



WINTER 1995

Sua Sponte



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

ASSOCIATION FACES CHANGES IN 1996

1996 will usher in many important changes and challenges. Here are a few that are on the horizon:

MOCADA TO STEP DOWN

After six years at the helm, David Moncada recently announced his plans to step down as President of the Association. Citing a busy work and family schedule, Dave's resignation will become effective at the Las Vegas reunion and the Board will be tasked in appointing a new President.

Unlike Board positions, the Association Officers are appointed by the Board of Directors with no term limits, and they serve till they voluntarily step down or are replaced by a majority vote of the Board.

Chief, together with Tom Hardy, was responsible for organizing the first company reunion in 1990 in Sacramento, California where 28 men met and launched the Association from his back yard. Dave was a clear choice for a leadership role at that time, and he has served with distinction through all of the reunions that have since followed.

5TH EDITOR SOUGHT

Michael Chu will be looking to hand off the editorship of the Sua Sponte newsletter in the Summer of 1996. Chu has served as editor since the Spring of 1994. The Board will again be challenged to find a replacement during its 1996 meeting.

The first edition of Sua Sponte was launched out of Bemidji, MN by Steve Johnson shortly after the Sacramento reunion. Johnson was followed by Jose Valasquez who published a lengthy tabloid newsletter from Washington State. Back then, the mailing list was relatively small and only a few copies were published. These early editions are today considered to be collector items.

Somewhere around mid 1991 or early 1992 Sponte settled into the Spinningwheel basement of Bob Parker in Canton, MI. For several years, Parker cranked out the newsletter from his 'dungeon' and crafted to much of the present artwork that is still used today.

Mike Chu followed Bob Parker as the editor in the Spring of 1994. Sua Sponte is presently published out of Honolulu, HI.

REPRESENTATIVE TO 75TH SHIFTS

Frank Svensson, present Chairman of the Association has replaced Ben Dunham as "unit representative" with the 75th Regiment Association. As unit representative, Svensson will be our liaison with the larger Ranger family. Frank will be the fourth person to hold this distinction. Previous representatives include Steve Castile, Danny Jacks and Ben Dunham.

Remaining on board will be VP Ralph Tildon and Michael Chu as Association Secretary. Association members who wish to step into a leadership role are encouraged to contact any Board member or Officer. In addition, several Board seats will be available in 1996. Board elections will be conducted in the Spring of next year.

22-APR
28-APR

"of their own accord"

Sua Sponte

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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.

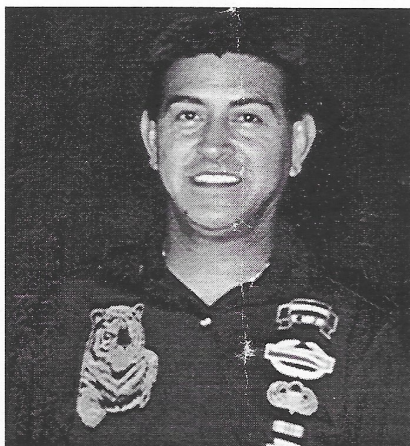
Membership Information: All former members of E/51 and G/75 are eligible to receive Sua Sponte. Membership applications can be obtained by contacting the Association at any of the addresses or phone numbers listed above.

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



Ranger Reunion 1996 will be upon us quite soon, and e ill once again meet in Las Vegas, NV. Mike, Darrel Wasson and I have already conducted a site recon of the area. We were met graciously by the sales manager of the Aladdin Hotel on the strip. Arrangements have been made and will be refined as we approach the 4th of July weekend. Reunion 96 promises to be full of Las Vegas fun for all our families. We can assure that the kids/ or younger people how accompany their families will lots to do, as our recon took this into focus.

Also please be prepared to see some changes in the Association leadership at the 1996 Reunion.

The Association will be seeking someone else to take over the Sua Sponte newsletter starting with the Fall 1996. Mike Chu will continue however as Association Secretary. I will be officially submitting my resignation as President in Las Vegas. My decision to step aside at this time is based on greater personal demands over the past year, and it looks as though it will continue as such. I also feel the need for a break for awhile, and believe that change and "new blood" will be beneficial.

