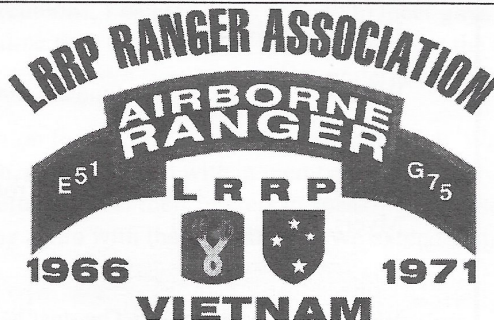


" of their own accord"

# Sua Sponte



Reunion  
2005  
Ft. Myers

Reunion  
2005  
Ft. Myers

2004 Spring Issue of the 196th LRRPs, E-51st LRPS, and G-75th Rangers

## Sua Sponte Lineup

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**Next Issue...** Unit plans to have parents of our fallen brothers attend..

**www.lrrpranger.org...** Come and check out our website

## SEATTLE REUNION 2004



Submitted Photo

There were several in attendance at the Seattle Reunion this past month, including these members, back row from left to right are : Lindhe, Starnes, Valeriano, Oney, Franklin, Lemire, and Johnson; front left to right are: Svensson, Nash, Lett, Williams, and Corkan. There were several others around, but who knows where. Even though *Sua Sponte* could not muster everyone at one time for a group photo, no one could ever recall anyone missing out on a team extraction back in Nam. Over 410 packed the banquet and judging from those in attendance, everyone survived!

# Sua Sponte

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**Change of Address:** Sua Sponte does not maintain the mailing list. Any address changes should be forwarded to Stephen "Crabs" Crabtree: [ranger@cablez.com](mailto:ranger@cablez.com) or 2255 N Azurite St, Mesa, AZ 85207.

**Membership Information:** All former members of the 196th LRRPs, E/51st LRP, and G/75th Rangers 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 Report

by Tom Nash

E51 G75 LRRP/Ranger  
Association  
REUNION 2005

WHEN: Thursday, June 30, 2005 through Sunday, July 3, 2005

WHERE: The Ramada Riverfront, 2500 Edwards Drive, Fort Myers, Florida 33901

We've broken the mold! The dust hasn't even settled on the recent reunion at Seattle/Ft. Lewis, and we've been able to set the site for and dates of our Association's next reunion. And it promises to be one of our better reunions if the Members do their part. And I call on each of you to do your best to be there if at all possible, and to get your friends and teammates to join you. We are looking for a great turnout.

Our POC for Reunion 2005 will be Earl Toomey with more than a little assistance from Karin Toomey. Their contact information is: Earl & Karin Toomey - phone 239-542-4306; cell 239-357-1011; or email TOOMEYEK1@aol.com.

Earl and Karin promise a memorable event. The reunion will be from Thursday, June 30, 2005 through Sunday, July 3, 2005, with check out on the 4th of July. We'll be returning to Florida, to the scene of one of our prior reunions. The center of our activities will be The Ramada Riverfront (which was formerly the Sheraton); located at 2500 Edwards Drive in Fort Myers, Florida 33901.

The rates for the reunion will be \$59.00 a room. For room reservations, you must let them know that you are part of G Company 75th Rangers. The phone numbers for the hotel are: 1-800-833-1620 or 239-337-0300.

For those of you who are driving, take I-75 south to exit 141, which is SR 80, and head west towards the river. For those who are flying into South West Regional Airport, the hotel is a short 20 minute ride away. There is free transportation provided by the hotel shuttle.

Make sure to bring something for the auction. This helps pay for the hospitality room. The Association is paying for the dinner buffet.

(Article Continued on Next Page)

## Company News

(Continued from previous page...Nash)

Reunions are special. They are the single most important thing the Association can do for its Members. It's always been my pleasure at reunions to sit back and listen to the stories – some multiple times – and watch the interaction between old teammates. It really has been the most rewarding thing I've done since joining the Association. At the most recent reunion in Seattle/Ft. Lewis, as with other reunions, I had the good fortune to meet guys who served their country in our unit at a different time than I did. And at Seattle, I met, for the first time, Steve Franklin, Steve Lemire, Rick Lett, and George Beach. And I'm grateful for the opportunity.

