

LRRP RANGER ASSOCIATION



SUA SPONTE

The Quarterly Newsletter of the E-51st and G-75th LRRP Ranger Association, Spring Issue, 1999

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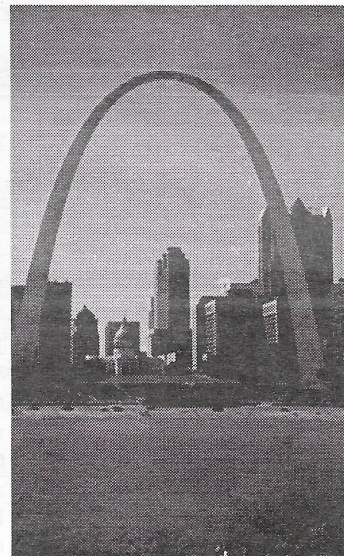
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St. Louis Rendezvous

by Sua Sponte Staff

Can you believe it? This is our 10th annual reunion since having the first one in Chief's backyard in Sacramento, California. This decade has seen some great reunion sites including DC, New Orleans, Vegas, Nashville, Fort Myers, Fort Benning, and Knoxville. The St. Louis Arch, shown in the picture to the right, represents the *hands* of all LRRP-Ranger Brothers to come together and celebrate the most famous company serving in Vietnam. *Sua Sponte!*



The Americal Division has put together an itinerary that you can opt for as much as you want. For example, you can select an 8 hour tour of Grant's Farm, Downtown, Soldiers Memorial, Union Station, and Historic St. Charles. Or you can do the 5 hour tour that features Downtown, Soldiers Memorial, Union Station, and the New Cathedral. The Hospitality Room at the Radisson Hotel will be open for those of us who usually wind up doing a 2-3 day tour within its confine. Regardless, our Association would like to thank the Men of the Americal for establishing an AO (area of operations) for us, especially Gary Noller and Ron Ward.

Sua Sponte

COMPANY G (RANGER)
75th INFANTRY ASSOCIATION
 6964 BERKSHIRE AVE.
 ALTA LOMA CA. 91701
 PH: 909/989-8461 FX: 909/ 989/8461

SUA SPONTE
 RT. 2, BOX 178 D
 BEMIDJI, MN. 56601
 PH: 218/ 759-1439

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 Steve "Sour" Crabtree
Vice-President
 Dave "Chief" Moncada
Secretary-Treasurer
 Frank Svensson
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Historian
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Corp. Counsel
 Tom "Dolly" Robison

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.



President's Letter 0
 Dated 1 March 1999

(602) 984-3737 (home)
 ranger@goodnet.com

Steve Crabtree
 2255 North Azurite
 Mesa, Arizona 85207

Dear LRRP/Ranger:

Lori and I are looking forward to our upcoming reunion with the Americal Division Association. This will be an experiment that may change the way G/75-E/51 holds our reunions for years to come. By doubling up with other associations, the costs to our treasury are minimal as opposed to \$1500-\$2000 for self-sponsored reunions. Not that we will NEVER have another reunion strictly by ourselves, but we will certainly have to assess this year's when planning future reunions.

Regarding future reunions, where are we going to hold Reunion 2001? What about 2003? We need your input and suggestions, AND WE NEED YOUR HELP. If you would like to have one of our next reunions in your area, let us know in writing or by attending our association meeting, Saturday, June 19 in St. Louis. If your site is selected, you will be the point of contact, responsible for locating a hotel, submitting food and beverage contracts to the board, taking care of entertainment and all the other fun things that organizers get to do. It's not fair that we continue to ask the same people to fly all over the country (at their own expense) to organize reunions. So remember if you want to have a reunion in your area, you are going to have to pull the duty that goes with it. Why plan so far in the future? People need time to make arrangements at work, save a few bucks, adjust their schedules accordingly, etc. The additional time will also allow us to advertise. Lori's dad's WWII Navy group has bumper stickers made up that advertise their reunions. They have found 15 additional former crew members over the years due to their bumper stickers. We should do something similar.

