

# LRRP RANGER ASSOCIATION



## SUA SPONTE

The Quarterly Newsletter of the E-51st and G-75th LRRP Ranger Association, Winter Issue 1998

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## "Meet Us in St. Louis"

by Ron Ward



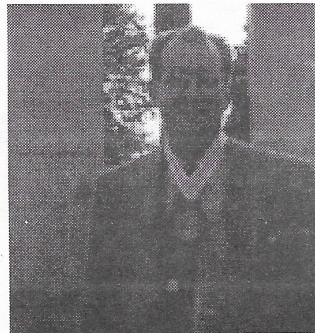
This is the site of our 10th Annual to be held in St. Louis at the Radisson Airport Hotel at the junction of I-70 and US 67 (Lindberg Avenue)

(Photo courtesy of St. Louis Radisson Airport Hotel)

Soldiers Memorial, near the river front, is the location of a special memorial to those KIA to be held Friday of the Reunion. Using charter buses to that site, a wreath will be presented for all the men of the Americal who gave their lives in service of country, especially LRRP-Rangers. We will then proceed to Grant's Farm which is located on Busch property that should prove entertaining to those present (page 11 for hotel info).

# Sua Sponte

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**Sua Sponte** is the official newsletter published quarterly by the Company G (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:** Article, photos, announcements, etc. are always welcomed. 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. Macintosh is preferred.

**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 Bemidji, Mn.

Dear LRRP/Ranger:

Being one of our founders of our organization, what a surprise it was to find out that I had forgotten to pay my dues for this year. I had prepaid them for three years and still thought that I was paid up. I could offer may excuses (building a new home, pressure at work, playing with my granddaughter, etc.) but I guess the best one would be just a brain fart on my part. Frank Svensson has already received my renewal.

I have spoken with and received permission from a majority of the Board of Directors to waive the payment of accrued dues owed by some of our members in order to be reinstated back in good standing. They have also agreed to offer a one time, two-year membership for twenty dollars. By sending in your dues now, you will be reinstated in the organization with all rights thereto until December 31, 2000. In order to be fair to our life members, each one will receive a \$20 credit with the association quartermaster.

I have just received word from my employer, Boeing, that they will match us dollar-per-dollar for an endowment fund to educate our children, grandchildren (and in some cases) great-grand children. I am working with the other officers, board members, and Tom Robison on the details. They will be available sometime after the first of the year. The only way to be eligible for these funds is to be a member in good standing.

There are may upcoming changes to our organization, which will be voted for in the coming year and will affects for years to come. Again, if you are not a member in good standing you have no vote.

As Lori's article in the last *Sua Sponte* stated, we are attempting to get the wives more and more involved with our reunions. To the best of my knowledge, we have received no response. If you wives have not read the article by Lori, please have them read it because we really would like to have their input. Would you please include your wife's name (if applicable) with your renewal for so that it may be added to the Unit Directory?

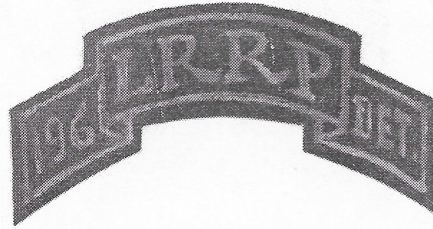
Let's make this year's reunion in St. Louis the biggest yet. Lori and I are looking forward to seeing all of you there.

In LRRP/Ranger Brotherhood,  
 "Crabs"

*Editors note: Renewal application can be found on page 11.*

## Gunner's Corner

By John Gunner Starnes



The LRS Rangers of E Co (LRS), 51st Inf (Abn) are now a part of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association and our LRRP Ranger Company Association as "Chapter Members". At present time the First Sergeant is 1SG Ray Devens. Ray replaced 1SG Keith Benedict in October 98. 1SG Benedict is now stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Both men are old Recon Detachment guys from the 75th RR.

The Company is doing rotations to and from Bosnia and training with European Commando units such as the Belgium Special Forces. It has been reported that the 1SG posts and reads information about our Company in the past to the Troopers in his formation. They also honor SSG Robert Pruden and others from our company of the Vietnam Era. So we will see some of our young, steely eyed killers at the next reunion in St. Louis, Missouri in 1999 with the Americal Division and Savannah, Georgia in 2000 with the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. It is our custom to bring berets to these reunions. To the Active Duty LRS Rangers of the Company, Welcome aboard and Merry Christmas-Do not take unnecessary chances, good hunting-Stay a LRRP, Stay Alive. Rangers Lead the Way Hooah! Eyes Behind the Lines!!