Let's make 2005 the reunion for the families of our honored dead. Whenever I've had the opportunity to speak with, or correspond with, a member of the family of one of our honored dead who perished in Vietnam, I feel their interest in speaking with those who knew their loved one – a way of connecting again with their loved one. We extend an invitation to all the families of our heroes.

And gentlemen, let's face it. We're not getting any younger, faster, healthier, or prettier. Sooner or later, there will be no more reunions. So, while we can, let's get together and celebrate who we were, what we did, and honor our fallen heroes.

See you at Ft. Myers! Tom Nash

*Corrected Photo*



*From Left to Right: Whittingham, Sagan, Henry, Smitty, and Labrie at a recent gathering!*

*Sua Sponte* wishes to apologize for not correctly naming the above members at a recent gathering. *Tower*, who has short and long term memory problems, continues to screw things up, but the old saying, "You get what you pay for," is holding true...sorry, guys!

## Tommy Franks

### Tommy Franks Confers with Association Member Hughes

By Sua Sponte Staff



## Franks & Hughes Confer

by Sua Sponte Staff



John Haines, Perry Hughes, Dan Linehan, and George Beach pose for the photo at Chu Lai in Company Headquarters. Perry Hughes was point man for Team Texas.

"Rangers Lead  
The way!"  
Tommy Franks  
PERSONNEL  
311

This is the back of Perry Hughes's membership card signed and labeled appropriately by Tommy Franks. Please turn to page 6 for the meeting between Franks and Association Member Perry Hughes.

## Perry Hughes

Perry Hughes shared with *Sua Sponte* some photos and information about meeting Gen. Tommy Franks. According to CNN, Tommy Franks is the officer who runs the massive day-to-day operations of the U.S. Military campaign in Afghanistan, is considered a full partner in carrying out this war but is usually a silent partner, at least in public anyway.

Besides president George W. Bush, the nation's commander-in-chief, the military portion of the Afghan campaign is being run by Franks, Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, and defense secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

Franks is the head of U.S. central command, which is one of nine U.S. combatant commands that respond directly to the defense secretary and the president. As the commander-in-chief, or "cinc" in military parlance, Franks is in charge of U.S. military operations covering 25 nations in Africa, central Asia and the Middle East, including Afghanistan.

While in Texas recently, Perry Hughes who is an association member, had the chance to meet and talk with General Franks. According to Hughes, General Franks was very proud of our unit's contribution to the Viet Nam Conflict and afforded Hughes the time to talk with him.

Perry Hughes was on Team Texas and was most recently at one of our reunions in Las Vegas some time ago. Mr. Hughes, for some time now, is associated in the hotel industry in Texas. As he explained in a phone conversation to newsletter staff, he asked the person in charge of Frank's scheduling if it was possible to meet with him (Franks). As you can see from the photos on the previous pages, obviously Perry's request was granted!

## Taps

### Lance Thomas Chandler

We have been notified that Lance T. Chandler (Recondo School # 0914), who was with our unit in 1968/69, passed away on Thursday, September 23. Services were held this past weekend and were closed to all but family. Rather than flowers or other remembrances, the family asks that donations be made to any Veteran's Association or to the San Xavier Mission in Tuscan. Lance's daughter Melanie would like to hear from those in the unit who knew her father – send them to me (Tom Nash) and I will see that she gets them. She will provide further information at a later date as to where or how other personal remembrances and condolences may be sent to the family.

## Reunion Information

### Itinerary Ft. Myers Reunion June 30-July3rd

Thursday 30. June 1700 hr	Advance party arrives, set up Hospitality room opens
Friday 1. July 1300 - 1800 hr 1900 - 2100 -	Check in , reunion registration in hospitality room Opening ceremonies, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres in hospitality room Association auction
Saturday 2. July 1000 hr 1030 hr 1130 hr 1300 - 1600 hr 1300 - 1500 hr 1800 - 1900 hr 1930 hr	Formation in front of hotel for pictures Short walk to the Airborne memorial for memorial services Boardmeeting TBA Ladies shopping trip General membership meeting in hospitality room Cocktails and pay as you go bar Buffet dinner
Sunday 3. July 900 hr 1100 hr 1900 hr	Breakfast get together in hotel restaurant Sunday Brunch and sight seeing cruise. Cost \$22.00 per person optional. It is a 3 hour cruise. Dinner in area restaurants. Hospitality room open til the last war story is told.
Monday 4. July	Check out, final drinks and good byes