Our first reunion was thrown together in six weeks and held in Chief's backyard. 28 LRRP/RANGERS showed up with about the same number of family members. Despite the short time frame, this was hugely successful. We had a full year to plan Washington, DC's reunion and find our former members. Over a hundred of our men attended, most bringing family. Numbers wise, this was our best reunion. Since that time, attendance has been dropping so changes had to be made.

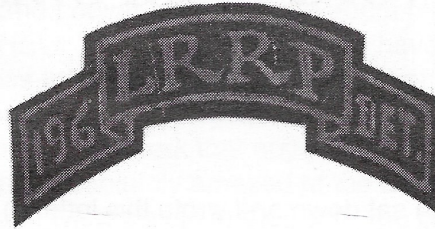
Our reunions have been changed to every other year. They will be set in concrete as to location and date as far in the future as possible. Had I realized that moving last year's from Washington, DC to Fort Benning was going to split the reunion (both site and attendance), I would have never suggested the change. As your president, I will fight to see that this never happens again. Our finances have been brought from the brink of bankruptcy to a surplus in excess of \$10,000 thanks to Frank's diligent efforts as Treasurer. Chairman Al has made some very difficult decisions over the past year; all of which have proven to be both prudent and wise. Dues were lowered and over 50 former members (both delinquent and delinquents!) have renewed their memberships.

So what does all this mean? G/75-E51 LRRP/RANGER Association is once again the premier company size Vietnam Veteran's organization. Let's all show up this June and show the city of St. Louis just how good we once were and still are today (I'm not speaking of debauchery). See you there!

CRABS

Gunner's Corner

By John Gunner Starnes



Some members of the "Wire-Tap" team: Travis is the man kneeling on the center with the 173rd Abn combat patch, Tony Mazzucchi on the right. Standing on the left is Tom Nash on the far right is Wayne Price, Stan Kovich in there, too.

1985 LRRP/Ranger History Continues

The consolidation of the Ranger Companies of Korea, puts them into the 75th Ranger Regiment. The Ranger lineage and honors of WW11 put them into the Ranger Training Brigade (RTB). The LRRP Detachments and the LRP Companies and Ranger Companies were placed into the 75th Ranger Regiment. "Proof" is the unit crest of the Coat of Arms or Grant of Arms of the 75th Ranger Infantry Regiment by the Secretary of the Army. This is depicted by the Asian Lion guarding the castle-fortress embattlement with a disc within a disc colored red and blue for the 13 LRP-Ranger Companies. Below the six pointed castle is a six knotted rope equaling 12 points for the twelve original LRRP Detachments. The 12 original LRRP Detachments are: (1) V Corp LRRP (2) V11 LRRP (3) 196th BDE LRRP (4) 173rd ABN BDE LRRP (5) 1st BDE LRRP 101st ABN DIV (6) 1st CAV DIV LRRP (7) 4th DIV LRRP (8) 25th DIV LRRP (9) 3rd DIV LRRP (10) 1st Field Force LRRP (11) 2nd Field Force LRRP (12) 9th DIV LRRP.

“A Word from Shenk”

by John W. Shenkaruk

Dear Rangers/LRRPs,

Before I begin, let me say that I sat down and wrote this letter in July of 1998, but never got around to sending it. It has been quite some time since we shared a few thoughts with each other and after reading the last issue of “Sua Sponte”, I’ve decided to sit down and let some of you know how I feel. I’ve wanted to say these things since the first reunion at “Chief’s” house in Sacramento, California.

I feel that for some reason or other, there is a lot of disagreement among our brother LRRPs and Rangers. Many of you know exactly what I am talking about, but most don’t want to discuss the problem with anyone.

I’ll admit that I’ve had a couple of things bother me during the last several years pass along. Well, it’s too late for that now. After reading our newsletter, we had better get things straightened out right now. Time passes faster with each coming year and before you realize it, you’ve missed the chance to set things right.

