



FALL 1995

Sua Sponte

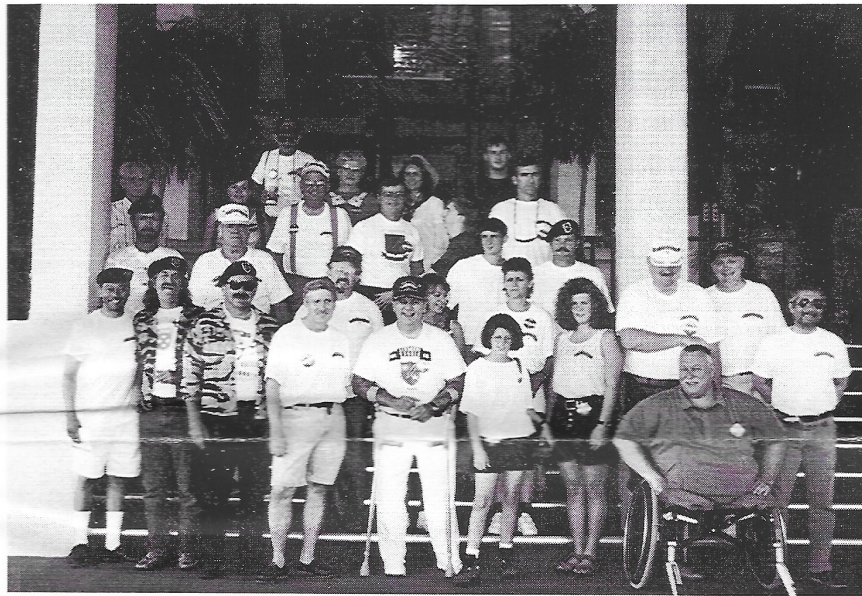


The Quarterly Newsletter of The Company G (RANGER) 75th Infantry Association

FUN & SUN FINALE

REUNION OVERVIEW

By: Newsletter Staff



Fun and Sun attendees pose at the front entry of the Sheraton Harbor Place Hotel, Ft. Myers, Florida



LRRPs, Rangers and family members casually lounge at pool side while awaiting the evening festivities

A small but festive group of LRRPs and Rangers convened at Ft. Myers, Florida over the 4th of July weekend to participate in the sixth reunion of the Association. The reunion was organized by **Earl and Karin Toomey** and hosted by the Sheraton Harbor Place Hotel. It was a comfortable and evenly paced reunion, limited in pageantry and with lots of free time for socializing and lounging at pool side. Reunion guests were welcomed from the outset by a large sign outside the hotel, greeted the reunion arrivals. The hotel was gracious. Large Jr. suites overlooking the Caloosahatchee River were provided and the main hotel restaurant had the best damn food (seafood and Thai menu) we ever ate.

Dominating the reunion was a strong showing from the men of the 196th LIB Long Range Recon Det (Prov) who sported their "burning rope" and LRRP insignia on special tee shirts. The shirts were quickly gobbled up by 196th men as well as others seeking this collector's item. 196th LRRPs also scored high with the Association raffle, taking second and third place winnings.

Several reunion attendees were jolted with phone calls around midnight by **David Swires**, calling from Nebraska to extend his best wishes and insuring all that he was with us in spirit. Dave promises to be with us in person at the next reunion.

Consistent with past reunions, LRRPs and Rangers were accompanied by spouses, children, newborn babies, parents and friends. The **Nye's** and **Meabon** children pitched in with the reunion activities,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

"of their own accord"

Sua Sponte

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Steve 'Tower' Johnson

Kirk Brookbush

Historian

John 'Gunner' Starnes

Corp. Counsel

Tom 'Dolly' Robison

Sua Sponte is the official newsletter published quarterly by the Company C (RANGER) 75th Infantry Association.

Change of Address: Sua Sponte does not maintain the mailing list. All addresses are maintained by the Treasurer. Receivers of Sua Sponte are encouraged to keep the Association informed of any address changes.

