technical, tactical, and physical dominance.

RANGER HALL OF FAME - 2025

RANGER RICK BARELA



As you all know, the Ranger Hall of Fame Selection Committee met on Friday 25 April 2025 and selected 15 inductees of the 24 packages that were submitted from across the spectrum of the active service, organizations and Ranger Hall of Fame inductees for the class of 2025.

We were very proud to that all three of the nomination packages we submitted from the 75th Ranger Regiment Association were selected for induction. I am very happy to announce the Ranger Hall of Fame Selection Board selected our 3 individuals for induction into the class of 2025. Please congratulate these fine rangers for this great honor.

Thomas N. Sove of K Co (Ranger) 75th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division

Robert E Foti of N Co (Ranger) 75th Infantry, 173d ABN BDE (SEP)

Alfred C. Stewart, Jr. of Co G (Ranger) 75th Infantry, 196th Infantry Division

Each year the 75th RRA holds an internal board to select the best candidates to submit to the Ranger Hall of Fame and this year was no different. This has been a very incredible honor that all 3 of our submissions were selected for induction into the class of 2025. These 3 were selected due to their dedication, leadership, and lifelong service to the Ranger Ethos and embodies the finest traditions of our Ranger Regiment and the 75th Ranger Regiment Association.

The official induction ceremony will take place on Wednesday, 25 Jun 2025 at 1300 hrs. This will be held at the Maneuver Center of Excellence, formerly known as Building 4, Fort Benning GA. We hope that each unit will have a strong contingent of rangers showing their support and witness the induction ceremony and congratulate the 2025 Ranger Hall of Fame inductees.

As you read in this article, your Unit Directors should be reaching out to the unit members to see who they feel is deserving to have their name submitted for the Ranger Hall of Fame for 2026. As we have done in the past all packages will be submitted to the 75th RRA selection committee. Our board will review and select the 3 best nomination packages to submit to the RHOF board. We look for the best rangers to be inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame each year. They should be exemplary in character during and after their service and have proven themselves in promoting the Ranger Ethos in supporting our organization. Here is the tentative timeline for submission to our internal board for 2026.

Please note that all submissions must be forwarded through your Unit Director. No Direct submissions will be accepted. Please ensure that whoever you nominate meets the requirements as outlined in the RHOF By-Laws dated Nov of 2023 and our association RHOF SOP.

The selected ranger must have served in an LRP/LRRP/Ranger/Ranger Regiment Unit or Long-Range Surveillance Any Long-Range Surveillance Company or Detachment that can trace its' lineage to or is currently assigned to a Brigade or larger element that was deployed to Vietnam in combat or must have successfully graduated from the U.S. Ranger School and must be a member in good standing within our association.

Please see our association website for all details.

RANGER HALL OF FAME 2025

RANGER RICK BARELA

continued

Past Ranger Hall of Fame Inductees

As I do for each issue of *Patrolling I* select 2 past inductees to catch you folks up on those who have been nominated and inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame. I feel this is vital for everyone to understand the quality of those selected to be inducted. Both of these individuals were inducted in 1995.

Command Sergeant Major Michael Martin was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame for his contribution to the United States Army as a courageous and successful Ranger for a period of thirty years, twenty-one of which were volunteered overseas service in Ranger units, Airborne units, and V Corps Long Range Reconnaissance Company. While in Vietnam, he advised the 32nd Vietnamese Ranger Battalion and later volunteered to join the 44th Vietnamese Ranger Battalion, when they sustained heavy advisor casualties. Based on his valor and ranger skills, he was selected to advise a Provincial Reconnaissance Unit (PRU) in Chau Duc Province, covertly organized and secretly operated as part of the Central Intelligence Agency program to infiltrate into Viet Cong controlled territory and to interdict the VC infrastructure. His unit was successful in the Mekong Delta and Martin was decorated by the South Vietnamese government. Returning to CONUS, CSM Martin shared these combat skills as the patrolling NCOIC at the Mountain Ranger Camp, before his selection as one of four original First Sergeants of the 1st Bn (Ranger), 75th Infantry in 1974. Command Sergeant Major Martin's long and distinguished career embodies the Ranger creed and reflects great credit on himself, past and present Ranger units, and the military service.



*Command Sergeant Major
MICHAEL N. MARTIN*

A Ranger from the beginning of his career in 1961, 2LT Stringham was appointed the XO of the 7th Infantry Division Long Range Patrol Detachment in the Republic of Korea on his first assignment after being commissioned from the USMA. 1LT Stringham served in the Republic of Vietnam in 1963-64-65 with Special Forces and in 1967-68 with 31st Infantry as a Company Commander and Battalion S-3. In January 1965, CPT Stringham assumed command of a Special Forces A Detachment Camp at Ben Cat, then under heavy pressure from a large Viet Cong unit. Here CPT Stringham gained his reputation as a combat leader who could and would gain and maintain contact with the enemy. Also during the 1965 offensive, CPT Stringham was directed to gather what remained of his camp's indigenous forces after the operation was neutralized by a major communist attack and form a Chinese mercenary battalion, code name "MIKE FORCE", the first of its kind and the subject of the John Wayne movie, "The Green Berets."

In his third tour, CPT Stringham again served as a Company Commander and Battalion S-3. During the first moments of the Tet Offensive in 1968, C 4/31, under his command, threw back three all out assaults from a North Vietnamese Regiment. His personal example of calm resolve in the face of danger held the unit together, CPT Stringham personally manned one of his company's machine guns while his company successfully held off the assault from the enemy.

From 1975-1979, Major, and then LTC, Stringham commanded three Infantry Battalions, one as a Major, culminating in his assumption of command as the fourth commander of the 1st Ranger Battalion. While he commanded the 1st Ranger Battalion he gained the nickname by his troops of "Smokin' Joe." His tenacity, integrity, lead-from-the-front leadership style and demanding of the highest standards of performance remain a part of the Battalion's fabric today.



*Brigadier General
JOSEPH S. STRINGHAM*

In the decade of the Eighties, COL Stringham would be assigned to yet another combat assignment as Commander of the U.S. Military Group in El Salvador during the critical phase of the insurgency. Under his direction and hands-on style, the Military Group successfully trained and developed the Salvadoran Armed Forces to the point where they created the security climate in which free elections were successfully held. For his service, COL Stringham received El Salvador's highest military decoration for bravery and meritorious service, "The Medal of Gold". After a successful experience in El Salvador, COL Stringham took command as the fourth Colonel of the newly formed 75th Ranger Regiment. Under his guidance the regiment became the mature and recognized organization it is today. COL Stringham remained in the SOF community upon leaving the 75th Ranger Regiment as the DCG of the USASOC, then 1st SOCOM. BG Stringham retired from active duty on November 30, 1992. He holds two DSM's, four LOM's, seven combat decorations for valor to include the silver star and six foreign decorations for meritorious and combat service. He was awarded several foreign parachutist wings from the U.K., RVN, Israel, Canada, Brazil, Mexico, and Panama. His military service brings great credit upon himself, the Special Operations community, and the United States Army.



I/75 - F/52 LRP - 1st DIV LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - DAVID HILL



I Co. Rangers, families and friends had four great "Louisiana Nights" at our May 19-23, 2025 LRP-Ranger Reunion. Hosted by Ranger Harry Suire, his "Ranger Wife", Shyron and their family in Lake Arthur, Louisiana, it was another great reunion and the fourth they have hosted.

As always, their hospitality was awesome and nobody went hungry. Every day was a feast day, topped off by Saturday's 'crawfish boil' when several hundred pounds were cooked in the finest Louisiana tradition.

A special thank you to Joe and Jena Stough, the owners of the huge hunting lodge which they lent us, where most of



our reunion events have been held. *Southern Hospitality* at its finest and most generous!

Another special thanks to some hard-working North Carolinian family and friends of our late Brother, Danny Wiggins: Peggy, Purl, Missy and Charles. They collaborated with Harry, Shyron, and their Louisiana family and friends in cooking up plentiful BBQ, catfish, shrimp, crawfish and many great side dishes.

*"Well you pull down the fiddle,
And you pull down the bow
Kick off your shoes,
And throw 'em on the floor,
Dance in the kitchen till the mornin' light
Louisiana Saturday Night"*



As our ranks have thinned over the years, our reunions have become increasingly comprised of a higher proportion of attendees from our Rangers' extended families, and our "Descendants" group—sons, daughters, grandkids, nephews, nieces and friends. Which is great! We hope they all keep coming, as they honor us with their attendance. Total Ranger and family attendees were thirty-six, but we also had a great many of the Suire's extended family, and their friends and neighbors. We could not have felt more welcome.



I Company Rangers in front of a 'slick' courtesy of LSP



I/75 - F/52 LRP - 1st DIV LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - DAVID HILL

continued



We were very much honored to have with us six Louisiana State Police (LSP) and no; it's not due to anything we "might have done" 55 years ago, for which the MPs always suspected us of doing. We were just "misunderstood".

Capt. Dean LeVergne, Chief Aviator/Pilot for LSP's Aviation Support Division, flew into our reunion in the state's iconic UH1-H *Huey*, it was the last operational *Huey* in the US Army inventory, and was donated to the State of Louisiana for their law enforcement use. Dean is the nephew of Harry and Shyron and flew down from Baton Rouge specifically to meet with us and give us Rangers our first ride in a "slick" since Vietnam.

Dean was the Aircraft Commander, and was accompanied by his Co-Pilot, Lt. Jordan Mayer and crewmen Dennis Pellerin, Lt. Jared Sandifer and Sgt. Scott Grieg, and Trooper 1st Class, Peggy Bourgue. We loaded on his ship, and it was "up, up, and away", over the neighboring rice paddies (how fitting!). It brought back a bunch of memories, as you can imagine. But this time, we were all "strapped in" on seats, instead of sitting in the doorway, feet hanging down, ready to get out on the skids for the insertion. Great fun.



A new slate of unit officers was elected, as we do every two years. They are as follows:

President: Jerry Davis; Vice-President: Dave Flores, Treasurer: Gerald Allday; Secretary: Cheryl Allday; and Unit Director to 75th RRA: Dave Hill.

Chattanooga, Tennessee was unanimously selected to be the city/site of our 2026 1st ID LRP-Ranger Reunion. This great city, situated as it is right on the Tennessee River, has much to offer as a venue, and it will be an exciting time. In addition to being the site of

one of the Civil War's key battles, and the place where the very first Medal of Honor was awarded (Jacob Parrott, 1862), it is also near another one: The Chickamauga Battlefield National Park. It is rich in history and loves and honors American Veterans on a regular basis. It is also home to the "National Medal of Honor Heritage Center", which pays tribute to not only Tennessee's own 34 Medal of Honor Recipients, but to the MOH Recipients of all wars. Included among those so honored with their own MOH Exhibits are Tennesseans Capt. Larry Taylor, Cpl. Desmond Doss {"Hacksaw Ridge"} and Sgt. Alvin York. Adjacent to the city are Ruby Falls, a vast cavern complex, and many other attractions. So, there will be much to do. The Reunion Committee is being headed up by Deb Douglas, supported by Judi McGath, Nancy Bennett and Cheryl Allday.

Dave Hill was born in 1948 in California and worked as a firefighter in the 60s before joining the military as an 11 Bravo. He was assigned to the 41st Inf Plt (Scout Dog), 1st Infantry Div., Phouc Vihn, RVN, F Co./52nd Inf. (LRP), 1st ID, Lai Khe, assigned to LRP Team "Wildcat 2" as the Assistant Team Leader, 5th Bn/6th Inf., 1st Armored Division, Plt. Sgt. He was awarded the Silver Star, Army Commendation Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB). After his military service he earned a BA in Political Science and an MA in International Affairs and worked at the US Commerce Department as an international economist, and as a Logistics Director in the private sector.



The Alamo Scouts

As college student, after my Army service, I had a history professor, Louis Fike, PhD, who taught a detailed class on WWII. He was an excellent teacher and knew more about WWII than anyone I know. We became friends and I discovered that he had a large military patch collection as well as other relics from WWII. A true and dedicated collector considered an expert in his field. He was often called as an expert to verify the authenticity of various items.

One day, Professor Fike called me and was excited about buying an original Alamo Scouts Patch for only \$900. I had never heard of the Alamo Scouts, and I had no idea of a military patch bringing \$900 in the mid-seventies. I learned that only 440 Alamo Scout patches I were made, and I soon became interested in the Alamo Scouts. An original Alamo Scout patch now sells for between \$3500-\$4000.

In the most recent Patrolling Magazine, there was an article about the reenactment of the POW raid on Cabanatuan, one of the most successful raids in US Army history. What was not explained regarding the raid was the fact that a small team, a part of the Alamo Scouts, that we would now identify as a Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol team, did the intel for this Ranger mission.



Original WWII Alamo Scouts Patch



The Alamo Scouts were organized in November 1943 by LT. General Walter Krueger, commander of the Sixth Army to execute long range reconnaissance patrols on Japanese held islands. Taking volunteers and training them in small unit tactical recon missions behind enemy lines, the Alamo Scouts conducted over 100

missions in the Admiralty Islands including New Guinea, Leyte, Luzon. During their two years of operations, the Alamo Scouts never lost a man - killed or captured. The Scouts operated with 10 teams comprised of one officer and five or six enlisted men. Insertion into enemy territory was often done by small rubber rafts and submarines.

If you are interested in learning more about the Alamo Scouts and their teams and tactics, there are several books written regarding their exploits, however I believe the best is *Silent Warriors*, by Lance O. Zedric (other notable books are listed below).

In reading these books, I learned that most of the intel tactics used by Rangers and Special Forces were developed by the Alamo Scouts.

I reached out to the Alamo Scouts through their association many years ago and talked to several of their members in the early 80's. I don't believe any are still living. One of the Scouts team leaders was Bill Littlefield. Bill and I became telephone friends as he was on the west coast and me on the east coast. He worked for 30 years in the Public Defenders office in Van Nuys, California. He took my book to all their reunions to get the signatures of the surviving Alamo Scouts. A great guy and a true hero. And "YES" Bill gave me an original Alamo Scouts Patch!

Great Raid on Cabanatuan, William Breuer

Raid on Cabanatuan, Forrest Bryant Johnson

Shadows in the Jungle, Larry Alexander

Ghost Soldiers, Hampton Sides

Al Stewart attended Basic Training and AIT at Fort Polk, the NCO Academy, Jump School and Ranger School at Fort Benning. He was with Golf Company, attached to the 23rd ID (Americal) operating in both the Chu Lai and DaNang areas. After Vietnam he was stationed at Fort Hood with the Alpha Company Rangers until his service was complete.



F/51 LRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - RICHARD 'DICK' MOYER

TET Offensive 1968

The Men Who Saved Saigon

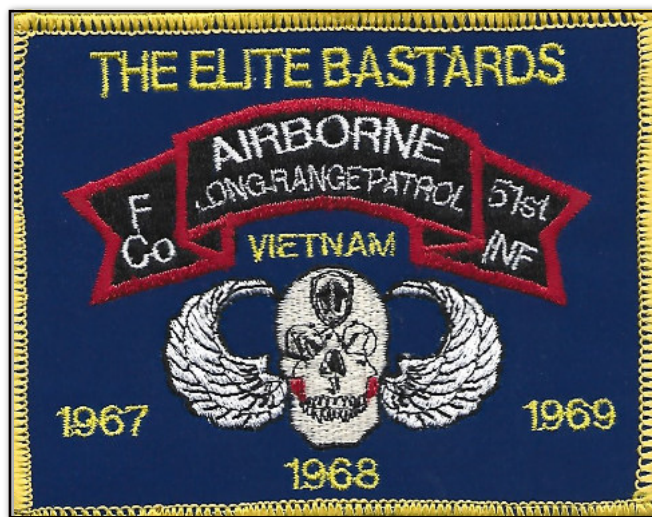
In late September 1967, General William Westmoreland (the commander in charge of the southeast Asian war raging in Vietnam) was receiving pressure from President Lyndon Johnson to show progress in the war. General Westmoreland conducted a joint meeting with members of his high command and discussed ways to be more effective in fighting this new type of warfare. Their conclusion was that they needed to be able to collect more accurate intelligence from the fields of operation. Their decision was to form long range reconnaissance teams to collect this intelligence. Divisions and brigades throughout Vietnam had provisional LRRP units already integrated into their battle plans. General Westmoreland announced that two new LRRP companies composed of 230 personnel would be formed and assigned to 1st and 2nd Field Forces. The two units were officially on the books the day following the Commanders Conference-September 25, 1967. Company E, 20th Infantry (LRP), commanded by Major Danridge M. Malone, in 1st Field Force, and Company F, 51st Infantry (LRP), commanded by Major Williams C. Maus, in 2nd Field Force. These were the first authorized Ranger-type units in the US Army since the Korean War. The teams would be made up from volunteers from airborne units, everyone had to be airborne qualified (paratroopers).