I have enjoyed my role and the Association President, as demanding and time consuming as it was over the last years. The rewards have been immense and immeasurable, not just for myself, but for my family as well. Having been associated with all of you has added new light and dimension to my life. I will continue to remain active the Association, as time permits, and look forward to staying in touch with many of you regardless of what is going on. Please have wonderful Christmas and a safe and happy New Year. Look forward to seeing you in Las Vegas!

FROM THE VA

The 1995 handbook entitled "Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents" is available for \$3.25. You may order this booklet by writing to:

Superintendent of Documents
P.O. Box 37194
Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954

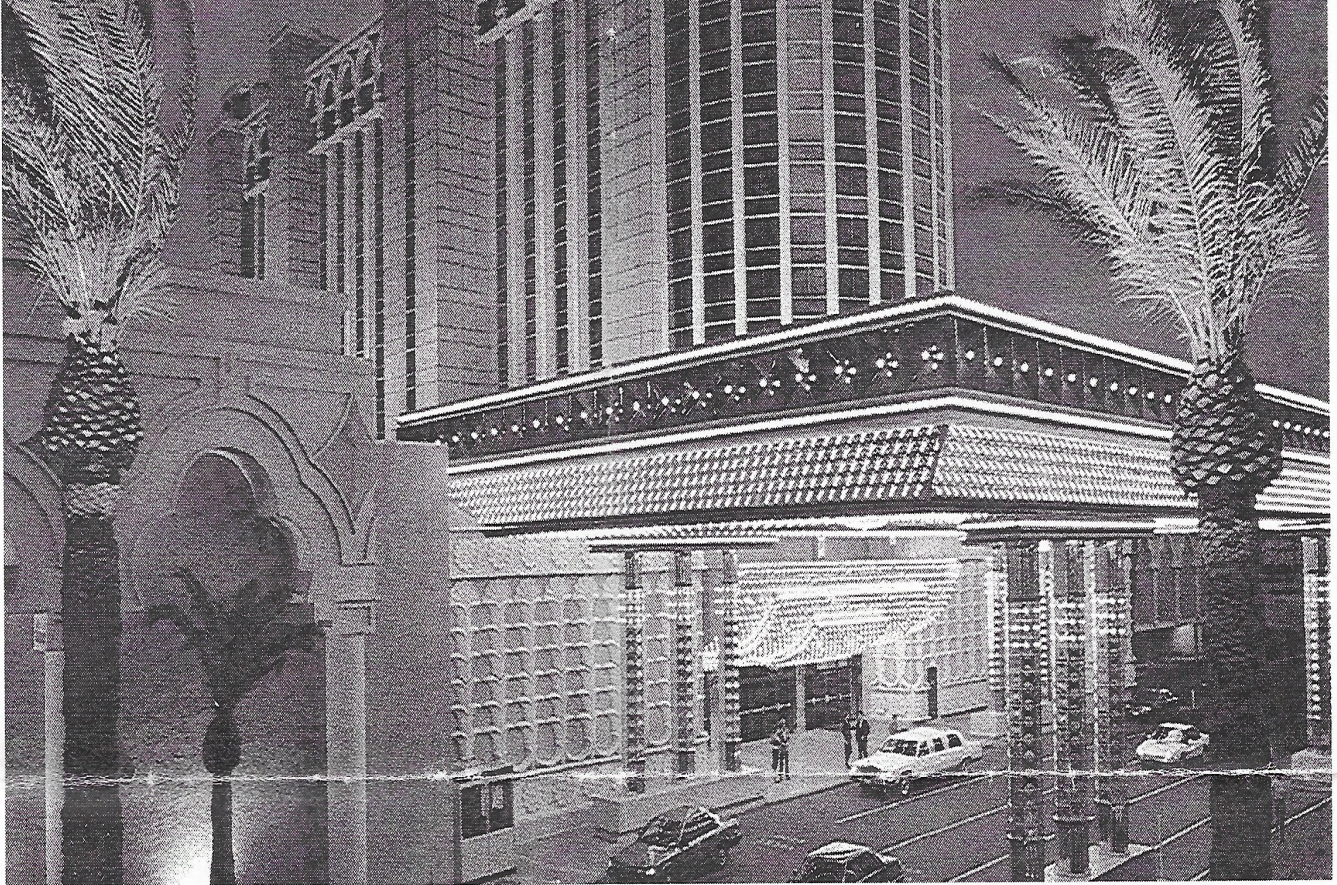
You may also place an order by phone (202/ 512-1800) or by fax (202/ 512-2250). Be sure to specify Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents, S/N 051-000-00205-9.