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

Newsletter Submittals: Articles, photos, announcements, etc. are always welcome. Sua Sponte reserves the right to accept and edit all materials as necessary. All submitted photos will be returned if requested. Authorship and photo credits will be provided. Submittal of written articles may be hand written, typed or on computer disk. We can translate most files.

Deadlines: Sua Sponte is published quarterly in March, June, September and December. Absolute deadlines for submitting material for the newsletter is the first of each month identified above. Time sensitive material will take precedence. Send material to the Sua Sponte address in Honolulu, Hawaii.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: David Moncada

I returned from the fiasco in Haiti safely and without harm, thanks to the Big Ranger in the Sky. I'm sorry I missed the reunion in Florida, but having to address a few issues on the homefront, I chose to skip our last reunion. The biggest concern at home was that Megan has a spot of skin cancer which had to be surgically removed- a biologically aggressive type.

Again, thanks to the Big Ranger, all was successful.

I left active duty I Haiti as a 1SG under less than favorable conditions, but with a clear conscience and proud all the same to have represented an old Combat Ranger. The short version will suffice: In my opinion, today's active army career officers are more concerned with "career management," as opposed to truly caring for and addressing the needs of the troops. In fairness this perhaps doesn't apply to all senior career officers, but certainly to those in the 3rd Special Forces Group, with whom I had the unfortunate experience of association. As a 1SG trying to take care my troops and their needs, I pissed off a few full birds, lt. birds, Maj's., and more than one SMJ. A few incidences arose, after which I chose to defend my troops and my integrity, and which pissed these guys off even more. I refused to play in their sand box the way they would have me. In my own enigmatic way I informed them to find the nearest shitter and to contemplate the meaning of life. I think these guys were just frustrated at not having had a "real war" to fight in- for their whole career- and found joy in f'ng with the troops. While out processing through Bragg, a couple of brother LRRPs from N/75 (173rd) offered me much needed assistance. An investigation involving a full bird and a few of my troops in Haiti was underway. I was told that I should make myself available while at Bragg. Roy Boatman (75th Inf. Assoc.) and a Major Phil Kossa (173rd LRRPs), still on active duty, helped "ease me out of there" before anyone could say.. "where's that old Ranger 1SG?" My hat is off to Roy and Phil!! They did what we always did best... help each other out, no mater what. All in all, I'm out of the Reserves now, and feel a

lot better for it.

I understand that our next gathering will be in Las Vegas, for which I look forward to attending. I will be helping out with the preparations. Nice to be back! Nicer yet to be associated with real soldiers who know the meaning of brotherhood and the inherent bonds forged in combat. Proud to be a Ranger in a time when it meant something. Airborne!!

FRITZINGER TO WED

Carol Louise Sinn and John Frederic Fritzinger recently announced their plans to marry. The ceremony will take place on October 22 in Fritz's home state of Pennsylvania.

Those who attended the Ft. Myers reunion were fortune to meet Carol and were impressed with her friendly and gracious personality. The Association welcomes Carol into Team Sierra and the Association family. We look forward to seeing her again at future reunions. And to Fritz,.... you luck dog.

BREAKING NEWS

Las Vegas 1996 is rolling. Shortly after this publication a recon team will be making an over flight of Vegas to scope out the hotel situation, insertion & extraction LZ's, E&E routes, fire support and available resources. Both the Strip and downtown options are available as of this writing. By the Winter edition, detailed information on the hotel will be made available for individual members and families to plan their 1996 schedules. We are targeting July 4th through 7th. Go ahead and set your calendars to these dates.

The Association is looking for information on **Danny G. Studdard** (KIA, 1971). Send info to Sua Sponte at its Honolulu address/ phone/ fax/ number.

1996 reunion commemorative tee shirts will be overseen by AJ Pack. Those wishing to input into this collectors item are encouraged to contact AJ, or reunion coordinator M. Chu.

