

LRRP RANGER ASSOCIATION



1966 VIETNAM 1971

SUA SPONTE

1999 Winter issue of the 196th LRRPs, E-51st LRPCs, and G-75th Rangers

Sua Sponte Lineup

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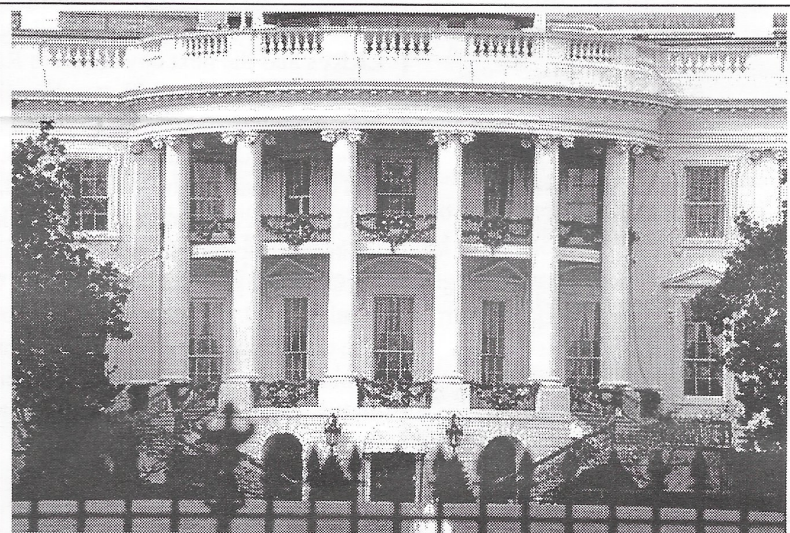
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2000 Reunion D.C.

By Sua Sponte Staff



Rumor has it that there is a red light that can be seen from the president's office, but it's not associated with Rudolph. Come share with us a great reunion this year in D.C. (See update on page 8 for dates).

The officers and boardmembers of our Association would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year. Please, notice this issue was sent to you by first class mailing. We will do this once a year to make sure we have your current address although mailing first class costs us four times more than our non-profit mailing (which will not forward or return undelivered newsletters).

Please send us your new address if you move, or notify Frank Svensson if you know members that are not getting their newsletter. Frank's address is located on the inside of page 2. Merry XMas!

Sua Sponte

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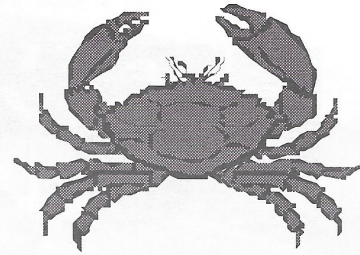
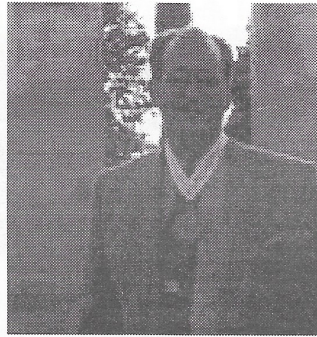
Sua Sponte is the official newsletter published quarterly by the Company G (RANGER) 75th Infantry Association.

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.



During the Veterans Day weekend over 100,000 people came to see the replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Mesa, Arizona. I spent Thursday through Sunday helping people find names, trace them and just being there for a shoulder to cry on. It was truly a moving experience, so I used Lori's shoulder to cry on. As the names were being read, you had to *tune them out* in order to be able to help others. This worked really well for me until they got to the 1969 time frame. Hearing several of our buddies' names read almost put me to my knees.

I gave my speech, Vietnam: Victory or Defeat on Veterans Day, Friday and again on the closing Sunday. As the talk referenced both LRRPs and Rangers, I had to define the difference. I used the analogy of having worked for McDonnell Douglas one day and then for Boeing the next. One day we were LRRPs and the next day we were Rangers; same job, same desk, different name. Alexis, my five-year-old granddaughter, was really tickled to hear her name over the loudspeaker so I asked her if she would like to say something on Sunday. We decided on, "Thank you, Veterans," and rehearsed all day Saturday and on the way to the Wall on Sunday. Every time I asked her what she was going to say. She fired back, "Thank you, Veterans." When the time came I invited her up on the speakers platform and asked her, "Do you have anything to say?" Like a real trooper she said, "Bumpa, I forgot!" I whispered in her ear, she thanked all the Veterans and the crowd loved every minute of it.