I am not writing this letter to gripe about anything, nor to embarrass anyone. We are all adults and should be able to discuss our problems with each other. If we don’t do it now, we never will. I believe that the Association is in trouble, and it’s up to **US** to straighten it out.

I admit that I’ve missed as many reunions as most others, and I give my word that I will from this moment I’ll try in every way to make each and every reunion held. We must all try to make the reunions. Of course not everyone can do this, but if we all try and make as many as we can, there will be extremely good attendance at most. This is the only way we can discuss the organization and let others know how we feel, and what changes we think should be made.

Nearly thirty years ago, I departed Vietnam and as the rest of you, I did not know if I would ever have the chance to see you guys again. I must admit, I never agreed with the way the Army notifies you that you have ten minutes to grab all your belongings you have accumulated for the last two years and head over to the Chopper Pad to get a ride to the Big Bird for Home! They don’t even give you a chance to say goodbye to your friends. And when I say friends, I mean the guys you lived with for the last two years or so. They are really your brothers. Then you leave and get home, and if you’re like me, you try to forget because most people back in the “World” don’t have the slightest clue as to what you’ve been doing in Nam. You get home and realize that the whole world has been doing just fine without you, just as if you never left. So you fall into the regular routine with a regular job in a regular community living a regular day-to-day existence. What a blow it was to you and the way of life that we were used to back in Nam.

(feature article continued on next page)

Shenk's Continued Letter

(continued from previous page; featured article)

So, time just passed along and I never said anything about my experiences over there to anyone. But now, I say TO HELL WITH THAT SHIT!! We have all waited too long to let this organization go down the piss tube! We must all pull together and once again become the strong unit that we once were and that we became known as. We have, in the past, conducted some of the most remarkable work that anyone could ever ask of any Army Unit. Through the years I have been absolutely amazed at the number of people who know about our unit, what it was and what we did in Vietnam. You can't imagine how many people have come up to me in my travels and shook my hand saying, "Thanks what you did for our Country." I will be the first to admit that it has on occasion brought tears to my eyes. I'm sure that all of you have had a Vet walk up to you and say as he extended his hand, "Welcome home, Brother." I will never deny that both my wife and I have cried.

I must apologize for rattling on and on, but I realize that this is the time we must once again pull together and save Our Unit! If all of us don't do our part, then we will surely fail. And if we fail to keep this unit alive, then we have failed in the memory of George T. Olsen, Bobby Pruden, Larry White, and all of the others who made the ultimate sacrifice! And I know in my heart that as the Rangers and LRRPs we are, we will never let that happen. I love all of you, and you are forever in my heart!

Sincerely,
John W. Shenkaruk



The names of our LRRP-Ranger Brothers who gave their lives are forever etched in stone and in our hearts.

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10th Reunion Update Info

Information courtesy of Americal Division

The Americal Division Veterans Association, the 196th Light Infantry Brigade Association, and E-51st/G-75th LRRP Ranger Association will meet June 17-20 at the Radisson St. Louis Airport Hotel.

Hotel Reservations

The Radisson St. Louis Airport Hotel is conveniently located near the airport at 11228 Lone Eagle Drive, Bridgeton, MO, 63044. Reservations must be made by May 15, 1999 to qualify for the special reunion rate of \$69. Make your reservations by calling the hotel directly at 314-291-6700 and indicate that you are attending the reunion. The special room rate will not apply after the May 15 cut-off date so be sure to make reservations early. Reservations may be canceled in advance and according to hotel rules.

The hotel features free guest parking, free airport shuttle, indoor pool and spa, 325 spacious guest rooms, lobby bar, TGI Friday's restaurant for lunch and dinner, Clouds Restaurant for breakfast, an eight story atrium with waterfall, and rooms with balconies. The hotel is easily reached from I-70 and provides shuttle service to the Metrolink and nearby shopping.

Reunion Pre-Registration

Please complete a reunion registration form to indicate your intention to attend the reunion and to make reservations for tours and meals. A registration fee of \$10 will provide each registrant with a name badge and registration materials. Tours, entertainment, and meals are individually priced and are optional. The registration form should be returned no later than May 15 to guarantee your arrangements. Completed registration forms should be sent to Mr. Ron Ward, 9619 Dana, St. Louis, MO, 63123, 314-631-4106.