Calls for 1996 auction items are announced at this early date. Search you closets and souls for possible donation items.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

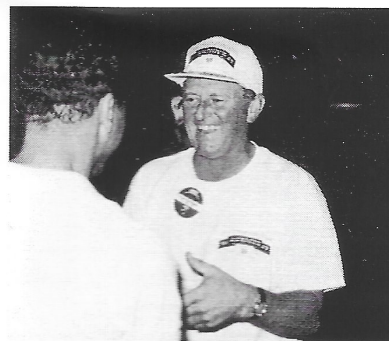
REUNION OVERVIEW cont. from pg 1
pulling the names of the raffle winners.

AJ Pack burst upon the scene by mid Friday afternoon, officially kicking off the reunion activities and proceeded to immediately established a rapport with the hotel staff on a first name basis. However there is no truth to the report of rumors that AJ took up with a local female hotel employee.

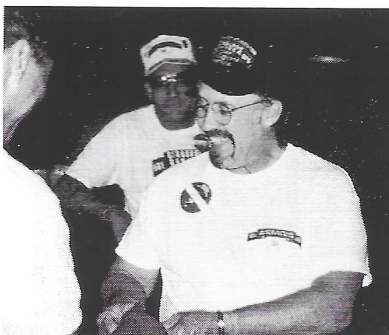
Heads turned at the arrival of **John Fritzinger**, accompanied by a lovely female companion wrapped around his arm. Beaming, Fritz introduced her to the Association as **Carol**, his fiancée'.



Jim Connolly picks up the first prize raffle ticket award on behalf of a VFW winner from RI. VP Tildon and Chairman Svensson presents the award.



Second place raffle winner Larry Hogan



Third place raffle winner Gary Copeman

On Saturday morning the group gathered on the front steps of the hotel for a brief photo session before marching down the block to a shrine erected in memory of airborne soldiers. A memorial service was held with the local VFW providing an honor guard. Vice President **Ralph Tildon** gave a brief eulogy, chronologically reciting the names of our deceased comrades. In silent resolve, we again committed ourselves to never forgetting them and re-inforced the bonds that brings the Association members together each year.

Later that evening the drawing of the Association raffle winners was held with the children of **Dennis and Percilla Nye** and **Dave Meabon** doing the honors. First place went to a VFW association from New England. Second place was awarded to Association members **Larry Hogan** and **Gary Copeman** who proceeded to plow their winnings back into the Association auction.

The auction was highly successful. A wide array of items were donated and the auctioneer **Earl Toomey** did a masterful job of spurring the membership onward to compete aggressively for all items on the auction block. Special acknowledgment is given to **John Starnes** who contributed several important auction items to include a framed painting depicting the history of Rangers. His coveted painting was eventually purchased by **Clarence Avery**. Florida resident **David Motlow** also donated two special items to include a hand-crafted Seminole doll which went to **Danny and Marcel Jacks** and a beautiful hand made Seminole jacket purchased by **Florita Tildon**. Thanks to all donators and buyers for your generosity. All auction receipts are placed directly into the Association's general funds.

The reunion attendees did not go hungry. A generous layout of hors d'oeuvres was made available on the first two days, followed by an outdoor buffet dinner on the third, all part of the total reunion registration fee.

Much of the reunion activities revolved around the swimming pool and sun deck of the Sheraton hotel where **Danny Jacks** could be found basking and holding court each afternoon.

Abundant free time was spent socializing among LRRP and Rangers families. **Goggles, Twig, McCain, Robison, Halbert, Svensson, Meabon, Tildon, Haussler,**

Valeriano, Jacks, Quarnoccio, Copeman, Chu, Motlow, Avery, Toomey, Schuster, Connolly and their families members were among the many members linking up in Florida.

Day trips around the downtown Ft. Myers environment and treks to the Florida everglades rounded out the activities of the weekend.

BOARD ACTION

By: Newsletter Staff

The 1995 Board of Directors met in Ft. Myers, Florida to conduct its annual meeting. Several important business matters were conducted. The following outline of major issues is provided. Those wishing to obtain the complete summary minutes may request a copy from Association Secretary Michael Chu by calling 808/537-4674.