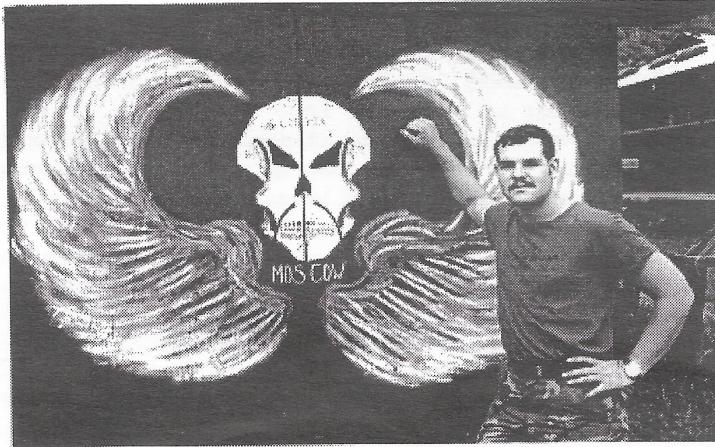
The candlelight service Sunday evening made me proud to have served, yet reminded me of all those young men who didn't come home. How can one be elated, proud and deeply saddened at the same time? Just attend our next reunion in Washington, DC and you will find out.

I am an avid believer that our association needs new bodies in positions of leadership or we will become stagnant. I have been your president for two years and am proud of what we've accomplished. Our membership is at an all time high, we have in excess of \$10,000 in the general fund (thank you Frank!) and we have stepped into e-world with our website (<http://www.paulbunyan.net/users/ssponte/>) {thank you Steve and Justin!}. We are working to have our concessions on line via the web, making a final decision as to how often we will hold reunions based on the input of the members, and election of officers by membership vote rather than appointment by the Board of Directors. Hopefully these issues will be put to bed at our next reunion. I will be stepping down as your President in June in order that one of you will have the opportunity. Any takers? One thing though, if you are going to take an office, pull the duty, don't accept a position just for the title. We need active leaders. Again, any takers?

CRABS

Chairman's Report

by Al "Sugar Bear" Stewart



Al "Sugar Bear" Stewart is seen next to this famous photo. "Team Moscow" must have been near a border of some sort. Sua Sponte would like to find out who did the artistic work on this....(what is this? A shed, out-house, secret spot to keep war memorabilia for this upcoming auction... or ?).

We are just past Veteran's Day and only a couple of days away from Thanksgiving. Where has the time gone? I enjoyed Veteran's Day this year more than most. I had to work (my wife was on holiday since she works for a bank- doesn't seem fair) but the day was still good. There seemed to be more publicity about Veteran's Day this year. Albeit most of it revolved around the fund raising efforts for the WWII Memorial destined for Washington DC, but that's OK. People were still talking about the day and what it means instead of simply making it a big "sale" day at the shopping mall.

This is the time of year when the days rush by at warp speed. Between family events, shopping, work and the many other diversions that pull us in all directions at once, it leaves us little time for reflecting on the things that are truly important. It is easy for me to become melancholy at this time of the year. I start thinking of the many things that I should have done to be a better father, husband or friend. I wonder how my priorities could have ever been so corrupted to cause me to miss my daughter's dance recital years ago or not spend more time simply talking with her to see what her day was like. Why is it that wisdom comes upon us only after we have missed so many opportunities that can never be relived?

I hope that this year I have learned from my mistakes. I will make time to ensure that I attend my grandchildren's Thanksgiving Play this year. I will call some friends that I haven't talked with in a long time, just to say hello. I will help my wife with the hundreds of holiday chores that she normally does by herself while I watch football. I will attend the special holiday services at my church this year. I will not curse the leaves while I am raking them up for the fifth time this fall, but rather be thankful for the fact that I am physically healthy enough to do them myself. Most importantly, I will take the time to reflect and thank God for how very fortunate that I am and to pray for those less fortunate.