This 95 page booklet contains a wealth of information ranging from

disability benefits, home loans and mortgage insurance, health care benefits, replacement of military records, and many more. The booklet list all VA facilities throughout the nation to include addresses and phone numbers. Every veteran and their families should this booklet in their home.

Need to get in touch with the VA? You can reach them at the following toll free numbers:

VA Benefits	1-800-827-1000
Life Insurance	1-800-669-8477
Debt Management Ctr.	1-800-827-0648
Education Loans	1-800-326-8276
CHAMPVA	1-800-733-8387
Headstones & Markers	1-800-697-6947



The Aladdin Hotel, located on the famous Strip, will host the 1996 reunion. It is a full complement of hotel facilities including 1100 rooms and suites. It features three restaurants, buffet, snack bar; tennis courts, swimming pools, shopping arcade; full casino with 30,000 sf of flexible meeting and banquet facilities; main show room, lounge showroom, and a 7000 seat Theatre of the Performing Arts.

REUNION UPDATE

A successful commando raid into Las Vegas was conducted over the Sept. 23-24 weekend by the trio of Dave Moncada, Darrel Wasson and Michael Chu.

The 1996 Association reunion will settle into the Aladdin Hotel and Casino. The Aladdin Hotel promises outstanding accommodations and a genuine spirit of cooperation towards making the 1996 reunion a successful and enjoyable event. The Aladdin is located on the famous Las Vegas strip near the MGM Grand Hotel. The hotel has over 1100 rooms, two outdoor swimming pools, large meeting and convention facilities, a full casino, three restaurants and a 7000 seat Theater of the Performing Arts.

Because the fourth of July weekend is always a busy time for Las Vegas establishments, the following tips are provided for members planning on attending reunion 1996:

- Make hotel reservations early. Be sure to ask for the special rates provided to the Co. G (RANGER) 75th Inf. Association. Be advised that the hotel expects to be sold out over the weekend and/or room rates can easily double if you show up at the door without a reservation. It is strongly recommended that you book a room reservation at least 30 days in advance. You may cancel up to 48 hours in advance without penalty. Cut off date for booking a room will be announced in the Spring. Stand by.

- The \$75. rates are for the room located in the highrise tower. The \$60. rates are for the older 3 story portion of the hotel surrounding the pool. Be sure to specify which rate you want when you call in your reservation.
- Shop early for plane fares.
- Minors are not allowed in the gaming areas of the hotel. They are very strict on this.

The reunion will take place from July 4- 6 (Thursday through Saturday). Advance party personnel will be arriving on July 3 (Wednesday) for set up and a jump start on the festivities. The registration fee will be \$52.50 per person and will cover the banquet dinner, ground transportation to the memorial service, refreshments at the hospitality room and applicable tax and gratuity.

CANADIAN VIETNAM VET CITED

by: *Phuong Ly, Detroit Free Press*

While thousands of Americans streamed into Canada in the 1960s to avoid the draft, thousands of young Canadians were headed the other way across the border to serve in Vietnam in the U.S. Armed Forces.

After the Vietnam War, Canadians generally treated the returning veterans as outcast. Many have since hidden their war history.