Elected for a two year term to the Board of Directors are:

Danny Jacks
Bob Halbert
Kirk Brookbush

- Bob Halbert however resigned his position and Frank Svensson was appointed to fill his two year term.
- Frank Svensson was elected to serve as Chairman of the Board for the next year. The next Association reunion will move west, with Las Vegas selected as the 1996 reunion site; St. Louis and Washington DC are penciled in for 1997 and 1998 respectively. Michael Chu shall serve as coordinator for the 1996 reunion. Point men for the 1997 and 1998 reunions have not been selected. Volunteers are sought.
- An operating budget of \$4025. was approved for FY 1995-96.
- A By law amendment was approved for re-structuring the election process to insure equal representation of the "early, middle and late" eras on the Board of Directors. Membership ratification will be presented at the next General Membership meeting.

- The Board adopted an "Excel" fund raising program as presented by Tom Robison and Clarence Avery. The program is based on encouraging Association members to subscribe to the Excel telecommunications service, with Excel donating 5% of long distance calls back to the Association each month. The Association Officers are charged with flushing out the and strategic implementation of this program.

REALIGNMENT OF VA GOES TO CONGRESS

On March 17, a plan to realign hundreds of VA medical facilities into geographic networks while flattening the hierarchy of the Veterans Health Administration bureaucracy was sent to Capitol Hill. The plan was signed by VA Secretary Jesse Brown and reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget.

This vitally important initiative on behalf of this nations' veterans has my full support," said Brown. I'm pleased that the reorganization phase is proceeding."

Congress has through mid-summer to review the plan for restructuring the field. A Congressional hearing on the plan is scheduled for April 6. By law, the headquarters changes, which include a flattening hierarchy and decentralized decision making, may begin immediately.

Dr. Kenneth W. Kiser, Under Secretary for Health, is now focusing on providing more detail on his reorganization plan. According to VA newsletters, they will be seeking to "redefine our way of doing business so we emerge into the new century as a contemporary health care organization second to none."

These are impressive goals and statements. Sua Sponte will continue to monitor the reorganization of the VHA, particularly with regards to the trickling down of tangible improvement of services to its veterans.

JOHNSON BECOMES LIFER



The ranks of association life-time members was recently expanded to an even dozen with the addition of Steve "Tower" Johnson of Bemidji, MN. Steve has been a

steady force within the Association since its beginning. In addition to serving as a present Board member, Steve was one of the originators of the organization, has previously held the title of Association Vice President and was responsible for publishing the very first issue of Sua Sponte. Congratulations Steve!

With the 1996 membership drive just around the corner, now is a good time to start contemplating your commitment to become an Association Lifer. Call Jerry Schuster for details.

VIETNAM 1997

By: Newsletter Staff

Dennis Nye will be picking up the state side planning effort for the expedition back to Vietnam. Earmarked for 1997, the expedition will coincide with the 30th anniversary of the Company. Nye of Ohio will join forces with George Beach who resides in Thailand.

Beach checked into the Association network shortly after the Myers reunion. He reported that he recently returned from the field, and that he will be traveling to Vietnam this Fall under contract with a major client. He reports that he will be on Hill 1362.

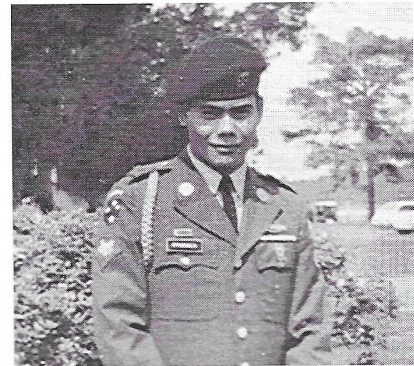
With the normalization of relationships between the US and Vietnam firming up, the 1997 expedition may prove to be good timing for those seeking entry into the country for tourism or entrepreneurial purposes. Those contemplating this expedition should contact Dennis at 419/ 595-2876 or George in Thailand ph: 011-664-457-1029.

GUNNER'S CORNER

Where Did LRPs Come From?

Part I

by: John 'Gunner' Starnes,
Association Historian



Association Historian, John "Gunner" Starnes, circa 1968

Although "Ranging Men" was first used in 1678 to describe American Rangers, a group known as "Church's Ranging Men" would later be called Rangers.