I hope that each of you will be able to take time out of your busy schedules this year to reflect on your lives and remember what is truly important. I hope that you have lived life more wisely than I, and that you have no regrets.

Happy holidays to each of you and may God bless you all.

Al Stewart

“The Only Known Ironwood Tree in I Corps”

by Bob Simpson

We hit the ground on the run, leaning forward under the weight of our heavy canvass rucks, eyes quickly searching for an entrance into the jungle. It was a two-ship insertion, which meant spending nerve-racking time in the area until we could clear the LZ. When all six of us had hit the wood line and moved in a bit, we hit a hasty crouch position, all ears listening for movement. As soon as the sound of the chopper blades dissipated, we could hear a distant, but clear gong sounding. They knew we were here, we had to melt into the jungle growth and make tracks fast. 'GONG', 'GONG', 'GONG' - the metallic sound reverberated throughout the mountain jungle. My neck hair stood on end; cold sweat soon soaked the cravat around my forehead.

I was leading a six-man team into the hills as the 196th wanted to ensure a suspected NVA unit, coming down from the North, wasn't infiltrating the far reaches of its AO. As far as team experience went, we had that, plus - we even had Sgt. Don Carter, a Korean War Ranger of some distinction with us. Filling out the team was Bob Wheeler as the radioman; David Ohm was pulling point and "Jolly" Haussler was my ATL. (For the life of me I can't remember the sixth man, could have been "Boy Wonder" [Allen] though.)

The gong finally silenced after about 3-4 minutes, leaving us in relative quiet except for the individual sounds of our heavy breathing, and the soft crunch of our boots on the jungle floor. Stealthily we climbed the mountain seeking a night harbor site to settle into before it got too dark. Blending into the woodwork was our goal, we wanted to hide in the night and remain undetected.

Our first night was spent uneventfully, no noise, no probing; we made all our radio checks with the radio relay team. Just prior to the break of dawn we saddled up and headed out for a look-see around our assigned block of grid squares. Numerous trails were spotted, fresh signs of recent foot movement and small-sized enemy rest areas were noted along those same trails. We were onto something. Don Carter was chomping at his bit with anticipation; he had packed some extra C-4 in his ruck as he loved the big boom, and he wanted to use it on something, somebody. We continued on, slowly working our way around and down a ridgeline; however, we had this feeling we were being followed. Can't explain why, I'm sure others have experienced it at some time or another.

We continued on with no actual enemy sightings until it was time for our extraction, all the while knowing we were being followed. I had found what looked like a suitable PZ on the map and went to explore it early in the morning with Ohm - it fit the bill; only one ship could come in at a time though. That situation was not ideal for us, considering there may be unwanted company around. Additionally, it had a somewhat large, old gray-looking tree smack in the middle of the clear area. Ohm and I quickly went back to get the rest of the team for our infiltration to the pickup site; silently we slid into position at the north end.

We spread out and scanned the area, all looked and felt secure. I motioned to Carter to join me. When Don had low crawled to my position, I instructed him that I wanted the tree blown; but not until the choppers were inbound.

(Continued on next page)

Iron Tree Feature Article

(Continued from the previous page)

I didn't want to alert the enemy of our location, if they were in the neighborhood, until the last moment possible.

"Rattlers inbound." Upon hearing this, Carter, low crawled slowly, working his way through the elephant grass - we could monitor his progress as the grass waved slightly as he approached the tree. Soon we saw the "wave" coming back toward us; Carter gave us the thumb-up and mouthed, "All Set". All of a sudden there was a tremendous boom, a large cloud of black/gray smoke floated up from the center of the PZ obscuring the tree. We looked up in horror; the tree shook slightly and then settled down in the full upright, still standing proud and blocking the center of the clearing. I looked at Carter and yelled, "What the hell happened?" With all the certainty in the world, Carter responded with, "Hell, Sarge, it must be an iron wood tree."

