

# PATROLLING

Spring 2026 • 75th Ranger Regiment Association, INC. • Volume 38 Issue II

## The Wildcats of Phu Loi



Company F

52nd INF, 1st INF DIV

LRRP

Page 45

# DANIEL DEFENSE

# DANIEL™ H9



75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc.

## HANDGUN RAFFLE



Drawing will be held at the June Ranger Rendezvous  
Scan the QR Code or visit [www.75thrra.org](http://www.75thrra.org) to purchase tickets

1 Ticket - \$20  
6 Tickets - \$100

### FEATURES:

- Low Bore Axis For Less Muzzle Rise & Faster, More Accurate Follow-Up Shots
- Straight-Pullback Trigger & Trigger Safety Blade For Precision Control & Improved Safety
- One-Piece-Machined Ambidextrous Slide Stop & Reversible Mag-Release Button For Superior Ergonomics
- Cold Hammer Forged Barrel, 1:10 Twist, 6 Groove, Polygonal Rifling
- Type 7075 Aluminum Grip For Less Weight and More Strength
- Balanced-Texture Grip Panels For Comfort & Secure Purchase
- Compatible with Most Popular Red Dot Optics
- Slim Profile For Optimal Maneuverability & Concealability
- Steel Factory Sights With Dovetail Cut
- Low Friction Magazine Finish for Smooth Insertion/Removal

### SPECIFICATIONS:

Model	DANIEL H9
Caliber	9x19 MM
Action	Striker-Fired, Reciprocating Slide, Tilting Barrel
Magazine Capacity	15 Rounds
Barrel Length	4.28"
Overall Length	7.69"
Overall Height	5.12"
Overall Width	1.2" (Slide Stops)
Slide Width	1.0"
Weight	29.6 oz. (Unloaded Magazine)
Accessory Rail	STANAG 4694
Sights	Fixed: Fiber Optic Front, Black-Out Rear – U-Notch
Safety Devices	Trigger Safety Blade, Trigger Safety Plunger, Striker Block
Trigger Type	Metal Construction, Straight Pull w/Integral Safety Blade

9 MM

15+1 RND

4.28"

L R  
AMBI



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**The 75th Ranger Regiment Association**



# THE RANGER CREED

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— LINDA DILLON —

— TRAVIS WEST —

— STEPHEN ODIN JOHNSON —

— RICK BARELA —

**Recognizing** that I volunteered as a Ranger, fully knowing the hazards of my chosen profession, I will always endeavor to uphold the prestige, honor, and high esprit de corps of my Ranger Regiment.

**Acknowledging** the fact that a Ranger is a more elite soldier who arrives at the cutting edge of battle by land, sea, or air, I accept the fact that as a Ranger my country expects me to move further, faster and fight harder than any other soldier.

**Never** shall I fail my comrades. I will always keep myself mentally alert, physically strong and morally straight, and I will shoulder more than my share of the task, whatever it may be, one hundred percent and then some.

**Gallantly** will I show the world that I am a specially selected and well-trained soldier. My courtesy to superior officers, neatness of dress and care of equipment shall set the example for others to follow.

**Energetically** will I meet the enemies of my country. I shall defeat them on the field of battle, for I am better trained and will fight with all my might. Surrender is not a Ranger word. I will never leave a fallen comrade to fall into the hands of the enemy, and under no circumstances will I ever embarrass my country.

**Readily** will I display the intestinal fortitude required to fight on to the Ranger objective and complete the mission, though I be the lone survivor.

**Rangers lead the way!**

## RANGER MEET-UPS

*Great thanks and appreciation to the Rangers who organize and keep these gatherings going!*

*If you know of a Ranger Breakfast in your AO that is not listed send me the date & time, and don't forget the point of contact so I can give credit where credit is due!*

South Indiana Ranger Breakfast no point of contact known	<u>Merry Go Round Restaurant</u> on the <u>1<sup>st</sup> Saturday @ 0800</u> 2101 North Fares Ave. Evansville, IN. 47711
N. Alabama / S. Tennessee Luncheon no point of contact known	<u>Greenbrier Restaurant</u> on the <u>1<sup>st</sup> Saturday @ 1000</u> 27028 Old Highway 20 Madison, AL. 35756
Raleigh Ranger Breakfast no point of contact known	<u>Big Ed's City Market Downtown Raleigh</u> on the <u>1<sup>st</sup> Saturday @ 0800</u> 220 Wolfe St. Raleigh, NC. 27601
San Antonio area Ranger's & Special Forces Meet-up no point of contact known	<u>Rock and Brews</u> on the <u>3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday @ 1100</u> 5702 Landmark Pkwy. San Antonio, TX. 78249
Middle Tennessee Ranger Lunch Michael T. Hall - (615) 815-4747	<u>Quinn's Neighborhood Pub &amp; Eatery</u> on the <u>2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday @ 1200</u> 1010 Murfreesboro Road Franklin, TN. 37064
Flora-Bama Ranger Monthly Meet-up Chris Rivers - mideastinf@aol.com	<u>Flora-Bama Lounge</u> on the <u>1<sup>st</sup> Saturday @ 1200</u> 17401 Perdido Key Drive. Pensacola, FL. 32507
South-East Texas Area Ranger Breakfast Andy Connelly - rangerandy@sohk.us	<u>Honor Café</u> on the <u>2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday @ 1200</u> 103 North Thompson St. Conroe Texas 77301
Fargo Ranger/SF Breakfast Ted Preister - preistero6@gmail.com	<u>Blarney Stone</u> on the <u>2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday @ 1030</u> Address unknown contact Ted Priester for more information



# PRESIDENT'S BRIEFING

## RICK MERRITT



Greetings from Fort "Beginning" and the home of the Infantry! I am here for the US Army's 42nd annual Best Ranger Competition (BRC) 12-14 April at Fort Benning.

The competition is named after our own; the late LTG (R) David E Grange, Jr, a RHOF Inductee. It is now a part of "Infantry Week" as they also conduct the US Army Best Sniper, Mortar Team, and Combatives Competitions as well as the BRC.



Congrats to the 75th Ranger Regiment for making a clean sweep taking 1st, 2nd & 3rd place with our three teams going up against 61 teams across the Army through 60-hours of non-stop competition consisting of 26 events and moving over 100 miles in total.



*Winning Team of the 2026 BRC  
SPC Caleb Godbold and  
SGT Drew Schorsch*



*SGM (R) Pat Payne  
BRC Guest Speaker  
75th Ranger Regiment Veteran,  
Former BRC Winner,  
Medal of Honor Recipient*

Our 75th Ranger Regiment's Rendezvous is scheduled for the week of 22-26 June. Join us for the Regimental Mass Tac (-) Jump, Change of Command,

Banner Day events, competitions, BBQ, Socials etc. Please watch for updates as due to operational requirements the scheduling and events could change but as of today everything is still a GO!

Our association has secured a 'block of rooms' and a hospitality suite with the Courtyard Marriot in Columbus on the Riverfront (check out page 24 for more details). Remember, This is not our bi-annual reunion/business meeting; our last one was at 1/75/Savannah & before that it was at 2/75/Olympia. Our next one will be here in Columbus in 2027 & we will look for the Ranger Regiment to host us as they did the last two – in Olympia with 2/75 & in Savannah with 1/75.

With our next one at Benning, we will ask for hosted events from 3/75/RSTB/RMIB/RHQ; perhaps we do it earlier in the year...maybe during the 2027 Best Ranger Competition and the cooler weather of April.

Our annual raffle's drawing will take place during the Ranger Rendezvous at our Hospitality Room. Tickets are on sale on our **website**. Daniel Defense (DD) has graciously donated another weapon this year. Thanks to DD for sponsoring us each year. See their ad in this Patrolling Magazine and website and contact me to get a very generous discount they offer to our membership.

Next are updates from our appointed Board of Advisors, consisting of past presidents of our association: Steve Johnson and "Doc" Art Attaway are working on our way ahead on the awarding of the Ranger Tab for our association's Vietnam Ranger Company Veterans and the Congressional Gold Medal (CGM) request.

- Steve and I had an office call with the Infantry Commandant to discuss the tab efforts. THE CG IS VERY, VERY SUPPORTIVE.

- Art now has Congressmen supporting our bill to request the awarding of the CGM to our Ranger Regiment Association's Vietnam Ranger Company Veterans.

Rick Barrera will represent me (us) during the voting for the 2026 Ranger Hall of Fame. Our top three candidates will go forward to the RHOF Board to compete against other Candidates within the Ranger Community; this year a total of 10 will be selected across the Army.

It's been over 5 decades since the reactivation of the 1st and 2nd Ranger Battalions (1974), and 4 decades since 3/75 (1984). There are obviously many thousands of Ranger veterans and our new UD's are enhancing our membership drive with new members.

The expansion of our RRA Unit Director's within the 75th Ranger Regiment's Battalions, by adding Company Unit Directors (UDs), is going well but we still need more Rangers to step forward – especially from 2/75 – any interested in volunteering with 2/75 should be put in touch with the 2/75 Battalion UD - RSM (r) Hugh Roberts (UD contact information on page 4).

As I close, I want to thank every Ranger for their service to our Nation! We will never forget our Brothers KIA/KIT nor the severely WIA and our Gold Star Families.

Please keep our active-duty Rangers in your prayers and to those quietly deployed throughout the world, Godspeed.

V/R,  
Ranger Rick Merritt  
RLTW



**WHO WE ARE :**

The 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc., is a registered 501(c)19 corporation, registered in the state of Georgia. We were founded in 1986 by a group of veterans of F Co 58th, (LRP) and L Co 75 (Ranger) Inf. The first meeting was held on June 7, 1986, at Ft. Campbell, KY.

**WHAT WE DO:**

The 75th Ranger Regiment Association participants in a variety of events that support our members and the active duty regiment. Each event is reviewed by the Board of Officers for merit and how it will promote the Association. Our current projects include; awarding scholarships (to qualified individuals) through our coordination and with the support of the National Ranger Memorial Scholarship Foundation. We also provide support to the Best Ranger Competition and any other events the officers regard as beneficial to the association ethos.

We hold biennial reunions (in conjunction with the 75th Ranger Regiment Rendezvous) and business meetings. The association officers (President, 1st & 2nd Vice Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer), are elected at the biennial association business meeting. This reunion is held at Columbus/Fort Moore, GA Subordinate units hold off-year reunions at various locations across the United States per their unit schedule.

**OUR MISSION:**

1. To identify and offer membership to all eligible members of the 75th Infantry Rangers and those who served in the Long-Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) Companies, Long-Range Patrol (LRP) Companies and Detachments, Vietnamese Ranger.
2. Advisors of the Biet Dong Quan (BDQ). Also eligible are those members of LRSU units that trace their lineage to Long Range Patrol Companies that were attached to Brigade or larger units during the Vietnam War and the members of the 75th Ranger Regiment.
3. To sustain the Association. To promote and establish fellowship of the Special Operations ranger community by recruitment and encouragement of active duty and recently separated Rangers to become members.
4. To assist, when possible, those active units and their members who bear the colors and lineage of the 5307th Composite Provisional Unit (CPU), 475th Infantry Regiment, 75th Infantry (Ranger) Companies (Merrill's Marauders), 1st and 2nd Battalions (Ranger) 75th Infantry, the 75th Ranger Regiment, consisting of Regimental Headquarters 1st, 2nd, 3rd, STB, and MIB Ranger Battalions, successor units, or any additions that are activated and assigned to the 75th Ranger Regiment.

**Eligible Units**

**75th Ranger Regiment**

75th Ranger Regiment, designated in 1986, and all subordinate, assigned and attached units

- 1st Battalion (RANGER)75th Inf. - ACTIV 1974
- 2nd Battalion (RANGER)75th Inf. - ACTIV 1974
- 3rd Battalion 1st (RANGER)75th Inf. - ACTIV 1984
- 75th Ranger Regiment HQ Company - ACTIV 1984
- 75th Ranger Special Troops Battalion - ACTIV 2007
- 75th Raner Military Intelligence Battalion - ACTIV 2017

**Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol**

- V Corp (LRRP) (LRRP)
- VII Corp (LRRP) 199th Inf. Bde. (LRRP)
- 9th Inf. Div (LRRP) 173rd Abn. Bde. (LRRP)
- 25th Inf. Div (LRRP) 3rd Inf. Div. (LRRP)
- 196th Inf. Bde. (LRRP)

**Vietnamese Ranger Advisors BDQ**  
All units of the Biet Dong Quan (BDQ)

**WWII Rangers**

- 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th Battalions
- 5307 Composite Unit (provisional)

**Korean War Rangers**  
Specific units to be listed

**Long Range Surveillance:**

Any Long Range Surveillance Company or Detachment that can trace its lineage to, or is currently assigned to a Brigade or larger element, that was deployed to Vietnam.

**Long Range Patrol**

- Co D (LRP) 17th Inf.
- Co E (LRP) 20th Inf.
- Co E (LRP) 30th Inf.
- Co E (LRP) 50th Inf.
- Co F (LRP) 50th Inf.
- Co E (LRP) 51st Inf.
- Co F (LRP) 51st Inf.
- Co E (LRP) 52nd Inf.
- Co F (LRP) 52nd Inf.
- Co C (LRP) 58th Infantry
- Co E (LRP) 58th Infantry
- Co F (LRP) 58th Infantry
- 70th Infantry DET (LRP)
- 71st Infantry DET (LRP)
- 74th Infantry DET (LRP)
- 78th Infantry DET (LRP)
- 79th Infantry DET (LRP)
- Co. D (LRP) 151st Infantry

**75th Infantry Ranger Companies**

- Co A (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co B (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co C (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co D (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co E (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co F (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co G (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co H (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co I (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co K (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co L (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co M (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co N (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co O (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co P (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- Co D (RANGER) 151st Inf.

**Elected Officers**

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The opinions expressed by the Officers, Unit Directors, Editor and other writers are entirely their own and are not to be considered an official expression or position of the Association.

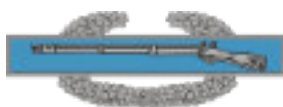
Advertisements for products or services do not constitute an endorsement by the Association. Manuscripts, photographs, and drawings are submitted at the risk of the individual submitting the material. Captions must be submitted with any photographs or graphics.

The Officers and the Editor reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity and space constraints. Every precaution will be taken to preserve the intent and scope of the author. The Officers and Editor reserve the right to refuse any submission that is in bad taste, offensive, or discredits unnecessarily an individual or group.

Deadlines are determined by the Editor.

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**Past Presidents**

- |                                   |                                 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1986-1988.....Bob Gilbert         | 2002-2004.....Dana McGrath      |
| 1988-1990.....Billy Nix           | 2004-2005.....Emmett Hiltbrand  |
| 1990-1992.....Bob Gilbert         | 2005-2007.....Stephen Crabtree  |
| 1992-1992.....Roy Nelson (RESG)   | 2007-2009.....William Bullen    |
| .....Milton Lockett (RESG)        | 2009-2011.....John Chester      |
| .....1994.....Duke Dushane (APPT) | 2011-2013.....Joe Little        |
| 1994-1996.....Roy Barley          | 2013-2015.....Bill Anton        |
| 1996-1998.....Rick Ehrler         | 2015-2019.....Richard Barela    |
| 1998-2000.....Terry Roderick      | 2019-2021.....Stephen Johnson   |
| 2000-2002.....Emmett Hiltbrand    | 2021-2025.....Art "Doc" Attaway |

# 75th Ranger Regiment Association Unit Directors

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B Co. 1/75 <b>Unit Director NEEDED</b>	B Co. 2/75 <b>Unit Director NEEDED</b>	B Co. 3/75 <b>Randy Ramaglia</b> randyramaglia@gmail.com (717) 875-1269	STB RRC <b>Unit Director NEEDED</b>	MIB CEMA <b>Unit Director NEEDED</b>
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Hello All,

I have a few things to go over so this is going to be longer than usual - thanks in advance for bearing with me!

First I need to thank our Vietnam LRRP Unit Directors for their diligent, tireless efforts to find and create content for this

magazine! Without your efforts and stories Patrolling would be a newsletter! I have genuinely enjoyed getting to know you and am humbled that you trust me with this publication! I look forward to reading more of your stories! You all are tops in my book, thank you for all that you do!

I would like to highlight a unit or story on the cover each month – it won't happen every month but if you have a longer story, or just a really good one, please reach out and let's highlight it in future issues! I am always looking for content so if you have any idea reach out!

To all of the new UD's representing active the Ranger Companies, consider reaching out to the LRRP UD's for advice on how to start collecting stories – those UD's who have articles in the last few issues of Patrolling would be a great place to start (I apologize for volunteering you).