LRRP and RANGER facts: (1958) Parachute LRRPs of V Corps & V11 Corps were organized as American Commandos or if you will "Ranger Type Units. The unit was comprised of US Army elites and British Army Special Air Service (SAS) Personnel. The units were modeled after the British Commandos.

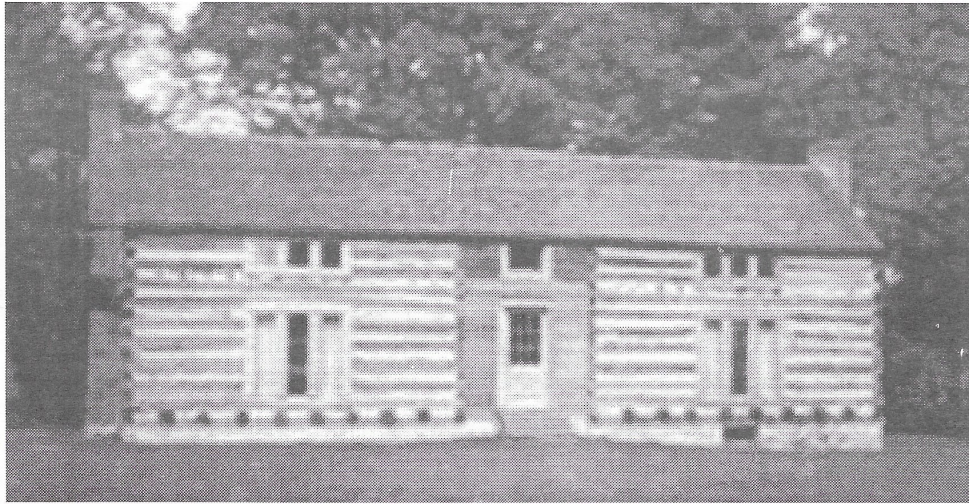
(1966) The first two Brigades to have "Provisional" LRRPs were the 173rd Airborne Brigade and the 196th Infantry Brigade>

(1968) A NVA Three Star General, was unknowingly captured by the 74th LRRP Detachment and was pushed off the over weighted chopper to gain altitude. It was discovered by the team KIT Carson when the other POW started screaming, "You killed my General!" In 1998 an article in a Chinese magazine told of a Three Star General's story of being captured by "Men with painted faces."

(1969) Only 10% of the 9th Division Ranger Company was Airborne qualified. All non Airborne personnel would attend a two week basic Airborne Course established by the Commander in country and the unit made a jump and were awarded their Parachute badges.

(1975) The US Army established sites in Fort Campbell, KY and Schofield Barracks, HI for an Air Assault Course based on proven Air Assault techniques during combat in Vietnam. The regulation AR 670-5-1 states the Commander of US Army Awards and Decorations Branch or the Commandant of such course may award anyone that completes the course of instruction the Air Assault Badge. It may be awarded to persons that perform this infiltration and exfiltration while in combat. Most LRRP and Ranger units had modified formal training in heliborne and mountaineering. A written request and proper documentation of training and actual date of repel into the combat zone. If you have the Air Medal, attach a copy of the orders to the request. A letter from the Commander recommending (approval) for the award of the Air Assault Badge. Forward the request to: Department of Army, Attn: Commander, Awards and Decorations Branch, Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana.

## "Grant's Farm"



*Trivia question: Where do you find the London Bridge? Yes, Arizona. Another trivia question: Where do you find Grant's farm house? Wow! In the Busch about 1 click north of its original location.*

*Photo credit and story contents to Karen Rieken.*

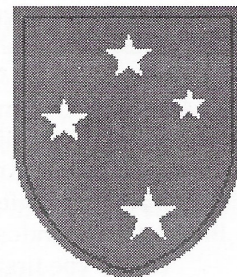
Grant's Farm is situated on a portion of land farmed by Ulysses S. Grant, eighteenth President of the United States of America. Completed in 1856, it is the only surviving structure to be hand built by an American President; however, it is not located on its original site. In 1904 the Busch family relocated the house from a position about one mile north of its current site. Grant failed as a farmer here in St. Louis and as such, had moved back to Illinois by the onset of the Civil War. He then reentered military service and eventually commanded the armies of the east and forced General Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomatox Court Courthouse. After the war, his popularity as a General placed him in the Presidency. Also in this area of the park is a Civil War Memorial. It is a fence constructed of 2,563 rifle barrels.