The lead pilot broke the silence and reported some movement above us on the ridgeline. We had to get out of there, as in now. The lead pilot dropped and skillfully maneuvered his way forward of "Carter's tree", and hung there in a hover while Jolly, Don Carter and the third man jumped aboard. Quickly he pulled pitch; his blades biting the mountain air as he peeled out gaining altitude. And then, all hell broke loose, the ridgeline erupted in automatic small arms fire - Wheeler, Ohm and I were now pinned down behind a fallen tree. (Not the iron wood tree though, for it still stood as a monument in defiance of Carter's skill as a demo man.) I grabbed the handset and yelled into the mouthpiece for the other ship to come in and get us. "That's a negative, there's hostile gunfire in the area," was response heard back. I started to laugh out loud, Ohm looked at me like I was crazy, and at the same time he slid lower behind the fallen tree.

Now it's rumored that Jolly held his brand-new "357" to a person's flight helmet, and may have said, "Tell your buddy to go back and get the rest of my team or else." It was also rumored by someone that the pilot said something like, "You wouldn't dare." This same person recounted that "Jolly" pulled back the hammer and said, "Oh yeah." Ohm, Wheeler and I can only admit to fact that the second chopper swung in from nowhere and immediately went into a hover with the its door guns blazing. We scrambled, all on board, the pilot pulled pitch. The chopper shook and shuttered as we swung around the ridgeline in a hasty flight path. Much to his surprise, we caught a fellow in black PJs, with an AK in hand, in the process of trying to jump behind a large rock. Those positioned on the left-hand side of the chopper, the M-60 door gunner and team members, opened up on the poor fellow; he would not live to walk another trail in his Ho Chi Minh sandals, ever again.

Back in our base camp on the beach, things were hot for a while, "Who pulled the gun", was the subject of the day. After much discussion it was chalked up to the combat hype and excitement of the moment - Jolly and I would continue on to pull other patrols together. Don Carter never again attempted to down another tree during his tour. Ohm always wondered why I broke out in laughter; I never did have an answer.

Bob Simpson

(Editor's note: please check out Delbert's cartoon on page 10)

Company Information

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<http://www.paulbunyan.net/users/ssponte>

Our website is beginning to get recognized as a fast source of information and a link to other websites including the Vietnam Webring. Thanks to Tom Nash, we have 2 new additional historical photos. A concession page offers up-to-date items that are available to the members and the general public as a means of providing LRRP Ranger gear and earning monies for our coffers. Thanks!

Note from Tom Nash

At the general meeting of the membership at the St. Louis reunion, I was elected to the Board by the members present. The importance of the position, and the trust shown in me by my LRRP teammates has not been lost on me, and I intend to contribute my best efforts to the Association and its goals and objectives as long as I remain a member of the Board. I sincerely thank those who nominated me and who voted for me.

As I read the Membership Handbook, I was struck by the fact that one of the stated goals is "to establish a directory and maintain contact with all former members of Co. G (Ranger) 75th Infantry and/or Co. E 51st Infantry LRRPs." To me, this is an extremely important function. In 1997, I had the opportunity to make my first contact in 30 years with my LRRP teammates with whom I had served in Vietnam, and, at the same time became aware of the fact that there was an association to which 196th LRRPs belonged. Since then, I've done my best to locate my "missing" teammates who have not yet had the great pleasure and satisfaction that comes with attending our reunions, or simply with making contact with each other. It's my intention to make this Association goal my ongoing personal goal as well. To that end, I hope to regularly use the pages of "Sua Sponte" to update the other members of the Association of my progress.

(Notes from Earl Toomey)

Sick Call

Anthony Mazzucchi just recovering from Prostate Cancer Surgery and doing well, another member of the Assoc. just diagnosed with Prostate Cancer is Twiggy Anderson. He goes in for surgery in December. Also Dave Travis is going in for a surgery in December. Cards and Calls would be nice. I know there are other members having a hard time out there. We need to keep in touch with them and let them know that we are all brothers.