Onto darker topics - evolving world events are heightening dangers for American's worldwide. Adversaries, both overseas and domestic, have considerable capabilities in information gathering, digital surveillance, hacking, scams and fraud. The pace and sophistication of these have increased dramatically and we are hearing about major corporate hacks with alarming regularity. There have been spoofed emails impersonating 75th RRA officer. Be on your guard!

For regular folks keeping their identities and finances safe are largely the scope of their worries. We have more responsibility. Your experiences with, and exposure to special operations gives you extraordinary insight into the workings of our military and many of us can anticipate and see the subtle foreshadowing of major operations. More than ever before the offhand comment can be overheard, recorded and shared in unexpected ways. While it may be very satisfying to share your insights and demonstrate your knowledge about current events but consider playing it close to the chest – or do what I do – when asked I tell people that being a Ranger is exactly like the movie - *The 'A' Team*.

Our newest foray into the Middle East has made our world more unstable and a more dangerous. While our goals may still be realized and we may see that particularly problematic regime replaced with a government less intent

on fraud, extremism and terrorism, it thus far seems resilient. In the meantime, keep your head on a swivel, especially when traveling abroad, but also when you're at home checking your email, texts or messages. I don't know about you but the number of phishing emails and texts I receive has increased by an order of magnitude over the last 6-8 months, I assume you see the same trend. Some are obvious and some are very difficult to detect. Be paranoid in the extreme! Don't click on any links regardless of whether you know the source. Received an email from you bank? Navigate to their website by typing in the URL manually, use the app on your phone. Even a call from your bank should be considered suspect – Scammers can spoof your caller ID so it shows your bank, and they can get enough information about you that they can convincingly impersonate an official from you bank or other 'trusted' institution (this happened to my mother). If you get a call from a 'trusted' institution, be suspicious, if they say you must do something immediately or use fear or nervousness to encourage you to do something, it is a scam! Hang-up and contact your institution directly. Did you get a text from the DMV or for a toll violation – consider them a scam by default. If it's legit it will come to you by snail mail! Remember, bureaucracies don't move quickly so anything claiming urgency should be considered a scam by default!

Those who do these evil deeds see their actions as Righteous, morally justifiable, they have chosen profit over decency, or some combination that results in the abandonment of moral and ethical norms. Whatever motivates them they are the scammers, fraudsters, hackers and terrorists who relentlessly attack society. Keep your physical and digital head on a swivel and stay safe brothers! Okay – Rant over, for now...

In other news, our association's elections are coming up. The positions of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Secretary are on the ballot and unlike in recent years we have multiple candidates running for each position – no singular choices this year. The Candidate statements have gone out in our newsletter and have been published in this issue of Patrolling starting on page 9. Take a look, choose who you think will serve our Association best and cast your vote!

Lastly Ranger Rendezvous 2026 is coming up in June – The 75<sup>th</sup> RRA has a block of rooms in Columbus GA at the Courtyard Marriott (advert on page 54). I hope to see you there and share some tall tales!

Be healthy, be happy and be prosperous!

Ranger's Lead the Way!

- Samuel H. Chartier  
V-1/75





# CHAPLAIN THOUGHTS

DAN KNIGHT



## Biblical Humility and Service: A Message to 75th Ranger Regiment Veterans

Many of you know I also serve as the Spiritual Fitness Advisor for Three Rangers Foundation. Some of you may recognize my recurring theme of humility. I reiterate it here because humility is such a vital part of leading well--No one leads well without humility! For TRF, I do a monthly newsletter and recently wrote about humility. I received a great deal of positive feedback so I thought I would expand on the topic in this quarterly issue of Patrolling Magazine.

Humility is a topic familiar to all Rangers who have worn the scroll and lived the Creed. We all know and remember great Rangers who led with both strength and humility. Our time in the Ranger Regiment was marked by discipline, sacrifice, and an unshakable commitment to the mission. All reading these words stood at the breach, carried the weight of the task, and lived out the Ranger Creed in ways few can truly understand. Yet, among the many virtues that defined our service, one stands out as both a quiet strength and a guiding light—**humility**.

Many of you may remember an event called Mongadai. It was an event designed by the 7th COL, Dave Grange, at least in part, to keep officers in the Regiment humble. The basic premise of the event was that all the staff captains, usually 30-35 guys from all three battalions (many waiting to take a company command) across the Regiment would assemble and draw the gear of a Ranger Rifle Platoon. This platoon would next be assigned various TO&E roles which much like during Ranger School would rotate every 16-18 hours. They would then jump into some hellish terrain and do a tab/leadership check for 3-4 days, like a Ranger School recert; little chow, little sleep, max stress!

I did two of them, one in Dugway (under COL Grange) and another one in Dahlongega (under COL McCrystal). They were both extremely hard gut checks. I believe they were conducted to remind young Captains across the Regiment what it was like to be a Ranger on the line. It was also a great way to identify turds and spotlight Rangers through the mandatory peer report process. I feel like these negative peers always affected and humbled those slated to take command. Nothing humbles one quite like carrying a tripod, spare barrel bag, and 1,000 rounds of ammo through the sands of Dugway or the mountains of Dahlongega with little chow and sleep! It was both humbling and good to be reminded of the Ranger Private's load!



## Humility as Strength in the Regiment

The world often mistakes humility for weakness, but Scripture tells a different story. Proverbs 22:4 says, *“Humility is the fear of the Lord; its wages are riches and honor and life.”* In the Regiment, humility was never about thinking less of ourselves, it was about thinking of ourselves less. It was the ability to learn from a teammate, regardless of rank, and to put the mission and the men above personal pride. Philippians 2:3-4 reminds us, *“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.”* That is the same spirit that drove each of us to never leave a fallen comrade and to place the welfare of our Rangers before our own.

## Humility Under Pressure

In combat and in life, pride can be dangerous. James 4:6 warns, *“God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.”* Humility kept us adaptable in the field, willing to adjust plans, listen to our teams, and acknowledge when a better way existed. It built trust in our formations and ensured that no one fought alone. Even now, outside the Regiment, humility remains a strength. It allows you to connect deeply with others, to mentor without arrogance, and to continue learning long after your last mission.

## Carrying It Forward

Micah 6:8 gives a clear call: *“To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”* As Ranger veterans, we can live this out daily—whether by mentoring younger Rangers, serving our communities, or simply being a steady, humble presence in the lives of those around us. Your service in the Regiment was defined by courage, skill, and sacrifice. But it was humility, the quiet, steady choice to put others first—that made you not just a Ranger, but a leader worth following.

## A Closing Prayer

Lord, You are worthy of our praise. You have helped us prove that humility and service are not just ideals, they are lived realities. As we continue our missions beyond the Regiment, I pray You help us carry that same spirit that made us effective as Rangers into every arena of our lives. The scroll may no longer be on our shoulders, but the values it represents, especially humility, remain stitched into our character forever. We give you all honor and praise and pray this prayer in Jesus' Name-Amen!

Rangers Lead The Way!  
Chaplain Dan Knight  
601.998.5087  
[dan.knight@hotmail.com](mailto:dan.knight@hotmail.com)



*Ranger Dan Knight served multiple tours in 3/75, 2/75, and RHQ and has 11 combat deployments with various airborne and SOF units. He retired in 2017 and enjoys his time working with the 75th RRA, Three Rangers Foundation, and his local church. He spends his free time with his family and grandkids on his small farm in Star, MS.*



# SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

TOM SOVE



We are happy to present the recipients of our 2025 75<sup>th</sup> RRA Scholarships. We sponsor three scholarships per year in the amount of \$1,500 each. We are thankful to the Rangers Scholarship Fund which provides all the administration work of collecting applications, vetting them, and submitting worthy applicants to us for final selection of our three scholarships.

The RSF normally awards over 100 Merit Scholarships each year and they are extremely proficient in this regard. There are a variety of classes of scholarship, generally for dependents ranging from offspring to spouses, but all applicants must have a sponsor who served in the Ranger Regiment. The Ranger himself is not eligible, as active duty personnel have other resources available for help in defraying education costs while on active duty, and veterans have the VA resources.

The RSF scholarships are awarded based upon grade point average, community involvement, leadership, and essay proficiency. The three 75<sup>th</sup>RRA scholarship recipients first receive a basic scholarship from the RSF, then our scholarship is awarded as a supplement. In addition to the total of our three scholarships, the 75<sup>th</sup> RRA is proud to also contribute an additional \$1,500 to support the RSF efforts in awarding other scholarships restricted to the Ranger community.

The RSF honors service and sacrifice and does so by awarding all scholarships only in the name of Rangers of the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment KIA, KIT, or who died in the line of duty while assigned to the 75<sup>th</sup> RR. Similarly, the 75<sup>th</sup>RRA honors service and sacrifice by awarding our supplementary scholarships exclusively in the name of LRRPs and Rangers KIA or POW in the Vietnam War. The 75<sup>th</sup> RRA officers select the honoree randomly, and strive to never duplicate selections.

All recipients are invited to receive their awards in person during Regimental Rendezvous week at RHQ. At this time, they receive an awards packet and dog tags of their honoree. If unable to attend, a separate virtual meeting is conducted during which their supplemental scholarship is awarded. The awards packet and dog tags will be shipped to them. The actual scholarship funds are submitted by RSF directly to the educational institution of matriculation.

This year the 75<sup>th</sup>RRA representatives at the ceremony presenting the scholarship packet and dog tags were Rick Merritt, Kurt Buchta, and Rob Ciaccio.

Here are our 2025 75<sup>th</sup> RRA Scholarship recipients:

### Aisling Gutierrez

Aisling Gutierrez is from Providence Forge, VA and is attending Eastern Michigan University studying Biology with a concentration in Ecology, Organismal Diversity and Evolution. She plans to attend veterinary school after finishing her undergraduate studies.

**SGT Lonnie D. Evans**

E Co, 75<sup>th</sup> Infantry (Ranger), 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division

### Ian MacGregor

Ian MacGregor is from Manassas, Virginia and is attending Virginia Tech University studying Management Consulting and Analytics. He plans to work as a business consultant after completing his undergraduate studies.

**SP4 Gerald W. McConnell, JR**

H Co, 75<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division

### Mia Giannandrea

Mia Giannandrea is from Jenks, Oklahoma and is attending the University of Arkansas studying Biology. She plans to attend medical school after completing her undergraduate studies.

**SGT Arthur E. Scott**

G Co (Ranger) 75<sup>th</sup> Infantry, (Ranger) Americal Division



# THE LOVE THAT ENDURES



## HONORING MY SON

CORPORAL BENJAMIN C. DILLON, ARMY RANGER 1985-2007

BY LINDA DILLON

On October 7th, 2007, my world shattered. The date is burned into my memory—the day we lost our son, Corporal Benjamin Charles Dillon, a proud member of the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. Ben was just 22 years old when he was killed in action during a combat operation in Iraq. He was a hero, but to me, he was, and always will be, my boy.



### A Legacy of Service and Simple Joys

Ben was born on September 16th, 1985, and his path was clear: he was built for service. A 2004 graduate of Southeast High School in Edinburg, Ohio, he followed a family tradition of serving our country. His commitment to the United States Army was total. He quickly became a vital part of the Ranger Regiment, serving in roles from Rifleman to Gun Team Leader, earning countless honors like the Army Commendation Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and, posthumously, the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star Medal (with a V device).

But beyond the impressive uniform and the medals, Ben was a gentle soul. We shared so much: a deep love for music, books, camping, and those long, meandering conversations around the crackling campfire. In his final days, his service was marked by that incredible character—a soldier who still found time for the simple pleasures: shooting hoops at the barracks or sharing a good read with his family.

### The Ache of Absence

I can't even describe what it's like to lose a child; it's a constant, physical ache that transforms every part of your life. It's a loss that never, ever goes away.

In those early days, the grief was overwhelming. It wasn't just emotional; it manifested in exhaustion, brain fog, and a sadness that simply refused to lift. People tell you that trauma makes you stronger, but that's not the truth I live. Grief doesn't strengthen you; it damages, it exhausts, and it leaves lasting marks.

I am still married, but honestly, it's only because Ben's father, Terry, is a saint. He has allowed me the space to grieve, to process this unbearable reality. He visits the cemetery weekly to care for Ben's grave. Our marriage, like our lives, has had to bend without breaking, leaning on each other to face each sunrise.

### Channeling Pain into Purpose

Despite the weight of this loss, I knew I had to keep going, not for myself, but to keep Ben's light shining. I've channeled my pain into service, working hard to ensure his legacy lives on.

One of our proudest accomplishments is the Scholarship Fund established in Ben's name. It benefits students graduating from Southeast High School who plan to attend college, enlist in the military, or attend a trade school, and also supports local youth sports teams. To date, thanks to the unwavering support of our tiny community in Edinburg, we have awarded over \$100,000.00.

I volunteer with organizations like TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Program for Military Survivors), helping other families navigate this painful journey.

For over 14 years, our community has hosted a youth baseball tournament at the park where Ben volunteered as an umpire. Field #4 now has block dugouts and a sign honoring his memory.

I organize the annual Memorial Day Parade in Edinburg, a commitment I take seriously. This is where Ben's Memorial Parade Car shines—a beautiful, custom-built Factory Five Shelby Cobra, built by Terry and his twin, Tim, using Ben's first car that was stolen and totaled while he was on deployment. It's a beautiful tribute.



Cobra Kit Car built by Cpl. Dillon's Father using Ben's 89 Mustang.



# THE LOVE THAT ENDURES

BY LINDA DILLAN



I've also worked hard on larger projects to ensure Ben's story reaches beyond our small town. We successfully advocated for HB25 to have a road sign on Interstate 76 in Northeast Ohio in his honor. I am currently working with local schools, aiming to make Southeast High School an Ohio-designated Purple Star school and our county seat, Ravenna, a Purple Heart City.

## The Ranger Brotherhood

The sheer impact of Ben's life is felt most deeply in the connections we've made. We have memorial bumper stickers on our cars, and as we travel, the most amazing things happen. The protective brotherhood of the Rangers appears out of thin air.

One time, my cousin's car broke down in the middle of a massive intersection in the pouring rain. She was crying with her five young daughters. A man knocked on her window,



Memorial Road Sign in Ohio  
Located after Exit 43 on Interstate 76

helped her push the car to safety, and then said, "I saw your Dillon sticker. I served with Ben. I knew I had to help you out." Then he just left. That's the code. That's the strength of the Ranger family.

The most precious gift of all is knowing that seventeen children have been named with some part of Ben's name by fellow soldiers, family, and friends. Many of them are teenagers now. It is a powerful, humbling reminder that his legacy is not just memorialized—it's living and breathing in the next generation.

I do all of this because I want to make Ben proud. When I am honoring his memory, I feel good, even though I carry the weight of his absence every second. Ben's life, though tragically short, was a story of courage, commitment, and unending love. His memory inspires us all to find hope in the darkest moments and to remember those who gave everything for us.

## SAMUEL CHARTIER FOR SECRETARY CANDIDATE STATEMENT

# ELECTIONS



traditions and high Esprit de Corps of the Rangers, to support and expand the bonds earned in the crucible of Ranger Life.

The 75<sup>th</sup> RRA's mission is more than worthy, and this is me 'humbly' asking for your support as I seek the office of Secretary. I served in A Co, 1/75, from 1997 until I was medically boarded in late 1999; I already work for our Ranger community as the Editor of Patrolling Magazine. I know becoming your Secretary will be more work, a ton of responsibility, and I will have to deal with all of you grumpy

For over sixty years the Ranger Regiment and their precursor LRRP units have produced men of incontestable character, forged with training, hardened in combat, and bonded by a fellowship spanning generations, wars, and enduring through times of peace. Recognizing the importance of this camaraderie, our LRRP forerunners founded the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association to protect and propagate the

Rangers on a regular basis... It will be a pain in the ass, and I will love it! Our Ranger community is deeply important to me and this mission is worthy – I will put in the time to do the job right. My varied experiences in business and life will serve you well in representing Rangers from, and in, all walks of life, and from all parts of our great nation. I will bring administrative know-how and add another voice of sound judgement to the leadership (I would go into specifics, but Tom said to keep it to 3 paragraphs).

If you give me the opportunity to serve as your next Secretary I will work toward three primary ends. First, I will work with our leadership to make our association representative of, and relevant for, all Rangers – past, present and future. Second, I will support our leadership and our association's goals by facilitating productive, purpose focused communication ensuring the voices of our founding members are heard. Third I believe simplicity is preferable to complexity and as such I will strive to streamline our standard operating procedures making our association run smoother and more efficiently.

Thank you for your consideration.