In 1776 General George Washington ordered Major Thomas Knowlton to send his Rangers behind enemy lines. The information brought back from these patrols would give Washington a basis for decision making in future engagements. It is believed that Washington said, "send un-detected small Long Ranging Patrols deep behind their lines here and here," pointing on a map of the areas. It was at this time that the term L.R.P. was first coined. Knowlton's Rangers was then designated as the first Long Ranging Patrol Company.

Col. Ode Windgate, a British officer in Burma was the next to use LRP tactics in 1943. He copied American Ranger tactic which was used to go deep behind enemy lines for reconnaissance and raids, taking the fight to the enemy's back door as a hit and run tactic (sort of speak). It was so successful that during the Quebec Conference that same year, an infantry unit known as the 5307th (Composite) Army Unit (Provincial) would be formed and would re-adopt these proven tactics. The 5307th, nicknamed "Merrill's Marauders," was the first US Army unit to use reconnaissance and raids together with success. It was called Long Range Penetration Special (LRPS).

Close to the end of WWII, the 5307th was changed to the 475th (Ranger) (Provisional) and took up activity in China. The unit was later deactivated and placed into inactive files with the 1st Special Service Force at Ft. Bragg, NC.

During the close of 1945, US Ranger-Commando elements including the OSS were ordered into the inactive files by Congressional and Presidential orders. In 1949, with war again appearing eminent, the Ranger School became operational in 1950. A request by former OSS, Marauders and Rangers was initiated to bring back Ranger Battalions. The request as initially denied. The request was amended Ranger Companies (Airborne) to be attached to major divisional commands. 17 companies were approved.

(Authors footnotes: The reason for the denial of Ranger Battalions was the Congress felt that due to the destruction of two Ranger Battalions and devastation of the 5307th in WWII, such a unit should not be raised. In 1952, at the close of the Korean Conflict and by orders of the Department of the Army, the Ranger Companies were deactivated and placed into the 1st Special Service Force).

REUNION 96 GETS EARLY LAUNCH

By: Newsletter Staff

Plans for reunion 1996 in Las Vegas, NV, were set into motion immediately following the Ft. Myers reunion. Spearheading the reunion's advance planning team will be Michael Chu, Vegas resident Darrel Wasson and newly elected Board member Kirk Brookbush from San Francisco. Contact with the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority has been made. Also stepping forward to lend a hand are David Moncada, Charles Haussler, Frank Svensson and AJ Pack.

Other Association members wishing to get involved are encouraged to contact Chu at ph: 808/ 537-4674 or fx: 808/ 521-9054. All are welcomed.

GOOD THINGS HAPPEN

By: Ralph "Otter" Tildon

For six years now, every reunion has brought a special healing and a special magic. From Sacramento to Washington, DC, from New Orleans to Las Vegas, from Nashville to Ft. Myers, something good has happened when the LRRPs of E/51 and the Rangers of G/75 come together.

At Ft. Myers, special things happened. Vic Valeriano, one of the original six LRRPs, walked into our reception room. The smile on his face at being with us and the joy we showed at being with him after almost 28 years was something to behold. He had not known of our Association until he by chance met J.R. McCullough at an airport several months prior.

Another special thing happened at Ft. Myers. The children of LRRPs and Rangers showed up in force. They ranged from a baby recently born to Danny Stevenson, to "Goggle's" pre-teen, to the Nye's teens, to John Starne's young Ranger son. The children's presence helped to ensure that our efforts and sacrifices in Vietnam will not be forgotten. Their presence meant that what we value;... decency;... honesty;... loyalty to friends;... service to our God and our country; ... will pass on to the next generation.

Our reunions show that we cherish the brotherhood that was forged when we faced life and death together. We will strengthen that bond. God bless and see you in Las Vegas next year.