Special Airfare Discounts

Southwest Airlines is offering a 10% discount on most of its already low fares for travel to and from the 1999 St. Louis reunion. Call (or have your professional travel agent call) the Southwest Airlines Group and Meeting Desk at 1-800-433-5368, Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. and refer to ID Code T6739. Call by no later than 5 days prior to first date of travel to take advantage of this offer. Call right away as fares are subject to terms and availability. (Because advance bookings are accepted by Southwest only through dates for which schedules have been opened, reservations may not yet be available for confirmation.) Travel in or out of Dallas Love Field is subject to the requirements of the Wright Amendment.

More Information

For more information contact one of the co-chairmen. Ron Ward (314-631-4106), Bill Knight (812-789-2714), Warren Neill (317-984-3853), Gary Noller, (816-941-0096, gnoller@aol.com). Updated information will also be available on the web site at: www.americal.org/reunion.htm. We are expecting a high turn-out so please make reservations early to ensure your place at the hotel and at the reunion events of your choice. See you there!

Reunion Attractions and Activities (Briefly)

Thursday: Registration, hospitality rooms and vendors open.

Friday: Tours of selected St. Louis attractions leave at 8:00 am and 10:00 am. Evening group dinner with speaker. Singer-songwriter Michael J. Martin (11th LIB, Vietnam) in concert.

Saturday: Association business meetings will be held in the morning. Book signings by authors who have written about Americal Division action in Vietnam. Afternoon entertainment featuring a youth rifle drill team. A banquet and program are scheduled for the evening to be followed by music for dancing.

More Reunion Info

Sunday: Prayer service, check-out, and farewells.

Each day: Exhibits of Vietnam era helicopters, military displays, hospitality rooms, registration desk, and vendors. Bring your memorabilia to share with others.

Author's Book Signing

Several authors have been invited to a book signing during the reunion. They include Frank Anton (Why Didn't You Get Me Out?), Chuck Carlock (Firebirds), and Keith Nolan (Death Valley, The Magnificent Bastards, Sappers in the Wire). Bring your books for the authors to sign. A limited number of some books may be available for purchase during the reunion.

Guest Speakers

Speakers tentatively set for events include Col. Richard Carvell (USA, Ret.), former C.O., 1/46th Inf. Bn., 196th LIB, and Col. Thomas Bedient, 4/3rd Inf. Bn, 11th LIB, now Deputy Assistant Commandant, JFK Special Warfare School, Ft. Bragg. Other presentations to be announced at the reunion.

Special Entertainment

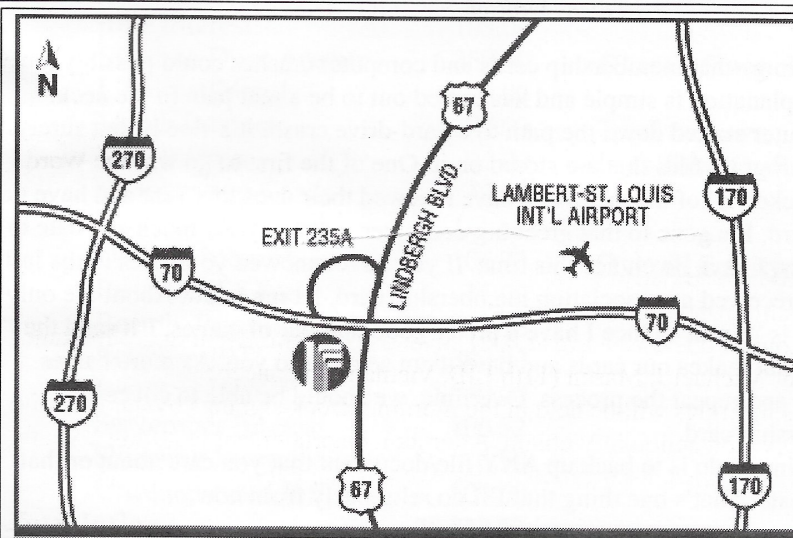
A Friday night concert featuring Michael J. Martin, 11th LIB, songwriter and singer. Tickets can be purchased with the meal or at the door. Free Saturday afternoon youth rifle drill team with a salute to veterans. Saturday night music selections from recordings presented by Rich (Doc) Mosher, 196th LIB.