Samuel Chartier





# CHRISTIAN A. WEISS FOR SECRETARY CANDIDATE STATEMENT



# ELECTIONS



My name is Christian A. Weiss III (Chris). I am 60 years old and I served the 75th Ranger Regiment during 1986-1988 as a Ranger in 3rd Ranger Battalion, A Company, 1st Platoon in both 3rd squad and weapons squad. I was a rifleman in 3rd squad and an M-60-gun team leader in Weapons Squad. I also served in the US Army Reserves with 11th SFGA from 1984- early 1986. I am a graduate of Ranger Class 8-87. I completed RIP, Pre-Ranger, Scout Swimmer schools and earned the EIB.

After ETS I returned to civilian life and completed a mechanical engineering and master's degree at The Ohio State University. Since 1992 I have worked in industry as an engineer and manager of contracts for companies such as Lincoln Electric Company, Bechtel - Fossil Power Division, and Morton Salt. I have also founded several businesses in the construction and real estate fields. I have managed teams of engineers and contract managers in multinational business projects up to \$3.5 Billion and have successfully franchised and sold a construction business. I have volunteered as a member of the National Ski Patrol, 4-H advisor, Cub Scout Den Leader and Cubmaster, and Boy Scout Assistant Scout Master. I am a MM with Temple Lodge 28 F&AM, Painesville, Ohio. I have coached my son's baseball, football, shooting sports, and ski teams for 14 years. I am a Christian and member of the Mentor Ohio United Methodist Church.

I am divorced and have three sons. Benjamin is 19. He graduated high school in 2024 and completed Infantry OSUT December 2024. Currently he is a sophomore at OSU studying Civil Engineering and attending ROTC. He is a member of the recon platoon, 1/148th Infantry, Ohio National Guard, and intends to try out for SFAS with 19th SFGA this year.

Alexander is 18. He graduated high school in 2025 and just completed Infantry OSUT as the top shot and trainee of the cycle on 1/29/26. He is currently at the WTC at Fort Benning attending RTLI and RTAC. He expects to attend Ranger Class 6-26 starting April 20th and report to USMA West Point this summer as a cadet.

Erich is 14 and currently a high school freshman. He is completing his Eagle Scout project and intends to enlist in the US Army when he turns 17.

My desire to run for the office of Secretary of the 75th RRA is to continue serving the Ranger community. Not just veterans of the Regiment, but also to reach out and inspire young Americans to serve the USA and, hopefully, become Rangers. In addition to the responsibilities of Secretary I would also focus on membership retention and expansion; specifically, to inform our active-duty Rangers of the benefits of membership and participation with the 75th RRA.

I consider my life's greatest blessing and accomplishment to have been a father and raising up three Christian men who recognize and are fulfilling/will fulfill their duty to serve our nation.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Respectfully,

Christian Weiss III  
RLTW!





# JOHN MCGEE FOR 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT CANDIDATE STATEMENT



## ELECTIONS

I enlisted in the Army February of 1967. In 1968 I was assigned to Company F (LRP), 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. I was discharged in 1970 and enlisted in the Massachusetts Army National Guard while in college. Upon graduation I reentered the Army and was commissioned as a Second lieutenant in April of 1977.

I graduated from flight school in 1978 and began my Army Aviation Career serving in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division at Ft Bragg, NC, serving in multiple command and staff positions, retiring in September 1995.

In 2006 I volunteered to be recalled to active duty under Operation Noble Eagle for the War on Terror and assigned to the Army Aviation Center of Excellence as Chief of Aviation Future Combat systems. I re-retired in 2008 and continued to serve in Army Aviation's Combat Development Directorate as a Department of the Army Civilian at Fort Rucker, AL, retiring once again in 2015.

I joined 75<sup>th</sup> RRA in 1992 and for the last 10 years I have served as the unit director for Company F/75 - F/50, 25<sup>th</sup> ID LRRP.



Since retirement I have been actively involved in multiple Veterans Organizations, both national and local. Life Member of the VFW, DAV, AUSA, USARA, MOAA. I am the Vice President of Citrus County Florida Veterans Foundation and was recently inducted into the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame for my service to veterans.

However, the organization that is nearest and dearest to my heart is the 75<sup>th</sup> RRA. The impact of having served in Company F/50<sup>th</sup> INF Long Range Patrol shaped my life. Throughout my military career, I held Company F as the standard. I knew that it was my duty to continue to uphold those standards as both a soldier and a civilian.

What can I bring to our organization? I believe that I can bring my knowledge and experience of over 5 decades working in multiple different levels of the Army, from squad/team leader to Department of the Army Staff.

RLTW

John McGee, Major USA (RET.)



Major John McGee (RET)





# KURT BUCHTA FOR 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT CANDIDATE STATEMENT



# ELECTIONS



To the Members of the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association.

Thank you for entrusting me to be your 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of our Association this past year, as well as your 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President the two years prior to that. I am excited to have the opportunity to continue working on the initiatives we have embarked on alongside my lifelong Ranger Buddies, current President Rick Merritt, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Lee Garcia, Treasurer Joe Posato and our new Secretary, if you see fit and offer your support in that direction.

Building on the success of our 2025 Reunion and Annual meeting in Savannah, GA I am anticipating another great gathering in June for the 2026 Ranger Rendezvous and Regimental Change of Command here at Fort Benning, GA (June 22-26). As of the writing of this campaign statement, plans have been materializing that will validate that the fraternity and brotherhood we share is strengthened when we have the opportunity to get together. It was at Rendezvous 1992 where Rangers like Terry Roderick, Duke Deshane and many others welcomed many of us young Rangers into their space and

As your Executive Committee we embarked on a project to be present and provide the guest speaker for all Ranger Assessment and Selection Program graduations as well as provide a welcome LPD to these new Rangers before graduation and introduce the Association. To date, CSM(R) Rick Merritt, CSM(R) Don Purdy, CSM(R) James Pippin, MSG(R) Lee Garcia and myself have participated in the program. We are and will be putting the information out in Patrolling and our newsletters and if any of you are interested in participating in being a guest speaker, please reach out to us.

I would like to finish my statement by letting you know that serving this organization as your current 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, current 3/75 Unit Director and former 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President has, and with your support, will continue to be a fulfilling and deeply satisfying endeavor for me. The opportunity to continue to grow and carry on the enduring mission of what our Vietnam Ranger Brothers had the foresight and tenacity to create and nurture in our 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association is a Ranger mission I will accept, complete, and strive to do better every day.

Rangers Lead the Way!

Ranger Buchta (1B375, RSTB)



RASP 1 Graduation

allowed us to just sit there in awe and ask questions and listen to them. They became lifelong family friends and although they are now Rangers in the sky their impact is not and will not be forgotten.

One of the key initiatives that we have been working on this past year and building off of the model that our Vietnam Company Rangers have utilized since forming this Association is developing company level Unit Directors for each of the 5 battalions (1/75, 2/75, 3/75, RSTB and RMIB) and the 75<sup>th</sup> RHQ/RHHC. This Unit Director initiative has already proven to be a positive move, enhancing communication depth, consistency and speed of delivery. Building the Ranger network; building the Association.



(L-R) CSM(R) John Edmunds (former 3/75 UD, my 1<sup>st</sup> ISG, MSG(R) Lee Garcia (2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Speaker), CSM(R) Gary Carpenter (1<sup>st</sup> RSM, grandson graduated RASP1), RGR Buchta (1<sup>st</sup> VP, 3/75 UD)





# HONOR THE LEGACY

PAST • PRESENT • FUTURE

The National Ranger Memorial stands as a testament to the courage, sacrifice, and excellence of every Ranger who has answered the call. **Support your memorial** and help us invest in the next generation through **Ranger scholarships**.

## ★ PRESERVE THE MEMORIAL

Maintain, preserve, and improve the National Ranger Memorial at Fort Benning, GA

## ★ RANGER SCHOLARSHIPS

College scholarships for active duty Rangers, retired Rangers, and their family members



SUPPORT YOUR RANGERS

[www.rangermemorial.org](http://www.rangermemorial.org)



SCAN TO VISIT



In addition to keeping a robust operational temp of training 1st Battalion Rangers make time to support the community.

Alpha Company had five NCOs graduate from Special Forces Advanced Urban Combat (SFAUC) Course. SSG Martin, SGT Fowler, and SGT Dalosio attended this training with 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group at Fort Campbell, KY. SGT Scudder and SGT Gough attended this course with 19<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group at Camp Williams, Utah. SGT Gough was named the Honor Graduate of the course while also achieving the highest overall points in the course.

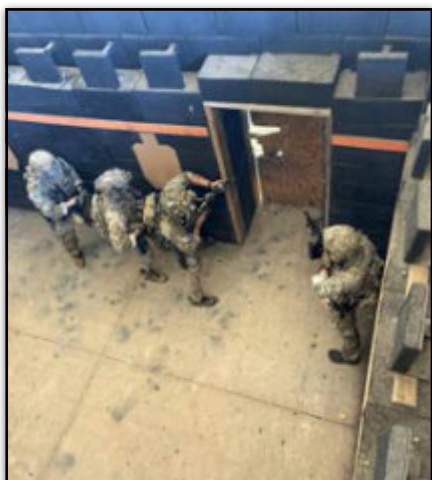


*SGT Murphy and SPC Klein at Sniper School Graduation*



**Boy Scout Troop First Aid:** HHC Medics volunteered to teach First Aid to local Savannah Boy Scouts on 23 JAN 26. Rangers Kelley, Moore, McCord, Ackerman, and Galloway ran Savannah Troop 527 through First Aid classroom training, hands on instruction, and informal medical lanes.

Over the course of three days, Bravo Company executed 72 iterations (during both day/night, per squad) and validated all line squads and weapons squads. Outside of developing proficiency with close quarter combat fundamentals, the exercise emphasized internal demolition breaching, link up procedures, target acquisition (shoot and no-shoot targets), and squad leader decision making





# 1<sup>st</sup> BATTALION, 75<sup>th</sup> RANGER REGIMENT

UNIT DIRECTOR - JAMES SPENCER

**continued**

Bravo Company conducted SBF LFX at FSGA to train and reinforce tactics and improve Machine Gun marksmanship and Charlie Company conducted Single Team Multi Room Live Fire Exercise at HAAF to validate fire teams.



Over the past three weeks, BMP mortars have been in Brecon, Wales conducting training with partner forces. The training included a gunner's exam, urban MFP establishment, and weapon qualification. The event culminated in a multi-day FTX further strengthening relationships and interoperability

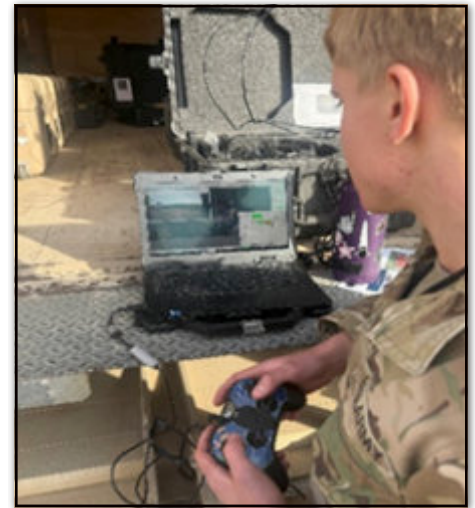


# 1<sup>st</sup> BATTALION, 75<sup>th</sup> RANGER REGIMENT

UNIT DIRECTOR - JAMES SPENCER

**continued**

Rangers from Delta Company focused on the basics via executing the Army M4/M249 Qualification, Close Quarters Marksmanship Qualification, Rural Qualification, and Machine Gun Qualifications.



Delta Company Unmanned Aerial System Pilots (Drone team) executed UAS Advanced Skills, a collective training event focused on increasing FPV pilot lethality and proficiency.

Bravo Company executed small arms and demolition ranges in order to prepare and certify for its Squad Live Fire Exercise at C3 Shoot House. The Platoons emphasized rifle and pistol CQM qualifications, rifle and pistol transitions, and delayed charges in preparation for the Live Fire.





# MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BATTALION

UNIT DIRECTOR - BILL BURKETT



The Regimental Military Intelligence Battalion Rangers remain committed to conducting and supporting numerous efforts across a vast spectrum of operational domains. Concurrently, MI Rangers continue to lead the way with testing, evaluating, and training across the nation to enhance the fighting forces of our U.S. military – all part of Abrams Charter! Since the beginning of the new year RMIB leaders have engaged with the Cyber Center of Excellence and Army communities of interest regarding sensing and effects. These engagements further highlight the RMIB's commitment to *shouldering more than their share of any task*.

Based on everything going on in the world over the past several months, it's no surprise that the RMIB has been incredibly engaged in multiple efforts! In recent training and contingency operations, the RMIB has ensured unprecedented lethality by integrating the Army's first-ever Cyber and Electromagnetic Activity (CEMA) Company to dominate the digital and physical battlefield. The entire RMIB continues to flawlessly perform alongside other special operations elements across other services and among a vast array of coalition forces by participating in complex exercises that synchronize drones, surveillance aircraft, and cyber warfare to prepare for "no-notice" missions.

MI Rangers have been recognized over the past four months for tremendous achievements, affirming that the RMIB is truly "*Out Front*" in today's Army. RMIB Rangers *set the example for others to follow* by earning many top awards at the 2026 TOPINT (Top Intelligence) Competition. TOPINT is a four-day competition amongst Army MI soldiers to determine the top performers in their field by testing competitors in physical and mental tests. SSG Tracy was the overall competition winner, while SPC Fister earned the top All-Source Intelligence Analysis award and SGT Granberg was the top Signals Intelligence Analyst. Over the past few months SSG Lovato, SGT's Bobadilla and Perez and SPC4's Espindola-Espinosa, Owens, Cavender, and Trainor all earned their Ranger tab! Four other RMIB Rangers, WO1 Moyer, SSG Meadows, SGT's Larsen, Lopez-Duran, and Simon all earned honorary accolades while attending professional military education courses. SFC Perez earned the distinguished leader award upon graduating from the Cyber Senior Leader Course (SLC). SSG E. Smith earned a Master of Arts Degree in Organization Leadership from George Washington University.

During the 2025 RMIB Turkey Bowl the officers regained control with a commanding victory over the NCOs. Two RMIB Rangers, SPC Fisher and Chaplain Hafner, helped the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment win the 2026 Fort Benning Commanders Cup Basketball League trophy in February.

By the time this article is published the Regiment will be on the verge of kicking off Ranger Rendezvous 2026! This is a great opportunity for young (and old) Rangers to build strong bonds, make great memories, and engage with Rangers of the past. It is a striking irony that in seven years of retirement, I have attended more Ranger Rendezvous than I did during my decade-plus of active-duty service within the Regiment. Whether it was a service school, TDY, or other OPTEMPO factors at play, Rendezvous never seemed to align with my universe. Regardless, in the few times I have been able to attend them, I have many fond memories of meeting and speaking with Rangers that came before me, but just as delightful is meeting young, enthusiastic MI Rangers that are eager to do bad things to America's enemies when that time comes.

At its core, Ranger Rendezvous serves as the vital preservation of a shared legacy. For the newest generation, it is a high-energy reunion defined by the same unbreakable camaraderie that forged them during RASP. For others, the roots of these bonds reach back to the shared misery endured under the 'starships' of Sand Hill—from the long days at the 1-50th Infantry Regiment to the collective uncertainty of sitting on the wooden benches of a replacement depot such as 30th AG; places every Ranger once sat waiting for that first set of gear. Those are the shared experiences that forge indestructible bonds.

For Military Intelligence Rangers, however, the bond carries an extra layer of exclusivity. Their connection is rooted in Fort Huachuca, a desert post tucked away in Sierra Vista that remains anonymous to most soldiers outside the intel community. Whether swapping stories about long nights at Daisy Mae's or eating wings at Vinny's, having a mid-night meal at Denny's on Fry after an evening of fun in Bisbee, or reminiscing about the now-legendary "Sorry Gulch," MI Rangers share a specialized shorthand. By the time they reach Rendezvous, they aren't just celebrating their place in the 75th Ranger Regiment; they are celebrating a "double bond" – the technical brotherhood of the MI Corps fused with the elite standard of the Ranger Creed.

A critical aspect of service in the Ranger Regiment is the enduring oath every Ranger develops with one another. Most readers, especially those who spent time



# MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BATTALION

UNIT DIRECTOR - BILL BURKETT



in conventional Army units, understand Rangers are forged in a pressure cooker of extreme standards and shared hardship, creating a level of trust that goes far beyond typical workplace camaraderie. While conventional units certainly build friendships, the Ranger Creed and the relentless operational tempo demand a total reliance on the person to your left and right. Our Ranger Regiment isn't defined by gear, tabs, or even missions – but by the unspoken understanding that every Ranger has meet the same demanding standards and continues to perform at an optimal level. After all – selection never stops! These bonds are etched in the moments of suffering together, encouraging one another, and supporting each other in the unforgiving world that is warfare. These shared

experiences transform casual work colleagues into lifelong tribes. *\*I'll write more about SOF tribalism in later publications.* Consequently, when a Ranger eventually hangs up the tan beret, they don't just leave with a resume; they carry a permanent network of brothers and sisters who remain connected to one another in civilian life.