F.Y.I

If anyone is looking for the Americal Pin with LRRP above it or RecondoPins, Patches, Decorations and Awards if you contact Earl Toomey @ E & K Sales he has these items in stock all the times. Any purchased made from E & K Sales Earl would donate 10% back to the Association. His phone/fax number is: 941-542-4306. He can also be reached by e-mail: TOOMEYEK1@aol.com.

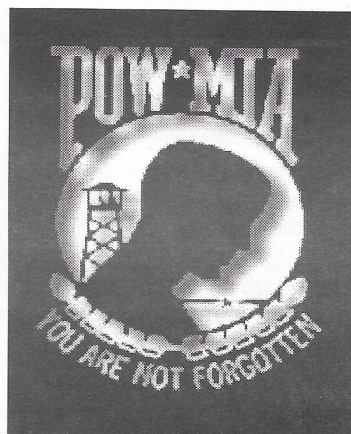
Earl

Hickam A.F.B.

MIA TASK FORCE

by Michael Chu

13 Sept. 1999



With diplomatic relationships between the US and Vietnam progressing, a small but steady stream of the more than 2000 American MIA remains are being gradually reunited with their families.

Known as the Joint Task Force for Full Accountability, a small but highly dedicated group of military specialists, have been conducting operations from Hawaii into Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. Acting first on research information, the Joint Task Force sends out small groups of military specialists that are similar to LRRP units (but unarmed and in civilian clothing), consisting of military anthropologist, signal corps specialist, demo experts, cartographers, and others. The team normally consists of 10 to 12 members. They conduct highly specialized recovery operations deep into the jungles.

Once remains and artifacts are recovered, they are sent to the Army's Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii where forensic experts confirm and identify the remains. The forensic process of identifying the remains is considered to be the most advanced in the world.

Remains that are recovered and sent to the Hawaii laboratory are met with an Honor Guard and the Pacific commanders of each military branch, consisting of senior Generals and Admirals. After identification (sometimes taking as long as 6 months), the remains are returned to the families for full military burial. Their departure is again accompanied with the highest military honors. A small contingency of local veterans is usually present at the edge of the tarmac, along with several dozen military personnel at attention.

While live MIA sightings are occasionally reported, no live recoveries have occurred.

Footnote: I have contacted the Joint Task Force and have been offered an invitation to accompany them on a future field expedition. Anyone interested?

Michael S. Chu
Co. G (RANGER) 75th Infantry

(Editor's note: A letter will be forthcoming from the Joint Task Force in the next issue of Sua Sponte)

REUNION 2000

by Earl Toomey

Here is the up date schedule for the D.C. reunion. **We only have the rates for the Hotel for June 30, July 1, 2 and 3.** This is a change from the last information given to you so please plan accordingly. To identify all reservations with the code M059 or LRRP-Ranger Association. The cut off date for reservation is June 9, 2000. The dates we have the Hotel are June 30, July 1, 2 and 3 at the rate of \$79.00 per room.

Friday, June 30

1800 hrs

Advance Party arrives and set up
Hospitality room opens

Saturday, July 1

1500-1800 hrs

1600 hrs

1800 hrs

2000 hrs

Check-in and Reunion Registration
Board members meeting TBA
Cocktails, hot hors d'oeuvres and war stories. Pay as you go bar
(Opening get together)
Reunion auction

Sunday, July 2

1000 hrs

Formation in front of Hotel for pictures and trip to the Vietnam Wall and Memorial service at Wall

1600 hrs

General membership meeting with location TBA

1900 hrs

Dinner at area restaurants. Pay as you go. Hospitality room will be open until the last war story is over

Monday, July 3

0900 hrs

1000-1600 hrs

1900 hrs

Breakfast get together
Sight seeing of area
Dinner at area restaurants. Pay as you go. Hospitality room will be open until the last war story is over