But Sunday, the most forgotten of the Vietnam vets will be remembered. Thanks to the effort of a Farmington Hills man and two friends, the first national memorial honoring the Canadian vets will be dedicated in Windsor.

"In Vietnam, we formed a brotherhood," said Ed Johnson, who was in Vietnam from 1969- 70. "We served together, so I had to do something for them."

Johnson and friends Ric Gidner, a fellow vet, and Chris Reynolds have spent four years and \$180,000. of their own money to build the black granite memorial.

They've had to go without vacations and spend less time with their families. All of them have drained their credit limits and dipped into their retirement fund.

And Gidner, a private investigator, mortgaged his house in White Lake. But its worth it, they say.

"When you see our freedom, somebody had to pay a price for that," said Reynolds of Grand Haven, who was in grade school during the war and who is now a maintenance manger for a cheese company. "Its my way to say thank you."

The idea began when some Canadian vets at a POW rally in Washington D.C., told Johnson about their treatment in their home country. Johnson, a production manager for an

automotive supplier in Troy, and his friends formed the Michigan Association of Concerned Veterans. They wrote letters to veteran groups on both sides of the border, without receiving much response.

The group's first choice for a site was Ottawa, the capital of Canada.. But the Canadian government refused, saying it would be improper to grant federal property to a memorial for veterans of a war that Canada denounced.

Windsor city officials agreed to donate a site for the memorial, saying that the city had a long tradition of friendship with Detroit and the United States. The city is also asking for private donations to help pay for site preparations and to reimburse the organizers.

The memorial is located at Assumption Park, on the Detroit River near Ambassador Bridge. The names of the 100 Canadians who died in the war have been engraved into the same type of black granite as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington. Three flags will fly behind the site- American, Canadian and POW-MIA flag.

No one knows exactly how many Canadians served in Vietnam- estimates range from 12,000 to 40,000.

While American attitudes towards Vietnam vets began to improve after the monument in Washington was dedicated in 1982, Canadians have never welcomed back their Vietnam veterans. Indeed, the veterans say the 60,000 American draft dodgers have been treated better in Canada.

The vets say they have been called warmongers and mercenaries. They haven't been able to march in parades or lay a memorial wreath at national cemeteries, until this year, haven't been able to join the Royal Canadian Legion, Canada's counterpart of the American Legion.

"I still have to pinch myself because I can't believe it's happening," Canadian veteran Dan Newton said of the

memorial. Newton, a government worker in Windsor, served in Vietnam from 1966- 69.

For the men who made the memorial possible, it also has been traumatic. When they were checking the spelling of their fallen comrade's names, they would become so emotional, they had to take frequent breaks. The organizers hug Canadian veterans who come up to them at the site as if they are long-lost brothers.

This week, as the names were being sandblasted onto the granite, Johnson fought to hold back tears. "The reward for my service in Vietnam has been this memorial," he said, "Everyone deserves to come home."

HOW VIETNAM WON THE WAR

By *Bud Smyser*

"How Vietnam Won the War" was the title of a question-answer interview in the Aug. 3 Wall Street Journal.

The interviewee was North Vietnamese, Bui Tin, a former NVA colonel. He served on the general staff and accepted Saigon's unconditional surrender on April 30, 1975, two years after the last American combat troops had left.

I read it with an increasing sense that I had heard all this before. His version of Tet and U.S. policy failures matched up nearly completely with answers I had received 10 years ago from America's last commander of troops, former Army Gen. Fred Weyand.

Here at last was a wide area of agreement amid the finger- pointing that had gone on ever since Weyand closed down the American efforts on March 29, 1975. Sample excerpts from the interview with Bui Tin:

Q- How did Hanoi intend to defeat the Americans?

A- Ho Chi Mihn said, " We don't need to win military victories, we only need

to hit them until they give up and get out.”

Q- Was the American anti-war movement important to Vietnam's victory?

A- It was essential to our strategy. Support from our rear was completely secure while the American rear was vulnerable.

Q- How could the Americans have won the war?