It's a privilege to be your unit director. Continue to check on your Ranger Buddies, run faster, and don't forget nuthin'

- RLTW!

*Bill Burkett spent over a decade as an intelligence analyst in the Ranger Regiment. After retiring in 2019 he assumed duties at USSOCOM HQS as the portfolio manager for joint mission analysis and future force manning pertaining to the Regiment and all national mission forces. He resides near Tampa, Florida.*

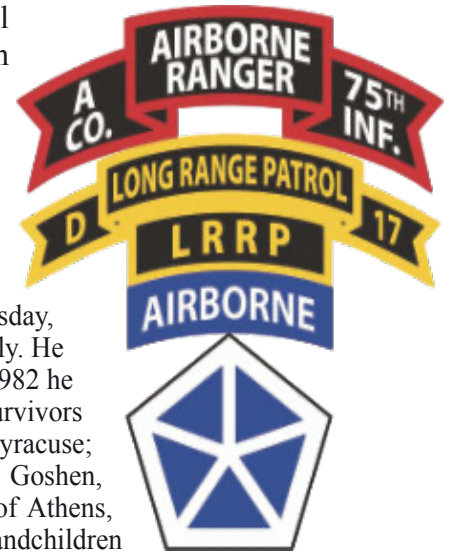


## A/75-D/17 LRP-V CORPS LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - STAN JONES

This edition should make your mailbox just before we gather in Branson on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Even at this late date, it's not too late to show up and spend some time with your old teammates.

Sad to report the passing of another Ranger. James Bontrager passed on Jan 7, 2025. If I remember right, he worked in supply and the arms room.



James Orville Bontrager

James Orville Bontrager, 74, of Goshen, died Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at his home surrounded by his family. He was born March 13, 1950 in Goshen. On June 26, 1982 he married Fern (Coons) Cameron in Goshen. Survivors include his wife, Fern; a son, Jason Bontrager of Syracuse; three step-daughters, Jennifer (Stacey) Mikel of Goshen, Stephanie (Bart) Tylor of Milford, Renee Carter of Athens, Georgia and Michelle Oswald of Goshen; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; four sisters, Judy (Terry) Darr of Shipshewana, Dixie Butler, Helen Rugg, and Sally (Vernon) Moore all of Goshen; and two brothers, Dennis Rugg of Florida, and William Rugg of Goshen. James was preceded in death by his mother, Anna (Bontrager) Rugg; and two sons, Steven and Shawn Bontrager. James served in the US Army for 8 years, he was a member of the DAV and the NRA. He was a big jokester, even in hard times he would always bring laughter. Visitation will be Saturday, January 11, 2025 from 1 until the 2 p.m. funeral service with military honors at Yoder-Culp Funeral Home. Chaplain Greg Eads will officiate. Burial of his cremated remains will take place at a later date. Memorial contributions may be directed to the Center for Hospice Care.



Great to hear from Mike Degel again:

ho-ho-ho stan, I hope this little story passes muster. I'm still healing from surgery, what was supposed to be a quick surgery to remove a mass from my bladder and a growth on my prostate with an overnight stay for "observation" turned into 6 days in the hospital and 4 weeks of just short of hell. My bowels shut down which was a real pain, ah well, that which doesn't kill us... I'm hopefully headed to the cabin in Mildred, Montana for a little well work, building some more cabinets, bird hunting, prairie dog shooting and a little fishing in O'Fallon creek the first week of September. 'Uncle' Roy Bissey may be going with us this trip as he has yet to experience lovely Mildred, Montana, our friend Russ Holt built a home in Mildred last year. Mildred was a ghost town but now has a permanent population of 1 - Russ is a class 3 dealer so we donate to the ammo stash and fire his full auto Thompson .45s. They are too heavy for me to carry long term but a hoot to shoot! My buddy Mark Bucksath, retired SGM us special forces, passes his patrolling mag to me after he finishes with it -- you do good work -- take care -- mike and the girls (dogs). ho-ho-ho just found this from the billings gazette -- Lou Clason was another of those wonderful crazies that were there when I got to A/75 in Ft Hood, Texas in 1972 -- always ready to help, a monster mentor to those wanting/willing to learn but could also give a world class ass chewing. I still remember one of his cadence calls when we were running:

'Degel's girl has long dark hair, she looks like a grizzly bear ... and on and on - he lovingly talked about a bar on Minnesota Ave??? in billings. I heard a lot of Trung Si Lou stories while on radio watch, hell, I heard some amazing stories told by our NCOs like Barry Keefer, one of our radio instructors, who's Shaw valley stories made me smile but also scared the crap out of me, duke snider's stories about being chased at night by large groups of NVA who were using flashlights and will never forget his answer to a young soldier's question of how you beat them when you are outnumbered so badly. Duke slid his beret down over his eye and said that it was "simple, you just have to want to live more than they want to kill you". These stories sure made me, and I'm sure many others, listen and learn and aspire to do our absolute best to be sure to keep from doing anything to let these giants down. Some of my young grand kids have asked me about superheroes and my reply has always been that I have seen superheroes and most of them wore green berets.

It was a different world back then and today's military probably wouldn't let them do what was demanded of them during the Vietnam War. I remember laughing my ass off after reading a Timex ad in the back of a magazine where Bob Allchin (rattlesnake Jake) and Lou Clason (Trung Si Lou) were involved in losing a Timex watch during a jump and when they found it, yes, it was still ticking -- knowing those two I always wondered...

God bless our veterans who have kept this country free and made this world a better place. Where would we be without them?!?!?!?

I may have to have a toddy at the Tunnel Inn with you Buck before I hit the greenhouse this evening where these memories will have me raising a glass to those wonderful, ornery, patriotic, giving rascals - that poor kraken is going to take a beating tonight. God Bless America,

- Mike and the girls

Stan served in Alpha Company From November 72 - July 74, then shipped to Berlin Bde., Leaving the Army after 4 years. He worked at the USPS for 35 years. He has 2 sons, 7 grand kids and 8 greats. He is in his 39<sup>th</sup> year as a volunteer firefighter and currently the Chief of Department. Current status - Tanker Driver. He hails from Indiana.



# B/75 - C/58 LRP - VII CORPS LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - MARC L. THOMPSON

Greetings and Salutations fellow LRRPs, Rangers, and Jayhawks...

Lots of Sick Call and Obituary information this issue.

We will be working with the editor of *Patrolling* to provide some recognition to the VII Corps LRRPs and C/58 LRP. In the meantime...

## DOC (TERRENZ) JEANS (B/75)

Doc called me and reported that he is doing great in his 80's in Las Cruces, New Mexico. He wanted me to ask Don Purdy to get in touch with him, and we are in the process of making that happen. If anyone else would like to touch base with Doc, email, call, or text me, and I will provide you with his phone number. Since these issues of *Patrolling* are now published in the open on the internet machine, we don't want to compromise anyone's personal security, or encourage identity theft. I will also post Doc's contact info in the groups on Facebook.

## MISSING LRRP FOUND

### SGT FRANK PAUL SAENZ

SGT E-5 Frank Paul Saenz, who served in the patrols, died in a sport parachute jump exhibition held at Nellington Kaserne on 11 May 1963. He was making his first free-fall and immediately had a total malfunction of his main parachute. Unable to shake it loose, SGT Saenz tried to pull his reserve but, unfortunately, he was unable to deploy it, landed in a nearby forest and was killed instantly.

SGT Frank Saenz was a veteran of the USMC, having served with the 1st Marine Division before he enlisted in the US Army and became a paratrooper. He was among the earliest members of the LRRPs in 1960-61. He was a bodybuilder and expert in martial arts. He hailed from the US Territory of Guam. He was a dedicated soldier, husband and a gifted leader. His remains were returned to his native Guam.

We learned (just this week) where he



is buried. He is interred at the Mount Carmel Catholic Cemetery in Agat, Guam; Plot 9 Lot 13. It is believed that he had at least one child, but if any of you LRRPs have information about Frank and his family, it would be greatly appreciated.

The event when SGT Saenz met his end was being put on by VII Corps LRRPs, but for what particular occasion, is at present, not recalled. What this writer does remember is that eight of us "legs" were in the process of either our second or third "Pre-BAC" training, under the direction of S/SGT Rowe Attaway, S/SGT J.P. Hart and S/SGT David Glenn (?). Two weeks later our class was in a truck heading for Wiesbaden AFB to finally attend Jump School (which had already been canceled twice ?). The recent stark memory of seeing a man actually die in front of you... even though were half the post away where he made his fatal jump... somewhere above the dependents compound, set us back. But, in true airborne fashion, after several evenings of serious drinking at the R&G and NCO and officers clubs, everybody soon bucked up and got on with the serious business of soldiering.

P.S.: Later we were told that SGT Saenz was unable to open his reserve because the pin (or pins) that went through the cones on the opening flap of his reserve had been accidentally bent and made it impossible to be pulled out. That is what we were told and nobody ever told us differently. Hard to believe. Saenz had Goliath strength. We have since learned that that was a mistaken estimate of the situation, and that it was not US Army riggers who had packed the parachute.

RIP SGT E-5 Frank Paul Saenz, 1931 – 1963. "Gory, gory, what a hell of a way to die". "Airborne, All The Way". JTC

FROM Kirk Gibson: Sadly, I remember that day well. I was standing with Jim Handlin, who was a good friend of Saenz and a free-faller, watching Frank's first. When he jumped, we saw it all clearly. Jim was unbelieving that it was happening. He was shaking in shock, saying, "No. No. No." It was a very sad sight. RIP Frank. Airborne.



Gene Kauffman (L) and Frank Saenz (R)(RIP) photo courtesy of Gene Kauffman



## SICK CALL

LEO B. STARKEY had some issues with AFIB which made things increasingly difficult for him (health-wise). So... he went to the hospital and had a little heart surgery. Here is his first post-surgical report (23 March 2026): "Today, in PT, after using some of the equipment, I today the therapy team that it was time to try and walk. This was my first time to try walking since being put in the hospital. I stood up and walked four hundred feet the first time. Then I worked on the weights and resistance bands, and then walked fifty feet to my room. Yes, I was in a lot of pain but I still walked, and surprised everyone. That much closer to going home."



*Leo Starkey in 2024  
Photo by Leo*

**Hang in there, Leo!**

## TAPS

### R.I.P. JAMES, "RICK", " FATBACK" HATHAWAY

From: Joe Chetwynd, Date: 18 March 2026

*It is with great sadness that we have just learned that our brother paratrooper, Rick "FatBack" Hathaway has passed. He died three days ago, on 15 March, at his assisted living home in Southport, Connecticut. We have also just learned that he will have a wake conducted at the Harding Funeral Home in Fairfield, CT, however there are no immediate plans for his viewing and interment. The funeral director informed us it may be as much as a month before final arrangements can be made. As we learn more, you will be immediately informed .*

*Rick leaves his beloved wife of twenty years, Mellissa, and at least one son, Mark Hathaway, who also lives in Southport. We have given our contact information to the funeral director to pass along to Rick's son and to other family members. He also provided us with a mailing address for Mark. It is: **138 Village Lane, Southport, CT 06890***

*It is hoped that when FatBack is finally laid to rest that a few of us still able and willing LRRPs can make the trek to Fairfield, CT to give him a fitting brotherly LRRP send off. Sadly, we continue to see that there are fewer and fewer of*

*us still alive to give testimony to the greatness of our own "Band of Brothers" (the VII Corps Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol Company (ABN)). In their own unique and odd ways, they were all "heroes", themselves. From the first man out the door, to the last man in the stick. .. " AIRBORNE, All The Way "*

*May God Bless America, the Airborne, and all of our fallen brothers , AMEN. - JTC*

### RIP PFC JAMES "JIM" "PREACHER" WISEMAN

From: Joe Chetwynd

Does anybody remember PFC James "Jim" Wiseman from Commo? He went to Wiesbaden in my class. He was also called "Preacher", and he was also the unofficial company barber. He was tall, lanky, never drank, smoked, or swore. He also died in a parachute accident around the time of Sam Storey's near fatal parachute accident, sometime in either September or October 1964. I was discharged on 30 August '64 and I seem to recall that I got a letter about a month or so after I left from Joe Harlow (I believe), telling me about either/or both Jim's death and Sam's very serious injuries, both during military jumps. Sam was ordered to jump even the same week as he was clearing post and getting ready to go home to Tennessee. Instead, he spent the next two years recuperating at Walter Reed in Washington, DC .t

I have been trying unsuccessfully for decades to find out where Jim Wiseman came from in the States. I was under the impression it was perhaps either Nevada or Arizona. I knew he had a fiancé and they were planning on marrying when his enlistment was up. If anybody has any better recall about Jim's birthplace or last known residence, it would be greatly appreciated. It would be nice to find out where he is buried and, maybe, be able to find an obit for him, and if he had any family, who might have been younger siblings or surviving relatives. He was not only a good soldier, he was also, more importantly, a very good, God-fearing young man. He would have made a wonderful husband and a great father, had he lived. Much like Sam Storey, come to think of it.

RIP Pfc (Sp/4 (?)) James Wiseman 1941(?) - 1964.



## " Seek, and ye shall find "

Joe Chetwynd

From: Saint Leo's Bookkeeper  
Date: 16 January 2026  
Subject: James Wiseman Information

*Hello... I was checking messages this week for our office manager, and heard your messages, although our machine cuts off longer messages so I don't know if I heard everything or not. We (St. Leo's Church) own and administer Calvary Cemetery, in Lewistown, Montana. The records go back over 100 years, and understandably aren't as "organized" as someone might make them today. I was able to find the following information for you.*

*Mr. & Mrs Russell Wiseman purchased 4 grave sites in 1960 for D-13-36-37-38-39.*

*James Wiseman was 23, when he died and his nearest relatives were Mr. & Mrs. Russell Wiseman. He was buried in Block D, Lot 13, Grave 34. Russell Wiseman (presumably his father) died Dec 10, 1970 at the age of 52. He was buried in D-13-38. Marie Wiseman (presumably his mother) had site D-13-39 reserved, but it has ultimately*



*James Wiseman's Headstone photo by "Find a Grave"*

*sold to another individual. The last contact we had for Marie was in Empire, Nevada.*

*In graves D-13-36 and -37 (in between graves above) we have a Nora Wiseman, 80 at her death in April 1964 and Forbes Wiseman 89 at his death in June 1972.*

*Other than grave locations in our cemetery and sacramental records for parish members, we don't maintain any kind of genealogy records. I was able to find a picture of James' gravestone on a web page called "Find a Grave" Here is a picture of that gravestone.*

*I am sorry that it has taken so long to find information about your friend. Other than the above information, I don't have any information about other family members or burials. I wish you well in your searches; and may you find some peace now with this information.*

*Deb Tucek, Business Manager; Saint Leo's Catholic Church; Lewistown, Montana.*

Finally, after sixty-one years of searching, we have learned where fellow LRRP, PFC James R. Wiseman is buried. He died Monday, 13 September 1964 while making a sport parachute jump in Germany when he suffered a major malfunction of his main parachute. He is buried at the Calvary Cemetery in the city of his birth, Lewistown, Fergus County, Montana. Jim was due to complete his enlistment a mere three months later, in December, 1964. He was also a proud graduate of the 8th Infantry Airborne School at Wiesbaden, Germany. His granite grave marker reads as follows:

*James R. Wiseman  
Montana  
PFC U.S. Army Long Range Recon Patrol  
31 March 1941 - 13 Sept 1964*

Jim grew up in Lewistown, attended St. Leo's grade school, but in his youth his family moved to Empire, Nevada where his father worked as an electrician for U.S. Gypsum. Jim graduated high school in Empire and then spent two years in California at a Catholic seminary, completing his studies there before deciding to join the army. He most probably volunteered to join the LRRPs, most likely from another post, and as a "leg", of course, but received his jump wings during the summer of 1963. Fellow LRRP, the late Peter Brardt was chosen as Best Soldier of that Class, an honor typically won by a LRRP.

Leave no man behind. AATW / RLTW

R.I.P. PFC James R. "Preacher" Wiseman

Stay safe & stay healthy... To Absent Friends:

Until next time...

V/R:

Marc L. Thompson, Unit Director

*Originally from Colorado, Marc Thompson now calls Pennsylvania home. He served in B Company Rangers from 72-74, was an 'original' NCO of 1st Ranger Battalion and served in other airborne, special operations and infantry units. He attended Tufts University earning a BA in Political Science and History. He is the CEO Thompson Technologies and has been the UD since 2004.*



# D/151<sup>st</sup> - LRP / LRS

UNIT DIRECTOR - C. LARRY RHODES

Ted joined the Indiana National Guard immediately after graduating from high school in 1964. He served two years on active army duty and five years in active guard duty.