F Company 51st Infantry (Long Range Patrol) Airborne was one of the new units. The teams will be made up of 5 or 6 men for the missions they will be assigned. The main goal of a team is to collect intel while not being detected (see but not be seen). A heavy team will consist of 10 to 12 men with the goal of making contact with the enemy and killing or capturing enemy soldiers. These men will be unpoetically, known as LURPs. They will be heavily camouflaged and will carry enough water and LURP rations (freeze dried food) for 5 or 6 days. They will be carrying all sorts of armament; LAWS (bunker busters), M79 grenade launchers and C4 explosives, det cord, hand grenades, smoke grenades, trip flares, etc. Most men will carry an M16 rifle with ammo. The only exception is that one man will carry the M60 machine gun and 800 rounds. All other team members will carry an additional 100 rounds for the

M60 machine gun. One man will carry the radio and a small back up radio for emergency contact. Each team

member will also carry a survival knife. A typical rucksack will weigh between 60 and 80 pounds. The equipment and armament they carry is to deceive the enemy forces into believing that they are a large force. The teams will be stealthily inserted

into enemy territory by Huey helicopters. They will have exceptional resources to support their missions, on call aircraft for bomb strikes and COBRA helicopters gunships for close in support. Artillery will be used to the maximum, and a light infantry company as a reaction force.



</ picture caption >

During the month of October 1967 F Company 51st Infantry would be built by volunteers. November 1967 the men were sent to the in country RECONDO school, conducted by the Fifth Special Forces Group in Nha Trang. The training would be for three weeks, but due to the urgent need to get the teams into their area of operation, training was stopped after two weeks. The school taught all the aspects of RECON and COMANDO tactics and methods, thus the name RECONDO. The training was done in hostile enemy areas in live action. Basically, if you survived the training, you passed.

The area of operation for F Company would be War Zone D, III Corps Tactical Zone, (the Catcher's Mitt) the eleven provinces surrounding Saigon. F Company started pulling missions in early December 1967 and January 1968 the RECON teams started making contact with hostile forces, several teams



F/51 LRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - RICHARD 'DICK' MOYER

continued

killed and captured enemy soldiers, and lots of intel including all sorts of documents, maps, etc. The timing of all this info was so important that through gleaning all of the material and stealthy sighting of enemy movements had convinced high command of an impending enemy offensive. A 6-man team had been inserted near a village north of the plantation close to the Bien Hoa area. The team watched the first 100+ group of NVA double timing into the village to collect propositioned weapons and munitions. Later that morning, the decimated NVA and VC forces retreated back over the team's position. Two members of our company received the Distinguished Service Cross for their part in the action described above, Lt Col William C. Maus, Commander and Team Leader Sp5 Richard D. Vincent. The TET Offensive lasted about 5 weeks from the early morning on January 31st, 1968, until the first week of March 1968. US and allied forces suffered 1536 killed, 7764 wounded and 11 missing. The South Vietnamese suffered 2788 killed, 8299 wounded and 587 missing in action. The US estimated that the NVA and VC forces lost 37,000 of their forces. A few years ago, Vietnam stated that the number of NVA and VC was over 58,000.

Lieutenant General Fred C. Weyand (Dubbed the Savior of Saigon), used all the information gathered from all of F Company's mission reports to move several battalions and brigades into new positions in anticipation of massive offensive of the Viet Cong and NVA Forces. When the TET Offensive started the United States news media stated that the fighting forces in Vietnam were caught by surprise, this was totally false. Because of the efforts of F Company 51st Infantry (Long Range Patrol) Airborne, pulling these very difficult and dangerous missions, thousands of lives were saved.



The following is a direct quote taken from a memo from Lieutenant General Weyand.

"Company F, 51st Infantry is the finest and most professional long-range reconnaissance force in the United States Army. Its members have killed more of the enemy with fewer losses than any similar unit. More importantly, Company F, 51st Infantry has been the main eyes and ears for II Field Force, Vietnam, and many of the past year's battalion and brigade operations conducted in III Corps Tactical Zone have been based upon information developed by the men of Company F. It is a proud outfit and I am privileged to have it in my command."



Company F, 51st Infantry (Long Range Patrol) Airborne operated from September 1967 until it was deactivated at the end of January 1969. There are lots of stats on this company, but the two most relevant were during this timeframe they lost only 12 men, but also were awarded 139 purple hearts. The first of February 1969 all LRP and LRRP teams would be deactivated, and the men would all be transferred into 75th Ranger Regiment which was reactivated (Merrill's Marauders) of Second World War era. Thus, going forward, we were referred to as LURP-Rangers.



Because of the stealthy insertions and great success deep into hostile territory, the enemy forces were so unnerved and fearful of the LURP's the NVA and VC forces were offered rewards for the killing or capturing of a LURP. The rewards ranged from several thousand US dollars which in 1968 was a small fortune. From 1965 thru 1972 no more than about 3900 men served as LURP-Rangers, of that group 333 gave all. The methods and tactics honed by the LURP-Ranger units of Vietnam have been integrated into all branches of the US military special operations units.

Richard L. Moyer (Dick), From North Las Vegas, Nevada served in F Company 51st Infantry (Long Range Patrol) Airborne Team I-6 Company P 75th Ranger Regiment



F/75-F/50-25th DIV LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - JOHN MCGEE



This article is about Pavers at the Ranger Memorial for Company F members. Ten years ago, when I became Unit Director, I asked the membership at one of our reunions that instead of sending flowers to the families of our fallen brothers that we use the "Flower Fund" to purchase Pavers for the family at the Ranger Memorial. We have been very successful in that regard, but I am sure that we do not have a paver for all our fallen comrades. Tim Walsh has compiled a list of pavers for our unit. Some on the list have purchased pavers before "our time".

We want to know if any of you guys out there know of our guys who have passed and aren't on the list. Please let us know so that we can remedy the situation.

- John McGee

Fidel Joe Aguirre	B 16	Reid E. Grayson	B 58	Leo B. (Ted) Miller	E 44	David A Bujalski	L 35
Jim Anderson	D 63	James M Griffith	A 66/73	Steve Morey	E 56	Steven A. Childers	K 43
James V. Arp Jr.	E 15	Thomas G. Gurrobat	N 43	Kenneth R. Moschke	A 66	John Corley	K 41
Richard C. Babb Jr.	B 62	Cecil Hamm	D 45	William Mrkvicka	A 68	David R. Crocker	K 37
John O. Baughman	C 17	Frank Hamilton	D 8	Larry Neal	A 60	Tran Darrel	O 32
Richard Benner	B 48	Howard B. Handley	B 15	Robert M. Newsom	G 36	Donald H. Dwiggins Jr.	K 41
John Bergman	F 42	Kenneth G. Harjo	B 17	Warren C. Nycum	E 56	Stephen Ehart	D 47
Tom Besser	A 1	Ron (Baby) Hart	J 33	Thomas S. Pease	G 34	Joseph Fitzgerald	B 65
Larry P. Blackman	A 67	Jay Lindy Hickey	M 35	Charles D. Pekny	D 16	Fred Henderson	L 38
Richard E. Booth	G 34	Emmett Hiltibrand	D 46	Morrison L. Pickett	B 15	John E. Kelly Jr.	K 35
Charles T. Boyle	N 38	Marshall C. Huckaby	B 61	Mark Ponzillo	D 26	Harold Kindleberger	L 42
William D. Brantley	F 47	Todd R. Jackson	A 34	Rodney Porter	TBD	James Kotrc	L 39
Robert K. Byrd	H 40	David C. Jacob	E 57	Robert B. Pritchard	B 73	James McDonaugh	L 34
Dennie D. Callahan	E 56	John A. Jakovac	B 59	David R. Regenthal	E 56	Jerry L. McLendon	E 18
James A. Cardin	E 44	Gregory R. Kelly	B 16	Franklin L. Robbins	E 56	Arthur S. Nabben	L 36
John Chester	B 21	James Kivipelto	A 51	Charles R. Rogerson	B 60	Michael L. Nathe	J 36
John R. Collins	E 24	Ken Langland	A 9	Mike Rohly	TBD	Michael G. Parr	J 32
John F. Crikelair	B 10	Robert L. Lawrence	B 58	William D. Round	F 24	William H. Reid	A 63
Elias David	A 9	Milan L. Lee	B 14	Robert W. Sandlin	E 24	Michael Rose	F 42
Donald A. Davis	B 58	Gary L. Lemonds	J 42	Terry Shaunessy	D 44	Riley S. Seau	F 45
Frank D. Dewitt	F 49	Gene E. Lintner	D 63	William D. Scheuerell	B 19/20	Johnathan Shine	L 34
Nick Demongeot	TBD	Joseph C. Little	E 55	William P. Shanaman	C 48	Akos D. Szekeley	L 38
Mack Dennard Jr.	B 13	Clinton L. Lounsbury	E 24	Joseph M. Stevens	G 36/37	Gerald Winch	E 53
Robert C. DeYoung	E 34	Charles D. Macken	B 16	Raymond W. Sullivan	B 19	Carl Winter	TBD
William J. Eberhardt	H 40	Richard O. Martin	A 18	Michael F. Thomas	B 69		
Henry Egelston	I 38	Norberto Matias	E 43	Robert C. Thompson	B 13		
Carl (Cliff?) Ernst	B 65	Donald R. Mayberry	B 12	Arthur Tomaschek	B 12		
Willard R. Ethridge	A 70	Louis P. Mayrand	E 28	Eugene G. Tucker	D 8		
Tom Fevurly	E 28	Gary R. McFall	B 10	Tim Walsh	A 9		
Carl D. Flower	B 57	Brian K. McGar	B 61	Ben Welch	D 8		
Alvin W. Floyd	B 12	John K. McGee	E 59	John H. White Jr.	B 11		
Gene T. Gerner	E 44	Ronnie L. McKinney	H 43	Frank Wilder	B 60		

Last month, I had the pleasure of meeting up with two original LRRPS. Dutchey Lane and Sam Wright - they were celebrating their 77th and 76th Birthdays by attending 'Refresher Jump Training' at X-35 Airborne in Dunnellon Florida.

Once a paratrooper, always a paratrooper!

AIRBORNE!!!



L/75-F/58 LRP-101st LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - CHARLES "CHUCK" REILLY



The reunion of "L" Company Rangers at the Silverton Hotel in Las Vegas last month (April 2025) was a resounding success and I am certain that a good time was had by all---including Elvis. Yes, Elvis was there to entertain one and all and his singing voice was as good as ever. Who would've thought that the King of Rock and Roll could still have the goods at this late date. Our reunion group dinner and gathering on the final night was actually held at the nearby Hyatt Hotel which was within easy walking distance of the Silverton. The Silverton, by the way, is a combination hotel/casino and there were plenty of blackjack tables and slot machines everywhere for anyone of a mind to throw away their money. Luckily for myself, I walked away at the end of our three-day reunion on the plus side. Don't ask me how. The hotel had a slew of restaurants inside that all served excellent food.



Rangerettes with Elvis

Best of all, it had a newly renovated pool on the grounds that was the perfect hangout during afternoons when the sun was at its highest. There was also a hot tub nearby for folks who preferred to just sit and bake. The weather stayed sunny the entire time, so outside activities kept most everyone busy. Of course, there was a reception room for the Rangers and their guests and it was completely stocked with every kind of alcohol known to man and most every brand of beer.



The Rangers and their wives who were in attendance: David "Muldoon" Rothwell and his fiancé Cindy Towne, Bobby Badeaux and his wife Cathy, Chuck Rupe and his wife Kelli, John Perez and his wife Carolyn,



L-R Reunion Group photo

William "Fido" Vodden and his wife Siwi, Wayne Hartman and his wife Melinda, Randy Kirkpatrick and his wife Angel, "Big Al" Parada and his wife Sabrina, Danny Dominguez and his wife Vivian, Jim Kwasniewski and his wife Pauline, Steve Barr and his wife Sherry, Roy Aguerro and his wife Diana, Dave Culp and his wife Roxanne, my wife Ilene and I, retired Lt. Gen. Dave Ohle and his trusted assistant Bob Whaley, Timothy DeBey, Gib Halverson, retired Brigadier General Robert Hipwell and honorary Ranger Fred Behrens. Also on hand for the festivities was former U.S. Marine and combat veteran Mike Carroll who has become a welcome addition to our reunions as he represents a new generation of fighting men. As mentioned earlier, Elvis (real name Les Mager) and his wife Donnis were in attendance as well as Amber Towne, Cindy's daughter, who gave a stirring and emotional speech regarding her heartfelt feelings for the gathered Rangers and their prior service. Handling all the



L/75-F/58 LRP-101st LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - CHARLES "CHUCK" REILLY

continued



L-R "Muldoon" Rothwell, Chuck Reilly,
William "Fido" Vodden
Surviving members of Team 25

photos and video was invited guest Brad Arendt along with his wife Jodi. The final night of the reunion, all the Rangers and their guests gathered at the nearby Hyatt Hotel (about three hundred yards away) for a sumptuous dinner and some lively entertainment. Elvis provided a nice set of his favorite hits and everyone took to the floor and danced the night away. Before Elvis's impromptu set, Fred Behrens gave a nice talk about his Vietnam service and his ordeal on Hill 809. I have included several photos from the reunion for this issue. One photo has three attendees: L-R John Perez, Dave "Muldoon" Rothwell, Jim Kwasniewski. Another photo is the reunion group photo. A third photo shows what's left of our old Ranger Team 25, L-R "Muldoon" Rothwell, myself and William "Fido"

Vodden. There is also a picture of all the Rangerettes with the King of Rock and Roll. Lastly, a photo from General Ohle's late military career where he is in his dress greens with appropriate insignias and awards.

And speaking of General David Ohle, he will be the proud recipient of a special recognition this month (May 20th) as he is being honored at his alma mater West Point in New York as a "Distinguished Graduate." That's saying something since our U.S. military academy at West Point has a long list of graduates who have become nothing less than historical figures like Dwight D. Eisenhower, Omar Bradley, Douglas MacArthur and many others. Ohle graduated from West Point in 1968 and has kept in touch with most of his classmates as well as members of the class of 1969. That's because two of his finest officers during his time in "L" Company were members of that class (Lt. Paul Sawtelle and Lt. James Smith) and were



General David Ohle in Dress Greens with appropriate
insignias and awards

casualties in Vietnam. Those men have previously been honored by their own classmates at ceremonies at the D.C. Vietnam Wall Memorial. As most of you know, General Ohle had a long and distinguished career in the U.S. Army and his active service began with his two tours of duty in Vietnam. He was the recipient of a Silver Star, three Bronze Stars, two Air Medals and a CIB, among other awards. Afterwards, he went up the ladder of success in all his endeavors during his 30 plus years. General Ohle has freely admitted that his time as the commanding officer of "L" Company Rangers had a lot to do with his future promotions and the upswing it gave to his career. The rest of us who were under his command can freely admit that his was an extremely difficult job and was performed under the most trying of circumstances.



L-R John Perez, Dave "Muldoon" Rothwell,
Jim Kwasniewski

The reunion in Las Vegas was mainly put together by Dave "Muldoon" Rothwell and he was ably assisted by "Big Al" Parada, Steve Barr, John Perez and Bobby Badeaux. These gentlemen also happen to be officers in the newly-established "L Company Rangers Fallen Heroes Foundation." This non-profit was organized in January of 2024 under the umbrella of the Community Foundation of Carroll County, Maryland. Al Parada is the founder and current president and treasurer of the Foundation Service Board. Dave Rothwell serves as vice president and Steve Barr, John Perez and Bobby Badeaux are members-at-large. The idea for the foundation began in 2007 during a scheduled fishing trip to Alaska. Our fellow



L/75-F/58 LRP-101st LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - CHARLES "CHUCK" REILLY

continued



Ranger Dale "Pugsley" Hardy did not have the resources at that time to make the trip. Muldoon put out a call for contributions from other Rangers who immediately responded. Due to their generosity, Pugsley was able to make the trip after all. Another Ranger who was a frequent attendee to reunions and other informal gatherings was the late Louis Distretti. When Louis contracted pancreatic cancer and passed away in March of 2022, an informal fund was set up for all Rangers in need of help and assistance. It was named "The Louis Fund." This fund will now help any and all disadvantaged Rangers to attend our reunions as well as assist them in any other specific needs that may arise due to age, health, or other reasons. The core values of the foundation are **LOYALTY** to our Ranger brothers and their families, **BROTHERHOOD** which unites us in our special bond, **SERVICE** to our country, our communities and our brothers who may be in need, and finally **INTEGRITY** as the organization will hold itself to the highest standards of honesty in all its dealings. The web site for the foundation is: LCoRangers.org The foundation is also administering our company web site which will access names, photos and specific missions pertaining to our time in Vietnam. This site address is: RLTW.LCompanyRangers.org The web site is now up-and-running and can be accessed by everyone.