A- If (President) Johnson had granted Gen. Westmoreland's request to enter Laos and block the Ho Chi Minh trail, Hanoi could not have won the war.

Q- What of bombing of the North?

A- If all the bombing had been concentrated at one time it would have hurt our efforts.

Q- What about the Tet offensive in 1968?

A- Tet was designed to influence American public opinion.

Q- What about the results?

A- Our losses were staggering and a complete surprise. It took us until 1971 to re-establish our presence in the South. Gen. Giap told me later that Tet had been a military defeat though we had gained the planned political advantage when Johnson agreed to negotiate and did not run for re-election.

When I showed him the interview, Weyland said yes, yes, yes to most of Bui Tin's points. He stressed, however, that we never sought unconditional surrender from the North. We sought only to assure South Vietnam's existence as an independent nation.

In particular, he noted Bui Tin's assertion that "America lost because of its democracy; through dissent and protest it lost the ability to mobilize and a will to win."

Even at the Paris peace talks in 1969- 70 Weyland saw the North Vietnamese belief that we, as a democracy, would not have the will to sustain the fight and couldn't grasp that the North was so committed it would have sacrificed a million or two soldiers to win.

He believes others will test our will in the future.

Weyland is strongly committed to the individual freedoms that democracy provides. He supports our restoration of diplomatic relations with Vietnam. But he is troubled about how we can carry out a strong role in situations like Bosnia in which the Congress and the president are far apart on policy.

He feels the media never conveyed to the American people the full extent of the military success at Tet. Instead the main images that stuck were those of black-clad Vietcong climbing the walls of the U.S. embassy.

After the war Bui Tin edited the People's Daily, the official newspaper of Vietnam, but later moved to Paris because of his disillusionment with the fruits of Vietnamese communism. Weyland served as Army chief of staff before retiring.

VIETNAM EXPEDITION 1997

So, after six years of reunions and talking about it, you think you might be getting ready to walk the walk? Feeling the itch to embark on a real and personal adventure that may test your memory, your stamina, savvy and ability to cope? Think it's about time to put to rest the restlessness? Are you ready to join up for a low key team expedition back to Nam? Think you can meaningfully get your act together in say, 12 to 18 months?

Vietnam Expedition 1997 is picking up steam and serious planning is now beginning. Yes, it will cost some bucks. Probably between two and three thousand dollars, depending on you air fare. The expedition will run about 10 to 14 days. Yes, it may get a tad rugged at times without certain civilities that you may have gotten accustomed to; you may have to shit in the woods once or twice. Yes, the weather may get uncomfortable

and you may get rained upon or have to break a sweat on occasion. Yes, the food may be exotic. And yes, you can expect the unexpected.

This expedition will not be for REMF. It will be designed for aging LRRPs and Rangers who still know how to travel light, move fast, without re-supplies if necessary.

While many details still need to be worked out, the game plan is to insert from a U.S. site and drop into either Bangkok or Taiwan; then enter the country through either Hanoi and go south or enter at Saigon and head north. Limited air, train and rented vehicles will be the primary modes of transportation once in country. Hotel accommodations will be planned where available.

The expedition is an adjunct and not a replacement to the 1997 reunion in Washington DC. No Board meeting, no banquet or other formalities will occur in Nam.

The exact details of the expedition will be ironed out by those on the expedition team. It is therefore essential that those wishing to participate stand up, be counted and start dialoging this trip. Where do we want to stop and visit? How much time in each location? What do we want to see? What will it take to get to LZ Baldy, Duc Pho or our Chulai headquarters?

This will be a great and once in a life time adventure. Probably never to be repeated. Those interested should make contact with Dennis Nye, Jim Connolly or George Beach.

Let's do it. Contact the dream team. See you in Saigon, 1997.

EXPEDITION DREAM TEAM
George Beach 011-664-457-1029
Dennis Nye 419-595-2876
Jim Connolly 401-762-0317

* * * * *

GUNNERS CORNER

WHERE DID LRPS COME FROM PART II

By: John Gunner Starnes



Note 1: Politically, Parachute Infantry was given a higher status than Ranger Infantry due to the Airborne's successful performance in the Pacific and in Europe.