He married Karen in 1965, and three weeks later, he left for basic training at Ft. Benning, GA. This was followed by AIT at Ft. Dix, NJ. After six months, he returned to his guard unit in Winchester, only to learn he had been transferred to the Muncie unit of Company D LRRP 151 Inf.

In July 1967, Ted joined the rest of the unit at jump school. Then, in March 1968, he attended Jungle School in the Panama Canal Zone. He was called to active duty in May 1968, along with 212 other members of D 151. The next six months were filled with patrolling techniques, airborne operations, and three weeks of RIP at Ranger School before deploying to Vietnam in December 1968.

Ted initially served as a first platoon RTO and Assistant Team Leader. In August 1969, he became a team leader after Sgt Robert G White was injured. Ted served with several teams, including team members Billy and Dave Waters, Jim Rose, Gene Hendricks, Ed Kelly, and Jim Stover. He took over as the team leader of Ranger 1-1 in August 1969, following several early departures for college. He completed 33 missions with 10 contacts.

His most memorable contact occurred with Jim Rose and a heavy team of 12. Jim and Gary Porter were scouting for an ambush site when they walked into a VC trap. Vic Vicario intervened with his M60, allowing the team to conduct a sweep and encounter a base camp with several bunkers and tunnels. Despite throwing in grenades, the results were unclear. One Cobra helicopter provided cover while the team extracted to the LZ.

Eventually, it was time for the company to stand down and hand over operations to Co D 75th Rangers.



D 151 moved to a holding area at Binh Hoa airport, with about 70 men remaining from the original 212. They spent three weeks there, sleeping in tents and staying well lubricated with beer.

The company returned home on three different aircraft, all headed to Ft. Knox, KY. A photographer captured a photo of Ted holding his three-year-old son, Greg, and his wife, Karen. This photo later appeared in the Infantry Museum at Ft. Benning.

Upon returning, three-day passes were issued, and everyone hurried home. They then returned to Ft. Knox for out-processing and were bussed to Downtown Indianapolis for a homecoming celebration. A couple of years later, Ted re-enlisted in the Indiana National Guard in Anderson Signal Corps and served three more years before retiring.

Military service has been significant in the Dunn family. Ted's oldest son, Greg, served 20 years as an aircraft mechanic on AWACS, including deployments and three years at Cape Kennedy as a safety officer on the launch pad.

Nathan, Ted's youngest son, spent 20 years in the 75th Ranger Regiment, enduring 14 deployments to war zones. He was eventually assigned to the scout dog unit of the Rangers, overseeing the selection and training of all Ranger dogs. He spent his last three years training ROTC students at Ball State University in Muncie, IN, retiring as an E8 but continuing to work as a civilian contractor at the university.

When asked which was tougher, serving in Vietnam or being a father with a son deployed, Ted expressed that having a family member deployed was more nerve-racking. He now understands what his parents went through while he was in Vietnam.

Ted hopes his sons will not have to experience their children being in harm's way.



## Words from the President of C/75

I am honored to have served with you magnificent warriors in Vietnam. As you recall our last reunion was in Gatlinburg Tennessee which we all enjoyed as it was well attended and some of you got to meet people you haven't seen since Vietnam.

We are beginning to plan our next reunion, and I'd like feedback from our members with suggestions as to where you would like to have it this coming year, so send me your suggestions.

I would also like everyone to start using our website as our primary mode of communications. It will help keep us in the loop on our future activities, plans and health of our brothers. If you've forgotten the web address, just type into your web browser (<https://groups.io/g/E20th-LRP-C75th-Ranger>) and login or join if you haven't already.

I was on a random Vietnam website and happened to find Dale Burkman. You might not know before he came to us at E20 he was with the 101<sup>st</sup> Second 327.

I think a lot of you guys remember him because of how lucky he was that he had an AK-47 round pass through his helmet, yet he survived the incident.

On a sad note, we lost Sergeant Robinson this year.



I also have unfortunately learned from Dale that Sergeant Steven Hansen had passed away previously in 2018 and as most of you know (Bones) Darryl Benton has also passed away this year. It has also been reported that JoJo Rigo has also recently passed. I have received information that Stephen Dick is on our sick list so let's wish him a swift recovery. I will post the information on our website to keep everyone informed. Contact me when you know or learn of anyone in our unit passing away or is on our sick list. We can then have some of our members who live in the area visit and represent our great company – Charlie Rangers!

Ken Taylor is now our vice president, and Steve Minner is our Sgt-at-Arms, while also temporarily helping with the secretarial duties. If anyone is interested, please let me know, we could sure use a full-time secretary.

As previously mentioned, we would like to have ideas where you would like to have the reunion this year so please post your ideas on our website and we'll select a location via a quorum meeting.

God bless all and your families, you guys are my hero's. I will keep you posted via the website with any informative or interesting information that I receive.

Steve Minner  
Sgt-at-Arms

# Ranger Rendezvous 2026

**COURTYARD**  
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75th Ranger Regiment Association's

special group rate: 139.00 - 149.00 USD per night

**Book by June 5<sup>th</sup> 2026**

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(706) 323-2323



# CARRY ON THE BROTHERHOOD

Recognizing that I volunteered as a Ranger, fully knowing the hazards of my chosen profession, I will always endeavor to uphold the prestige, honor, and high esprit de corps of my Ranger Regiment.



Acknowledging that a Ranger is a more elite soldier who arrives at the cutting edge of battle, I will accept the fact that as a Ranger, my country expects me to fight harder than any other soldier.



Never shall I fail my comrades. I will keep myself alert, physically strong, and morally upright, and I will do more than my share of the task, which I will complete one hundred percent.

Gallantly I will fight that I am a special operations soldier. My actions, neatness, and discipline will be an example for other soldiers.

Energy of battle will be my constant. I will fight with the same courage and determination as I did in my Ranger Regiment.



**The look may have changed but the spirit never will**

**"I WILL ALWAYS ENDEAVOR TO UPHOLD THE PRESTIGE, HONOR, AND HIGH ESPIRIT DE CORP OF MY RANGER REGIMENT"**

JOIN THE RANKS AT



[www.75thrra.org](http://www.75thrra.org)

75RRA



# E/75-E50 LRP-9<sup>th</sup> DIV LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - DUANE L. "PONCHO" ALIRE

## Remembering Clarence Genji Matsuda

Part 1 This article is the first of three articles about former US Army Captain Clarence (Clancy) Genji Matsuda's (July 18, 1937-February 11, 2023) time with E Co, 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry (Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol), 9th Infantry Division (9<sup>th</sup> ID) in Vietnam in 1967-1968.

The articles were gleaned from a variety of sources: fellow LRRPs, family members, friends and from official records and personal notes. They are not intended to be a comprehensive biography.

Former E50 LRRP officer Winslow (Rick) Stetson (June 19, 1944-July 28, 2022) wrote the core article. It was originally printed in the September 2002 Issue of the E50/E75 Newsletter. His original article has been edited for length, clarity and augmented with ancillary information.

Background: Matsuda was born in Honolulu, Hawaii on July 18, 1937. He graduated from high school before entering the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School in 1956 and the U.S. Military Academy in 1957. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army through the Officers' Candidate School in December 1961.

On February 26, 1967 he deployed to Vietnam and took command of A Co. 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 60<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. In May 1967 CPT Matsuda's company was part of Operation HOPTAC in the Ap Bac Secret Zone when it came under withering recoilless rifle and automatic weapons fire from an enemy in fortified bunkers. Matsuda skillfully deployed his men, coordinated support and broke the insurgent attack, in part, to the



Lt. Matsuda

efforts of two of his soldiers who charged the bunkers using rifle fire and grenades to help rout the enemy. After the battle, Matsuda submitted both soldiers for the Medal of Honor which they received. Matsuda was awarded the Silver Star for his leadership and bravery during the battle.

Award Synopsis: "The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress July 9, 1918 (amended by an act of July 25, 1963), takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Captain (Infantry) Clarence G. Matsuda, United States Army, for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. Captain Matsuda distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions while serving as Commanding Officer of an Infantry Company of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 60<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, and subsequently of Company E, 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry Company, 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, in action against the enemy in 1967 and 1968. The gallant actions and dedicated devotion to duty demonstrated by Captain Matsuda, without regard for his own life, were in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army."

On July 8, 1967 CPT Matsuda was hand-picked to command the 9<sup>th</sup> ID's Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol, a platoon-size unit. He was charged with "straightening them out" – and instilling much needed professionalism as well as discipline in the unit.

Setting The Standards: The LRRPs anxiously awaited CPT Matsuda's arrival as their new company commander. He was a 30 year-old seasoned, combat-tested veteran.

One of the first policies he established was that everyone going



## E/75-E50 LRP-9<sup>th</sup> DIV LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - DUANE L. "PONCHO" ALIRE

continued

on patrol would apply camouflage paint to their hands and face. This basic principle in reconnaissance was often overlooked by a number of the LRRPs, making it an ideal place to start creating self-discipline and a professional attitude necessary in this type of unit.

With the 9<sup>th</sup> ID increasing the LRRPs to a company size unit, Matsuda took an active role in his new company. He was allowed his choice of incoming officers and selected Dale Dickey, Henry Hester and Edison L. Woodie - all hard charging courageous warriors.

As Matsuda and his officers began building the LRRPs into a company, Matsuda left BearCat on a fact finding trip to observe how other units were using their long range patrol assets. He visited the 173rd Airborne Brigade, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, 196<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade and the recon Battalion of the Fleet Marine Division before stopping at the MACV Recondo School at Nha Trang. At MACV he obtained lesson plans and operating procedures that would be useful as he developed his own recondo training program.

Upon his return for his fact finding trip, he selected a team already scheduled for a patrol, and joined it as an observer. The team consisted of a relative new Team Leader (TL), an Assistant Team Leader (ATL) and three observers. Matsuda's role was as an observer, hoping to get a feel for what type of "animal" he had been charged with shaping up. There was nothing special about this particular patrol. It was just a LRRP team on a recon mission, searching for enemy locations or activity. As the team prepared for the mission, the TL made the overflight and selected the LZ.

There was excitement among the patrol members as it wasn't an everyday thing to have an officer, especially the company commander, on patrol with them. Each man wanted to do his best to impress the captain, not yet knowing that the next day would call for exceptional efforts to just stay alive.

The insertion and first night were uneventful. Things went well as each man showed his "stuff" to the commander. Camouflage sticks were used and the guys moved with extra care to demonstrate that they knew how it was done.

The second day began as the first had ended, uneventful. They had moved a thousand meters or so, without incident, when one of the men saw signs of fresh digging off to the right. The TL moved his team closer to inspect the area and to attempt to identify what, if any, enemy activity going on.

They found a circular hole about ten feet in diameter, dug straight down approximately fifty feet. Straddling the hole was a pole six to eight inches in diameter supported on two similar poles, about five foot tall, secured firmly in the ground. Indications were that the apparatus was being used to hoist the fresh diggings from the hole. The team backed away from the diggings and took a position where they could observe the hole without being detected. When the scheduled air relay passed overhead the TL reported the findings and requested support to provide security and investigate the hole. The team waited for special instructions. No support was immediately available and the nearest LZ was a few thousand meters away. It was decided that they would mark their location and observe the area the remainder of the afternoon and through the night.

To get an exact location of the hole, the TL requested a "fix". This was a procedure used to determine a patrol's location on the ground. Guided by the TL, the pilot of the approaching aircraft is given a direction using the clock method (i.e. fly 2 o'clock) until he passes directly overhead. At that time the TL would announce "touch down". The pilot would then fly in from a different direction and repeat the procedure. The pilot then had an X on his map marking the location on the ground and providing the coordinates for the requested "fix". The team learned that they were 6000 (+/-) meters north of where they thought they were. The TL had inserted the team in the wrong LZ. It was fortunate they call for the "fix". Knowing their precise location would become very important the following day.

Anticipating enemy soldiers or workers would return and continue the digging; the patrol monitored the trail all night. When this didn't happen, the patrol moved out early the next morning.

Having traveled a very short distance they came up on a well-used trail with more fresh digging on both sides. It appeared fighting holes or bunkers were under construction. There was an eerie feeling among the



patrol members as if "Charlie" wasn't too far away. The TL took one of the observers and move down the trail to their right. The remainder of the team stayed in place providing rear security. The two hadn't moved more than a few meters down the trail when they heard voices. It was unmistakably "Charlie" but he wasn't visible through the thick underbrush. Without alerting the others in the middle of the trail, they opened up on full automatic. The observer threw a couple of grenades up the trail hoping to discourage the VC from tailing them before the two rejoined the rest of the team.

It didn't work and the patrol could hear movement and talking as the enemy made their way towards them. The LRRPs went into their immediate action drill attempting to separate themselves from the enemy. Each of the six LRRPs fired a full magazine on automatic and the last man tossed another grenade as they ran away from the contact area.

Having run for over 600 meters they came to a small mound of dirt where the TL decided to stop and listen for anyone that might be following. All was quiet as the LRRPs regrouped and caught their breath. They set up in a small circle with 2 observers watching rear, one on each side of the trail and two others looking in the direction of their travel. It appeared that no one was following so two of the observers decided to have a smoke before they moved on.

Before they had a chance to light their smokes, an observer opened fire on full automatic. He and his fellow observer saw two or three VC picking their way carefully through the jungle looking for sign of the fleeing LRRPs. As the enemy fell the team was up and running again, putting as much distance as they could between themselves and the enemy. They quickly covered another 600 meters or so before slowing to listen. It looked like no one was

following. Breathing a sigh of relief, they continued on toward the LZ for extraction.

As the team traveled quietly through the jungle they came up on a poncho covered structure of some sort. One observer always carried a few extra grenades and saw this as an opportunity to toss one. The team took cover as the grenade was tossed toward the structure. The explosion shook the surrounding vegetation and the observer. He was hit on the top of his head by a small fragment from the grenade. Further investigation revealed a rice cache which the LRRPs destroyed before moving on to the LZ.

Reaching the LZ they waited for the extraction chopper. It wasn't long before the chopper was within radio range and the TL was directing it to the LZ. As the chopper came in to pick them up, the pilot realized the area was too small to land. As the chopper lifted upward the pilot informed the TL of a suitable opening about 1000 meters from their location. Anxious to get out of the area, the team quickly made its way to the opening identified by the pilot. Upon arrival at the new LZ, they found that the chopper wasn't able to set completely down. The LRRPs, with the help of the door gunner pulling and their teammates pushing, were able to get on the chopper and lift off without any further problems.

It wasn't long after returning to BearCat that the team members realized that the TL was no longer in the unit. His actions had placed the team in jeopardy. By not inserting in the right LZ his team was not where they were supposed to be which subjected them to friendly fire as well as the enemy. And by firing into the sound of "a bunch of voices", he further endangered his team by exposing them to an unknown sized force. His actions demonstrated a careless attitude that couldn't be trusted.

Only the best were cut out to be LRRPs.



LT. Dickey (L), CPT. Matsuda (C), LT. Stetson (R)

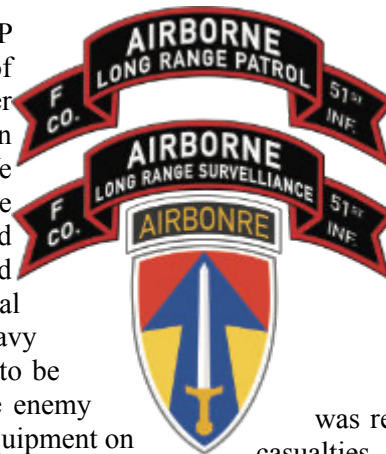


## Remembering LRP Team 1-7

By Dave Barfield  
I-7 Team Member  
June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2001

Team 1-7 (heavy) F Co. 51<sup>st</sup> Infantry Airborne, based out of Bien Hoa Republic of Vietnam, received its warning order December 1st, 1968. The area of operation was to be in the Province of Phuoc Long Vietnam. We knew it was a hot area, not just from the briefing, but because two teams had immediately proceeded us into the area and confirmed it. A five-man team inserted several days earlier had reported sightings of heavy enemy movement, including what appeared to be NVA troops armed with RPGs. Vietnamese enemy troops were also seen moving supplies and equipment on bicycles. The reconnaissance team was extracted and the following day a twelve-man heavy or 'hatchet' team was inserted. The first night in the bush the hatchet team made contact and seven of the team members were wounded. We had also been told in the briefing that there had been no friendly presence in this area for the past two years. Heavy enemy concentration was to be expected.