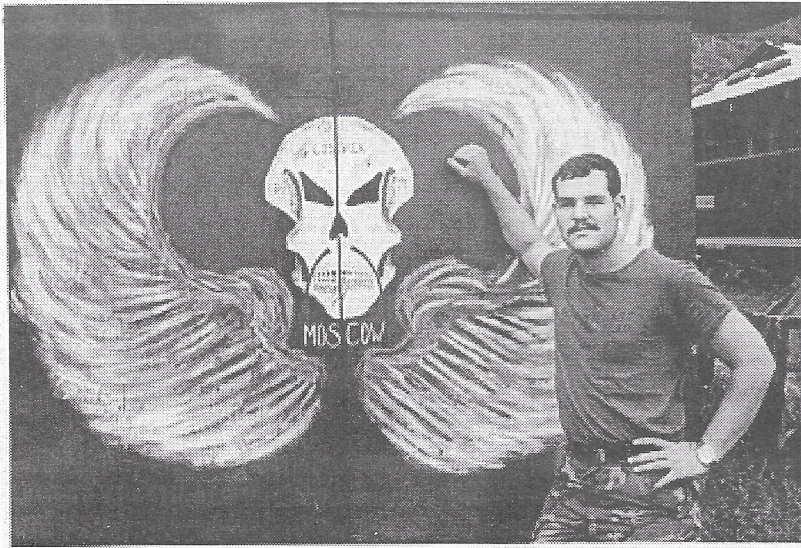
*Editor's note: I found out that (I'm sure you history buffs know this) that Grant married Julia Dent, one of St. Louis' most popular ladies on August 22, 1848. The name of Grant's farm was "Hardscrabble" and his wife, Julia, must have been devoted to have married a military and farmer to boot! Oh yea, Grant is buried in Grant's Tomb.*

### "Must-See" Attractions in St. Louis

- \* The Gateway Arch
- \* The St. Louis Zoo
- \* St. Louis Art Museum
- \* Mississippi Riverfront
- \* St. Louis Science Center
- \* Missouri Botanical Garden
- \* Old Cathedral (oldest church west of Mississippi River)
- \* Old Courthouse (site of Dred Scott slavery case)
- \* Crown Candy Kitchen
- \* Ted Drewes Frozen Custard

*Ron Ward and Gary Noller of the Americal Association are going out of their way to coordinate activities for our LRRP/Ranger reunion in St. Louis at the Radisson Airport Hotel, June 17-20, 1999.*





*Editor's bias: Al Stewart returns to our organization as Chairman of the Board after participating in further training at Quantico, Virginia. Al has always maintained communication with officers, board members, and members at large. Needless to say, we welcome him back as a mainstay for our organization!*

### Double Miss

*by Al Stewart*

Well I missed them both. I missed the gathering in Washington DC over the fourth of July weekend and the reunion activities held at Fort Benning in August. Missing these two important functions was not by choice but simply a matter of necessity due to my work obligations.

I have heard from a few whom attended the Fort Benning event which has received good reviews. The active Army Rangers were good hosts and provided for a variety of events both for viewing pleasure and participation. I am not at all surprised by the favorable comments however; it is exactly what I would have expected from young men carrying on a great tradition.

I haven't received any reports from those attending the Washington event but I'm sure that it was a great time as well. All that you really need for a good time from a group of old LRRPs/Rangers is to throw them in a room together with six-packs and let the stories begin!

It is my understanding that next event will be in 1999 in conjunction with the Americal Association and the 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association. I am looking forward to attending, especially after missing this year's events. I would particularly like to have seen the culmination of all the hard work by Steve Crabtree in having memorial bricks dedicated to the honor of all the fallen LRRPs and Rangers in Vietnam. My hat is off to Steve and his wife Lori, for seeing this quest through to a successful conclusion.

I hope to see you all in St. Louis next year.

Sincerely, Al Stewart

# '98' D.C. LRRP Get Together

Article and photos contributed by Earl Toomey



## LRRP Get Together "98"

which was held in Washington D.C. over the 4th of July weekend was a great success with approximately 80 in attendance. It was made up of LRRP's, Rangers, wives, girlfriends, kids, and grandkids. There was fun for all and a visit to The Wall.