Note 2: During the fighting in Korea, one Ranger company turned and ran from a battle. The company commander ordered their retreat.

Note 3: The word Ranger was taking on a new appearance of unreliability compared to the Airborne of WWII. The Ranger capability had fallen shortly after WWII as far as getting to the battlefield as quickly as the parachute infantry. From the beginning, many things happened that left a bitter taste with the Army and Congress. Such as the case with Colonel Robert Rogers calling his Rangers the "Queens Rangers." Knowlton's Rangers being wiped out as the company was returning from a mission. Quantrell's Raiders turned outlaw in the western United States.

PART II

Ranger company 7 and 14, were pulled from Europe and deactivated. From 19952 till 1954 no coverage by an American unit was maintained on the Iron Curtain. In 1954 the former Marauder/Ranger and OSS men requested activation of Ranger battalions. The request was denied. They returned to Congress for the approval of Parachute LRRP

companies. It was amended. The Congress made concessions on two small "secret" detachments at Corps level. In 1954, 5th and 7th Corps LRRPs, a cross of both OSS and Ranger/ Marauder was approved.

In 1954 the 475th Infantry was raised and stationed in Okinawa, Japan. By orders from the Dept. of the Army, the "4" from the 475th was dropped and the unit became the 75th Ranger Infantry Regiment. In 1956 the 7th Infantry was deactivated once again with only one company left on active duty known as E Company, 20th Infantry (LRRP). This company was transferred to the 503rd Airborne Infantry. The 75th was then placed into the inactive file of the 1st Special Forces.

In 1958 the 5th and 7th Corps LRRPs (Parachute) are ordered to expand from a 67 man detachment to 118 man size companies. They were known as A Company and D Company 17th Infantry LRRP. In 1966, E Troop 17th became the 173rd Airborne Brigade LRRP Detachment (Provisional). F Troop 17th Calvary Infantry was the element that preceded "Detachment A"(Provisional) Detachment 196th LRRPs which established itself on Jan. 1, 1967. E Company 20th Infantry LRRPs (Provisional) became the first field Force LRRP Company.

By act of Army Table of Distribution (TDA) all LRRP elements are (Airborne) High altitude low opening (HALO) and will have no limitations into the battlefield. LRRP are AIR/ LAND/ SEA.

NEW EDITOR SOUGHT

A new editor is being sought to take over the reins of the Sua Sponte newsletter starting in the Fall of 1996. Principal duties of the editor include the quarterly production and publication of Sua Sponte as outlined in the Association handbook.

Publication of the newsletter is a challenging job, putting its editor at ground zero on all matters pertaining to the Association. Writing, computer and graphic layout skills are a must.

Sound overwhelming? Don't worry. Help will be provided.

If you are interested, contact the Association at any of the phone numbers listed in the Sua Sponte mast head.

SPONTE JOINS AOL

The Sua Sponte newsletter has joined the America On Line internet. You may now reach Sponte through mail, phone, fax or email.

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Honolulu, HI 96813
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email: mchu21@aol.com

1996 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The 1996 year membership drive is underway. Last year, 1995, the Association membership peaked at nearly two hundred annual and life time members. An all time high for the Association.

We would like to continue this trend and charge in the new year with a strong showing once again. And of course, life time memberships are still available.

Your dues will continue to bring Sua Sponte and the new 1996 membership director to your mailbox. It will keep you plugged in with all of your fellow Americal LRRPs and Rangers. It will keep the Association alive and active. Please take a moment to send in your 1996 dues and encourage others to do the same.

1996 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES \$20.00

LIFE TIME MEMBERSHIP SCHEDULE

AGE	DUES
40-45 yrs	\$300.00
46-51 yrs	\$250.00
52-57 yrs	\$200.00
58-65 yrs	\$100.00
65+	\$ 50.00

ASSOCIATION NEWS

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

by: Frank Svensson



It's that time of year again. Everybody is busy hunting down the best deals on the best presents that your few dollars could possibly buy. It's also time to start thinking seriously about reunion 1996 in Las Vegas and renewing your membership in the Association.