LRP Team 1-7 was inserted early morning; December 2nd, 1968, led by SSG Franklin Robinson, a veteran with much experience in LRP missions. The assistant team leader was SSG Larry Cunningham, who arrived at F Company after graduating at the top of his class from Non-Commissioned Officers School, was new to combat. The insertion went smoothly and the team quickly exited the LZ. It was obvious that the area had been sprayed with chemicals to kill the vegetation and every step produced a crunching sound as the team entered the wood line. Robinson immediately began directing the team away from the LZ to an ambush site along a trail that had earlier been selected on the map. The dead, dry foliage made movement toward the trail very slow in order for us to make noise. The claymore mines were put out, and everyone was pretty well positioned. I remember Sergeant Cunningham was making a last-minute positioning adjustment to one of the claymores when from out of nowhere an NVA soldier appeared on the trail. He must have heard or saw something because he immediately fired a burst in our direction, then he turned and ran back down the trail in the direction he had come from. There was no return fire from the team, and no one was hit. The problem was the enemy knew we were there. He did not



know who or how many of us were there, but he knew they had company. We were compromised and in jeopardy.

The team remained alertly in position and SSG Robinson reported our situation. I was lying on the ground, two men down the line from SSG Robinson and could hear the radio traffic. He reported that the team had received fire and possibly had been detected.

I could hear Headquarters ask him if the team was receiving fire at that time and if there were any casualties. The answer to both those questions was negative. Headquarters ordered him to continue the mission. Sergeant Robinson was experienced enough to know that once you have been compromised it usually led to disaster.

Robinson quickly instructed the team to pull in the claymores and trip flares and load up everything. He then moved the team away from the trail and back to the vicinity of the LZ where we had been inserted. That way if we got hit, we would have the advantage of being near the LZ for extraction. The team moved swiftly to an area not too far from the LZ. We secured the area, then sat and waited to see if we could detect any activity. After what seemed like an eternity, the order was given to put out the claymores again and establish a defensive position. Robinson's decision was a wise one. He guessed, the enemy knew of our presence, and he had been ordered to remain in place. It is likely that Charley did not know how many of us there were, but he knew we were in his back yard. If we got hit during the night, being close to a LZ would increase our chances of getting out alive. If there was no enemy activity, then the next morning we could move back along the trail to a different location and continue on as ordered. I think we all knew it was a very dangerous waiting game but there was no other choice.

The team sat motionless throughout the day, waiting, watching, and not knowing what the coming few hours would bring. It was an extremely long day and as darkness approached the perimeter was tightened up. Every member stayed alert, and night fell upon the area. We could hear sounds. I remember getting in the ready position only to



# F/51 LRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - RICHARD 'DICK' MOYER

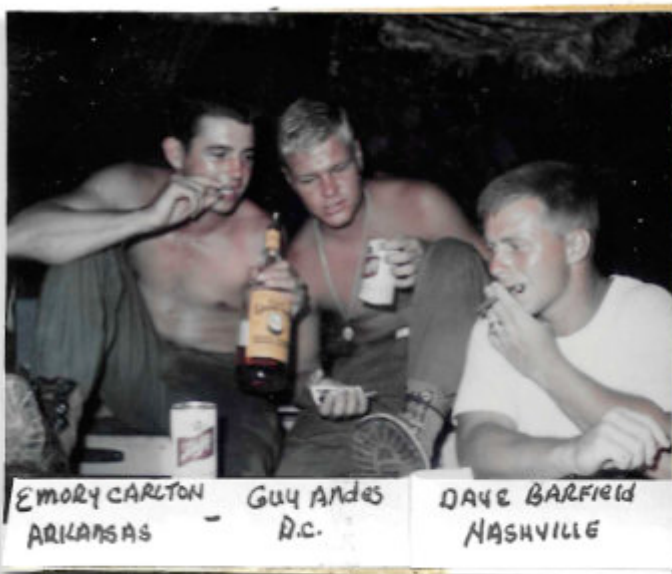
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discover that the noise was a large lizard climbing up the side of a dead tree. The entire area cracked with any type of movement, animal or human. The problem was it was not possible to determine the difference. I don't think a single LRP closed his eyes that night. I also don't recall the radio being passed around to the designated guards during the entire night like we usually did. The night dragged on and the disturbing sounds continued. Finally, daybreak arrived, and we felt some relief. We maintained our position for several more hours without event. Then Sergeant Robinson made radio contact with Headquarters and requested that the gunships get airborne. Once they were flying, he was going to move the team back to a position along the trail. I truly feel to this day that if Sergeant Robinson had not made that crucial decision no one would have survived what was about to happen.

The order was given to pull in the claymores, pack up, and get ready to move. Robinson reported that the team was going to move out. I remember I was the fifth man in the line of march. We very slowly began to move through the brush. We had traveled no more than 30 Yards and as I slowly stepped over a fallen dead tree, I remember thinking that this would be a terrible place for someone to get hurt. I was thinking about my previous mission when Richard Diers had been killed. I had helped carry him out in a poncho. I had just stepped over that dead tree, when Freeman Evans following directly behind me started to cross the tree and we heard the order in Vietnamese to open fire. It seemed like the whole ground just opened up!

You could hear the machine gun fire and RPG rounds rocking the entire area. We all dropped to the ground. Four of the twelve of us were hit immediately. We were all trained on how to initiate an ambush, and we realized in those brief seconds that the NVA also knew how to construct a killing zone. The four LRPs who were initially hit were marching adjacent to each other near the center of the column. David Urban was hit in the hand, and I was hit in the shoulder, back and thighs with frags. Freeman Evans was badly wounded, and Roy Aubain was down too. The heavy gunfire continued and the RPG rounds erupted closer and closer to us. They zeroed in for the kill while we hugged the ground. I could hear Robinson reporting our situation to the helicopter

gunships that were already in the air and approaching the firefight. The automatic weapons fire continued and prevented us from moving. Robinson began calling out directions of fire to the gunships. Two Cobras from the 117th Assault Helicopter Company (Playboys) arrived over the area and advised us to get down (as if we could get any lower). "We see them," they said!



The Cobras came in low directly over our position and began to strafe the area with miniguns and rockets. The rounds from the ships came very close to us, and then we heard screams from the Vietnamese as the Cobras raked them. The gunfire from the aircraft suppressed some of the enemy incoming fire. Sergeant Robinson calmly ordered Sergeant Cunningham to try to get the wounded men back to the LZ. He motioned for David Urban, Leslie Rosekrans and me to follow him. We made a dash for the clearing while

the gunships were still pouring fire into the immediate area. Nearing the LZ we could see a Huey slick approaching the clearing to set down. Larry Cunningham dropped back to lay down covering fire for Urban, Rosenkrans and me as we rushed for the clearing. We were in sight of the clearing when an RPG round exploded and we all went down. Three of us got up and continued running toward the chopper. We looked back and saw that Sergeant Cunningham did not get up. The crew of the slick saw us approaching the LZ and hovered very close to the ground and waited for us. The left side door gunner, facing the wood line was firing his M-60 as we ran three abreast for the ship. David Urban was to my left, I was in the middle, and Leslie Rosekrans was to my right. We were within arm's length of each other. Just when we were close enough to board the slick. Hostile machine gun fire opened up from the edge of the clearing. Bullets hit David Urban and Leslie Rosekrans and they fell onto the skids of the chopper. I dove forward into the belly of the slick. Heavy machine gun fire raked the chopper as I crawled inside. The door gunner, Sp4 Thomas Stovell with the 117th Helicopter Co. was also hit. He opened his harness just as an RPG round hit the slick. The chopper bounced on the ground and the tail section began to burn. The machine gunfire was so intense the bullets were bouncing all around



## F/51 LRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - RICHARD 'DICK' MOYER

continued

the inside of the chopper. Then the left side pilot, WO1 William Leonard, was hit by the automatic weapons fire. He unbelted himself and stepped on me as he exited the right side of the chopper. The other two crewmen also exited the right side as the bird became engulfed in flames. I remained face down on the floor of the chopper as it burned. I finally rolled over and over and fell out the starboard side door onto the ground. I crawled away from the burning chopper. I looked back and it exploded and lifted off the ground and set the high grass on fire. I crawled back toward the wood line. I did not know if there was any of the team left alive. I was not sure if Sergeant Cunningham was dead, but I knew David Urban and Lesile Rosenkrans were killed when they hit the ground.

They were both consumed in the fire when the chopper exploded. I just laid in the grass not knowing who would come out of the wood line. All the while there was a second slick hovering and watching the entire event. They saw that the crew had crawled away from the burning chopper and were lying face down in the middle of the clearing. They came in under fire to rescue them.

I had my back to the clearing and was unaware of the activity behind me. The door gunner on the second chopper saw me laying stranded on the ground facing toward the wood line. I did not see him approach me, all I remember was looking up and seeing him bend down with a gun and telling me to come on. I never knew his name but he risked his life to save mine. Now the second chopper was taking fire as the crew from the first chopper and I laid face down on the floor as we exited the area. We were taken to 93rd Evacuation Hospital. I did not know the fate of the rest of the team. I remember when I was pulled out, I could still hear the Cobras making gun runs and machine gun fire from the NVA. I did not know until the next day that all the team was not lost.

After a while Freeman Evans was brought into to the same hospital and died the next day. Several days later I was transferred from the 93rd Evac to another hospital and after I was loaded on the plane I looked up and saw Roy Aubain in one of the hanging racks. Our eyes met, he just stared, I knew he was hurt bad, nothing was said, I just gave him a wink, and I heard later that he died.

Team 1-7 did nothing wrong that day, but something went terribly wrong. We knew that. The area was hot when we went in there to complete the assigned mission. The mission as always was to go in, do what was asked of us, get out and pray to God that everyone comes back alive. This time it didn't happen that way. The strongest advantage our

type of unit had was the element of surprise. When you lose that edge your mission and the lives of your team members are at great risk. The enemy force that team 1-7 faced that day was a NVA Rocket Battalion with an estimated strength of 120 to 150 troops. LRP team 1-7 lost the element of surprise. We were compromised and still ordered to continue the mission. Every single team member did his job that day. SSG Robinson's experience and good decisions saved the lives of most of us. History is history and we can never change that, but what we can do is never lose the memory of the F/51 LRPs we lost December 3, 1968.

It was a long time ago but the memories of those guys and that event are like yesterday. I still see their faces, I remember Freeman Evans getting a package from his mom in Georgia two days before we went out. He threw me a can of peaches and said, "lets celebrate" and we sat on the end of his bunk and ate peaches. Larry Cunningham was from Mississippi, and I am from Tennessee and the two football teams played that year. Larry still owes me the ten dollars he lost when Tennessee won the game. David Urban bunked right next to me, he was a quiet kid, and I used to tease him about his northern accent. Leslie Rosekrans bunked directly across from me and was full of life. I wrote his mother several times but could not answer her questions when she asked me what happened to Leslie. I did not really get to know Roy Aubain, but he will always be my friend. I have decided to try to forget the bad things and concentrate on remembering the good things...

Dave Barfield, Member Team 1-7,

June 16,2001



Richard Moyer

# AN ARTICLE BY GALLANT FEW

By Tony Mayne

The past few months have been a time of uncertainty in the Fort Benning Ranger community. First and foremost, our thoughts and prayers are with our Rangers and their families as they navigate the challenges of direct and indirect involvement in global conflict.

We are full speed ahead on planning for the Fort Benning Ranger for Life Symposium on Tuesday, June 16. Regardless of world events, we will ensure that our Rangers who served honorably are supported with a first-class transition to civilian life. Please contact Tony at [tony@gallantfew.org](mailto:tony@gallantfew.org) if your business wishes to be a part of this event.

On Sunday, July 19, we will celebrate our fifth year of the Ranger Outreach Center (ROC) in downtown Columbus. We are eternally grateful for the support of St. Luke Church, which allows GallantFew, Three Rangers Foundation, the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, and United States Army Ranger Association to utilize 1022 2nd Ave. is a one-of-a-kind team room for all activities, Ranger in the heart of the Ranger Community. Last year, the ROC hosted 500 events with more than 7,600 attendees.



Calling our Vietnam Rangers! During Ranger Rendezvous, GallantFew will host Veteran Archives at the ROC to record their stories of courage and sacrifice. Video Archies professionally edits each interview. Each Ranger will receive a memory card in a beautiful presentation box created in your honor. Stories also become part of a permanent archive, helping future generations understand and appreciate the service and sacrifice of our nation's Veterans. Take a moment to learn more about Veteran

Archives at [veteransarchives.org/process](http://veteransarchives.org/process). Contact Tony to learn more and schedule an interview; spaces are limited.

We are gearing up for Run Ranger Run, presented by Applied Leadership Partners, from September 1 through October 1. Run Ranger Run supports programs that directly impact Ranger and family wellness, such as professional coaching, financial education, spouse yoga, date-night events, childcare, scholarships, ROC maintenance, and more. Run Ranger Run commemorates 3/75 veteran Cory Smith's journey from Columbus, GA, to his hometown of Indianapolis, IN, in 2012. Cory ran, walked, and biked 565 miles to raise awareness of the challenges facing Rangers transitioning from military service. Registration is currently open at [runrangerrun.com](http://runrangerrun.com)

*Ranger Mayne is the Executive Director of GallantFew and Fort Benning Transition Counselor for Three Rangers Foundation, who served in the Ranger Regiment from 1999-2003 and 2012-2017. After retirement from USSOCOM, he founded the Ranger Outreach Center in Columbus, GA, where his team continues to serve Rangers. Tony enjoys traveling with his family, fitness, and reading.*

A promotional banner for 'Run Ranger Run'. At the top, the word 'gallantfew' is written in a lowercase, sans-serif font. Below it is a large, white, stylized banner that reads 'RUN RANGER RUN' in a bold, uppercase font. The banner is set against a background of soldiers in combat gear. In the center, there is a logo for 'APPLIED LEADERSHIP PARTNERS' featuring a blue mountain range. Below the logo, the text reads '33 DAYS. 565 MILES. SEPTEMBER 1 - OCTOBER 3, 2026'. At the bottom, it says 'BE A PART OF AN EPIC 33-DAY JOURNEY COVERING 565 MILES SUPPORTING U.S. ARMY RANGERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.' and 'RUNRANGERRUN.COM'. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner.

By Travis West

Artificial intelligence has rapidly transitioned from a futuristic concept to a permanent fixture in our professional and personal lives. Most of us have already integrated tools like Gemini, ChatGPT, and Claude into our daily routines, whether for simple tasks like finding a local restaurant, managing home security through smart devices, or summarizing long email threads. In the business world, the use of AI has become even more sophisticated, with teams using these platforms to write complex computer code, personalize marketing campaigns at scale, and even monitor machinery for safety in manufacturing. Even the Department of Defense (DOD) has gotten in on the act, with public disclosures revealing that AI played a significant role in planning and prosecuting current operations in Iran.

While these tools have become an everyday convenience for many, state and federal courts are still attempting to figure out their role in the legal system. Recent cases make clear that, depending on the jurisdiction in which you live, there may be significant legal exposure awaiting the unsuspecting user. Many people overlook the fundamental difference between the secure, "closed" systems used by the military and many corporations and the free, public versions of AI tools available to the general population. Most of the free platforms we use for casual searches or drafting notes are "open" systems. This means that when you ask an AI for a restaurant recommendation or to summarize a document, your question and the response are often collected to train the AI, and can even be reviewed by employees of the service provider.

These systems and the way they handle your data have become a new frontier for attorneys seeking to obtain access to information that users might normally believe is protected or confidential. Just two months into 2026, three different courts have grappled with this issue in starkly inconsistent ways. In one instance, a court viewed the AI as a mere "tool" similar to a word processor, while in two other jurisdictions judges ruled that sharing information with an AI was the legal equivalent of disclosing it to a stranger. Because the law is currently divided and unpredictable, users of free AI tools should be wary of a potential trap that could leave their most private thoughts open to discovery in a future lawsuit.

### Your AI Chatbot Is a Snitch

In February 2026, a federal court in New York delivered a major wake-up call in a case called *United States v. Heppner*. That case involved a defendant who decided to use the consumer version of an AI tool to help him brainstorm his



defense and outline a legal strategy for his ongoing fraud trial. When the FBI seized his devices, they found these AI-generated reports, which the prosecution immediately moved to use as evidence.

Mr. Heppner's lawyers argued that these documents should be protected by "attorney-client privilege," claiming the AI was merely a middleman: essentially a high-tech notepad he was using to organize his thoughts before sending them to his legal team. The judge disagreed, noting that the public, free version of the AI used by Mr. Heppner was not confidential.

The "why" behind this ruling comes down to the simple fact that the AI's privacy policy explicitly stated it collects data to "train" the system and may share it with third parties. In the eyes of the judge, telling your secrets to a public AI is functionally the same as BCC-ing a stranger on an email to your attorney. The act of sharing it with an outside service provider with no duty of secrecy destroys the confidentiality of the information forever.