A special thanks should go to Vic Valeriano and his lady friend Beth for their transportation support and coordination of the reunion site. Also, for Tom Nash finding a lot of the early LRRPs. The early LRRPs plan on having a LRRP Get Together one time a year. Next year it will be held with the 196th and Americal Division Association, and G Co. Rangers in St. Louis, Missouri on 17-20 June 99.

A special thanks goes to A.J. Pack's sister and family for their attendance and also for Bob Parker for showing up, and Colonel James Humphries who is writing a book on the early LRRPs.

One of the early commanders, Lt. Pratt, was in attendance for the first time and is looking forward to many more. We also have located the first commander Captain John N. Maxwell Jr. in Gainesville, Florida.

Also, a midwinter get together will be held on the weekend of 15-16 January 99 in Cape Coral, FL. For more information call or fax Earl Toomey at 941-542-4306. We are also working on a Rucksack trip back to Vietnam in 2000.

LRRP All The Way!

Earl Toomey

# Association News

## Rucksack 2000 Get T ogether

by Earl Toomey

### LRRP Get Together Vietnam

12-24 January 2000

Here is an update on Rucksack 2000 and Itinerary:

The cost for Rucksack 2000 will be \$1535 per person out of L.A. on 14 January 2000. This includes roundtrip airfare and in country domestic flights. It also covers all breakfasts, all airport transfers and ground transportation, English speaking guides and drivers. Not included in the cost are visa cost, airport departure taxes, and meals other than breakfast. There is a limited seating available. There is a \$250 nonrefundable deposit upon booking. 90 days prior to departures the remainder of \$1285 must be paid. This is 15 October 1999.

Close out for deposits will be 30 June, 99 or earlier. All seats are on first-come basis. The deposit of \$250 will confirm your seat. You need to do this as early as possible. For additional information you can contact Earl Toomey at (941) 542-4306; or Jerry Howard at (360) 825-8496; or Tom Nash at (201) 991-8562.



1967 in Vietnam. Valeriano, Williams, Toomey, and Team Members. Photo Courtesy of Earl Toomey

## Feature Article

By John "Gunner" Starnes

### LRRP Mission: "Wire Tap"

DTG: 670512/1100 Zulu

Unit: 196th Infantry Brigade (Separate)  
Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol  
Detachment (Provisional)



Location: Tay Ninh, Vietnam  
Team number: Identity (Secret)  
Mission number: 670021

Mission Statement: To perform a deep penetration LRRP patrol and tap into enemy communication land line as directed by authority of MACV Headquarter.

Conduct of the mission: Method of insertion-Foot. Four (4) LRRPs will be integrated with line platoon of the 196th Infantry Brigade to mask insertion of LRRP personnel. As the Infantry moves off, the LRRPs will perform an undetected break off and stay behind. Once the team has insured no compromise of mission from possible enemy forces, the team will proceed by foot to find said land line and tap into enemy communication. The team will monitor the tap for a minimum period of twenty-four hours. The tape recorder will be turned on and allowed to collect voice transmissions. Length of mission (48) hours.

Special Training: Instructions and wire tap device will be provided by personnel of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). A class on operating this device will be conducted prior to deployment of the team.

Purpose of mission: (PIR) To collect intelligence information by wire tap on enemy communication recording all transmission to gather possible sites/locations, personnel, time lines, activity and identification of enemy units in and around the Nui Ba Din, II Corps Area of Operations AO) (IR) With a secondary mission to conduct a LRRP Patrol to detect visual enemy movement and infiltration routes for the US Army and organic Headquarters. Wee 1:50:000 map sheet)

At the end of mission team will be debriefed by all interested US Agencies at the organic command (S-2)

Special equipment/instructions. Per SOP-NOTE: "If equipment fails to properly ground, urinate on grounding wire." No mention of this mission or purpose of mission will be discussed outside this Headquarters. This brief is classified (Secret) No Form.

Requesting Agency: Government of the United States and Armed Forces of the United States-Info copy-to the Republic of South Vietnam Government will be given at the conclusion of the mission.

Authority: William Westmoreland Jr.  
General, US Army  
Supreme Allied Commander for South East Asia

This mission was declassified in 1987. This information was provided by LRRP Ranger Dave Travis of the 196th LRRP to be placed into the annals of the LRRP Ranger Company Association. SP4 Dave Travis, SGT Stan Kovich, SP4 Paul Grondines, and SP4 William Connor were the men of this LRRP team.