Well, that's it for now. It's been a busy Spring season and I think it's time for my wife and I to go on another vacation. Maybe down to Mexico, or else Hawaii (i.e. Kauai). Europe is out this year. I hear Americans aren't all that popular there right now. I hope all my Ranger and LRRP brothers keep in touch and stay healthy. You know, we're not getting younger.

As always, RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!



D/151st - LRP / LRS

UNIT DIRECTOR - C. LARRY RHODES

MACV Recondo School Nha Trang Vietnam



The school was established by the 5th Special Forces to train American Forces and Vietnam forces. The school was modeled after the 101st Airborne Division training camp at Ft Campbell KY, established in 1958 by General Westmoreland. The primary mission was one of Intelligence and reconnaissance for long range patrolling. It went through several phases of names and training methods along in its seven-year existence, starting in May 1964 and ending in February 1971.

Class sizes varied but generally contained about 60 to 120 students. The Recondo School taught a three-week course in long-range reconnaissance techniques. The course consisted of 260 hours of instruction and was very grueling both physically and mentally. It was open to all free world forces.

Those that graduated were authorized to wear the upside down arrow shaped V Recondo patch on the pocket of their jungle fatigues.

Many LRRP and Ranger units sent men to the school for additional training after serving in company teams for a period. Company D151 Ranger sent 44 men to the school from March to May 1969. Each man was issued a student number. The roster is listed on page

Breakfast Schedules

Southern Indiana Rangers meet the last Friday of each month at the Carousel Restaurant, 5115 Monroe Ave, Evansville IN 47715. Gather time is 9:00 AM CST.

Central Indiana Rangers meet the third Thursday of each month at Lincoln Square Pancake House, 118 W Main St, Greenfield IN 46140. Gather time is 9:00 AM EST.

Company D Ranger 151st Infantry, Recondo School Attendees

Class 15-69		Class 16-69		Class 17-69	
Lewis, Robert L.	1802	Jacobson, Kirk C.	1929	Cates, David M.	1971
Sherwood, Bruce H.	1864	Engi, Dennis	1933	Moore, Leon	1978
Anderson, Max E.	1874	Cravens, Philip G	1934	Miller, Harry P.	1981
Bohanan, James L.	1876	Smith, Charles W	1938	Slabaugh, Michael G.	1993
Drysdale, David W.	1881	Kelle, Lawrence E.	1940	Crawford, Jerome E.	1999
Trepak, Peter	1886	Deaton, David W.	1943	Ramey, Robert W.	2005
Steenberger, Ronald	1887	Geisser, David A.	1945		
Brannenber, Michael W.	1890	Fegatelli, Peter F	1946		
Ellis, Eric T.	1895				
Crownover, Danny	1896	Class 19-69		Class 20-69	
Hall, Terry W.	1898	Faulks, Billy H.	2115	Keith, David J.	2151
Manis, Charles M.	1899	Carey, Marvin E.	2119	Dassel, Daryl W.	2156
Holland, Donnie L.	1905	Wieck, Michael F.	2122	Baranowski, Bishop S.	2163
		Kaiserki, James E.	2130	Robinson, Dwain C	2164
Class 18-69				Seiner, Alan H.	2166
MacDonald, Terry F.	2053			Tichenor, Gary A	2230
Jarvis, Jack B.	2072			Houston, Anthony J.	2238
Mason, John E.	2077			Harris, Gerald R.	2266
Bennett, Bruce R.	2079			Cross, H.C.	2271

RECONDO

Brothers – don't seem to be getting much in the way of stories from the H Company rabble so I'm going to highlight some stories - really from you guys a while back that have been captured in the Historical Occurrences book – Thank you John Lebrun and Bill Carpenter!!!

Wanted to start this article with a tribute to Tony Griffith an H Company Brother that did not make it back.

(Tom Hallwell's 2001 book - MACV Recondo School - can be found and purchased online)

In late May 1969, during the combat operation phase of training, fate went against one of the RT's (Recon Teams) in the field. Sgt E Sinclair was the Special Forces advisor and PFC James C Fenner was the student leader. The other team members were Instructor SP4 Larry Osborne, and students Daryl Dassel of D 151 Rangers, Lance Long and Richard Martin. When the team went into their night position (RON), sometime during the night one of the team members heard a strange noise resulting in a fellow Recondo dropping an armed white phosphorous grenade. The WP grenade exploded and ignited the jungle with burning phosphorous. Team members suffered third-degree burns as they packed their comrades in mud, trying to extinguish the burning phosphorus.

To compound the problem facing the Recondo student team, the cadre team leader, Sgt Sinclair was the one who had dropped the EP grenade. He was severely wounded by the explosion thereby causing much apprehension and near panic among the remaining student team members.

In was dark and the team had made enemy spotting earlier in the day. Most of the team thought the enemy had made contact with them. Abandoning rucksacks and other gear behind, the team made a hasty rush out of the area, while radioing in the clear message, "We are in contact with an unknown enemy force. We have hurt and dying men on the ground. Get us out of here!"

PFC Fenner describes the eeriness of seeing people glow in the dark and of seeing green specks fall off when you walk through the brush, knowing that something, perhaps an ear of eyelid or piece of flesh, is dropping off with it. It took the panicked and suffering team members several hours of movement through very thick vegetation and heavy jungle canopy to get to an area where a Special Forces reaction force would rappel in and hook them up to the STABO rigs for an extraction.

At first light MAJ Morris led a reaction force of Special Forces advisors and troopers of the 550th CIDG Company to recover the wounded Recondo team members. After the Recon team was extracted he sent scouts ahead of his patrol to back track the student Recondo team's movement and recovered their equipment and rucksack's, preventing them from falling into enemy hands. Valuable intelligence could have been obtained from their equipment.

Sgt Sinclair was medevaced to a waiting field hospital and placed on life support equipment to counteract the phosphorus poisoning. He later died of his wounds. PFC Fenner received second degree burns and was shipped to the burn center at 106th General Hospital in Japan. SP4 Osborne's head was fused to his shoulder, and he was sent to ether Walter Reed of Sam Houston. Lance Long was evacuated stateside and after skin grafts was discharged from the Marine Corps.



H/75-E/52 LRP - 1st CAV LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - BENNIE GENTRY

Brothers!

I don't seem to be getting much in the way of stories from the H Company rabble so I'm going to highlight some stories - really from you guys a while back that have been captured in the Historical Occurrences book - Thank you John Lebrun and Bill Carpenter!!!

Wanted to start this article with a tribute to Tony Griffith an H Company Brother that did not make it back.

From the Elizabethton Star, 2 July 2017

Tony Griffith was a Butler (Eastern) Tennessee native, who graduated from Hampton High School with the class of 1967. Tony enlisted in the U.S. Army, and once deployed to Vietnam qualified as a member of H Company, 75th Infantry (Rangers) assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division. A Sergeant, Tony was an infantry team leader. He died from combat injuries in Vietnam Feb. 5, 1969, just days before his 21st birthday. According to reports, Sgt. Tony L. Griffith, of H Co., 75th Infantry (Ranger), on Feb. 5, 1969, led his five-man long-range reconnaissance team through thick fog and dense, short bush between An Loc and the Cambodian border. Hearing wood being chopped not far off a trail they were assigned to surveil, he had his team set an ambush. However, members of the North Vietnamese Army had detected the team. At dawn several enemy soldiers stole through the fog and flung a grenade into the middle of the team, who were spread out on line by the trail in sight of each other. The grenade exploded next to the front scout, Cpl. Richard E. Wilkie, showering him with shrapnel. As the enemy opened fire, the two team members on Wilkie's left fired in the direction of the grenade's blast. Caught in an intense crossfire, Wilkie, a Special Forces veteran, was shot five times - once by the enemy, twice by his team, and twice by bullets that passed through him. Miraculously, he survived. So, too, did the assistant team leader, Lewis D. Davidson, who was hit twice in the leg. Sgt. Griffith's luck, however, ended that morning when he was hit by multiple gunshots to the left chest area. Griffith's body was returned to Carter County, and his remains are interred in the Griffith Cemetery.

RIP Brother

Thank You Spanky Seymour first for your effort in writing "In The Jungle - Camping with the Enemy", but specifically your great take on your introduction to life as a LRRP in Chapter 4. Spanky's experience and explanation of his introduction to the concept of Long Range Reconnaissance Patrolling is a great read and should bring a smile or two.

In the 2nd week of May 1967, not more than four or five days after my request for a tour extension had been submitted for approval through the proper administrative channels, I was called in to the Battalion's HHC orderly room. I figured that there was some paperwork snafu or other issue concerning my extension. My section's Commo sergeant, whom I liked and got along well with was there when I arrived, but he had a strange look on his face - and I knew something was up.

He was holding a handful of papers and told me that I had come down on an internal division levy and was being re-assigned and there was nothing he could do to stop it. I had been assigned to, in my original MOS of O5B to a new unit that he had never heard of before.....the Division was forming a Long -Range Reconnaissance unit and that was to be my new home while I remained in Vietnam.

Although I was a non-combatant, a chaotic bombshell had just been dropped on my regulated little world.





Chapter Four from “In the Jungle – Camping with the Enemy”

Long Range Reconnaissance! I had no idea what that was at the time. And neither did anyone else that I went to seeking any information that I could get. Nobody could offer any help. But simply the name alone was exotic enough to sound romantically exciting and really fired up my imagination....and anyone else that I mentioned it to.

The trouble was, that was all anyone knew. Nobody who worked in the orderly room had ever heard of it, other than the orders received for me, indicating that it was a new provisional unit in the process of being formed and it was located back at An Khe. The unit designation was mysterious enough by itself to cause speculation – HHC, G-2 LRRP Detachment, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). That was a mouthful but here is how it was broken down...

HHC – the main Headquarters and Headquarters CO for the entire division. It was explained to me as similar in function and location as the Oval Office for the U.S. Presidency

G-2, this was the Division's Intelligence Section, impressive enough in itself! As an aside, G-1 would be the Personnel and Administration Section, G-3 would be the Operations Section and G-4 would be the logistics an Supply Section, and if existent G-5 would be Psy-Ops (Psychological Operations). Again, these were the sections (or staff) that functioned directly under the Division Commander, much the same as a Presidential Cabinet, and serving the same purpose – the smooth and orderly running of the Division. In a similar vein, for smaller units like battalions and brigades, these staffs or sections were designated S-1, S-2, S-3 etc. to differentiate them from the larger ones.

LRRP Detachment – intriguing in that it was not a normally designated unit name, such as platoon, company, battalion or regiment. This meant that it was an abnormal unit, of indeterminate size, detached (attached actually) to either the HHC of the Division or the G-2 section. We couldn't tell which from the unit's address as written and that seemed to make it all the more curious and tantalizing to the clerks who were supposed to be able to decipher all of the military lingo and gobbledygook that passed their desks.

And then there was the name of the unit – Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol. I was inundated with everyone's guess as to what this meant. Remember that I was currently in the Division's Engineer Battalion, so all of their suggestions were based on their idea of unusual or irregular combat units. Their guesses alone were enough to scare me, but the name of the unit simply appeared to be self-explanatory, so I took it to mean just what it said. I just did not have any infantry background or combat experience with which to reference it.



Tony Griffi

Regardless, the only option open to me was to prepare for a move in compliance with these new orders. The military regimen made it an easy decision for me, for I could not disobey. I had no idea what I was getting into, but I had been conditioned to prepare myself wholeheartedly for surprises such as this. Besides, it was exciting enough just to wonder why I alone had received the orders and no one else. But then, at the age of 19 years I suppose everyone feels that they are unique and special. And all of the training I had received so far reinforced the belief – at radio school we were smarter than others, at jump school we were more courageous and better disciplined than others were, and here the 1st Cav, our division, was outperforming many others. Just like being on a team in high school athletics, we were better than *them*. (This insidious competitiveness was not apparent, nor even noticed until later in life, as one looked back on

events that one experienced and their impact).



H/75-E/52 LRP - 1st CAV LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - BENNIE GENTRY

continued

In any case, there was going to be a drastic change in my immediate future. But then I had joined the military not really knowing what to expect other than it would be different and more challenging than anything I had been used to. My Adventure (with a capital "A") was definitely continuing and gaining momentum.

So, there was nothing for it but for me to report back to An Khe. It's all fuzzy in my memory as to the exact chain of events that ensued. I don't remember going back whether it was by air or by vehicle, and I certainly don't remember signing out of the 8th Engineer Battalion, even though I had to have done so. And I can't recall just how I got to the LRRP area, but here my memory does kick in.

The LRRP Detachment was sequestered off by itself, seemingly in quarantine, at a place called "LRRP Hill". It wasn't until much later that I was informed that the unit was isolated for training and security purposes; for reasons of instilling and maintaining unit integrity and that the unit's location and even its existence was not to be carelessly broadcast about.

This was off on the far eastern side of Camp Radcliffe, and the company area was on the far side of the hill, effectively shielded from both the view of the curious and from the normal hustle and bustle that was occurring in the steadily improving divisional base camp. Believe it or not, there was even an amphitheater-like stage erected in an open field that was used for touring USO shows. This stage area was on the camp's near side of a large hill, this was LRRP Hill to those of us in the know. Out of sight on the far side of the same hill approachable only by navigating a very steep dirt jeep path (the word road seems inappropriate here) was the quarter's area of this mysterious and reclusive LRRP unit. My first thought was that they apparently liked their privacy.

I do remember my first few minutes, my very first impressions, as this was definitely the strangest image I was ever to receive of any military organization in my life.

As one came up the hill on the only road, the road gradually curved to the left, like a switchback, and continued on just below the military crest of the hill and ridge on the far side. Following the road as it turned had left, one first saw a GP-Medium tent to the right (this was the Medic's tent, both a workplace and his living quarters). Continuing up the road just 75 meters, on the right was a large cleared and graded area where several GP-Large tents were eventually to be erected. There were 5 in use when I reported in – one for the Montagnard's assigned to the unit, two for the LRP's already there, and two for the training class, of which I was to be a part.

To the immediate left, from this spot in the road, was what looked at first glance to be a large unpaved vehicular parking strip. In actuality this was the unit's formation area and where my training class would eventually do their crack-of-dawn morning calisthenics.



Toni Griffi

Still standing in the same reference spot, as you looked past and directly uphill from the formation area, you noticed a couple more GP-Mediums, several Conex containers, and a couple of generators to supply electrical power. This was the unit's orderly room, commo center and officer's area. Standing there holding my duffel bag and gear, looking uphill to the orderly room, is my first recollection of the LRRP unit, and I couldn't help but notice that this road in the making continued up the ridgeline into the trees, and seemed all the more mysterious as there was nothing there, on the back of the hill. A road to who knows where? And I was...?

I went to the one tent that opened onto the road. It had to be an orderly room, as it had a wooden porch facing the unit compound. Besides I could see a desk in it from where I was. As I approached the tent, I couldn't help but notice an older man with a beer-belly, wearing cut off military pants and sandals, along with a bamboo hat, lying in a lawn chair and drinking beer. He flipped his hand casually as I inquired if this was where I reported in to the LRRP detachment.



Now remember, I had just left a unit where discipline had been enforced, and I wasn't to realize just how Mickey-Mouse it was until much later, with more experience behind me. As an example, it was a punishable offense not to be in uniform, such as having your shirtsleeves still rolled up after 6:00 PM. Countermeasures against malarial mosquitos was the official explanation. And here was an older individual, definitely out of uniform and drinking beer right next to an orderly room! What kind of a unit is this? And what about authority...I remember wondering to myself.

As I was doing some kind of paperwork in the orderly room, with an equally improperly dressed company clerk, he informed me that he was a Sgt, E-5 because I could not guess his rank, I hesitatingly asked who the guy was outside the tent, who had waved me in.

"Him? That's the First Sergeant. I see that you've already met him." With that response I just knew that I was in a far different unit and place than I had been accustomed to so far. But then, in May of 1967 I had been in the Army almost 18 months, and the Engineers were the first and only unit that I had been assigned to. Damn - I still had a lot to learn.

The other first impressions that I have of this strange LRRP outfit still brings a grin to my face, but nevertheless it really emphasizes that I did not know what I was getting into, and that shot my personal anxiety quotient up and off the scale.