Military Displays

Mr. Chuck Carlock, 71st AHC (Rattlers and Firebirds), will display combat helicopters and a variety of other military items from his collection pertaining to the Vietnam War.

St. Louis Attractions

St. Louis attractions include Gateway Arch and Museum of Westward Expansion, Mississippi River cruises, Union Station, Six Flags Over Mid-America, Cathedral of St. Louis, Forest Park, St. Louis Zoo, Grant's Farm, Anheuser-Busch brewery tours, National Museum of Transport, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis Art Museum, St. Louis Cardinals baseball, casino river boats located at St. Charles and St. Louis riverfronts, Laclede's Landing entertainment district, Soldiers' Memorial Military Museum, Old Cathedral, and many other fine cultural, sporting, and entertainment events.



Driving to the Radisson Airport Hotel is illustrated by the map to the left. The *Rendezvous* is at the junction of I-70 and US 67 (Lindbergh Avenue). For those using your compass, *Sua Sponte* was unable to find the area's magnetic declination, Although, the magnetic declination was 1/2 a degree in Nam. Now you can use your GPS.

Mail Bag



Up-date on Rucksack 2000

By Earl Toomey

As of 15 Feb. 99 approximately 10 LRRP's and Rangers have shown interest in the trip to Vietnam the 12 - 24 January 2000 at a cost of \$ 1535 per person. If anyone is interested there is a \$ 250 deposit up front with a \$ 1285 due by 15 October 99. Make sure to get your \$ 250 in early.

For further information you can contact the following people: Jerry Howard 360-825-8496

Tom Nash 201-991-8562 e-mail znhoboken@aol.com

Jerry Schuster 580-482-6180 e-mail schuster@intellisys.net

Earl Toomey 941-542-4306 e-mail TOOMEYEK1@aol.com

Courtney Frobenius Vietnam Tours 206-824-9946 e-mail vntours@bmi.net You can make your check payable to Vietnam Tours (\$ 250) or (\$ 1535) P.O.Box 3238 Kent, WA 98032

Looking forward for a turnout of a minimum of 3 teams. LRRP'S ALL THE WAY! TOOMEY

1999 Dues Renewl Drive Deemed Successful

by Frank Svensson

The 1999 dues renewal drive has been a huge success so far. As of 28 February, 73 LRRPs/Rangers have taken advantage of the 2 years for \$20 dues renewal offer. As secretary/treasurer, this has added over \$1,400 to the association coffers. There is still time to take advantage of this great offer! If you haven't sent your dues money in for 1999, drop a check for \$20 made out to the association; sending it to me and you will get 2 years for the price of one. Remember, if you are a lifetime member, you have a \$20 credit toward the concessions item of your choice.

Membership Cards and Computer Crashes

by Frank Svensson

You might already be wondering what membership cards and computer crashes could possibly have to do with each other. The explanation is simple and has turned out to be a real pain in the neck. About a week ago, my computer started down the path to a hard-drive crash. It's slowly, but surely corrupting various data and program files that are stored on it. One of the first to go was the Word file that I had created that tracked all of the guys who have renewed their dues this year and have not been issued a membership card. It's gone to that great big computer in the sky. As much as I hate to put the monkey on your backs, I have no choice this time. If you have renewed your dues in the last 6 months or so and have not received an association membership card, let me know. About the only guy that I remember for sure is "Kraut". Once I have a pretty good number of names, I'll send the information to the company that makes our cards and have them sent out to you. As more names trickle in, I'll bunch them up and repeat the process. Overtime, we should be able to cover everybody's missing membership card.