Bylan Staub (son of Goggles), Holly Nye (daughter of Dennis and Percilla), and Shelly Meabon (daughter of Dave)

TREASURER'S REPORT

By: Jerry Schuster
2-28-95 to 7-28-95

INFLOW

Cash on hand, last report	\$1602.06
Dues income	\$495.00
Concessions commission (Toomey)	\$30.00
Interest fm. checking	\$25.90
Concessions income	\$2603.00
Raffle sales	\$1437.00
Reunion registration	\$2505.00
Reunion auction	\$1441.00
Misc. income	\$326.00
Total	\$10,464.96

OUTFLOW

Sheraton Hotel	\$4312.32
Concession purchases	\$1542.89
Postage- raffle, Sponte, concessions, misc.	\$423.07
Excel phone enrollment	\$25.00
VFW color guard	\$50.00

Bankcard charges	\$17.71
Mailing labels- Sponte, raffle	\$27.51
Auction purchase for Betty LaFord for beer steins	\$100.00
Printing name plates reunion	\$90.00
Printing Sponte	\$960.04
Phone disc for locator asst.	\$277.68
Button machine & supplies	\$326.03
Payout raffle winners	\$500.00
	\$300.00
Total	\$9192.25

Total cash on hand, general fund \$1272.71

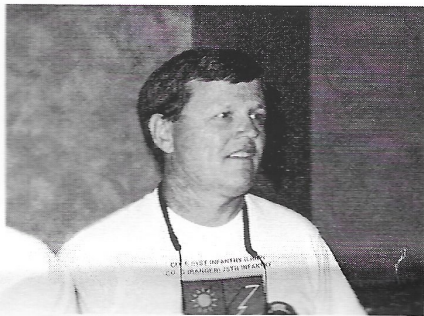
Total cash on hand, lifetime member acct. \$2650.00

ASSOCIATION NEWS

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

By: Frank Svensson

I had a very interesting experience in Ft. Myers during the 1995 reunion. As a member of the Board I naturally attended the Board meeting. Everything was going along just fine when a crafty old first sergeant decided to lay an ambush. I was walking down the trail fat, dumb and happy when Toomey blew me away. One minute I was Board members, the next minute I was Chair. Earl laid the prettiest ambush I've seen since Da Nang, and I walked right into it.. Nice going Top.



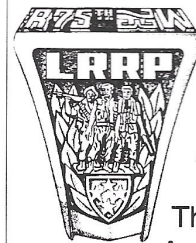
Newly elected Board Chairman 1995-96,
Frank Svensson

The reunion, while not as large a turn out as we are accustom to, was great. Earl and his wife did a fantastic job setting up and managing our small but enthusiastic crowd. The food was top rate, the beer was cold and the lies were taller than ever. We owe the Toomeys a large thanks.

A new Board was elected and seated during the reunion. I have the honor or being the new Chairman of the Board. I will do the best job that I can for our Association. We've already started to initiate some small but important changes. You'll see a more diverse Sua Sponte in the future. We hope to include a lot more people in the writing of articles in future issues. You'll see articles on the history of the companies, upcoming events such as reunions and articles on how to save money booking your reservations to the cities we visit. Your Board also decided to solidify the diverse and distinct eras represented by our membership. In the future the Board will be made up of members from three distinct time frames: 1966-67, 1968-69, and 1970-71. It was felt that by doing this

no one era would have more influence than any other era. We also did something Earl Toomey has been bitching about for the past several reunions. We planned far ahead for future reunions. We know that we will be in Las Vegas in 1996, St. Louis in 1997, and Washington DC in 1998. All of these locations are in the active planning stage at this time. This should allow time to search out the best deal for your dollar.

Your Board wants to make a difference for you, the member of our Association. If you have a question or a comment, please do not hesitate to let us know. If we don't know about a problem, then we can't address it. If any of you have any comments or suggestions, please call me at 909/ 989-8461. Ranger!!



RING STILL AVAILABLE

The official Association ring is still available. The 10k gold ring is reasonably priced at \$380. and can be purchased with special engravings. Contact Association treasurer Jerry Schuster to place your order.