While I was still signing in at the orderly room. I realized that this outfit was what the name implied; that it was formed specifically to field teams to gather information and hard intelligence, much in the same manner as the old frontier scouts of American Western Lore.

AS I was in the tent, an individual walked by the tent's front and said "Good Morning Top" to the First Sergeant in the lawn chair and kept on going around the tent. Now this guy was big! I was only 5'6" when I stretched and for four years in high school I was the shortest on the football team. Maybe not the lightest, but definitely the shortest. So, I was used to playing with the big boys - but this guy was huge! He was shirtless, was wearing some strange camouflaged cloth pants that I had never seen before and his skin had been darkened by the tropical sun - but he still looked like a hulking gorilla posing as an NFL linebacker, or vice versa to me.

I looked to the clerk and asked him who, or what, that was that just went by...

"Oh, that was SSG Torres - He's our Commo sergeant."

Commo Sergeant! My God! If that's their commo Sergeant, just what in the hell do their field troops look like?

I thought to myself - what am I doing here? And just what am I getting into?

Over the next three days the rest of the training class trickled in from all over the place, it seemed. They came from various units that were scattered all over the First Cav's TAOR. And as they continued to arrive, I began to feel more and more out of place. I was one of only three radio operators in a class of approximately 42...and all of the others were infantry. And to make matters worse, from my perspective at least, they were all experienced infantry, as evidenced by the tales they related as we got to know one another in the tents.

Here I had thought that I had been anxious before, when I first reported into the engineering unit and having to learn a new radio set-up and its procedures. Now I was going through what amounted to a career change, as I realized the exact nature of this new LRRP unit and what my responsibilities would be. I would still be responsible for the radio, as a LRRP team's RTO, but in addition to my basic duties I was expected to be cross-trained in all of the other team members duties and responsibilities. In the back of my mind, I kept thinking of the special Forces brochure's that I had picked up at the Post Office a lifetime ago.

This outfit, The LRRP Detachment, was operating on the same principle - independent and self-supporting 6-man teams with every man able to fill in for another. It was kind of gratifying to realize that I was getting what I had originally wanted in the service, but it sure was a circuitous route I had been given, and I was still coming in through the back door!

ARVN RANGER ADV, BIỆT-ĐÔNG-QUÂN

UNIT DIRECTOR - BILL MILLER



∞ Fellow Rangers and Co Vans

It is with great sadness that I am announcing the passing of another of our great rangers. Major General Edison E. Scholes passed recently and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery in April of this year. I do not have his obituary but I will list what I do know of the General.

MG Scholes had a very distinguished 35 year career serving our country during numerous conflicts and the cold war. After Ranger School in 1961 he served as Executive Officer in the 2n Infantry Division at Fort Benning, GA preparing his unit for deployment to the Cuban and Berlin crises. During 1963-66, he commanded Operational Detachment A Teams in the 10th Special Forces Group, conducting unilateral, joint and combined unconventional warfare operations and training missions in Europe and Middle East. He commanded D,2/8 Cav (Airborne) in Vietnam during 1967-68, and in 1970-71, as a Major, he served as Senior Advisor to the I Corp Ranger Command (ARVN); supporting a Ranger Group and (9) Border Ranger Battalions in combat operations. His awards and decorations include the Combat Infantryman Badge, Vietnamese Ranger Badge, Senior Parachutist Badge, Silver Star, Bronze Star (V)(2), Commendation Medal (V), Purple Heart (2), and Vietnamese Gallantry Cross (Silver and Bronze Stars) during his Vietnam combat service. As a Lt. Col he served as Commander, 1st Battalion 23rd Infantry in Korea during 1976-77. He then returned to Fort Benning to activate the 2nd Training Battalion (IOBC) and spent two years working to totally revamp the Infantry Officer's Basic Course. As a Colonel, he served as Commander, 1st Infantry Training Brigade, and as Chief of Staff/Deputy Commander, Third U.S. Army. As a Brigadier General, he posted to Fort Bragg as Assistant Division Commander, 82nd Airborne Division. His next assignment was Chief of Staff, XVIII Airborne Corps, where he was appointed Chief of Staff, Joint Task Force-South for operation Just Cause, and on 17 December 1989, he led the initial elements of the Corps into Panama for preparation of combat operations. On August 8, 1990, he led the initial forces into Saudi Arabia for the beginning of operation Desert Shield/Storm, and as Deputy Commander of XVIII Airborne Corps for Desert Storm he controlled all Corps Non-divisional units during combat operations. Upon his retirement in 1996, General Scholes became a defense contractor and he has accomplished military work in the U.S., and with U.S. Allies in Saudi Arabia, Peru, Bolivia, Algeria, Jordan, Afghanistan and Iraq.

Major General Ed Scholes traveled extensively nation wide in support of veterans and veterans organizations, and he was active in his local community television, radio and newspapers in support of veterans. In 2007 Major General Edison E. Scholes was elected into the "Ranger Hall of Fame". We will surely miss him. A great soldier and Ranger who exemplified the Ranger Creed.

General News

In late April I traveled to Clemson University for my oldest granddaughter's civil engineering "Concrete Canoe Race". My wife and I stopped in Easley, SC and had lunch with Sam and Fran Conn. Sam was a Ranger Advisor in I Corp back in 1970-71. We enjoyed lunch and caught up on a lot of things. It good to see they were doing well.

On another note I spoke Lt. Col (r) Roy Lombardo and found out that he is recovering from cancer surgery, but is in good spirits and prognosis is good. If you have a chance how about dropping him card.

That's all for now. How about sending some articles or photos!

Biet Dong Quan Sat!

Mu Nau
Bill Miller
Unit Director



E/75-E50 LRP-9th DIV LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - DUANE L. "PONCHO" ALIRE

Gentlemen,

This report contains entries that reach back for a historical perspective of our time in Vietnam. They support our Legacy Project. The first entry was taken from May 1, 1968 edition of the 9th ID newspaper, *The Old Reliable* and the second from the April 30, 1968 official, confidential, now declassified, 9th ID Quarterly Report. These are followed by other entries related to soldiers' lives in the 9th ID and soldiering in the Mekong Delta. It wraps up with an almost verbatim short memoir by Thomas Koontz (1967-1968) of his early days in E50/E75 in 1967.

E50/E75 Reunion Update: The dates for the 2025 E50/E75 Reunion in Nashville are tentatively set for Monday, October 6, 2025 through Saturday, October 11, 2025. It's not too early to begin planning to attend the reunion. The theme for this reunion is Leaving Our Legacy - Honoring Ole Sarge Walden.



Historical Reflection by E50 LRRP, Tom Koontz (Oct 1967-Sep 1968)

wrote: I was born and raised in Rawlins, Wyoming and graduated from Rawlins high school in 1966. In March 1967 I was draft and sent to Fort Bliss, TX for Basic Combat Training. After completing Basic, I was sent to Fort Polk, LA for Advance Individual Training (AIT), and then to Fort Knox, KY for Armored Personnel Carrier (APC) training which was part of the curriculum for units preparing for deployment to Vietnam.

On September 12, 1967 I arrived in Vietnam and was assigned to the 5th /60th (mechanized). Shortly afterwards, I was reassigned to Delta Troop 5th Cav. Long Range Patrol. I arrived at Camp BearCat and checked in with the company clerk. While looking for a bunk to call "home" I ran into Ross Roth, a soldier who I knew from Basic Training. He reassured me that if I had to be in Vietnam, this was the place to be.

I attended the 9th ID LRP academy at BearCat and after three weeks of intense training, I was sent to the MACV Recondo School in Nha Trang. I didn't graduate from Recondo School – I just didn't want to be there – I thought the 9th LRP academy was some of the best training I could get, and in my opinion, better than Recondo School.

Afterwards I was assigned to LRP teams, the numbers of which I do not remember. I began running missions from BearCat for several months and then was sent to Nha Be and ran a mission every 3rd night from the US Navy PBRs. From there, I went back to BearCat and ran more missions.



Tom Koontz present day

In May, 1968 the 9th ID moved from BearCat to Dong Tam where I finished out my time with LRRPs on September 12, 1968. When I returned to the USA, I was assigned Fort Novosel (formerly) Fort Rucker, AL.

After I separated from the army on January 20, 1969, I attended Casper Collage, lived in Rawlins before moving to Las Vegas, NV and then finally to Kingman, AZ in 2020.

I have always said "the time I spent with the LRRPs) was my best time in Vietnam and why I survived my tour of duty. I had the privilege to serve with a great bunch of men. We still get together to celebrate our unit and all who served and remember those who did not come home".



Tom Koontz E50 LRRP 67-68

Tom serves as E50/E75 Treasurer and with his wife, Bev; they contribute time to making quilts for cancer survivors and other volunteer projects. Tom was one of the "originals" who attended the first unit reunion in 1993 in Baltimore, MD.



E/75-E50 LRP-9th DIV LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - DUANE L. "PONCHO" ALIRE

continued

From Poncho's archives

War is Hell

April 1968 official, confidential, (now declassified), 9th ID quarterly report.

1. Development and Maintenance of Morale: (a) Morale continues to be high in all units.
2. Facilities: (a) Swimming Pool - The swimming pool at Dong Tam received direct mortar hits on 7 February 1968, causing extensive damage to the liners. It was repaired and reopened; however, a new liner is on order and should arrive on or about 15 June 1968.
- (b) Craft Shop - The craft shop at Dong Tam was formally opened on 12 February 1968. The shop includes facilities for woodwork, photography development, and a sales outlet. On 18 February 1968, the sales outlet received a direct mortar hit. The damage was not extensive, and the outlet reopened within a few days.
- (c) Golf Course - An 18-hole miniature golf course was erected at Dong Tam Base. Opening day was 5 April 1968.

(d) Library - A 4,000 square foot air conditioned library was opened on 13 February 1968 at Dong Tam Base. On 18 February 1968 it received direct hits from mortar and recoilless rifle fire. The library was repaired and reopened within a few days.

(e) Service Club - The service club at Dong Tam Base received direct hits from mortar fire on 7 February 1968 and 8 February 1968, however, it remained open during repairs.

(f) RFD Hollywood Show - A "Rural Free Delivery" is scheduled for 22 Apr 68.

3. Rest and Recuperation Allocation and Utilization - Monthly Allocation Total Used and % Of Utilization: Feb 1402-1086 = 77.5% / Mar 1299-114 = 83% / Apr 1265-1199 = 95.6%. Percent of utilization was low because of the peak rotation period and the Tet Offensive.

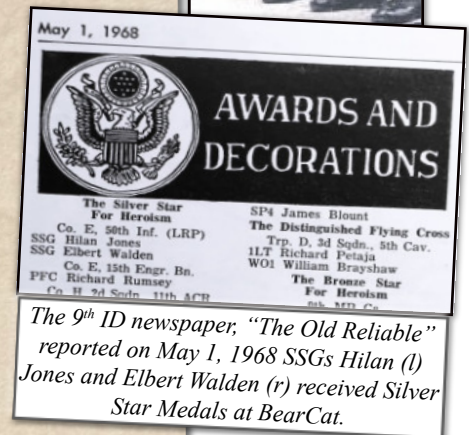
4. Sports. Softball - A new softball field, located at 5th and G streets, BearCat, was completed for the division softball season which began on 15 February 1968 and ended 13 April 1968. Twenty one teams participated in the program with the 709th Maintenance Battalion winning the division championship followed by the 9th Administration Company placing second.

5 Postal Services - During this quarter, mail and financial business of APO 96370 reached its peak and subsequently began to decline for the first time since the arrival of the 9th ID in Vietnam.

Air delivery to Tan An service troops of the 3d Brigade was initiated using Air Force C7A (Caribou) aircraft).

6. Permanent finance unit - A finance unit was established aboard the USS Benewah to service personnel of the Mobile Riverine Force (1.RF). A mobile finance service to other ships of the WF was also initiated. The manning level of the Dong Tam finance unit was increased to cope with the large number of units relocating to that area.

7. Replacement Mail Room - A new AG administration mail room was opened at the Reliable Academy. This is staffed by personnel of APO 96370 and delivers mail daily to incoming replacements. A method of screening incoming and outgoing parcel post for contraband was initiated at APO 96370. This was such a success in the 9th ID that it was soon adopted by USARV as standard operating procedures for all USARV postal units, The 48th Army Postal Unit (APU) arrived and began a period of training under the technical supervision of APO 96370 personnel. The 48th APU, operating APO 96370, will serve non-divisional units assigned to BearCat. The Tet Offensive resulted in a three day curtailment of mail service for the 9th ID. However, through coordinated utilization of available air and ground transportation assets, normal mail service was resumed within the 9th ID prior to most other postal operations in USARV.



The 9th ID newspaper, "The Old Reliable" reported on May 1, 1968 SSGs Hilan (l) Jones and Elbert Walden (r) received Silver Star Medals at BearCat.

Thanks to E50/E75 member Ray Davis (1968-1970) for sharing the web link for the report.



E/75-E50 LRP-9th DIV LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - DUANE L. "PONCHO" ALIRE

continued

8. Reduction of Foot Disease - Observation: The occurrence of foot disease increases sharply after 48 hours of continuous exposure to an inundated environment and the 9th ID TACI remains inundated even in the dry season.

Evaluation: Skin disease of the feet can reduce "paddy strength" of a battalion by 35% after 72 hours of continuous exposure and by 50% after 96 hours.

A drying out period of 24 hours after exposure of 48 hours permits the skin to heal and thus prevents breakdown of the skin and the ultimate condition which follows - infection.

During the dry season most areas of operation continue to be inundated; thus, without the limit of 48 hours to paddy operations, the occurrence of foot disease would be as high as the occurrence in the wet season.

Recommendation: That the command policy of limiting operations in "paddy areas" to 48 hours followed by a 24 hour dry utilization period be used as an important method to prevent disease of the feet. This as a policy should be continued throughout the dry season.

Clinical Research: Observation: Clinical research of dermatologic disease occurring among troops in the field is a valuable tool in discovering new methods of treatment for this disease.

Evaluation: The combat environment in which an infantry division exists is normally thought to prohibit the use of clinical research. However, through the cooperation of the Commanding General, the organic medical personnel and the WRA-IR Research Team, Vietnam, this division has been able to conduct this type of research in the field among combat battalions. The information gained from these clinical studies has contributed to improved treatment methods for several types of dermatologic disease.

Recommendation: That clinical research in a combat environment continues to be utilized as a method of discovering new methods of treatment for the dermatologic disease occurring among the troops in this division.

9. Employment Of Tactical Cover. Deception And Evasion - Insertions of reconnaissance elements.

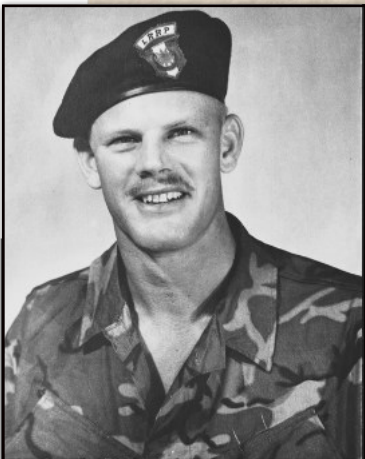
Observation: Insertion of Long Range Patrols without compromise is extremely difficult to effect after friendly units are withdrawn.

Evaluation: The preferred method of covering the insertion of LRPs is the "stay behind technique". When making a late evening airmobile extraction of deployed units, insert a LRP element with one of the final sorties to arrive at the PZ.

LRPs can operate with the deployed unit during the day, pick likely spots for night observation and intelligence gathering, and then remain behind when the conventional unit extracts.

Cover for waterborne insertion is the most difficult to achieve. However, it can be accomplished by using several boats simultaneously, one of which will carry the LRP to be inserted. Each boat may make several landings, but all boats should withdraw and return to their base at approximately the same time.

Recommendation: Careful efforts are made to conceal the insertion of LRPs.



E50 LRRP Greg Foreman 1967-1968

Lest We Forget: I am saddened to report the passing of E50 LRRP Greg Foreman (1967-1968) (WIA 1968) earlier this year. Deputy Unit Director Hernandez reports the following: Greg Forman was laid to rest on March 28, 2025 at the Willamette National Cemetery in Portland Oregon. Greg's wife, Shar, and family, were joined by E50 LRRPs Greg Whitson, his wife Carla, Mattie Mathews, his wife Cathy and Hernandez. After the presentation of the flag, family members spoke of Greg's love of cars, his sense of humor and his love for his family.



P/75-79th LRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - THOMAS A. JONES

Critter Cookout

is always the last weekend of April. On Thursday, April 26.