I have learned the the best thing to do is to back up ANY file/document that you care about or that will prove to be hard to recreate. That's one thing that I'll do religiously from now on!

Treasurer's Report

by Frank Svensson

Cash Flow Report January 1, 1996-February 28, 1999

Inflows

Adjustments	64.90
April Interest	90.00
Auction	400.00
Auction 1997	235.00
Concessions:	
shipping	112.41
other	8,384.51
Total Concessions	8,496.92
December Interest	156.97
Donation-Friend	245.00
Donation-Member	1,053.40
Dues:	
Dues 96	2,465.00
Dues 97	2,110.00
Dues 98	1,140.00
Dues 99	820.00
Dues 00	750.00
Dues other	90.00
Total Dues	7,375.00
Dues 97-Friend	60.00
Dues 98-Friend	20.00
Excel Comm.	10.96
February Interest	76.00
January Interest	52.48
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
Reemb. Printing Costs	56.16
Reunion 1997	1,380.00
Reunion 1996	1,540.00
September Interest	106.52
Shipping Income	6.50
Uncategorized Inflows	<u>205.00</u>
Total Inflows	28,819.93

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	3,618.08
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>

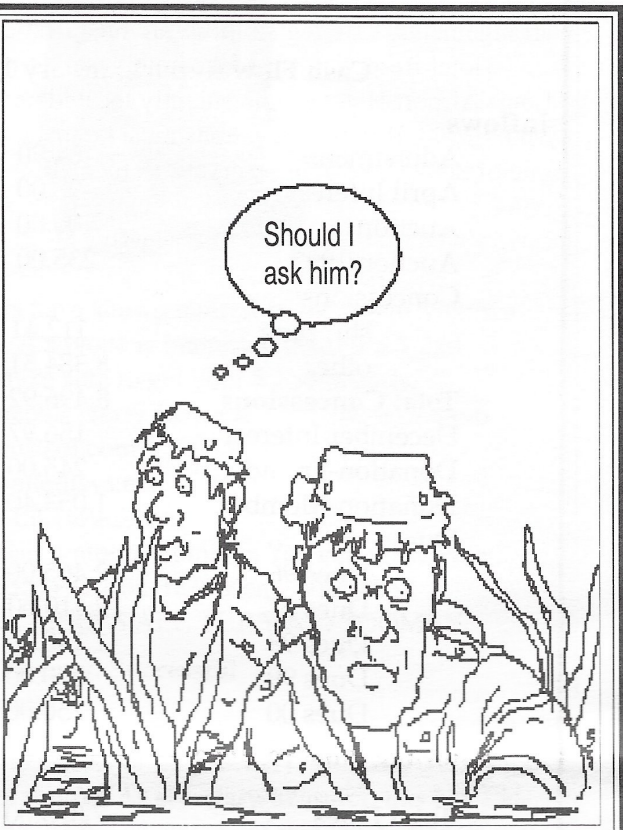
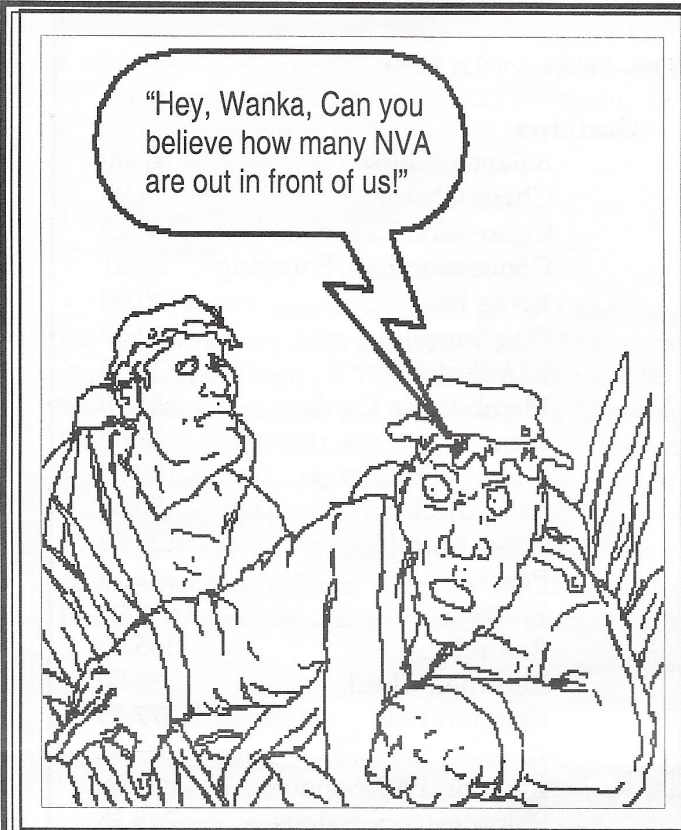
Total Outflows **17,212.64**