Make sure to bring something for the auction. This helps pay for the hospitality room. The association is paying for the dinner buffet. Looking for a great turn out.  
POC on the ground for any information will be Earl & Karin Toomey at 239-542-4306. Cell phone is 239-357-1011 or email TOOMEYK1@aol.com

## Company Info

### NOTICE

*There is an inquiry making the rounds, and members of our Association/Unit may be contacted in connection with it. Some of you may already be aware of the inquiry. In the event you haven't, we wanted to alert you. It involves a former member of our unit in Vietnam, whose ongoing claims about his Vietnam service, including his claim of POW status, are being questioned by veterans' groups. Legal action has been threatened by this individual against those who question his claims. We have been informed by counsel that our Association can not, pursuant to its By-Laws, take any position, official or unofficial, on the claims or counter claims. Nor can the Association participate in any other way. We have been asked by these groups to refer individuals involved in the claims and counter claims to members of the Association/Unit who might have information about this individual's actions in the Unit, or about his claims. We have, in the interest of privacy, refused to do so and will continue to refuse to do so (and so should all the members of this Association). Each of us has the right, of course, as an individual and veteran to become involved if that is something we personally find advisable to do, but cannot involve the Association. If there are any questions, feel free to call me or Tom Robison.*

TOM NASH

*Submitted photo of Major Nelson, former company commander of E-51st in Iraq*



### Buddy Plan

by "Gunner" Starnes

"THE REUNION ECONOMY METHOD" Tom, it is good to hear from you. Seattle was good, I was surprised that the other members and non-members in that area did not show.

Something we may want to look at next reunion in notifying our other friends. I think "the buddy system contact" maybe the way to go. I got together with my Ranger Buddy Steve Franklin and we talked it out 7 months in advance from reunion TOT (time on target) then confirmed by a airplane launch date or drop time. We all have the telephone numbers of our buddies and five minutes of telephonic contact will confirm YES/NO. Command influence; to award one or several past company members with say- one year free membership. Earl, did the 196 LRRP Det by such an act of finding and confirming show-no show members and you guys came. In my case, I was being held up with room accommodations and basic money stretching. Steve said I'm staying in Motel 6, you are welcome to bunk up with me.

We just made it look like it was just him there by mixing up our bags so it looked like he was the only one there. It worked out pretty good. We spit the meals and transportation.

With Rick Lett having a car, we just put gas in it and paid for some of his chow. So we saved by not renting a car.

When Steve and Rick go to the next one, I will do the same for him and say two more guys.

It will save on transport and hotel bills we may not be able to stay in a 80 dollar hotel but we can swing a 30 dollar a day motel. The idea is to get to the reunion and see each other.

Another way to save is purchase your food to eat say, once daily and save your money for company t-shirts and auction purchases. Start saving to go to the reunion a year out to make sure you have it to go. Call each other and talk out your situation and contribute to the team guys going there, "A team effort".

Guys that have family going, think hotel cost, shop around for best value. Clothes to wear at reunion: Generally three levis, 2 shorts and reunion polo shirt-t shirts a blue sports blazer and comfortable shoes, backpack your beret and scrapbook, towel and shaving kit, you only wear the beret at these functions, so wear it and bring the scrapbook. Pictures may be valuable to another team guy so bring it. Example: Rick Lett, lost every picture he had. But between the other members we can get him a starter kit to rebuild his new scrapbook. So you see there are other team guys out there that may have the only picture of that individual or orders that could be duplicated and given to this guy trying to hold on to a valuable piece of his life as a young man. Look if you want to go to the reunion then start today by making it happen, contact a team mate and see if you can bunk up and pal around together, 30 dollars a month saved x 12 months, you do the math. Try and find a buddy close to the reunion site, maybe he would gladly show up to the reunion with you, maybe he wouldn't mind putting you up three days to talk war stories and remember our glory days with a couple beers.

Maybe the next reunion you could do the same for him.