Tom Jones and Dave Gates traveled to Dahlonga, GA for the anticipated Ranger Critter Cookout and Open House at Camp Frank Merrill.

This is always a weekend to gather with our P Co rangers and other rangers from the past and present.

Tom & Laurel Jones, Dave & Sheryl Gates, Kent and Gary Lynch arrived Thursday evening and went to eat at a favorite restaurant, Shenanigans.

Kent and Gary Lynch are longtime friends of Terry Roderick and family. They have attended for years and are included as part of the P Co extended family. It was a fun night knowing we were there to celebrate our heritage and fellow rangers over the weekend.

Friday afternoon we trekked up the mountain to the camp to meet up with Ted and Cheri Tilson. Skys were gloomy and looked like rain. Young Ranger families were milling around the clubhouse grounds, children on the big swing, running through the training tires, climbing the ropes, playing and running free... having a good time. On the clubhouse porch was the live band that set the mood for a party about to



begin. A welcome announcement and prayer was given for the meal. The line snaked from inside the clubhouse to beyond the fire-pit and into the open area. The cooks worked all day cooking hundreds of catfish, barbecued venison, chicken and pork; smoked turkey, hotdogs, fried chicken and all the fixings. No one left hungry.



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Teddy and Cheri Tilson

P Co reunion at Mountain Harbor Resort in Arkansas, May 1-4.



P/75-79th LRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - THOMAS A. JONES

continued

Rise and shine on Saturday for the Ranger Open House. We popped up our tent and stood up the P Co guidon flag. This day is a fun day of ranger exhibitions that include hand to hand combat, snake show, rappelling demonstrations, ground assault with helicopter insertion /extraction and many more hands-on activities for the public to experience ranger training. This is a great day for us mature rangers to hang out, relax under the tent, share memories and enjoy the bond we have as a rangers. Then... you are caught off guard with for an unexpected bomb explosion that takes you to the ground for the instinctive combat protection.

As the years pass and time distances us from our ranger years, we need to take advantage of this weekend to enjoy our brotherhood and catch up. It's always the last weekend in April. My desire is for more P Co brothers to participate next year. It's low key and inexpensive. Rangers bring children and grandchildren for a ranger experience.

Dave and Sheryl live in the Atlanta area and open their house each year to anyone who needs a place to stay before the weekend and welcomes you to stay Saturday night before returning home. There is a great historical military restaurant they'll take you to Saturday night. Their home is 1hr 20 minutes from Dahlonega, GA. Mark your calendar for next year.

P Co reunion at Mountain Harbor Resort in Arkansas, May 1-4.



Dave Gates and TJ Mt RGR Camp



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Seems like time is passing faster than the stories are coming in. Talked to Mike Theisen and Mike Cantrell and both are doing ok. Theisen is still doing dialysis 3 times a week, which is pretty much consuming his time. Takes a day to recover and then back again. Keep stepping Ranger, we're all pulling for you. Cantrell says Michelle is still on hospice but doing ok, good days and bad, but mostly good. I visited Mark Ross recently. He is where he is, no changes. Pretty much dependent on help with anything. His son Corey, comes by every couple of days and keeps him in Mountain Dew, there were 3 cases in his room when I was there. I took him a bucket KFC's finest original dead bird and that seemed to perk him up a bit. John Mikulak called me and reminded me he still has some A Co. scrolls that he had at the reunion last November left. Anyone wanting some, call John at 972-287-7433. Have not talked to anyone else. I am planning on going to the 75th RRA Reunion May 19-23 @ Ft Stewart. I know Fred Stuckey said he was going.

I don't have any new stories but I don't think I have posted all of Jim Savell's stories so here's another one. Jim was an Instructor at the SF course for several years after A Co. Jim is also a great history resource for Airborne and SF units and info in general. If you have a question about who, what or where in the Airborne community, Jim could probably tell you. Wishing Jim and Connie the best. Do those Buddy Checks, might be just what someone needs at that moment. As always, send me some stories. That's all for now.

- Stan



Earning the Green Beret

Phase 1 Training at Mackall

Moving through the woods we came to a creek. A large tree had fallen across making a log bridge. We filed across. The cadre told us we were on an island & were to secure it. I got out my poncho liner & wrapped up in it. During the next couple hours aggressors probed our perimeter. We would shoot & they would pull back. At daylight we filed back across the log. We carried everything in our rucksacks & wore them throughout training. A very short distance was the training area. At Bragg we had "theory"...now we do practical application. For the next several days classes on map reading, patrolling, survival etc were given. The instructors were without pity & anything less than 100% was punished. At the end of the day, we filed back across the log. Each team had cadre to lead/grade them. Our cadre brought us a bag of rice & raw potatoes & 2 chickens (live). A student was called out & taken off to receive the order. When he returned, he had to organize us. We needed a compass man, pace man, assistant leader, commo man etc. He had to write/give a 5-paragraph field order. We needed to build a sand table. Everyone pitched in. It was dark & we were using red lenses on our flashlights. We then headed out on the patrol. Of course, we were not a smooth machine at first. Returning to the island we had to inspect weapons etc. Guess what, it is almost time to file across the log for training. All day training is over & we file across the log. The cadre call out the next person to lead the patrol. We could build a small fire. One person took several #10 cans & prepared the food while everyone else prepped for the patrol. The patrols got more complex. The cadre had set up a teepee to smoke goat meat. Some genius had eaten some of the meat. To appease the goat's ancestors the class was required to dig a 6' X 6' X 6' hole to bury the remainder of the goat. The last night's patrol was very complex. guess who got the call...

Foreign Weapons

Special forces Training Group had almost all the foreign small arms weapons. I was told we had 57 different foreign weapons in our training, we were required to know how to disassemble & assemble all of them, and we fired the ones we had ammo for. When the basics are understood all weapons function the same. All weapons have 8 cycles of function....uh....sub machine guns only have 6. Sub machine guns fire from an "open bolt"...so they don't have "locking & unlocking". It was a very busy few weeks & there was no room for failure. Your weapon may be broken/out of ammo & you pick up the enemies. I remember my 1st test. I studied all night for it. I knew the weights, muzzle velocity etc. The 1st question was....What is the position of the sear disconnect in the 8 cycles of functioning. Uh....guess what I hadn't studied..... The instructor had taught this but I figured it was for my entertainment. At this point I realized everything taught, I was required to know in detail. The last weapons training was in a few days....

Heavy weapons

In '68 the Special Forces' weapons expert was trained in light, foreign & heavy weapons. The course I attended 1st was heavy weapons & I was awarded the 11C MOS. The mortars were easy....just drop the round into the tube. I never had to use mortars in RVN. The instructors said that there were 2 sounds when the round was a dud & didn't fire....the "clunk" of the round miss firing & the pitter patter of everyone running away. There were no computers to program "fire direction control" (FDC). WE used a handheld plotting board. Putting out aiming stakes in RVN was tricky...the SCU would steal the light on the stake for the battery to play their radios. Recoilless rifles were not modern because most SF camps used the 57 RR. We were on the range firing them one day. I was off the line at the time. I heard a "boom...boom". A round had been fired & just left the barrel when it detonated. Several were hit by shrapnel. There was a "light antitank weapon" (LAW) that we carried. It was a disposable one-shot weapon. It was good for bunkers. I carried a bunch of them when I was working with the Cambodians. There were other things that I can't/don't want to remember. One key to staying alive...."never pick up an equalizer....always pick up a winner".

Phase 1 pass/fail

The final day of training concluded with a goat funeral. The final patrol was very complex. Several teams hitting the target at different places, After the "actions on the objective", was a long march. We had to be at the pickup point at a certain time or walk back to Ft Bragg. Everyone gave what they had left & we made the link up. Getting back to Bragg we cleaned our weapons & turned them in. The cadre called out 13 names....they had passed. Uh....I wasn't one of them. Each person was called into a room. There was a "board" set up for evaluations. I believe there were 3 members. My reason for failure was in my 5 paragraphs field order. It seems I had failed to mention the name of the RTO (person carrying radio). WOW.....this was really picky. I pulled out my "leaders notebook" (green pocket size notebook) & showed them that I had his name written in it & had read the order as written. They conferred a few seconds & I was reinstated to move to next phase. Later that day the class graduates were marched to the parking lot in front of the chapel. The directive to "don Berets" was given. We pulled our Green Berets out of our pockets & switched out our patrolling caps. The Berets only had the SF crest pinned on them. It would be 2 more phases til I sewed on the "full flash".

3rd Phase Team Work

The phase started when the 4 skills (weapons, medical, commo & demo) classes had graduated. We were formed into teams. The Special Forces A team is referred to as an ODA (operational detachment A). Officers & enlisted were separate. All of our classroom instruction was at Ft Bragg on "Smoke bomb Hill". The classroom was a red brick bldg across from the JFKCSW. Later it became the Special Forces museum & gift shop. Our 3 phases of training were geared to get us qualified fast. Everything revolved around your



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continued

role on an ODA. One of the bigger emphases was setting up an A-Camp from scratch. The ID/D (internal defense/development) was critical to establish rapport with the locals. Knowing your job & coexisting with others was constantly emphasized. There wasn't harassment as in Airborne/Ranger school. Most of what I have related was a reinforcement of already know instruction.

Special Forces then & now

SF began in '52 as a force multiplier. Each ODA was assigned a region or country. They researched & trained to infiltrate to overthrow the government etc. Most in the beginning were displaced personnel & actually were from these places. In my time of late '60s, SF was into ID/D (Internal Defense/Development) in Vietnam. There was the 1st, 3rd, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 19th, 20th Special Forces Groups. There were detachments in Cambodia, Thailand, Korea & a few others. We didn't lift weights & run etc. We did rucksack marches & team training on our targeted countries/regions. The U S Government decided to pull out of Vietnam. As the military returned to the U S it was downsized. We didn't need a large military force. S F was to be eliminated. They didn't need our skills. The S F leadership changed our focus to immediate action group thingees. An ODA would be a high speed team using only the team for missions. The higher ups cut S F but it was allowed to exist. Now the training was high speed stuff & only physically fit were on ODAs. Working out in the gym & becoming Rambos was the new norm. Eventually the ID/D & force multiplier training diminished.

The U S was cutting back the military in 1970. I was at Ban Me Thout & wasn't near the flagpole in Na Trang. As a result had no political connection to return to CONUS & be in Special Forces. I was diverted to the 82nd Airborne Division. This was the 1st of '71. I was assigned to a platoon that was up to strength on paper. Formations in garrison usually had the majority attending. The 1st actual field exercise was an eye opener. I had 11 effectives going to the field. It seems drug treatment, half way treatments, profiles etc were epidemic. The unit was non effective as a fighting force. Almost the entire platoon was Vietnam Vets. The saying in Division was, "you can tell what unit is going to the field by the number of sick call". The medics/doctors knew this. Instead of wasting resources on fake ailments they just gave out profiles: no marching, jumping etc. We were scheduled for a road march, one of my heroes went on sick call & proudly showed me his profile. He couldn't march over 30 minutes without a 10 minute break. The next day he fell out to ride the truck. I sent him inside to get a metal folding chair. I had him carry the chair & at 30 minutes stop & I timed him sitting in it for 10 minutes. He folded it up & we ran to catch up....uh....for 30 minutes. He then opened it up & sat for 10 minutes. After a short time he didn't want to do it but a doctors orders are a doctors order. Gradually the ash & trash were weeded out & really gung-ho paratroopers took their place. Yes, it was known as the "jumping junkies" during Vietnam. Things got better & when I departed for A/75 Rangers I was proud to have been in the 82nd Airborne Division

I don't have much else this time. I looked back at some pictures I had from the company and found some from a river crossing we did. The pictures are not real good, probably taken with my Kodak pocket camera, so it's hard to tell who's in the picture. I don't really remember when it was or where. Ft Hood or Camp Bullis. If anyone remembers, let me know and I'll add it to the next article. And I 'm including a couple pictures of the new barracks we lived in. My understanding is they are now gone.

Do those Buddy Checks, might be just what someone needs at that moment.

The new Editor has asked that we, the Unit Directors send him a short Bio that he will post somewhere, so if you see it, that's what's up.



That's all for now.
As always, send me
some stories.
- Stan



Stan served in Alpha Company From November 72 - July 74, then shipped to Berlin Bde., Leaving the Army after 4 years. He worked at the USPS for 35 years. He has 2 sons, 7 grand kids and 8 greats. He is in his 39th year as a volunteer firefighter and currently the Chief of Department. Current status - Tanker Driver. He hails from Indiana.



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UNIT DIRECTOR - ROGER CRUNK

Greetings to my Brothers,

I hope all are well. Not a lot has happened in the last few weeks, but I have a couple of things to note.

I will pick up Tom Sove from the airport in a couple of days then we will make the road trip to Savannah, Ga. for the reunion with some stops in between. It will probably be the last road trip for either of us. I'm too old for this stuff. For me it will probably just be K-Co reunions from now on as I will no longer be the Association Treasurer. I'm looking forward to that.



K Company Coin

Many thanks to John Dubois and Wayne Mitch for their work on our challenge coin and lapel pins. The response has been great and hopefully they will be available soon. If you are interested in either one, please contact Wayne to ensure that you are on the list.

I got an interesting phone call last week. The call was from Bill Leipold who is a friend of James Mooney who is a cousin of our own Mike Mooney of K-Co. James has written a book (Tale of Two Tours) about his two tours in Vietnam as a LOH (Light Observation Helicopter) helicopter pilot. There is a chapter about his meeting up with Mike during his time with 4th Aviation and his daring rescue of Mikes team from a very dangerous mission. There is an ongoing effort to award James the Silver Star for that rescue. If there is anyone out there who was on that mission or knows about it please let me know. Maybe your story could help get James the award he deserves. We owe so much to the helicopter pilots, slicks and the gunships for pulling our butts out of the fire on many occasions.



My Cousin Mike (The LRRP)

Almost everyone in life has or should have an older friend, brother, or relative to look up to. I was lucky as I had a few. One of these people was my older first cousin, William Edward Mooney, Jr. or "Mike" as all family and friends called him (our Grand mom nicknamed him Mike, why -- who knows). It was easy to admire him as he was a great athlete, popular, has an award winning smile, and a great personality.

About thirty days after arriving in An Khe, I received a letter from home telling me Mike was in Vietnam. He had been in college and volunteered for active duty to be trained as an infantryman and Ranger because he specifically wanted to be a LRRP (Long Range Recon Patrol) with the full knowledge he would go to Vietnam. He then went to Basic, Advanced Infantry Training, Jump School, and Ranger School resulting in him earning the rank of Staff Sergeant (E-6).

Of all the strange coincidences in life, he was assigned to an infantry battalion in the same brigade as me – but his battalion had been temporarily reassigned to the 3rd Brigade. I immediately went over to the S3 shop, found his unit's location in the field, and got his unit radio frequency. Two days later, we had a light flying day so that afternoon I borrowed an aircraft and flew to his location on the Cambodian Border about 80 miles away to the west. He was easy to find, as his company was on a firebase, defending it from attack.

Upon landing, he came out of his sand bagged bunker and was quite a bit surprised to see me. Always a great host, he gave me a quick tour of his lavish accommodations (a sand bagged bunker) and offered for me to stay and enjoy his c-rats dinner with him. As appealing and mouth-watering as this was, I turned him down.

During our time together, I remarked how happy I was that he arrived when he did. He looked surprised and asked "Why?". I told him because his firebase was under major attack and nearly overrun just before he got there. In his typical fashion, he laughed and said "That was my second night here on the firebase – one hell of a welcome".

As it turned out, his location was right near the Chu Pong Mountain and next to the location where the battle of LZ X-RAY in the Mel Gibson movie "We Were Soldiers" took place four years earlier. That area continued to be an enemy



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stronghold throughout the years with American troops returning from time to time, having battles, “winning”, then leaving again, and the NVA reoccupying the area.

I showed him my aircraft and took him for a short flight. We talked a little more before I left when he mentioned how he was trained as a Ranger and really wanted to get out of the infantry company and be a LRRP (Long Range Recon Patrol). He said he would be submitting a request as soon as he could. I advised him I thought he was safer with an infantry company, but given our apparent defective genes, he was more interested in doing what he wanted and trained to do rather than taking what most considered the much safer and easier road. We wished each other well and somewhat sadly departed ways.

Upon arrival back at An Khe, I spoke with the LRRP Company Commander and asked if he could do anything to get my cousin a change of assignment. When he heard he was a Ranger qualified (Staff Sergeant (E-6) he simply said, “Hell yes, but I cannot guarantee whether he will be here or at Pleiku.” I told him I did not care as long as he could get him reassigned. I am not sure whether it was Mike’s request or mine, but he was reassigned to Company K 75th Infantry Regiment (LRRP) and moved to An Khe two weeks later. This time he surprised me at my hootch one evening when I returned from flying. We had a steak dinner and drinks at the club that night just laughing and telling stories.