### Sometimes AI Is Just a Hammer

In stark contrast to the hammer-drop in New York, a federal court in Michigan offered a much more user-friendly perspective just days later in the case of *Warner v. Gilbarco*. That matter involved a litigant who was not represented by an attorney. Much like the defendant in New York, the plaintiff had used ChatGPT to help her organize facts, research legal theories, and prepare her case for trial. When the opposing attorney found out, he demanded access to her entire AI chat history. His theory was consistent with the court's decision in the *Heppner* matter. That is, by "sharing" her thoughts with the software, she had waived any right to keep them private.

The Michigan court, however, reached the opposite conclusion and shielded her privacy. The judge reasoned that an AI tool is essentially a "digital mirror" or a sophisticated word processor rather than a third-party person. The court emphasized that ChatGPT and similar programs are "tools, not persons," even if they have administrators working in the background. In the court's view, using a software tool to organize your own thoughts does not constitute "disclosing" secrets to an outside party. Because the court didn't see the AI as a separate "person" receiving the information, it ruled that no disclosure had occurred, and therefore, her private notes remained protected. The judge even admonished the opposing lawyers, calling their attempt to see her AI logs a "fishing expedition" and telling them that their preoccupation with her AI use "needs to abate".

The "why" behind this ruling creates a fascinating split in the law that specifically affects how we use technology today.

By Travis West

While the New York court focused on the AI company's privacy policy to prove the information was "public," the Michigan court focused on the intent of the user and legal doctrines necessary to protect a person's mental impressions while preparing for a case. This creates a bizarre geographical lottery: if you use AI to help with a legal matter in New York federal court, you might be handing the other side your playbook; if you do it in Michigan state court, your notes might remain your own.

### 20 Million Chats Become Evidence

While the first two cases focused on individual people, a massive order from a different New York federal court in January 2026 proved that your data could be swept up even if you aren't the one being sued. In a consolidated copyright case titled *In re: OpenAI, Inc.*, a group of authors and news organizations sued the creators of ChatGPT, claiming their work was used to train the AI without permission. As part of the discovery process, the plaintiffs demanded access to the "logs" of what millions of real-world users were actually typing into the system.

OpenAI fought back, arguing that handing over these chats would be a massive invasion of user privacy. They pointed out that users have a sincere interest in keeping their conversations private and offered to only show chats that specifically mentioned the authors' works. However, the judge rejected that argument and affirmed an order requiring OpenAI to hand over 20 million de-identified user logs.

The court's reasoning was an eye-opening moment for every AI user. The judge noted that, unlike a wiretap where someone is being recorded against their will, ChatGPT users voluntarily submitted their communications to the company. Because users essentially chose to share their thoughts with a third-party corporation, the court found their privacy interests were not strong enough to block the evidence from being shared. Although the court did require the names to be removed (de-

identification), the reality remains that 20 million "private" conversations were moved from a secure server into the hands of opposing trial lawyers.

### Staying Safe in the AI Minefield

The split between these 2026 rulings means that the law is currently unpredictable. If you end up in court, your AI assistant is either a helpful tool or an informant depending on which jurisdiction you're in or which judge you draw. To ensure you are protected regardless of where you live, you should approach these tools with a careful mindset.

First, you should assume that nothing you type into a free or consumer-grade AI is truly private. Treat the chat box like a public forum. If you are using a personal account to access these tools, avoid entering social security numbers, trade secrets, or advice your lawyer gave you. If you wouldn't feel comfortable saying it to a stranger at a bar, you should think twice before sharing it with a free chatbot that reserves the right to use your data for its own purposes.

While many platforms now offer a "temporary chat" or "incognito" mode that claims to keep your data out of the training loop, you should still proceed with caution. As the *In re: OpenAI* ruling demonstrated, even "de-identified" logs can be swept up in a massive court order. If a piece of information is truly sensitive or could be used against you in a lawsuit, the only foolproof move is to keep that specific data offline and out of the AI ecosystem entirely.

Finally, if you are using AI for business or legal research, remember that "free" is often the most expensive price you can pay in the long run. Professional and enterprise versions of these tools usually come with contractual guarantees that your data will not be used for training and will remain confidential. These "closed" systems are much closer to the secure environments used by the military, providing a significantly stronger shield if a lawyer ever comes knocking with a subpoena



Travis James West

*Travis James West is an owner and one of the managing partners at the Wisconsin-based law firm West & Dunn. He practices in the areas of veterans disability benefits and civil litigation. Travis has been inducted into the Fellows of the Wisconsin Law Foundation, is a past president of the Dane County Bar Association (DCBA), and is a member of the National Organization of Veterans Advocates (NOVA) where he serves on the organization's Amicus and Litigation Committee.*

*Travis served as a member of the 75th Ranger Regiment from March 2001 through June 2004. He maintains an active role in the Ranger Community, where he currently serves on the boards of directors for the Three Rangers Foundation, National Ranger Memorial Foundation, and United States Army Ranger Association. He previously served as a Unit Director for the 75th Ranger Regiment Association and was a member of the Ranger Hall of Fame's voting board. He also maintains memberships with Veterans of Foreign Wars and Disabled American Veterans.*

*Travis lives in Madison, Wisconsin with his wife, Ryan, and his daughter, Julia. He enjoys sailing and backcountry hiking.*



# RANGERS PAST, PRESENT, AND INTO THE FUTURE



BY STEPHEN ODIN JOHNSON



Traveling to Fort Benning this year and observing major events like the Best Ranger Competition or Rendezvous 26 will not be quite the same as previous years with the passing of Colonel Ralph Puckett Jr.

Colonel Pucket was always one of the heartbeats and voices for the Ranger community and continually went out of his way immersing himself amongst Rangers of all ages and eras wherever he went. It was a pleasure talking with him whenever I could.

The West Point 1949 graduate was assigned to serve in Okinawa. During the Korean War, he volunteered for the 8th Army and quickly became a legend serving in the 8<sup>th</sup> Army Ranger Company serving as its company commander.

I thought it might be useful to put together a quick reference for those Rangers who served during different eras that I could use and others as well. Thanks to artificial intelligence (AI) and a thesis written by John Provost, I was able to gain facts and other information for this article. If anyone has other information or can point out errors for this article, please contact me: [mailto: TowerG75th@yahoo.com](mailto:TowerG75th@yahoo.com)

In this issue of Patrolling, I've collected minimal details about both the World War II Rangers and the Korean War Rangers, including provisional units. The Army chose to award the Ranger Tab to all of the WW2 groups and the Korean War 8<sup>th</sup> Army Ranger Company. The Korean Ranger companies were already tabbed upon company completion by the Fort Benning Ranger Training Command when they arrived on the Korean peninsula. So were those other Korean War era Ranger

companies who were assigned in the United States and one in Europe.

Retroactive awarding of the Ranger Tab is authorized by the Army for WW2 veterans with the Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) in specific units (1st-6th Battalions, Merrill's Marauders) and Korean War 8th Army Ranger Company veterans with a CIB. Documentation is processed by Human Resources Command to recognize this service.

## Key Regulations and Criteria for Retro Awarded Ranger Tab

- **WWII Personnel:** Soldiers awarded the CIB while serving in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, or 6th Ranger Battalions, or the 5307th Composite Unit (Merrill's Marauders).
- **Korean War Personnel:** Soldiers awarded the CIB while serving with the 8th Army Ranger Company. Interesting to note, the sources I read concluded that the 8<sup>th</sup> Army Ranger Company does not share the lineage of the Ranger or 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment, but can be awarded the Ranger Tab.
- **Approval Authority:** The Commander, U.S. Army Human Resources Command (formerly PERSCOM/AR-PERSCOM) and the Commandant of the Infantry School, holds the authority to retroactively award the tab.
- **Vietnam Ranger Personnel:** There is an ongoing initiative by the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association with other Associations' support to have the Ranger Tab awarded to those who served in a Ranger, LRRP, LRP unit during the Vietnam War that uses the same criteria as the WW2 and 8<sup>th</sup> Army Ranger Company. At present,





# RANGERS PAST, PRESENT, AND INTO THE FUTURE

**continued**

By Stephen Odin Johnson

representatives from the 75<sup>th</sup> RRA are in conversation with the Commandant and staff of the Infantry School in Fort Benning.

## World War II

From Army AI: U.S. Army Rangers were elite, specialized units designed to spearhead amphibious assaults and conduct daring, high-risk raids, often acting as the tip of the spear to break through enemy lines, such as at [Pointe du Hoc on D-Day](#) and the assault on Gela in Sicily. Led by figures like William Darby and James Rudder, these battalions were used for specialized, rapid-strike missions across North Africa, Italy, France, and the Pacific.

### Key Spearhead Operations and Roles:

- **Pointe du Hoc (D-Day):** [Rudder's 2nd Ranger Battalion](#) scaled 100-foot cliffs to destroy enemy artillery threatening Omaha and Utah beaches, a critical spearhead mission, says [ARSOF History](#).
- **Sicily (Operation HUSKY):** [1st, 3rd, and 4th Ranger Battalions](#) spearheaded the assault by capturing the port of Gela and inland positions.
- **North Africa:** [Darby's Rangers](#) conducted night raids and seized enemy-held ports like Arzew.
- **Battle of the Hurtgen Forest:** The 2nd Ranger Battalion fought to seize the crucial [Hill 400](#) in intense, close-quarters combat, says the National Archives.

### World War II Ranger Operational Limitations:

While highly effective as shock troops, the Rangers suffered from being used in conventional infantry roles, which led to high casualties, notably at the [Battle of Cisterna](#) where they were overwhelmed by German armor, says a DTIC report.

In World War II, the U.S. Army fielded **six combat-operational Ranger battalions**. Some historical records also include the **29th Ranger Battalion**, a short-lived provisional unit, bringing the total to seven.

These battalions were organized into three main operational "spheres" based on their theater of combat:

### Mediterranean Theater (Darby's Rangers)

Led by Colonel William O. Darby, these units specialized in amphibious assaults and mountain warfare in North Africa, Sicily, and Italy.

- **1st Ranger Battalion:** The first activated (June 19, 1942, in Northern Ireland).

- **3rd Ranger Battalion:** Formed in North Africa in May 1943.
- **4th Ranger Battalion:** Also formed in North Africa in May 1943.
- *Note: Most of these three battalions were captured or destroyed during the [Battle of Cisterna](#) in early 1944.*

### European Theater

These units are most famous for their role in the D-Day landings at Omaha Beach and Pointe du Hoc.

- **2nd Ranger Battalion:** Famous for scaling the cliffs at [Pointe du Hoc](#) to destroy German coastal batteries.
- **5th Ranger Battalion:** Landed at Omaha Beach, where the motto "**Rangers Lead the Way!**" was born.
- **29th Ranger Battalion (Provisional):** A temporary unit formed in England from the 29th Infantry Division; it conducted raids with British Commandos before being disbanded in late 1943.

### Pacific Theater

- **6th Ranger Battalion:** The only Ranger battalion to serve in the Pacific. They are best known for the **Great Raid** at [Cabanatuan](#), which liberated over 500 Allied POWs in the Philippines.

### Other Notable Units

While not officially designated as "Ranger Battalions" during the war, the **5307th Composite Unit (Provisional)**, famously known as **Merrill's Marauders**, is considered a direct ancestor of today's [75th Ranger Regiment](#).

### Korean War Rangers

When the Korean War started in June 1950, planning for marauder type troops were soon organized and training would be ongoing stateside with the Rangers in name by Colonel Kraus and in Japan with United Nations provisional Raider volunteers from different countries, including the 8<sup>th</sup> Army Ranger Company. By Kraus naming the trainee companies at Fort Benning, Rangers there carried the tradition of a direct lineage from WW 2 Rangers to the Ranger Companies in Korea.

This purpose of this article is to inform some high-point information about the Rangers during the Korean War. If you want more information into deeper detail of



# RANGERS PAST, PRESENT, AND INTO THE FUTURE

By Stephen Odin Johnson

**continued**

who, what, when, and where that would paint a clearer picture in one's mind, I would encourage the reader to access a thesis released by the Army to the public with unlimited distribution, written by Major John G. Provost, an easy read that is full of information about the formations, time frames, and key players involved in the formation of Ranger Companies serving in Korea, Europe, and stateside.

Ranger training began at Fort Benning, Georgia, in **September 1950** with the formation of 17 Airborne Ranger companies during the Korean War. The first formal Ranger class for individual candidates graduated on **March 1, 1952**. It was originally established as the Ranger Training Command before becoming a department of the Infantry School.

Key details on the early history:

- **Initial Purpose:** The school was created to train units for the Korean War, focusing on leadership and small unit tactics.
- **Evolution:** In October 1951, the Ranger Department was established, transitioning from unit training to individual training for all combat units.
- **Location:** While the training in 1950 was at Fort Benning, it has since grown into a multi-phase, 62-day course.
- **Structure:** On November 1, 1987, the Ranger Department was reorganized into the Ranger Training Brigade, [notes the Fort Benning \(.mil\) site](#).

## Ranger Companies in the Korean War, 1950-1951 - DTIC

The Eighth Army Ranger Company (Provisional 8213th Army Unit) was the first American Ranger unit formed after World War II. Lieutenant Puckett was personally sought out and as a lieutenant filled a captain's slot as company commander of the 8<sup>th</sup> Army Ranger Company. They trained in Japan as a special operations unit shadowing Merrill's Marauder's *lessons learned*, capable of infiltrating enemy lines and raising havoc and destruction of enemy forces as did the Chinese who had small group tactical teams that were successful in their missions during the Korean War.

One major drawback the 8<sup>th</sup> Army Ranger Company and ensuing Ranger companies had to overcome was lack of good intelligence information. How could one effectively attack a target when its location or target type couldn't be accounted for? Secondly, the dedicated support for Ranger missions was not always available.

For example, the artillery was often engaged in other combat operations, resulting in its support not consistently being available when needed. Collaboration was often an *alien* term between services. For example, the U.S.A.F. refused to lend the Ranger companies their communication devices for aerial support. No wonder the premiere collegiate football game is the Army-Navy game and playing the Air Force is just an afterthought (opinion)!

The 8<sup>th</sup> Army combat operations in Korea spanned from October 1950 until March 1951. Most notable was the battle of Hilltop 205. All Ranger companies had short duty during the Korean War. The divisions they were assigned to could not invent missions for the Rangers. So, all remaining Rangers were transferred to different units by August 1, 1951. Each Ranger company was assigned to a division. It was up to each division commander to employ the capabilities of their Ranger company. By August 1951, the remaining Ranger companies became a line company within the division they were originally assigned to as Rangers, and by far, most transferred to the 187<sup>th</sup> Regimental Combat Team (Airborne) better known as *Rakkasans*.

For anyone who doesn't know what a Rakkasan is, be brave: grab an umbrella, climb a tree to your liking, open up your umbrella, hang onto the handle and jump; Japanese term for parachute or falling umbrella.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Army Ranger Company Key Distinctions and Historical Significance

- **First in Combat:** Activated on August 25, 1950, they were the first Rangers on the Korean peninsula operational by October of that year.



8<sup>th</sup> Army Patch, WWII



# RANGERS PAST, PRESENT, AND INTO THE FUTURE

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**continued**

Unlike subsequent companies that were formed at Fort Benning and had permanent lineages, the 8th was an ad hoc unit created from Far East volunteers.

- **Unique Identity:** To build esprit de corps, officers ordered all members to shave their hair into mohawks. They were also the only Ranger unit to wear the Eighth United States Army shoulder patch instead of the traditional Ranger scroll.
- **Understrength Composition:** The company operated with approximately half the "foxhole strength" of a standard infantry company, making them highly mobile but vulnerable when tasked with holding terrain. Its ranks included 10 South Korean troops (KATUSAs) who served as translators and guides.

The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Ranger companies were said to be in Korea, operational in December. This group of Ranger companies was the first to graduate from Ranger Training in Fort Benning as companies and earned the first Ranger tab that is still used today. The Ranger tab was authorized right before their graduation. On paper, the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 8<sup>th</sup> Ranger Companies were also said to be operational in December 1950, however they did not arrive in Korea until the end of March 1951.

Army AI: Vietnam had the same number of units as the Rangers in Korean War era with fifteen Ranger companies each; Vietnam A and B companies were stateside and with the other thirteen combat companies were each attached to a division or stand-alone brigade. Korean War also had fifteen numbered Ranger companies plus the specialized Eighth Army Ranger Company and Able and Baker companies attached to Ranger training. Activated starting in October 1950, these volunteer units served as elite light infantry for raids, patrols, and spearheading assaults, with six main companies (1st–5th and 8th) seeing combat before being disbanded by August 1951.