Tuesday, July 4

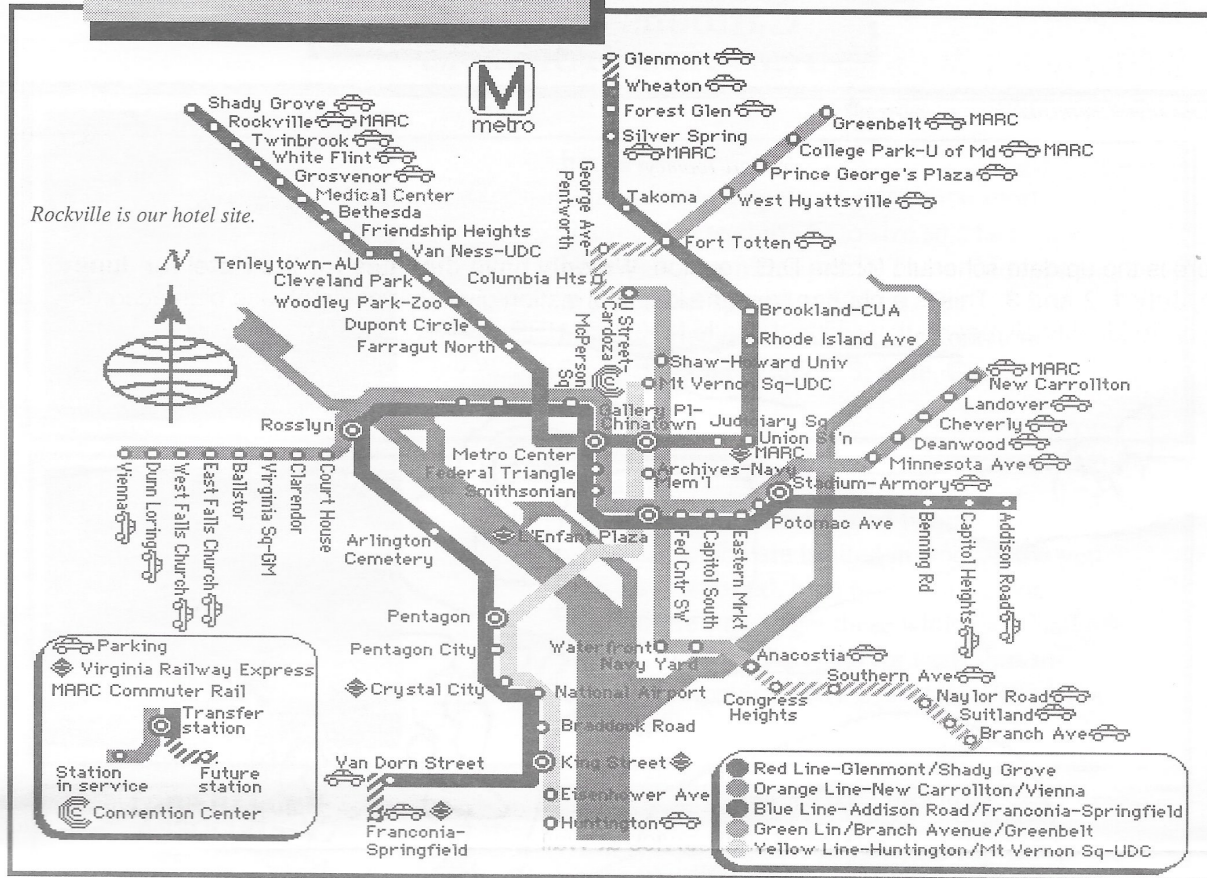
0900 hrs

Breakfast at Hotel. Check out and final drinks

- * All activities are casual dress
- * All restaurant outings are pay as you go
- * Remember the auction items help pay the bills for the hospitality room
- * Association is paying for hors d'oeuvres, beverages and snacks for the hospitality room while money lasts
- * The transportation to the Wall is Metro and on your own
- * Cocktails for the opening is pay as you go. Hopefully the association may pay for a keg of beer.

Earl

REUNION METRO MAP



Namnurse's Vietnam War Stories

by Anna Marie

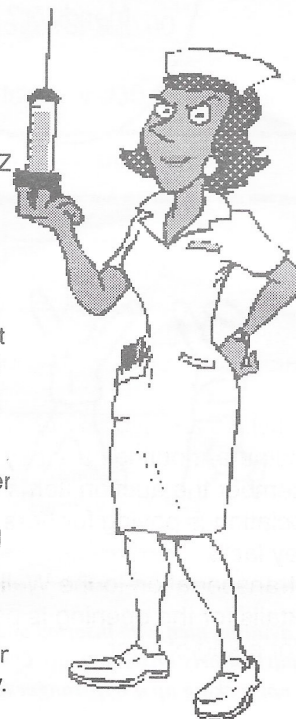
Yes, even nurses have war stories.