EVERYONE WINS

Sanctioned by the Company G (RANGER) 75th Infantry Association

By: Tom (Dolly) Robison

Seldom is there a time when, as a member of Co. G (RANGER) 75th Infantry Association, you can do something which benefits both yourself and the Association at the same time.

But here is that opportunity. By making EXCEL Telecommunications Inc. your long distance telephone service provider, not only do you get state of the art long distance service but the Association receives a percentage of your long distance charges. That's right. The Association receives five percent rebate on the cost of each and every long distance call you make. This could mean hundreds or even thousands of dollars paid by Excel to the Association every month.

"What's in it for me," you ask? Up to 50% off your long distant calls, that's what. That's and affirmative. You get 30% off all long distant calls to anyone, anywhere in the domestic United States and a whopping 50% off all calls made to any other Excel customer.

Excel Telecommunications Inc. is a multi-million dollar company located in Dallas, Texas. Excel offers residential customers two basic long distance services. EXCEL PLUS II is designed for customers who make less than \$100. a month in long distance calls and make most of those calls in the evening and weekends. There is a \$1. monthly fee. No minimum numbers of calls are required.

EXCEL PREMIUM PLUS II is designed for residential and small business customers who make more than \$250. in long distant calls a month with most of those calls being made during the day. There is a low fee of \$3. per month, but no minimum number of calls per month.

Sign up now using the enclosed form and start saving money on your long distance calls while at the same time helping the Association.

If you are not completely satisfied with the Excel long distance service, write Excel and tell them to so within the first 90 days of service and Excel will pay to switch you back to your previous service provider.

If you need additional information regarding commercial service, 1-800 long distance services or other services available from Excel, Tom Robison is the point man on this mission. Give Tom a burst at 517/ 645-0104 after 6 pm EST.

BLOOD VALLEY

By: Michael S. Chu

Sometime in late Summer of 1969, Chief and I did a fly over prior to an upcoming recon patrol. It was uneventful until we started our return back to base camp.

On the way back to Chulai, the helicopter pilot was instructed (unknown to us) to fly out over the ocean to inspect some sampans. I remember the huey unexpectedly headed several miles out to sea where we hovered in a stationary position a few feet above a group of small boats. I leaned out over the side and stared down at some Vietnamese fishermen standing in the boats below. They were staring right back up at me when the door gunner apparently thought it would be 'great fun' to toss a CS grenade into one of the vessels below. He pulled the pin and tossed it out but it hit the end of his M-60 sights and bounced back, exploding just outside the cab of the helicopter. Upon hearing the explosion, Chief and I turned towards the sound and were hit in the face by a cloud of white CS powder which swirled throughout the entire cab of the helicopter. We both took in a healthy lung full as the huey started to lurch and buck, the pilots desperately tried to maintain control of the bird. I was thrown to the floor where I remained in a semi-fetal position, unable to see or breath, unable to comprehend what was going on. I was certain we would end up swimming back to Chulai.

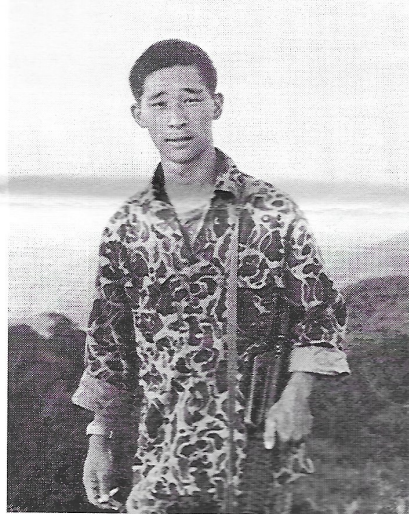
In the 1990 CBS coverage of our Sacramento reunion, there is a short segment filmed during a break in the dinner banquet which captures the moment Chief and I recalled that incident and he laughingly describes the, "skill of the pilots in landing the helicopter safely back on the beach." However I think the fishermen had the best laugh as they surely watched in amazement as we limped back to shore with CS gas spewing from the helicopter.