Mike and his LRRP team were like all the others. They would spend 7-14 days in the field at a time doing reconnaissance (intelligence gathering), sniper, or abduction missions. Like all the LRRPs, Mike had some really interesting and obviously dangerous missions such as looking for an NVA camp reportedly holding American POWs, some sniper missions to take out NVA leaders, some missions specifically to abduct NVA to bring them back for interrogation and intelligence, and lots of reconnaissance operations to include inside Cambodia prior to the invasion to confirm the location of NVA camps, storage areas, and anything else of intelligence value. Some places were so far from US Forces and radio range that a fixed wing aircraft had to fly to the area each hour for a status report. Bottom line, if something went wrong in those places they were on their own -- as immediate help was not available.

Once again, this was 1970 and all navigation was with a map and compass in rugged terrain that all looked the same from within the forest. Like all Grunts, their lives depended on good compass and map reading skills – for a proper pickup location, intelligence reports, and for artillery support if they needed it. However, being a small team it was even more critical than being with an Infantry Company.

Being a small team in the middle of nowhere and trying not to let the enemy know you were there resulted in all of the LRRP teams having similar stories -- such as Mike having a tiger circle their location at night looking for a meal (he said they really stink in the wild) and not being able to move, make noise or relieve their bladder other than where they were, being surrounded by NVA and just laying low until the enemy passed, making a routine radio report and to have an enemy radio operator who was listening finish it, rappelling into a site only to find they were on top of a bunker complex and had to be extracted immediately, on a couple of other occasions being discovered and running for their lives while being chased and shot at the whole time while trying to find the planned extraction point, living through hot insertions and extractions, and other stories of the bush, bugs, snakes, weather, wild animals, and close combat.

As a LRRP, Mike was in his element and performed his duties in a manner that can only be described as both professional and heroic – for instance, as the team lead he did not have to, but was, point man on every move. More so, he could always be counted on to bring back excellent intelligence from the mission.

Mike would always offer to take me on a mission with him; but, I declined by laughing and telling him I would not go because I would get dirty. On the reverse, I would offer to take him out as my gunner or at night to look for NVA campsites, throw hand grenades at them to draw fire and then have the gunships open up on them -- he would decline my magnanimous offer. Truth is, as in the movie “Dirty Harry”, Clint Eastwood said “a man has to know his limitations” -- we both knew ours and were very happy and confident operating in our own worlds.

Because he and I were deployed to different locations on a regular basis, we saw each other randomly, but frequently. Sometimes we just bumped into each other for a few minutes at other base camps, firebases, or LZs. When we did have some time at An Khe, we would always enjoy each other’s company, go to the NCO or Officer’s club, and have some drinks and/or dinner and hang out. In fact, we both went to Australia on R&R and our trips overlapped for four days which we spent together.

On one occasion, I was at LZ English where I bumped into him after he just got out of the field. He was dirty, smelly, unshaven and somewhat mentally fatigued. Having been raised by the beach I knew a swim would lift his spirits, so I flew him and a couple of my crew chiefs to the beach for a 40 minute swim. I would kid him about being so dirty he turned the South China Sea temporarily brown.

On occasion, I would just take him flying with me on a resupply mission and let him fly the aircraft. He and his LRRP buddies were great guys. If they needed something from me, no problem, and in return when I needed their expertise such as cleaning, checking, or repairing my weapons it was never a problem for them.



Ironically, having spent so much time in the field and after numerous firefight, close calls, and emergency extractions under fire, Mike ended up being shot in the left hand when he was ambushed – not in the bush -- but while driving in a Jeep in what was supposed to be a relatively safe area. Sadly, the LRRP next to him was killed and one other was wounded.

After being wounded, he found himself in limbo. Due to his wounded hand, he could not hold a rifle or serve in the field; but, his wounds were not bad enough to be sent home -- so he was assigned administrative duties until his time in country was up in 90 days.

Like so many others in his category, he applied for an early discharge to get home in time to return to college for the fall semester. Because he had only six months left until his discharge date, the Army would release him and others like him from active duty upon reaching the U.S. west coast – so with him no longer being able to go into the field again, the request was a routine approval and no big deal.

To his surprise, his notification to leave came quickly and unexpectedly -- I was flying one afternoon when my NCO advised me over the radio Mike called and was departing on a C-130 in one hour. I immediately flew to An Khe Airfield, asked the C-130 pilot to hold and why. Of course he agreed – another good AF guy. When I landed I asked the C-130 crew to screw with him and tell Mike his orders were changed and to get off. He came down the ramp, duffle bag in hand, and looking both confused and pissed. Once he saw me standing by my still running aircraft he knew what was going on -- he got his usual big smile, dropped his stuff and sprinted over. We said good bye and I was thrilled not to worry about him anymore and knowing the family would get at least one of us home safe.

I still harass him about getting in country after me and getting shot just to be able to leave a month before me. I also harass him about our lost 15 minutes of fame. Apparently, Mike had made a deal with a magazine (LIFE or LOOK) to do a photo shoot regarding the two of us. During our tour, I saved the lives of him and his team on a mission (I still harass him by telling him that I did not know it was him at the time; because, if I did, I probably would have left him) and the theme of the magazine article was to cover that mission and to compare and contrast lives of two cousins in Vietnam through photos. As I did not trust the media, I was not thrilled with the prospect; but, he was – so I told him I would go along with his commitment. However, with his early departure that event never happened.

Even though I hated the idea of the magazine photo op, was happy it never took place and was happy he was able to leave early, I cannot help myself from harassing him to this day about getting my hopes up for the photo shoot and crushing my hopes for fame – especially because he so selfishly left early! In return, he tells me it is a good thing it did not happen -- as I would not have looked as good as him in the photos. We just laugh at each other to this day.

THE BEST SURPRISE

It was a long day and I was finishing late. About hour before sunset, I was on short final to land at LZ English for fuel prior to heading back to An Khe when I got a call from my Operations NCO in the TOC asking about my location. He advised me that we had a problem -- four LRRPs were in trouble, needed extraction, and that no other aircraft was available. He then gave me their planned extraction grid location and asked if I had any ideas, probably hoping for me to have an option or maybe “offer” to do the job.

Upon landing at LZ English, I checked my map and saw that they were in an area I was familiar with because I had used two artillery batteries in the area three days before. After mentally computed flying time and fuel based on their extraction weight and location elevation, I advised I would fly up there and do what I could --- such as call in artillery for them, coordinate a rescue, or as a long shot -- try to get them out. I knew it was a rugged area; but, with just four people, it might be possible under ideal conditions for me to make a successful rescue. I then asked my Operations NCO to continue to look for a Huey and a pair of gunships to send to me.

I took on only minimum fuel to be able to load more weight, folded up my rear seats to create more room in the back, and then took off and flew directly to the site less than 15 minutes away.

En route, I made a call to an artillery battery, requested them to get ready for a fire mission and gave them the LZ coordinates. I then made a call to my TOC and asked them to have our USAF ALO (Air Liaison Officer) get me a FAC (Air Force Forward Air Controller in an O-2 airplane). Soon after, a FAC contacted me (They used the callsign “COVEY”). I told him what was going on and where I might need him. He said he would see what he could round up and headed my way.

As I got closer to the LRRPs, I made radio contact and found out they were literally running for their lives to the planned extraction point in a running gun battle. About five minutes out, I identified the general area but had no idea of their exact extraction site as they could not pop smoke. They then told me in whispers they had temporarily evaded



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continued

their pursuers, described their location as in tall elephant grass, and that they had me in sight heading directly toward them.

All I could see was a sea of elephant grass with some trees sticking out on the front slope of a ridge line covering an area approximately ½ mile by ¼ mile in size less than 2 miles ahead of me. I then asked the artillery battery to fire a smoke round for adjustment -- which they did. The smoke round impacted in the east side of the center of the elephant grass and the guys on the ground told me they could hear it impact to their east. So, now I had some idea of where they were.

The Huey and gunships I asked for had not checked in on my frequency and after a visual assessment it was obvious my aircraft was ill suited to do a pickup. The 15-20 foot high elephant grass could easily destroy my main or tail rotor blades, I could hit a stump or tree hidden by the grass, and in spite of lower fuel, their combined weight could be too much for takeoff. In my mind, any one of a dozen things other things could also go wrong wrecking the aircraft and leaving us all abandoned, captured, or dead at that site.

My assessment was bleak and viable options were none. I put my odds of success at less than 20%. As the LRRPs were OK for the next few minutes and now realizing discretion being the better part of valor, I decided to wait for help as there was little I could do that was "smart", "safe" or could be successful.

So, it was time to implement my alternate plan of artillery to keep them safe. I then called the FAC on my UHF radio and gave him the FM radio frequencies of the artillery on the firebase I would be using as well as the LRRPs in case he needed them.

Because the nearby firebase was ready with a 155 howitzer battery to fire, my plan now was to figure out exactly where the LRRPs were with reference to the smoke round and to adjust artillery fire around them to protect them until other help arrived.

As I was coordinating the artillery support, suddenly things went from bad to worse. In a whisper over the radio, the LRRPs advised they were surrounded and could hear the NVA beating the bushes about 50 yards away looking for them. The choice was then very simple -- leave them to be killed or captured and feel guilty the rest of my life or try to save them, and hope for the best. It was an easy decision I think most other pilots would also have made -- in spite of that fact I really believed there was a high probability none of us would make it back that evening, if at all.

At that point, not knowing exactly where they were, I told them the following: I would do a low level pattern over the top of the grass to find where they were, that they were to make sure there were no stumps or trees within 50 feet of them, that they were to call when I passed over them -- and that they be prepared for me to drop in on top of them. I told them to leave everything except their weapons, ammo and radio to reduce weight and I would give them three seconds to get on board -- and tap me on the shoulder when they were all loaded.

I made one quick call to the FAC to make sure he was up on the radio frequency in case I did not make it out and gave him the artillery unit frequency. Finally, I made one last call to the artillery battery on a different radio telling them to be ready to fire for effect. I then added that if they did not hear from me within five minutes to fire for effect in a rolling barrage across the hillside, from the smoke round, and disregard "danger close" (in other words calling it in on our own position). If nothing else I was prepared to take out as many of the NVA as I could and hoped we would survive the artillery -- surrender or capture followed by torture were simply not among my options.

I then descended while completing my visual and mental checklist -- wind (calm), fuel (30 min remaining), enemy location and number (?), radios (set), visor down, engine/transmission instruments, etc. and started my search pattern. After about two long minutes and a number of AK-47s bursts being fired at me as I passed low level over the elephant grass, I finally overflew them. They immediately called "NOW" -- I flew a really tight 360 turn back to them and chewed my way down through the grass. The radio operator guided me the last 20 feet as I hovered forward in near blinding flying debris cutting through the dense elephant grass. Finally, I saw them crouched down to my front and I touched down two feet next to them. The aircraft rocked as they got on and then I felt a tap on my shoulder -- immediately I pulled collective pitch for takeoff.

The NVA had been shooting randomly in my direction during this extraction; but as we took off all hell broke loose. Ground fire came from everywhere accompanied by the ominous "Tink" and "Thunk" sounds of bullets passing through parts of my aircraft. We flew low and I skimmed the top of the elephant grass changing heading numerous times to try and avoid the ground fire. During this time, I watched my engine temperature (it was high) and transmission torque (on the limit) until getting enough airspeed to climb and get out of the immediate danger area. The whole extraction was about three minutes from the decision to land to that point -- but it was one of those slow motion mental events that seemed like an hour.

Once I climbed past about 500 feet above ground level (AGL), I turned the aircraft and we looked at the extraction site -- it was now dusk and there were about 100 flashlights moving around (an amazing number for the NVA as only one in ten normally had a flashlight). I immediately called the artillery battery "Fire mission on last smoke round,



K/75-E58 LRP 4th DIV LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - ROGER CRUNK

continued

proximity and point detonate -- fire for effect, then drop 50, left 100, repeat fire for effect" for the 155 battery and watched as the elephant grass and hillside exploded 20 seconds later. I then gave the battery additional adjustment information to rake the areas missed by the first shells.

As I was about to leave due to low fuel, the Air Force FAC (COVEY flying an O-2) came up on my UHF radio frequency, said he was now on station and asked if he could help -- as he now had launched the two pair of F-4s (Callsigns "COBRA") loaded with napalm on alert at Phu Cat AB to support us. We then flew back over the site where I verbally pointed out the target area and then gladly handed it off to him.

As we turned for Bong Son, The FAC rolled in hot putting 2.75 White Phosphorous (nicknamed "Willie Pete" -- WP) rockets in the center of mass. I then confirmed WP was in the target area.

The F4s were monitoring the UHF radio frequency and the FAC gave them the clearance to drop. They immediately rolled in hot, made a low pass, and dropped their napalm for a near perfect hit. Quite a show as the sun went down and the entire hillside was, in layman's terms -- incinerated.

As for the requested Huey and gunships, they called while we were on the way back to LZ English. I thanked them for their efforts and then had them follow me back in case my aircraft damage was worse than I thought and may cause me to go down.

When we landed at LZ English, all four LRRPs got out and walked slowly away -- heads down, shoulders slumped, dragging their feet, hardly able to walk or carry their weapons, and literally physically and mentally drained. I could feel their pain, exhaustion, and relief

As I pulled pitch and was ready to lift off, the one team member stopped, turned, signaled for me to wait, and slowly walked back to the aircraft. As I lowered the collective to reduce rotor pitch to sit firmly on the ground, I wondered what he left onboard. To my surprise, he came to my door, looked at me with a face of someone that had been through the wringer, slowly put out his hand, shook my hand, nodded, mouthed "Thank you", made a small exhausted smile, and then turned and joined his guys -- who had stopped walking and were sitting and lying on the ground physically and mentally exhausted with their backs to me to avoid the impending rotor wind and dirt.

As corny as it may sound, I expected nothing as extractions under fire were much too routine and simply normal business. After landing, most Grunts would just get out, sometimes give us a "Thumbs up" and simply walk away. In this case, I had the satisfaction of doing something well and good for another GI -- but the look on his face, the personal handshake, and thanks was worth a million bucks and better than any award they could have given to me. It made me feel great that my effort was appreciated. I think he did, but I was not sure that he would ever know just how low the odds were for a successful extraction and how close we all came to dying that evening.

I then put my LOACH in a revetment, had dinner, and then a great night of sleep really feeling good about the day and that those four guys were OK.

The next morning, I was doing the pre-flight inspection of the spare aircraft when unexpectedly my cousin Mike walked up looking very serious and not his normal self. Obviously not knowing he was at Bong Son and happy to see him, I smiled and said "Hi, what's up?". Mike just looked at me and said he wanted to say thanks. I simply asked "For what". With a puzzled look he said "You really don't know? It was me and my team you picked up last night".

I just stood there stunned and shocked. We talked a few minutes about it and how bad it really was. I ended by joking and telling him he owed me a steak dinner.

Having left any GI to die the night before without trying would have haunted me through life -- to have found out it was my own cousin I had abandoned, I am not sure how I would have coped. I felt then as I do now, of all the things I did well in Vietnam, this one act alone made my tour worthwhile and I was thankful I was there for him and his team. Also, I still wonder about fate -- what were the chances that my cousin would be surrounded, I just happened to be nearby, returning much later than usual that evening, and I was flying the only aircraft available to help in time?

My aircraft had to receive some much deserved care and feeding -- it was down for repairs for a few days as all the blades had to be replaced, some bullet holes had to be patched, a "Hot End" engine inspection done, and other "minor" repairs had to be effected before it could take to the air again. Oh well, the aircraft damage was just the cost of doing business.

As to the NVA body count? -- Who knows, and as callous as it sounds, I did not care and still do not. I felt then as I do now, I simply tried to do my best and we were lucky that day -- the enemy was not.

One last item: I was informed that Raymond McFarr and Travis Blaylock have passed away. At this time, I have no other information.

- Rest in Peace Brothers.



C/75 - E/20 LRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - JOHN EVERLY



We would like to inform all our members of E/20th LRP Airborne C/75th Rangers that we have an active website and internal messaging system for our members.

Please note that the site is best viewed on a computer, but the site will work on a cellphone or tablet.

Before accessing our site and messaging system you will need to complete the registration process. Part of that process is verification of who you are and if you are eligible. We will ask for some information that may seem invasive, however all information you submit will be used for verification purposes only and will remain private. It will not be seen by other members.

Once you have registered you can use an alias on our site but for verification and registration purposes you must use your real name.