Overall Financial Statement: 2-28-99

Total Inflows	28,819.93
Less Total Outflows	<u>17,212.64</u>

Overall Equity: **11,607.29**

Cartoons by Delbert



These lucky modern-day soldiers of the 82nd Airborne are being hand delivered their daily ration of frozen dried food, better known to us as lrrp rations. Do your taste buds recall the many different kinds? How about those training meals in stateside that resembled road kill. For those of us that attended Nha Trang Recondo School surely had excellent meals. I wonder why the soldier on the right is not smiling. Perhaps he got chili con carne instead of spaghetti!

Registration Form

Completed registration and payments should be received by May 15, 1999 to ensure your arrangements. Late registrations are on a first-come, first-served basis.

Hotel Reservations: Make hotel reservations directly with the Radisson Hotel. The Radisson St. Louis Airport Hotel is conveniently located near the airport at 11228 Lone Eagle Drive, Bridgeton, MO, 63044. Room reservations must be made by May 15, 1999 to qualify for the special reunion rate of \$69. Make your reservations by calling 314-291-6700 and indicate that you are attending the reunion. The special room rate will not apply after May 15 and the number of rooms available are limited. Please make reservations early.

Please check one: I am a member of: _____ADVA _____196th LIB Assn. _____ LRRP-Ranger

Registration Fee: Number of people _____ x \$10 = \$_____ Registration fee provides registration gift, name badge, and entrance to hospitality rooms, displays, and free events.

Friday, June 18, 1999

8 Hr Tour 8:00-4:00: Number of people _____ x \$25 = \$_____ [Grant's Farm, Downton, Soldiers Memorial, Union Station, Historic St. Charles]

5 Hr Tour 10:00-3:00: Number of people _____ x \$20 = \$_____ [Downtown, Soldiers Memorial, Union Station, New Cathedral]

Evening Dinner: Number of people _____ x \$25 = \$_____ (Includes admission to Michael J. Martin concert)

Michael J. Martin Concert: Number of people _____ x \$3 = \$_____ (free with Friday dinner ticket)