John Starnes "GUNNER" SALSA-RLTW

## IRAQ Encounters

by SSG Prohaska

Recent E 51st Sitrep

*Before the war started my team was one of 36 LRS teams. Fco 51st from 18th Airborne LRS was attached to 165th because 5th Corps was overall in charge I believe. That is above my head in the politics. Out of those teams there was three teams selected. SSG Barnwell, SSG Armstrong, and my team were selected to pull surveillance on the first three NAIs (Named Area of Interest) into enemy territory. All three teams areas were in the same area of Iraq. The NAIs were about 350 km into enemy territory. We planned for the mission for three days as kind of a practice because we were not sure when the war was going to start.*

*Once we found out the war was going to start we went back into planning and planned for 24 hours. We planned to stay out for five days, but it all depended on the rate that 3ID was moving. We had two CH-47 Chinook helicopters for the three teams. SSG Barnwell and Armstrong's team were on one and my team was on the other. My team inserted about 7 kms from our tentative hide site. Once we were off the aircraft we pulled SLLS (stop, look, listen, smell) and then proceeded on azimuth to our tentative hide site. In route we ran into dogs. We were following a small ditch. The dogs followed us all most all the way to our hide site. Each man's rucksack weighted at least 125 pounds so the moving was slow, but we tried to pick up the pace because we were a little behind schedule since the aircraft had to take off late due to mechanical problems. Once we made it to our hide site we started digging in. We were able to make a good plan on where to set our hide site because of the operations sergeant SFC Freeborg who was able to give us line of site imagery, which showed us, where we could set our hide site and see the objective with no problems. The usual hide site is able two and half feet deep. Because of the rocky soil we were only able to get about one and half feet down in only a few places. The site was completed right about sunrise. As soon as we were in the site SPC Riemann looked at me and told me we had enemy. None of us could believe it because this was our first mission and it was something that you only dream about (to do your job in combat). All day we had a lot of enemy activity. We had problems relaying this information back to the unit HQ because the HF (high frequency) was not working and the SATCOM (satellite communication) channel was so busy that we were unable to get anything through. We did contact the Air force and asked them to relay to our unit that we were having communication problems, but the mission was still a go.*

*Throughout the day we had a few farmers come near our site. One farmer's sheep came right up to our site. We were worried that the sheep were going to step on the site and collapse it since it was only made of PVC piping with a bed sheet spread over the top. That night we had enemy soldiers come within 100m of the site many times and a few times the enemy came within 1 or 2 meters of the site. I know that 100 meters does not sound close to the men who served in Vietnam, but the desert is a much different environment. Throughout the night enemy soldiers on foot and in civilian vehicles circled all around our site. Late that night, early morning we heard a few gunshots off in the distance.*

*When the sun came up we saw around 60 enemy loading into seven trucks preparing to head south to attack 3rd ID. We still did not have communication with our HQ so we sent this information up through the Air Force located at the Corps HQ. The information was dispersed and within a few minutes aircraft were bombing the area. 3rd ID pushed forward and engaged in about 8 to 10 hour firefight one to two kilometers south of our position. Once 3rd ID had the situation under control and they moved through our area, Eco 51st's LNO that drove with 3rd ID from Kuwait led by CPT Kapla came up to our site and picked us up. After we were picked up we drove a few miles south to an area to wait for aircraft to fly us back to Kuwait.*

*While we were waiting I had the privilege to talk to a few of the men from 3rd ID. They told me that the information that we sent up saved lives. Because of that information 3ID changed their movement formation and put the tanks and Bradleys up front instead of the light skinned HMMWV. The men in my team I trusted 100 percent before the mission. The team had worked together for about one and half years before the war with the exception of one, who only worked with the team for about six months before the war.*

(Team Photo on the back page)

## Ring Information

### How To Order Your LRRP Ranger Ring

You can view this ring and get complete ordering information on our website at [www.lrrpranger.org](http://www.lrrpranger.org)



For complete information on this ring, first hand, contact Sharon Robison. Her address is:

Sharon Robison

Kelleher Enterprises

2330 E. Statium Blvd. Suite 4

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

or email sharon at:

**[srobison@kelleher-inc](mailto:srobison@kelleher-inc)**

If you want an order form, email, write, or call Sharon at 1-734-677-0944 extention 207 and a purchase form will be mailed to you.

# *Sua Sponte*

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