Early the next morning we set out to rendezvous with the choppers at the Americal Combat Center landing pad. The Ranger team consisted of Santamaria, Serna, Motlow, Martinez, Chief and myself. We were Team Hawaii, the dark skinned team, but more on that some other time.

I remember loading up into the back of the 3/4 ton truck parked near the rappelling

tower, trying to make last minute adjustments to the radio stuffed into the top of my bulging rucksack, and tightening my web gear. I pulled a crumpled pack of Kool cigarettes from my shirt pocket and sharing a smoke with the team as we silently watched the morning sun rise over the horizon of the South China Sea. It was a beautiful sight and I recall gazing out and reflecting how that ocean was the stage for the great 'fishing boat encounter,' less than 24 hours ago. We smoked in silence. We were wearing our game faces.

We descended from the morning skies like banshees and made a couple of false "touch" insertions ... to confuse any enemy that may be on the ground. The adrenaline was pumping through our veins, driven by the loud rhythmic beat of the chopper blades. I squatted behind the pilots as we



Michael Chu, Hill, 1362, 1969

neared our insertion point. The TL readied the team with eye contact and hand signals. They were poised on both sides of the huey, legs dangling, weapons locked and loaded, bodies coiled and ready to pounce into the jungle. The moment was upon us.

But just seconds before bolting from the helicopter, enemy fire erupted through the floor of the huey. A 51 cal. round tore through my left leg and exited through the roof of the of the huey. The impacts jolted the huey from side to side as the pilots struggled to maintain control and regain altitude. We were fortunate, we did not go down. The command helicopter circling above was monitoring the situation and immediately directed our huey out of the

area. Two escort Cobra gunships which trailed high above us screamed into action.

On the same day another Ranger team, Team Texas, which had been in the field for a couple of days, also made contact. Led by Sgt. Beach, they started their E&E maneuvers when Robert Baldwin was hit in the leg. Their extraction was successful and he and I spent a brief time together in the hospital before departing company, and became enshrined on the same set of orders for the Purple Heart. As it turned out, he would be the last man I would see from the G/75 Company for a long time. It was a very special moment for me to see Robert Baldwin, 22 years later at our 1991 Washington DC reunion. We toasted each other and celebrated the fact that we were both walking.

My last memory of my team and members of the Co. G (RANGER) 75th Infantry occurred that morning as they helped to lift me out of the helicopter onto a waiting stretcher at a field hospital. This started a long journey through various military hospitals to include Cam Ranh Bay, the Philippines, Japan, Guam and eventually Tripler Army Hospital in my home state of Hawaii. I left the Army shortly thereafter and reentered civilian life. I never saw or heard from any of those guys again. Through the many years that followed I often found myself in quiet moments, wondering about what had become of my fellow team members and the other young Rangers that I had met in Vietnam.

More than twenty years would pass. Then on one summer afternoon I received an unexpected phone call from David Moncada, informing me about the plans for the first Company reunion in Sacramento during a weekend in August of 1990. At first the name, "David Moncada," was but a vague and distant memory which I could not immediately place; until he said "Chief." Then I immediately recalled everything. Wild horses could not have kept me from Sacramento that weekend.

Leaning against the bar at the Beverly Garland hotel in Sacramento, Marty Kukendall explained to me the continuing story of that 1969 mission. He explained that they went back into the same AO the next day with a "heavy team" consisting of the remaining men on my team and Kukendall's newly formed team. He called it "Blood Valley."

SUA SPONTE HOLIDAY GREETING AD

Sanctioned by the Co. G (RANGER) 75th Infantry Association

Yes, I want to send my best wishes and greetings to all my brothers and their families of the E/51 LRRPs and G/75 Ranger Association this Holiday season!!! Enclosed is my donation of \$25. I understand that the Winter issue will be mailed in time for Christmas and that all donations will be used exclusively by the Association for the publication of the newsletter.



My Holiday greeting is as follows (25 words of less please):

From: _____

Option: Also enclosed is a photo of me and/or my family to be placed in the ad (note: All photos will be returned if requested).

- Make checks payable to:
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- Cut off date for receiving Holiday greeting is Thanksgiving, Nov. 23, 1995

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