Once verification is complete you will be notified via email that you can login and create a password and complete the registration. Once registered you will be able to log on and view messages, access the quartermaster's store, view pictures and communicate with all our members.

If you have any questions please contact Steve - our Sergeant-at-Arms via email:

C75_Ranger_LRP@cfl.rr.com

Note that this email address must be entered exactly as viewed.

- 1) Copy the link below into the search bar of your preferred browser and follow it to our site. Ensure it is copied exactly.

<https://groups.io/g/E20th-LRP-C75th-Ranger>

- 2) Scroll to the bottom of the page, locate and click on the "Apply for Membership" button.

+ Apply For Membership In This Group

- 3) Enter your email address in the field provided and be sure to click accept / send to submit.
- 4) Shortly thereafter you will receive an email asking for some information. This may seem invasive but we need this information to verify who you are and that you are eligible to join our group. We will ask for your real name, team, platoon, email addresses and other / similar information we will use to verify your eligibility for joining. We encourage you to also add any additional information you think would help us establish your eligibility.



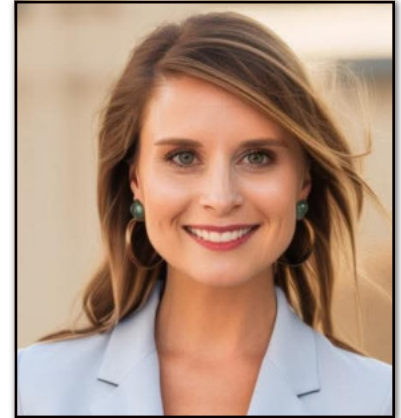
'SURVIVING BLACK HAWK DOWN'

HELPING PRODUCE A DOCUMENTARY SERIES

By MARK RICE



(Left) poster for Netflix Documentary series 'Surviving Blackhawk Down'.



(Right) Daughter of 1st SGT Glenn Harris
Photo Credit: Mike Haskey / Ledger-Enquirer

On February 10, 2025 Netflix premiered 'Surviving Black Hawk Down,' a three-part documentary series that provides an in-depth exploration of the events that transpired during the 1993 Battle of Mogadishu.

The series features interviews with individuals directly involved in the conflict, including Army Rangers from Bravo Company 3rd Ranger Battalion, Delta Force operators, and Somali militia members. By incorporating perspectives from both sides, the documentary aims to present a balanced narrative of the battle. Directed by Jack MacInnes and produced by Ridley Scott Associates, the series utilizes archival footage, reenactments, and personal testimonies to offer viewers a detailed understanding of the mission's context, execution, and aftermath.

Tara Harris, who grew up in Columbus, has a deeply personal connection to the Netflix dcuseries. [szc]

Surviving Black Hawk Down is a three-part series, that tells stories of soldiers and civilians who survived the 1993 Battle of Mogadishu in Somalia, where approximately 100 American troops held off more than 1,000 armed Somali fighters during a 15-hour engagement to rescue the survivors of three crashed helicopters.

Her father, U.S. Army 1st Sgt. Glenn Harris, was one of those soldiers. He wasn't among the 18 Americans killed in that battle — including six fatalities in his Bravo Company unit — but, one year later, he died at the age of 35 in a parachute training accident at Fort Benning, now named Fort Moore (and again known as Fort Benning) where the 3rd Ranger Battalion is based. [szc]



1st SGT. Harris with daughters, Tara and Heather.

Tara, now a 41-year-old interior designer in Atlanta, was compelled to seek more information about her father 12 years ago, when her mother, Sandy Harris, the controller for the Columbus State University Foundation, was moving to a new home and gave her a bag full of memorabilia from Glenn's military career.

"I started sifting through it," Tara, a 2001 graduate of Hardaway High School, told the *Ledger-Enquirer*, "and it opened a Pandora's box of questions."

She committed to trying to contact and interview as many veterans from her father's unit as she could.

"When I started reconnecting to that previous life, I just had no idea how healing reconnecting would be — not just for me but for the Rangers as well," she said. "It's pretty incredible."



1st SGT Glenn Harris pictured with his daughters, Tara and Heather, and wife, Sandy.



More to the story of Black Hawk Down

The Battle of Mogadishu was the subject of Mark Bowden's 1999 bestselling book *Black Hawk Down*, which was adapted into Ridley Scott's 2001 critically acclaimed movie with the same title.

But when Rangers convened in 2023 for a reunion to mark the 30th anniversary of that battle, Scott's production team realized there was more to be told — boosted by the presentation Tara made to that gathering in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Instead of compressing the testimonials of people and events into a storyline suited for the length of a cinematic film, this docuseries features interviews with the soldiers and civilians who survived the battle.

Tara's archival work, digitizing more than 3,000 photos and documents from her father and fellow soldiers, helped inform the documentary. It also provided a sense of closure and understanding for many of the veterans involved, she said.

The docuseries aims to provide an inside view of the events surrounding the battle, including before, during and after the conflict.

"It's going to give a whole new perspective," Tara said. "These guys were literally boots on the ground."

Tara's journey was not only about uncovering facts but also understanding the emotional landscape of those who served with her father.

"These guys are still living with a lot of this," she emphasized. "When they got back, it was swept under the rug."

One month after the battle, on Nov. 8, 1993, Glenn spoke during a memorial service at Fort Benning. He called the fight (Operation Gothic Serpent) "one of the most fierce, most intense and most significant combat operations in recent history."

Then he assessed his unit's performance.

"They far exceeded my most imaginable expectations," Glenn said during his memorial service speech. "They performed far beyond what anyone in this profession would believe to be possible."

The legacy of 1st Sgt. Glenn Harris

Tara's dedication to preserving her father's legacy and the stories of his fellow Rangers has been a labor of love. She noted her father's duty to the country meant he was with his unit more than his family, so she cherishes the letters his fellow soldiers wrote to him.

"These guys are who they are today because of him," Tara said, summarizing how they described him. "He gave them the benefit of the doubt. He actually saw something in them that they didn't see in themselves. ... He loved his Rangers. He was fiercely loyal and protective of them."

In return, Tara is thankful for her father's unit.

"I will forever be grateful to the Rangers from the past and present and the Ranger community for the unwavering devotion and willingness to help my sister and I get to know who dad was," she said. "The opportunities and projects I've been a part of is in part because of them — the power of being intentional."

Glenn received a Bronze Star Medal for meritorious achievement during the Battle of Mogadishu.

"He provided security and suppressed the enemy, allowing the medics to treat a fallen comrade," the citation says. "After the M203 gunner was wounded, he administered first-aid and then retrieved his weapon and continued to suppress the enemy until the chalk was extracted. Once the element was refitted, he took control of the forward support base, reinforced the perimeter and assisted the command in any way he could. First Sergeant Harris's actions reflect great credit on him and the United States Army."



Ranger Glenn Harris



Glenn displayed another act of heroism moments before he died. The Facebook page of TSAF Industries, a Ranger equipment supplier, quoted from the Departure Airfield Control Officer's report of the Dec. 4, 1994, training accident: "I knew something was wrong when jumpers started exiting the bird. Glenn and several others ended up landing in the Chattahoochee River. A safety boat got to Glenn first, but he demanded they attend to the other Rangers first and drown shortly thereafter. We spent the better part of the day (and evening) combing the riverbanks knowing that we'd see his smiling face at some point during the search, although that never happened."

The post also quotes a fellow Ranger as saying, "This great man was taken much too soon. Of all the 1SG's I served under, Glenn Harris was right up there at the top."



1st SGT Glenn Harris

Motivation for sacrifice

Tara is proud of her father's service.

"All the lessons learned in Somalia were taken seriously, resulting in immediate implementations," she said. "By doing so, it led directly to reduced casualties and greater success in the thousands of missions conducted during the Global War on Terrorism. So the lives lost in Somalia were not lost in vain, which is a reassuring message for the Gold Star Children of that battle."

Also during his 1993 memorial service speech, Glenn expressed the motivation behind his unit's sacrifice for the nation.

"Freedom, it isn't free," he said. "It's a priceless possession. This country's downpayment for freedom was at Bunker Hill, Concord and Valley Forge, and throughout our 200-year history, brave men have continued to pay the price."

Then he explained why a unit would fight and risk the lives of others simply to fulfill the Ranger Creed to not let a fallen comrade fall into the hands of the enemy.

Glenn quoted theologian Leslie Weatherhead's story of a dying soldier during World War II saying his attempt to bring a wounded buddy back to safety was "worth it ... because when I got to him, he said, 'Jim, I knew you would come.'"

The first sergeant also quoted philosopher John Stuart Mill: "War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things. The decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks that nothing is worth war is much worse. The person who has nothing for which he is willing to fight, nothing which is more important than his own personal safety, is a miserable creature and has no chance of being free unless made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself."

Glenn concluded with his own words: "I am tremendously honored to have had the opportunity to rub shoulders with such courageous men, these heroes. I love them and will always remember them."



Rangers Lead the Way!



Mark Rice is a Columbus Ledger-Enquirer senior reporter who has given Patrolling Magazine permission to reprint this story.



RANGER



PFC Roman Cherubini buried beside twin brother Raymond eight decades after being KIA at Myitkyina, Burma

Twin brothers Roman Cherubini, **BELOW-L**, and his brother Raymond from Bridgetown, NJ, enlisted in the National Guard in 1940 at age 16. Roman, 22, was a 5307th Composite Unit Provisional replacement when killed June 16, 1944, fighting to capture the town of Myitkyina, Burma and hold its airfield, seized May 17, 1944, by Merrill's Marauders. His remains were identified as part of the Battle of Myitkyina project. He was interred April 26th next to his twin Raymond at Big Pine Crocker Cemetery, 15 miles from Bishop, CA. After arriving April 26th at the Reno, NV airport, Ramon's remains were transferred by a Nevada National Guard honor detail to a hearse as members of the Reno Fire Department and Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority stood at attention. Members of the Cherubini family attended the brief ceremony. Ramon's brother Raymond was a Carson City, NV resident when he died in 2005. When Ramon was KIA in June 1944, he was survived by his parents, four sisters and three brothers, two of whom also served during WW II.

Top photo by Steve Ranson, "The Nevada Appeal"



OSS Kachin Scout praised as "Hero of Myitkyina"

OSS drawing

The Merrill's Marauders' final mission ended May 17, 1944, with COL Charles N. Hunter's carefully planned, successful seizure of the Myitkyina airfield ... thanks to a young Office of Strategic Services (OSS) Kachin scout hailed as the "Hero of Myitkyina." Hunter, the first and longest-serving commander of the 1943 top-secret volunteers, had again assumed command following another heart attack by commander BG Frank D. Merrill. On the night of May 16, 1944, N'Naw Yang Nau, (or Nau Wong Nau) thought to be 14, was leading Hunter's force on a rarely-used, hidden trail on what was known as the "unpassable" Kumon Mountains when he was bitten by a two-foot viper. Refusing to stop, N'Naw Yang continued limping forward for two hours until he collapsed and the entire column stopped. While waiting for Hunter and medics to arrive, the weakened scout asked for the Kachin treatment for viper bites. His solution was to "dig a hole, pour silver rupees in it, put his foot in there, and bury it ... and he would sit there till he either lived or died." So to calm the young Kachin, the Marauders dug the hole and performed the native ritual. After Hunter and medics arrived to treat the wound, which N'Naw Yang survived, the courageous Kachin wanted to continue limping on. However, Hunter had him placed on a horse with two men steadying him on either side. While the men bivouacked that same evening, Marauder Clarence C. Branscomb led a reconnaissance patrol to check the airfield's condition. And at 11:55 AM on May 17, 1944, Hunter quickly seized the Myitkyina airfield from surprised Japanese. World leaders sent congratulations. Lord Louis Mountbatten, under whose British Southeast Asia Command the Marauders were originally assigned in 1943, said crossing the "6,100-foot Naura Hkyat Pass is a feat which will live in military history." After Marauders, Kachins, Chinese troops and mules had climbed the Kumon Mountains' monsoon-soaked, treacherous Naura Hkyat Pass, only about 200 Marauders were still fit to seize the airfield. An unexpected enemy of mite-born typhus plus the elements had decimated their numbers. When the mountain elevation rose from 1,100 to 6,000 feet within the space of a mile, men were forced to crawl upward. Twenty 3rd BN pack mules laden with heavy weapons, supplies and documents tumbled to their deaths.

created by Jonnie Melillo Clasen



WELCOME HOME RANGERS

By Rick Barela



ROBERT L. BRYANT



REST IN PEACE



KENNETH D. BURGESS



Ranger Kenneth D. Burgess and Robert L. Bryant were part of a four-man team that went missing in 1943 while searching for wounded comrades from the 4th Ranger Battalion during heavy fighting in Italy. On September 25, 1943.

Ranger Burgess and Bryant were declared missing in action in the vicinity of Sala, Italy. Their bodies were never recovered by the then War Department, now the Department of Defense, declared them both non-recoverable on May 10, 1948. Kenneth D. Burgess and Robert Bryant became Army Rangers, and took part in Operation Avalanche, the invasion of Italy during World War II. In that invasion, Burgess and Bryant were assigned to Company B, 4th Ranger Battalion (Darby's Rangers).

There remains were identified in the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery in Nettuna, a coastal Italian city outside Anzio where they was interred in the same grave site. Ranger Robert L. Bryant was returned home and interred on 25 April 2025 in Bloomington, Illinois.

Ranger Burgess was laid to rest in Rose Hill Cemetery on 7 May 2025, exactly 111 years after his birth on 7 May 1914.

Ranger Bryant was laid to rest in Bloomington, IL on 25 Apr 2025. I met Ranger Bryant's nephew James Bryant from VA. He wanted to attend Ranger Burgess's service to honor his uncle and see that both are now home and in the hands of family. He was glad to see these two warriors brought home and put them to rest. He stated that his grandparents never stopped hoping to get their son's remains home. Their wish has finally come true.

To honor Ranger Burgess, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky (Gov Andy Beshear) had all flags brought to half-mast. The Governor's representative LTC, USA (Retired) Whitney Allen, Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Veteran Affairs presented the family with a Commonwealth of KY flag that had flown over the capitol along with a plaque to the family and read a letter from the Governor to the Burgess family.

The 75th Ranger Regiment was pivotal in providing support to the Burgess family. The 75th Ranger Regimental Chaplin LTC Chaplin Jump conducted the service at the funeral home and gravesite, LTC Winslow presented the flag to the family. The Honor Guard was provided by the 101st Airborne Division out of Ft Campbell KY. The Casualty Assistance Officer (CAO) was a former member of the 75th Ranger Regiment who assisted the family with all preparations. Thanks to SFC Gouglin (hopefully I got his name correct).



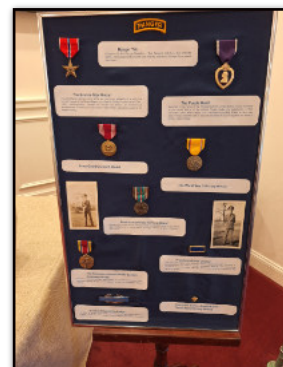
Family and Rangers gather to honor WWII Ranger

Yes, a somber day but one with joy in that Ranger Burgess was returned home and as Chaplin Jump stated, "I WILL NEVER LEAVE A FALLEN COMRADE" Ranger Burgess is now home along with the Ranger Brother Robert Bryant.

We had a contingent of former Rangers from all 3 battalions in attendance to show their respect to our fallen comrade. The Patriot Riders provided the flag detail at the funeral home at gravesite and the members of Rolling Thunder from Paducah, KY were also in attendance.

This is a solemn event but one with a truly happy ending in returning our lost brother home. Rest in Peace Ranger Warrior, Welcome Home and we will meet again at our final Patrol Base.

Rangers Lead The Way!!





REMEMBERING COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR RAKOW

By HUGH ROBERTS



On May 3rd, 2025, several Rangers and I traveled to CSM Rakow's hometown of Tomah Wisconsin, to honor the life and legacy of a man who shaped generations of Rangers.

I want to take a moment to reflect on what CSM Rakow meant to me personally, to countless others, and to the Ranger Regiment as a whole.

I had the rare privilege of serving under CSM Rakow in nearly every leadership position he held, from a Squad Leader, Platoon Sergeant, to a Battalion Command Sergeant Major and eventually as the Regimental Sergeant Major. His influence was constant, his standards unwavering.

CSM Rakow exemplified what it meant to lead from the front. As my Weapons Squad Leader, he drove us relentlessly with endless crew drills, barrel change drills, and talking gun drills became our norm. I remember the long, wet days and nights in the rain-soaked terrain of South Rainier. I also remember our jump into Grenada and watching him, one minute out from TOT (Time on Target), bring structure and direction to a chaotic aircraft.