# Treasurer's Report

by Frank Svensson

## Cash Flow Report January 1, 1996-December 18, 1998

### Inflows

Adjustments	64.90
April Interest	90.00
Auction	400.00
Auction 1997	235.00
Concessions:	
shipping	110.91
other	8,369.51
<b>Total Concessions</b>	<b>8,480.42</b>
December Interest	99.00
Donation-Friend	245.00
Donation-Member	1,023.40
Dues:	
Dues 96	2,465.00
Dues 97	2,110.00
Dues 98	1,120.00
Dues 99	100.00
Dues 00	20.00
Dues other	20.00
<b>Total Dues</b>	<b>5,835.00</b>
Dues 97-Friend	60.00
Dues 98-Friend	20.00
Excel Comm.	10.96
February Interest	76.00
January Interest	34.00
July Interest	97.00
June Interest	103.00
Lifetime Dues Account	6,350.00
Lifetime Friend	100.00
March Interest	77.00
May Interest	94.00
Membership Cards	17.50
November Interest	111.86
October Interest	106.78
Reemb. NSF Fee	15.00
Reunion 1997	1,380.00
Reunion 1996	1,540.00
September Interest	106.52
Shipping Income	6.50
Uncategorized Inflows	<u>205.00</u>
<b>Total Inflows</b>	<b>27,100.82</b>

### Outflows

Balance Adjust	40.00
Check Charge	9.95
Concession Expenses	6,965.23
Concession Exp. Shipping	28.81
Filing Fee	45.00
Flag Supplies	0.00
KIA Poster	20.00
Membership Cards	385.00
Misc	18.00
Non Profit Postage	170.00
NSF Check	50.00
Office Supplies	128.72
Postage	1,242.95
Printing	3,218.08
Refund	135.00
Returned Check	33.00
Reunion 1996	2,577.55
Reunion 1997-other	325.00
Reunion 1997-banquet	585.00
Shipping concessions	348.35
Stamps	457.00
Uncategorized outflows	<u>30.00</u>

**Total Outflows** **16,812.64**

### Overall Financial Statement: 12-18-98

<b>Total Inflows</b>	<b>27,100.82</b>
<b>Less Total Outflows</b>	<b><u>16,812.64</u></b>

<b><u>Overall Total</u></b>	<b><u>10,288.18</u></b>
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## Cartoons by Delbert

George the janitor in 1967



Delbert Ryan Jr.

George the custodian in 1970



St. Lous 1999 Janitor-Custodian Convention

"Say, George, were you a custodian or a janitor?"



Delbert Ryan Jr.

*Editor's note: Delbert Ryan, Jr. is a student of Steve Johnson (editor) that has an assortment of cartoons which will be included in upcoming articles for Sua Sponte. A special thanks for Delbert for his sense of humor. How about yours!*

## ASSOCIATION NEWS

### \$20 Special Membership Application

One-time offer \$20.00 is for two year membership\*

Last Name	First Name	MI	Code Name	Wife's first name
Street				
City	State	Zip Code		
Phone (include area code)		e-mail		

\*Remit to:

Frank Svensson- 6964 Berkshire Avenue-Alto Loma-Ca-91701

### REUNION 99 HOTEL INFORMATION

*By Ron Ward*

The 1999 Americal Division Veterans Association national reunion will be held June 17-20 in St. Louis, MO. The reunion headquarters will be at the Radisson Airport Hotel at the junction of I-70 and US 67 (Lindberg Ave.) The reunion chairmen are Ron Ward and Gary Noller.

Reservations for lodging should be made directly with the hotel. Cancellations can be made anytime before 4:00 PM on the check-in day. Reservations must be made prior to June 15, 1999 in order to qualify for the special reunion rate of \$69.00 per night. The best time to call the hotel is between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM Central Time. Phone reservations can be made by calling 314-291-6700. Fax messages should be sent to 314-291-8734.

Be sure to mention that you want the Americal Division reunion rate. The same special rate applies to those attending the 196th LIB Association reunion at the same time and place. The Radisson Airport Hotel is located 2.5 miles from St. Louis-Lambert International Airport. The hotel address is 11228 Lone Eagle Drive, Bridgeton, MO 63044. It is at the junction of I-70 and US-67 (Lindberg Avenue.) The hotel offers free van shuttle between the hotel and the airport.

# Merry Christmas from some of the early LRRPs

*Travis, Nash, Thompson, Pratt, Maab, McMahon, Toomey, Mazzucchi, Howard, and Garver*



*Photo courtesy of Earl Toomey*

## *Sua Sponte*

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