What? Start worrying about getting my self and my family to Vegas this early? Why so far in advance? The simple answer is because you could save yourself more than just a few bucks. The sooner you sic your travel agent (see accompanying article) on to your travel needs the better chances of snagging a good air fare. That gives you more to spend at the annual auction, so you're actually be doing the Association a huge favor if you got off your butt and got to work early.

It's also time to start thing about renewing your membership in our Association. Your dues dollars are an integral part of what keeps our system functioning. I know there are lot of you who have been to none or maybe only one of our reunions and might be thinking that its not worth it to sending your \$20. In fact, one of my contemporaries expressed that very thought when I saw him a few months ago. The thing I would ask you to consider is the

value of staying in contact with guys that you shared so much in common with. Remember that you get not only the newsletter and the reunion opportunities. The thing that I find myself going to frequently is the membership handbook. That is essentially the data base of all of the guys that served in the Company and it is constantly updated as we find more people.

To me, is the most valuable thing that I can get with my membership outside of the chance to see people that I thoroughly enjoy being with.

Is all of the worth \$20? I'd like to think that the answer I obvious. I'm good at simply forgetting to end in the money. I've helped myself by putting an irritating reminder into my computer that pops up every time I turn it on and won't go away until I post the dues to my check book.

How many of you have signed on to Excel and your long distance carrier? It's another great and money saving way to help our Association. If you have any doubts or questions, call Tom Robison or Clarence Avery. They are our resident experts on this program. It's a good time of the year to consider picking up your Association directory and calling someone you haven't talked to for a long time (25 years).

From my family and I, we'd like to wish everyone in the Association and their families the very best for the Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

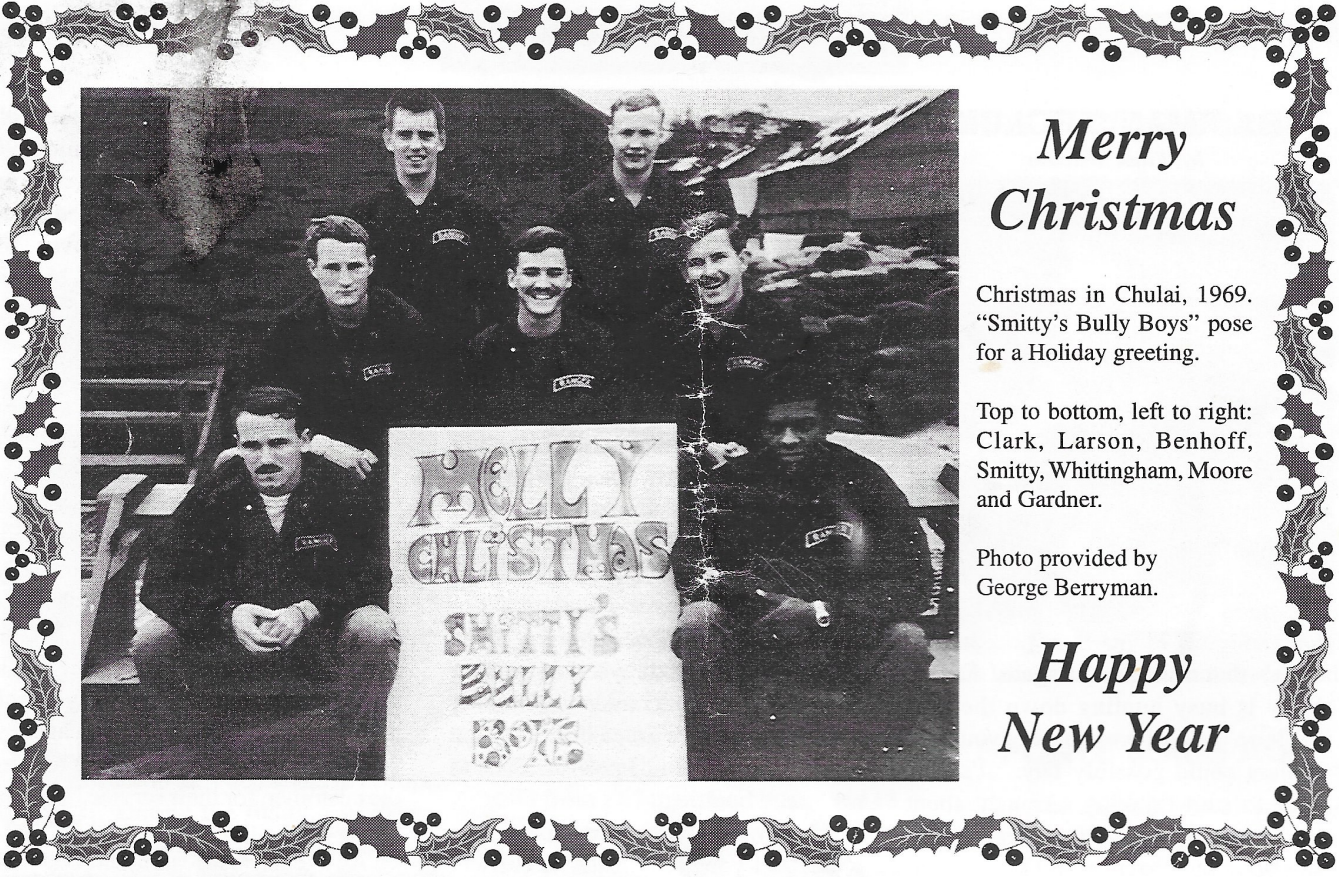
"Good afternoon. My name is..." Remember those words? I certainly do. That was, and I would guess, still are the first few words of the standard opening line of a U.S. Army lecture. While I'm certainly not here to lecture anybody, I would like to offer a little help to those of us not accustomed to doing a lot of traveling, whether it be for personal or professional reasons.