Later, as the Regimental Sergeant Major, he helped guide the Regiment through one of its most difficult transitions—the change of the black beret. During that period of intense controversy and emotion, CSM Rakow remained a steady and vocal presence, fiercely advocating for the values and traditions that make Rangers who we are.



Command Sergeant Major
Walter E. Rakow



Memorial for RSM Rakow
inside the Chapel

He was loud. At times, he was intimidating. But he was always a Ranger's Ranger—committed, competent, and deeply respected.

CSM Rakow also had a sharp sense



Rangers gathered prior to CSM Rakow's service to drink a traditional shot in remembrance.

of humor, a humor any Ranger will recognize and appreciate. He once held a squad leader meeting while on the toilet – an ungodly smell filling the room – because, in his words: *"This was as good a place as any to get sh*t done."* He threatened more than once to rip off my head and do unspeakable things – a colorful, effective way of ensuring my attention to detail remained as sharp as his sense of humor.

These anecdotes might make us laugh, but they also reflect the authenticity and passion that defined his leadership style. Beneath the gruff exterior was a mentor, a motivator, and a loyal Ranger Buddy who always led by example.

CSM Rakow was more than a leader—he was a force of nature within the Regiment. His legacy endures in the Rangers he trained, mentored, and inspired.

Command Sergeant Major (retired) Hugh Roberts spent over 20 years as a leader in the 75th Ranger Regiment. He was a Team Leader, Squad Leader, Platoon Sergeant, First Sergeant, Command Sergeant Major and also The Regimental Sergeant Major.



A TRIBUTE TO THE ABRAMS CHARTER OF THEIR OWN ACCORD

A COMPANY OF ARMY RANGERS CHANGING LIVES IN CHANGING TIMES

By Fred R. Kleibacker III (MSG ret.) and Lawson W. Magruder III (LTG ret.)

Over the past 50 years, the Ranger Regiment has developed into the finest fighting force the world has ever known. It was by design. Critical combat tests in our history of the regiment include Eagle Claw, Urgent Fury, Just Cause, Desert Storm, Bosnia, and the most significant, the 20+ year GWOT. Throughout these five decades, the one thing that has remained consistent is the embodiment of our founder's, General Creighton Abrams, simple mission statement in 1973 as he directed the establishment of the 1st and 2nd Ranger Battalions: "The battalion is to be an elite, light, and the most proficient infantry battalion in the world. A battalion that can do things with its hands and weapons better than anyone. The battalion will contain no "hoodlums or brigands" and if the battalion is formed from such persons, it will be disbanded. Wherever the battalion goes, it must be apparent that it is the best."

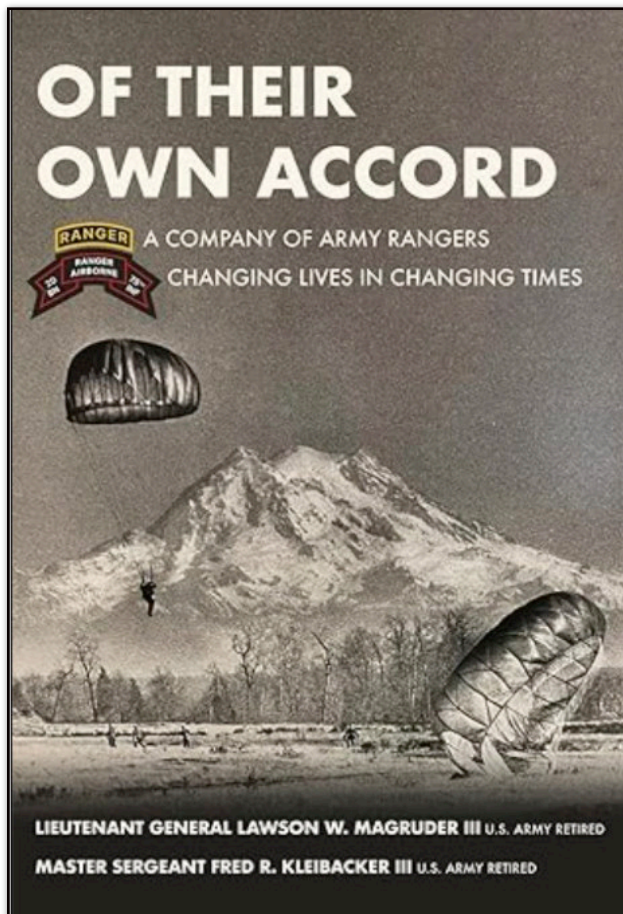
This simple, but mission critical vision in 1973, started a 50-year journey that created a legacy of excellence that changed the U.S. Army forever. Then, Army Chief of Staff, General Creighton Abrams issued the clear mandate above, which as we all know, became known as the Abrams Charter. The core values of that order were inculcated in the Ranger Creed in 1974 by CSM Neal Gentry, 1st Ranger Battalions first CSM. It became the standard by which Rangers live by to this very day. The journey started on 31 January and 1 October 1974 respectively, when the modern 1st and 2nd Ranger Battalions were formed.

There was an even more remarkable challenge implied in General Abrams' guidance. A radical idea that was far more important – to rebuild the Army emerging from the dark days of the Vietnam War. In 1973, the Army's senior leadership began to make key decisions to transform the Army. There were many rapid changes that occurred over the next decade: the change from a conscripted to a volunteer force; formalization and upgrading of NCO schooling; the transformation of how the Army trained; and the modernization of five key weapons systems. But the greatest challenge of all was to repair the Army's morale, leadership and standards frayed from long years of war, societal ills, and budget constraints.

In late 1973, General Abrams was looking for a way to repair the institution. He had vast combat experience in WWII, twice awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) as one of the most aggressive Battalion Tank Commander in Patton's vaunted Third Army who helped spearhead the breakout at Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge. He knew he needed a cadre of the most talented and professional NCOs and Officers to "lead the way." He harkened back to the exploits of World War II Rangers. He wanted the Army to have the same high standards developed by William O. Darby, the first commander of the 1st Ranger Battalion who valiantly led it during the African and Italian campaigns and, James Earl Rudder the commander of the 2nd Ranger Battalion that scaled the cliffs at Pointe du Hoc on D-Day.

General Abrams' intent was that these two Ranger battalions would be **THE** standard bearers for the rest of the army. His plan was to use the formation of the two battalions as an instrument to affect the restoration of values and standards throughout the whole Army. This restoration would be key to the Army emerging from its post-Vietnam period of decline. He rightly believed that the values and standards established in the Ranger Battalions could be spread to the rest of the Army through the assignments of its veteran Ranger leaders to units throughout the force, **Of Their Own Accord, Rangers Leading the Way, Changing Lives in Changing Times.**

Our book bearing the same title highlights 32 original members (Plank Holders) of Bravo Company, 2-75 who served between 1975-1978. We interviewed and captured their stories about why they enlisted during such turbulent times and followed each of them through their military and civilian careers as exemplars of the Abrams Charter. We vaunted their contributions to be independent agents of change while sometimes faced with the leadership reluctance, widespread incompetence, and racial animus from the ranks of the post-Vietnam war force.



Available for purchase from www.oftheirownaccord.com/store/



A TRIBUTE TO THE ABRAM'S CHARTER OF THEIR OWN ACCORD

continued

Of note, with the one exception of a small band of intrepid 1st Battalion Rangers in support of Operation Eagle Claw in 1980, neither 1st nor 2nd battalion would be tested in combat until Operation Urgent Fury in 1983, nine years after their formation. From 1975 until the mid-80's approximately 3,300 - 5,000 (authors estimate) infantrymen voluntarily enlisted for one of the battalions. Officers who volunteered were but a small fraction of those numbers, making them the most elite officers in the Army. Those enlisted who made it served for only 2-4 years before either leaving the Army or being reassigned to other conventional units such as airborne infantry, mechanized infantry, regular/light infantry, recruiting or training units. A much smaller percentage volunteered for Special Forces, and eventually Delta, and were rarely able to get assigned to the other Battalion back-to-back. It's important to remember that the Regiment was not formed until 1984, 10 years after the original battalions were formed. SOCOM was not formed until 1987 and USASOC until 1989. Prior to the Regiment being formed there was no advocacy for keeping experienced enlisted Rangers and officers for more than one or two tours. The officers had a much more deliberate career path than NCOs coming out of the Rangers, but nevertheless, the plan was essentially the same, getting experienced Ranger leadership back to the conventional forces.

It is phenomenal to note that from Bravo Company plank holders alone, it proudly resulted in six General Officers and a dozen or more Command Sergeants Majors of the 1975-1978 cohort. The company also birthed several mustangs, several retiring as warrant officers, majors, lieutenant colonels and full colonels. A few NCOs and Officers would return to the Rangers over their careers, but due to the relatively small number of company level leadership spots, unless you went SF, most of the officers and NCOs returned to conventional units before the Regiment, SOCOM and USASOC were stood up. Again, this was all part of the Abrams Charter.

3. PHYSICAL & MORAL COURAGE

We all will have fears during periods of danger. Physical courage is how we counter those fears. Moral courage is oftentimes harder to demonstrate because of the higher risks to career, friendships, and the like. But in the end, if you do the moral, ethical thing, you will sleep well for the rest of your life.

— CPT Lawson Magruder

Courage is not ever feeling afraid. It is feeling afraid and going on, in spite of it.

—Father Kevin Shanahan

Excerpt from: OF THEIR OWN ACCORD

The interviews resulted in 15 themes that stood out among Bravo Company plank holders: Service, Accountability, Physical and Moral Courage, Honor and Integrity, Open, Honest and Respectful Communications, Adaptability and Resilience, Training to High Standards, Competence, Expanded World View: Respect for Others, Leading Others, Shared Values: Building Trust and Teamwork, Relationships, Sense of Purpose and Direction in Life, Becoming a Good Citizen, and Heroes at Home honoring the wives of battalion Rangers.

Our intent in writing our book is not to diminish the contribution of the other companies in 2nd Battalion or the contributions from the 1st Battalion, but rather to inspire them to share their own stories of their time and what it meant. Bravo Company stories are not unique, but they are a representation and acknowledgement of our collective Ranger Regiment DNA to this very day. The principles then were simple but exacting: **Clear tasks, demanding standards, train as you will fight, shared physical and mental hardships, open and honest communications, ingrained discipline, mutual respect and earned trust.** No difference from then to today.

What we experienced in those first pivotal years was exceptional leadership through the exquisite demonstration of the key leadership attributes required for success for both NCOs and officers: **leaders always had presence, leaders had unquestionable character, and leaders had keen intellect and competence.** If any leader did not possess these attributes, they were counseled and observed and if they could not obtain the desired standard they were quickly removed. Our plank holder senior NCO and officer leaders were combat veterans from the Vietnam War and were driven by the hard lessons they had learned. They were all consummate professionals, beyond technically and tactically competent for their time. They were, and still are, sterling examples of our American Warrior Class.

It should be remembered the first two Ranger Battalions did not have a formal selection course such as RIP or RASP for almost a decade. During those early years, we had soldiers coming from Airborne School or even AIT straight into the battalion. They were assigned to a company, a platoon and a squad and it was the squad and team leaders' job to forge them into a Ranger, leading by example. But it required 100% effort by the new 'want-to-be' Ranger who had to demonstrate he could hang. Back then, it was up to every team, squad, platoon and company to develop their own unique **Warrior Forging Process**. In all cases it was purposeful, challenging, and built from the experiences of those original Rangers during the first critical years of developing standards, SOPs, and participating in the physical and mental hardships, which bonded us into a band of brothers that holds true to this day. We all know what they are, the shared hardships and enduring crucibles, highest of standards, mastering warcraft and for those who served in conflict, fighting for the men next to you and mourning loss. Regardless of the technology, there is one thing that bonds us all – the suffering and hardness that was expected of every Ranger regardless of rank or era. To earn the respect of the warriors around you.



A TRIBUTE TO THE ABRAM'S CHARTER OF THEIR OWN ACCORD

continued

As we learned in our first Bravo Company reunion in 2019, those bonds last a lifetime. As Warrior's know, we don't fight as much for self-preservation as we fight for the preservation of each other and the unit. While we join the military out of patriotism, duty, honor, country, and so forth, when the fight comes, we do not fight for those things. We fight for each other; we fight to be worthy. As it has been for millennia.

2. ACCOUNTABILITY

"You must account for your own actions before you can hold others accountable. I use the concentric circle rule when things are not going well: I start at my own feet and then work out to determine who did not meet the standard.

Corrective action then needs to take place immediately."

— CPT Lawson Magruder



From left: Danny Crow, Tom "Doc" Giblin

Excerpt from: *OF THEIR OWN ACCORD*

The Regiment has an incredible history, especially post 9-11. But it is important to understand that history started in 1974 with the original members of both battalions - the plank holders. The first volunteers of the 1st and 2nd Ranger Battalions who established the high standards maintained to this day, evolving tactics, techniques and procedures over 50 years as enemies evolved and technology was introduced, inculcating the never changing Ranger Values and Warrior Ethos set forth by General Abrams and codified by the Ranger Creed. This 50th anniversary of formation of the two Ranger Battalions demonstrates that our reputation, as the premiere, global, blitzkrieg fighting force born from the ashes of the Vietnam War, has not only endured, but has a very special place in the modern history of

the United States Army. For all of us who have served in the Regiment, this anniversary reflects a milestone as we pass the torch to the next generation of Rangers who will serve in the Regiment for the next 50 years.

Of Their Own Accord is a small peek into what it was like at the very beginning, the pre-GORTEX Rangers if you will. It was during very difficult societal and morally challenging times, when a defeated and demoralized Army was crumbling from within. This is a story of a small band of volunteers, unknowing what would be expected of us, rising to the occasion to literally start the transformation of the U.S. Army.

We wrote with a fourfold purpose:

- 1) Inspire young men and women to join the greatest military in the world.
- 2) Inspire the major influencers (parents, relatives, friends, veterans, educators, pastors) for America's youth to encourage them to serve.
- 3) Pass on a memoir for our fellow Bravo Rangers and their family members.
- 4) Inspire new and old leaders to be the best leaders you can be.

We encourage everyone to buy one or more books. They are great gifts. It is not only an interesting historical look at the beginning, but as importantly, **ALL NET PROCEEDS** are donated to the non-profit, 501(c) 3, Rangers Scholarship Fund (<https://rangersscholarshipfund.org/>). RSF mission is to award merit-based scholarships and educational enrichment opportunities to the Families of Currently Serving and Veteran Rangers of the 75th Ranger Regiment in the spirit of "*Rangers Serving Ranger Families.*"

To purchase our book, please go to our website, <https://www.oftheirownaccord.com/store>. It is also available on Amazon, but by buying from our website we can donate \$10 from each book to the RSF as opposed to \$4.

In closing we know having multiple purposes in a book is ambitious and usually distracting. We've also learned through our interviews and in writing this book, it is impossible to tell the stories of someone's purpose in life without realizing, there is often more than one purpose in one's life – and it typically takes a lifetime to discover them all.

Sua Sponte and Rangers Lead the Way!

By Fred R. Kleibacker III (MSG ret.) and Lawson W. Magruder III (LTG ret.)



**MENTOR
NETWORK**



EDUCATION



**FINANCIAL
WELLNESS**



**BENEFITS
& MEDICAL**



**SPIRITUAL
FITNESS**



**GOLD STAR
PROGRAM**



LOOKING TO GET YOUR ORGANIZATION INVOLVED?

Our **Community Partners** are businesses and fellow non-profit organizations that we've teamed up with to assist transitioning and transitioned Rangers through avenues like finding employment, getting into grad school, navigating VA benefits, etc. These are groups that actively value Rangers and see their worth. Similarly, our **Ranger-Friendly Careers** are companies who go beyond saying they are "veteran-friendly" but actively want to hire veterans- and many specifically seek out former Rangers. Email info@threerangersfoundation.org to learn more!



BECOME A MENTOR

Mentorship is one of the most impactful ways we can assist our veterans. A TRF mentor is a veteran of the 75th Ranger Regiment who also has had other life experiences outside the military, with a willingness to help build connections, share experiences, and assist in setting realistic expectations. A mentor can provide the guidance similar to what you got from your 1st and 2nd line supervisors.

Mentors are from a variety of industries. Few transitioning veterans have a set career path upon leaving the military but do have a desire to find job satisfaction and worthwhile work similar to the life they had in Regiment.

Just like Regiment, this is an all-volunteer organization. Please complete the application form if you feel you can make a difference by serving as a mentor. You don't need to have all of the answers - you need to be prepared to listen and have a genuine desire to make a difference.

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