Saturday, June 19, 1999

Banquet : Number of people _____ x \$25 = \$_____

Make checks payable to Ron Ward. : ENCLOSE PAYMENT FOR \$ _____

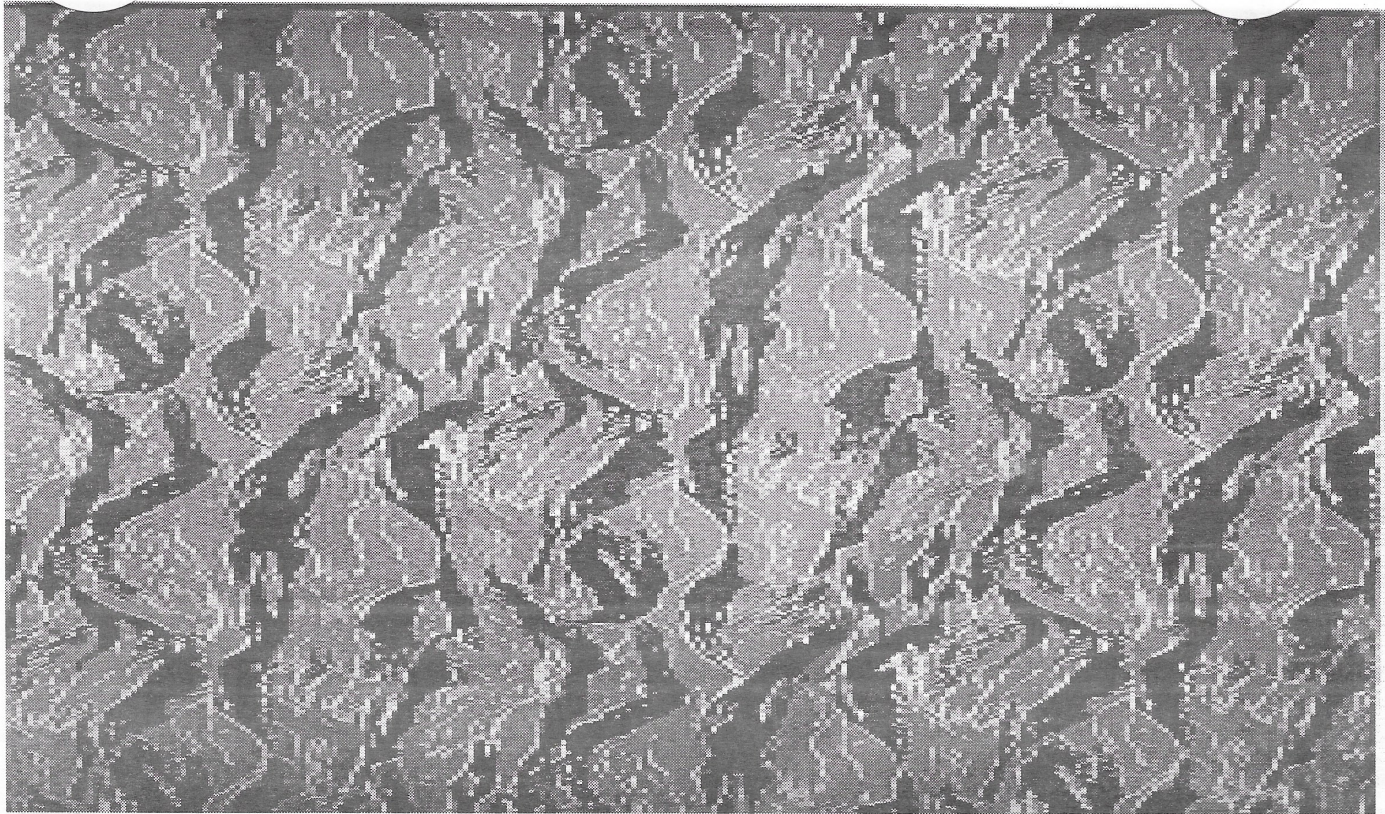
Please provide the following information:

Name _____ Guests _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Phone _____ Unit(s) _____ Dates _____

Please complete this form and send to Mr. Ron Ward, Reunion Co-Chairman, 9619 Dana, St. Louis, MO, 63123. Checks payable to Ron Ward, Reunion Treasurer. Receipts sent on request.

Meeting Notice

Pursuant to Article 111, Section 1 of our association bylaws, the Association announces the 1999 annual meeting of the E-51st LRRPs-G75th Rangers (et al.) to be held on Saturday, June 19, 1999, Radisson Airport Hotel (junction of I-70 and US 67), St. Louis, Missouri for the purpose of transacting business and other matters brought before the Board of Directors. The time of the meeting is slated for 8:00 am, in the hospitality room. The board seats of "Doc" Bronson, Danny Jacks, Steve Johnson, and Dave Moncada are up for reelection. Should you want to be considered for a board seat, please contact Frank Svensson (secretary) or any officer or board member prior to the meeting.



Can you see the winning lottery numbers in this pattern? You win if you can.

Sua Sponte

Sua Sponte

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