It's hard to believe that we are well into the planning stages for reunion '96 in Las Vegas. And just as we as an Association must plan well in advance for our functions, it also behooves you as individuals to do the same. Now is the time to start thinking about things like cost, transportation and how much beer you'll be taking with you. For a great many of us the single biggest expense will be transportation. While there are many ways to get you and your family to Vegas, the majority of us will probably choose air travel because of its simplicity and availability. As a professional traveler, allow me to offer some advice on how to make this aspect of your plans simple. The single biggest thing you can do for yourself is to go to a professional travel agency. There is no additional charge to you, the customer, for their service. The airline picks up the tab for their service.

An agent can research, through their computers, the cheapest and easiest way for you to get wherever you want to go. The tough part is determining when to buy the ticket. There are so many different fares and restrictions attached to those fares, that it's literally impossible to know all of them. Again, this where your agent and their computer comes in. Follow the advice from your professional agent and chances are you will get a good deal.

For those of you lining in cities or close to cities served by discount carriers such as Southwest or America West, there are some good travel prices to be had. These types of airlines tend to drive down the cost of tickets on any of the routes that they serve simply through competition.

I certainly hope this helps some of you. Las Vegas should be fun. It certainly was in 1993. I look forward to seeing all of you there.



Merry Christmas

Christmas in Chulai, 1969. "Smitty's Bully Boys" pose for a Holiday greeting.

Top to bottom, left to right: Clark, Larson, Benhoff, Smitty, Whittingham, Moore and Gardner.

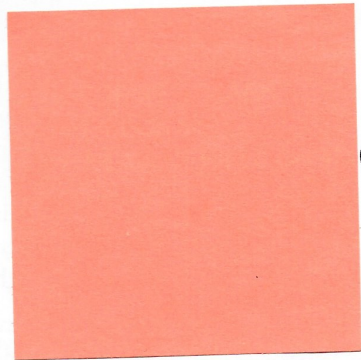
Photo provided by George Berryman.

Happy New Year

SUA SPONTE

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