We all worked hard, 12 hours a day, 6 days a week and at times, like when LZ Mary Anne got overrun, 16-20 hours straight with only an occasional potty break.

But we also had silly times, times to let off steam. Every once in a while, someone would "find" a bunch of steaks and we would get a cut-up steel drum, some charcoal and have a bar-b-que on the beach. Wonder where that steel drum came from? Off-duty was spent at the "O" club or the beach, what little off-duty time we had.

To break the stress in the wards, we would pull practical jokes on each other and even on the patients. I remember this one guy, a 6 footer from the Ranger Company who was in our hospital for malaria. This guy was a big chicken when it came to getting his blood drawn and needles in general. So one day I thought I would play a joke on him, kind of a payback for all the time he gave me grief when I went to draw his blood. I took a 60cc syringe, attached a 6-inch spinal needle to it and proceeded down to his bed. When he saw that contraption, his eyes just about bugged out and he jumped off the bed and ran to the end of the ward. All the other guys in the ward laughed themselves silly. You know, I never had anymore trouble out of that guy.

(Editor's note: which one of you chickens is this guy?)



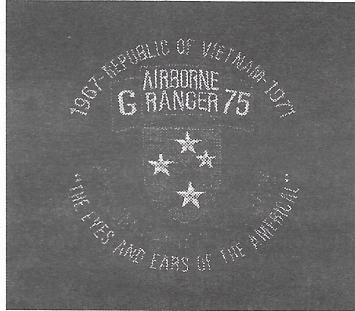
Cartoons by Delbert



The aviation men who inserted and extracted us on missions were used to situations that other helicopter pilots were not too particularly anxious to do. On rare occasions, these "other" aviators had to be convinced on more than one mission that not picking up a lrrp-ranger team was not an option.

CONCESSIONS

LRRP RANGER GEAR



Item #1:

Closeout sale on polo or golf shirts; short sleeved. These shirts fit to size so a large is a large (ask Jose Velasquez!). These shirts are at a closeout special at \$25.00. The embroidered emblem is a collectors item. Free *shipping to any U.S. state, Canada, or Mexico.



Item #2:

Blowout prices on assorted t-shirts from past reunions which are limited in stock. Now you can have assorted, high quality shirts for \$12.00. Be sure to get these while they last! Again, the cost of \$12.00 for each shirt includes *shipping to any U.S. state, Canada, or Mexico!



New: Official logo for two quality shirts: Both items include *shipping to any U.S. state, Canada, and Mexico.

Item #3:

T-Shirt with the official logo for \$20.00

Item #4:

Sweat shirt with official logo for \$30.00

***Nonmembers please allow 3 weeks for shipping. Members, allow 10 days and a wakeup!**

Item #1 \$25.00 X amount ordered = _____	Size(s) _____	Cost _____
Item #2 \$12.00 X amount ordered = _____	Size(s) _____	Cost _____
Item #3 \$20.00 X amount ordered = _____	Size(s) _____	Cost _____
Item #4 \$30.00 X amount ordered = _____	Size(s) _____	Cost _____

Total Cost _____

Make check or money order payable to: Company G (Ranger) 75th Inf. Assoc.

Name _____ Payment: check _____ money order _____

Street address: _____

City _____ State/Province _____

Country _____ Zip _____

Send check to: Frank Svensson/Treasurer
6964 Berkshire Avenue
Alta Loma, CA 91701

LRRP RANGER ASSOCIATION



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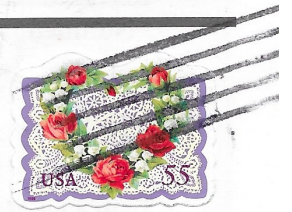
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