## Key Ranger Companies in Korea:

- **8th Army Ranger Company (Airborne)**  
Attached to the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division
- **1st Ranger Company (Airborne):** Attached to 2nd Infantry Division; arrived Dec 1950.
- **2nd Ranger Company (Airborne):** The only all-Black Ranger unit in US history ("Buffalo

Rangers"); attached to 7th Infantry Division/187th ARCT.

- **3rd Ranger Company (Airborne):** Attached to 3rd Infantry Division/I Corps.
- **4th Ranger Company (Airborne):** Attached to 1st Cavalry Division/187th ARCT.
- **5th Ranger Company (Airborne):** Attached to 25th Infantry Division/I Corps.
- **8th Ranger Company (Airborne)** Attached to the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division

## Operational History & Role

- **Origins:** Initiated by Gen. J. Lawton Collins to operate as "Marauder" units behind enemy lines following early North Korean infiltration tactics.
- **"Nomadic Warriors":** Companies were attached to larger infantry divisions rather than being self-contained battalions, serving as specialized raiding forces.
- **Major Actions:** The 2nd and 4th Ranger Companies conducted a historic combat parachute jump at Musan-ni in March 1951.
- **Disbandment:** By August 1951, all Ranger companies were disbanded, with their training curriculum forming the basis of the modern Army Ranger School.
- **Casualties:** The companies suffered high casualties, with approximately one in nine Rangers killed in action.

## Other Formed Companies (Served elsewhere or in training roles):

- **6th Ranger Company:** Deployed to Europe.
- **7th Ranger Company:** Assumed cadre role for training.
- **9th-15th Ranger Companies:** Formed as part of the total 17 airborne Ranger companies authorized during the conflict.

In the upcoming issue of Patrolling, we'll highlight the Vietnam era Ranger and Ranger-type companies.

RLTW!

- Stephen Odin Johnson

*Stephen Odin Johnson - Ranger! Former editor of Patrolling Magazine! Former president of the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association, Vietnam LRRP Veteran - Legend!*

# QUARTERMASTER

## *New Items added to the 75th Ranger Regiment Association Online Quartermaster Store!*

Now, you can proudly display your Ranger pride with a variety of high-quality merchandise, including t-shirts, sweatshirts, mugs, tumblers, and much more to come.

Every purchase helps support the mission of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association.

Be sure to check out the store regularly for new Items and show your support for the Association.

Visit us today and gear up for a great cause!



**[HTTPS://75TH-RRR.MYSHOPIFY.COM/](https://75th-rra.myshopify.com/)**



## G 75<sup>th</sup> Unit Report

by Stephen Odin Johnson

Greetings to our Members and the Ranger Community. Al Stewart, UD for G 75<sup>th</sup>, is taking time off to address some medical issues and has asked me to fill in for the Spring Patrolling issue. We wish Al a speedy recovery and he'll be back for the summer issue. We had a wonderful time and then some at the 2025 Livingston Reunion. We always have people who miss being part of the group photo and this year was no exception. I seem to remember that when we were being extracted from a mission, we never had that problem.

I have also included information on the upcoming 2026 Reunion.

### 2025 Reunion in Livingston, Montana

#### 2026 Reunion Update

The Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association's (VHPA) 43rd Annual Reunion and Company G (Ranger) 75th Infantry Association's 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion is in LOUISVILLE, KY. Special room rates will be available Wednesday, 05 August through Saturday, 08 August 2026, with checkouts on 9 August, Sunday morning.

Our G 75th official reunion will be Thursday through Saturday, again, checkouts Sunday morning. Several of us are checking in on Wednesday to take advantage of the sites and meeting VHPA members in Louisville.

For those of you who want to know how we selected Louisville and how we came about sharing a venue with the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association, here is a quick refresher.

At the Company G (Ranger) 75<sup>th</sup> Infantry Association 2024 board meeting in Ontario, California, David Moncada suggested seeing if we could have a joint reunion with the VHPA. Stephen Johnson volunteered to contact the VHPA Association to see if we could do that. The board approved that motion.

Steve contacted Forrest "Frosty" Price and shared with him the possibility of G 75th's Association



having a reunion together in Louisville, the site of VHPA 2026 reunion. Frosty was president of his Association and was very receptive to have a group of LRRPs as part of that event.

First, he approached his executive council for approval, and they wanted to move forward with our request. But the general membership had to give final OK, and they did at their general membership meeting in August 2025.

Frosty then introduced Johnson to the new president, Jim Crigler, and their reunion coordinator, John Powell. So, we now have an open line of communication between Associations.

Both Jim and John are quite familiar with Johnson's hometown of Bemidji, Minnesota, first city on the Mississippi River, sister city of New Orleans. John spent some time in Bemidji, and we

shared the same favorite eatery, the Paul Bunyan Sub Shop.

Jim is from Winona, Minnesota and has quite a few stories to share with everyone in Louisville. He has authored two books, Mission of Honor and Echoes on the Water.

In our phone conversations, Jim escorted home the body of his Vietnam roommate who was KIA. The only way he could escort him home was to use his R&R time plus support of his commanding officers. I have not read Mission of Honor yet, but I have completed his second book, Echoes on the Water.



Reunion 2025



# G/75-E/51 LRP-196<sup>th</sup> LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - AL STEWART

*continued*



That book is about honoring Gold Star Families on a river journey from Lake Itasca, source of the Mississippi River, down to New Orleans some 2552 miles. Lake Itasca is 28 miles away from Bemidji straight-line and 56 miles paddling.

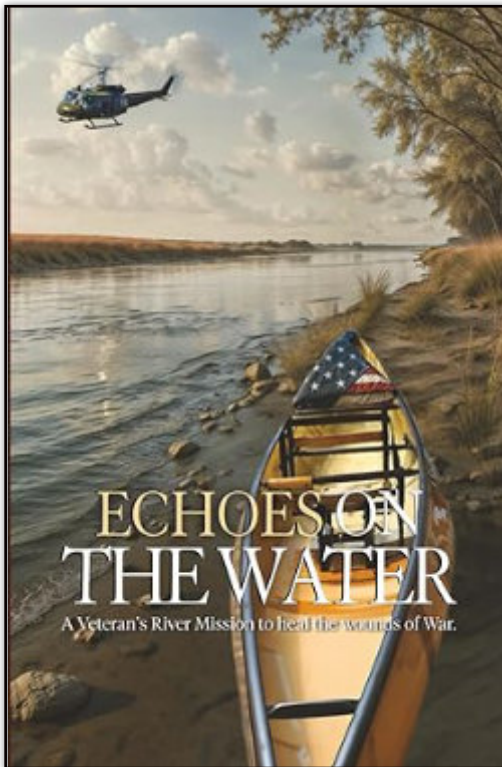
His book was first published in August 2025 based on his Gold Star Family-river venture that he completed in 2017.

We are all looking forward to talking with the men that inserted and extracted our LRRPs in Vietnam, not just in our AO. Also attending is VHPA pilot and book author Tom McGurn who was a 75th RRA banquet featured speaker.

Additional information will be shared with the board-membership and VHPA on our website [www.lrrpranger.org](http://www.lrrpranger.org) as it becomes available.



*Lake Itasca, Headwaters of the Mississippi River  
Minnesota*



*Cover of 'Echoes on The Water'  
written by Jim Crigler*

Harry Adams is already coordinating with Brody Robinson for our 2026 tee shirts. The theme will be, “The Sound of Salvation” which, of course, are the blades of the Huey making ear contact, a sound never forgotten!

This much we know so far, we will be able to book into a 1300-room hotel towards the end of winter or the first part of spring. The VHPA will provide a break-out room for our Association meetings and auction. We are invited to their dinner river cruise and all other trips or activities including their banquet. The VHPA is arranging for transportation with a set fee for those of us who don't want to drive.

We have also been invited to join them in a memorial service as part of the banquet where we can have our service, starting with prayer and the reading of our fallen brothers as we normally do for all our reunions.

John Powell, VHPA reunion coordinator, asked us to get ahold of Jim Regan from H 75<sup>th</sup>. John would like to have him attend the reunion. He owes Regan a new rucksack after destroying his old ruck with the rounds from his Cobra that laid down protective fire for his LRRP team.

*Stephen Odin Johnson - Former editor of Patrolling Magazine. Former president of the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association, Vietnam Veteran - Legend!*

*Al Stewart attended Basic Training and AIT at Fort Polk, the NCO Academy, Jump School and Ranger School at Fort Benning. He was with Golf Company, attached to the 23<sup>rd</sup> ID (Americal) operating in both the Chu Lai and DaNang areas. After Vietnam he was stationed at Fort Hood with the Alpha Company Rangers until his service was complete.*



# F/75-F/50-25<sup>th</sup> DIV LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - JOHN MCGEE

Lots of things have been going on for F Company lately. First a health and welfare update in the past month we have had our Ranger Hall of Famer Marshall Huckaby admitted to the Intensive Care unit at Warner Robbins Hospital with a shortness of breath. Marshal decided he liked it there, and why not, he was being taken care of by his daughter and granddaughter who both worked in the ICU. Alas he started to recover and has been moved to a Rehabilitation facility in his hometown of Cochran GA. He is recovering and is getting stronger and more antsy every day to go home.

We were then notified that we had lost one of our brothers, Louis Franconia in late February. The unit has purchased a brick in his honor at the Ranger Memorial.

Additionally, we found out that Irvin Hermann MACV RECONDO #001 has been moved into a short-term memory facility. Last but by no means least Gene Tucker fell and broke his hip. He is recovering and hopefully will be back on his feet within the coming months. Speaking as the Unit Director, you guys need to cut this crap out I don't need to be posting anymore hospital stays.

Changing the subject and hopefully the mood. I want to share with you an interesting conversation I recently had with a young Afghanistant veteran. He was an infantryman with the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division and is very active in our local veteran's community because he works in a veteran outreach program for our local Congressman.

He asked me my opinion on whether we should have boots on the ground before the Iranian conflict is over. He stated that in conversation with his fellow Iraq and Afghanistan veterans that their sentiment is we should continue to bomb the hell of them but not commit ground troops. I asked why he thought that they felt this way and his answer really interested me. He said that many of them were angry that we spent so much time in those countries and we lost so many

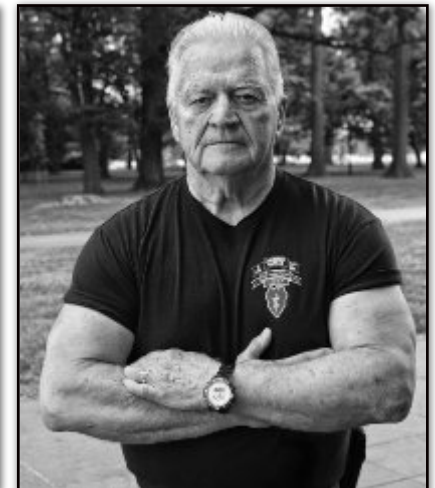


soldiers that they sort of feel betrayed the way it all ended. He was slightly surprised at my answer. I told him that I also hoped that we do not have to commit ground troops but unfortunately it will probably take door-kickers to finally kill that regime. History has shown us that multiple times over.

When I talked to him about the feelings he and his brothers felt about being betrayed, I said welcome to world of the Vietnam Veteran. What I tried to express to him was that at least his generation of veterans was welcomed home as heroes compared to what Vietnam Veterans experienced. Many of us were angry, feeling betrayed and to top it off disrespected at the least and despised by some of our countrymen at the most. He countered with that most of the Vietnam veterans were draftees and probably didn't want to serve in the first place. I had to correct him and let him know that 66 percent of the force in Vietnam were enlistees and volunteers. The whole episode saddened me. One because it reminds us that the mistakes of history constantly repeat themselves and that the myths of Vietnam and the Vietnam Veteran continue to linger on. I could continue for pages and pages of the multiple outstanding contributions made to American society by Vietnam Veterans. How well educated, how prosperous, and successful we a group have become. I have said this before and I will continue to state that the Vietnam Veterans are not the greatest generation, but Vietnam Veterans are greatest of their generation.



Ranger John McGee, Vietnam 1968



Major John McGee (RET)

*Major John McGee (RET) Enlisted in 1967 serving in Company F 50th INF LRP 75th Rangers 25th INF DIV. until 1968. He reentered the Army and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in 1977. Graduating flight school in 1978 began a multi decade career in Army Aviation that saw him serve in multiple command and staff positions until 1995. In 2006 John volunteered to be recalled to active duty for the War on Terror. He re-retired in 2008, then continued to serve as a DA Civilian at Fort Rucker AL until he retired, again, in 2015.*



# H/75-E/52 LRP - 1<sup>st</sup> CAV LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - PETE DENCKER

Greetings Brothers,

I would like to start this entry by honoring one of our fallen – John Charles Williams. John was born on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 1948, in Paola, Kansas. John was drafted and began his tour on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 1969. He was KIA on August 11<sup>th</sup>, 1969. He is honored on Panel 19, Line 6 on “The Wall”. It’s really getting hard to find other than basic information on many of our Brothers who never made it home. I’m asking as a favor for those who served with John or any of our Brothers who did not make it home - please visit “The Wall of Faces” at [vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces](http://vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces) find one of our fallen brothers and leave a remembrance – short or long it makes no difference other than they are remembered. I’m sure the families visit this site and would appreciate seeing comments from a fellow Ranger.

In the course of putting together this article for the Sabre - I noticed that basically all of the available info says it was a non combat death - therefore John never received a Purple Heart. “Thank you” to all my H Company Brothers who weighed in on this.

**My take** on this situation - I'm sorry - but he was on a combat mission with a Team that was getting extracted and due to a helicopter crash on the way out and was killed during this extraction. He wasn't wandering around Bien Hoa (I hesitate to write this as if it wasn't for the guys/gals in Bien Hoa we couldn't do our job) or in another rear area job - he was with a Ranger Team, on a combat mission in the middle of the jungle and was killed - The fact that he wasn't shot or hit by mortar fragments - to me shouldn't make a difference - he died in the course of a combat mission and I believe should have been awarded a Purple Heart -

Am I out of line here.....?? **I'm hoping some of the powers that be in the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav read this and have the same question....and then do something about it.**



Anyway, on to my story.....and the significance of the month of February

I would like to thank Ken White, John LeBrun, Bill Carpenter (RIP), for their stories which I’ve used here in conjunction with comments from Sam Dixon and Harvey Claypoole and their first hand memories of this mission. This is about Tim Harper’s last mission. Tim is near and dear to my heart because he was the TL on my first mission which happened to be the month prior in January 1970. I had just arrived at H Company at the end of 70 after spending 6 months as a grunt platoon leader and Tim was my introduction to Ranger Team operations (as opposed to grunt ops) soon after I arrived. He was a great teacher and I felt more than ready for my first mission which was totally different than any previous experience as a grunt. I think about Tim a lot.

Team 22 along the Cambodian border February 15-17 1971.

Ranger Team 22 operated out of Phouc Vinh, a former 1st Infantry Division Base which in 1970 became the home of the 1st Cavalry Division. The Team consisted of Tim Harper, TL (from Ceylon MI) Harvey Claypoole, Scout (from North Olmstead, Ohio), Sam Dixon RTO, (from New Castle DE), James Doyle, ATL, Charles Monroe, Rear Scout (from Highpoint, North Carolina and Richard Wall, Scout (from Kent Washington).

On the afternoon of February 15th at 1249 hours Team 22 was inserted into War Zone D in Phouc Long Province along the Cambodia border north of the fishhook area for the purpose of monitoring a major trail leading out of Cambodia into south Vietnam. The trail was suspected of being an important North Vietnamese transportation route that connected the Ho Chi Minh Trail to numerous distribution routes in South Vietnam. It was clear due to the size of this “trail” that it was capable of handling both personnel and vehicular traffic - It was 12-18 feet wide and mostly covered with woven mats of bamboo leaves.

The mission was uneventful until the night of February 16th when the Team set up a night defensive position on a hilltop near the trail. During the night, the Team members heard voices and splashing sounds and monitored an enemy unit of unknown size in a draw location below their position. The draw was heavily forested providing good concealment from aerial observation.

At daybreak of the morning of February 17th, in response to the activity the previous evening, the Team moved down the hill on a small trail towards the location



where the sounds had come from and where the enemy unit had probably camped overnight. SSGT Tim Harper was walking point. Halfway down the hill at 0730 hours, the Team members spotted three individuals coming up the trail towards them. They were wearing mixed Khaki uniforms and were carrying AK-47s. SSGT Harper initiated contact by rifle fire with the enemy soldiers and immediately the other Team members opened up on them with their weapons. Rear scout Monroe fired several 40mm grenades at the enemy soldiers, one of which struck some overhead jungle canopy exploding and scattering fragments some of them wounding him. RTO Dixon called in the contact to an H Company radio relay station and requested helicopter gunship support and a ready reaction force. The 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Blues were dispatched to the site but while enroute were redirected to another friendly unit that was in contact and needed immediate reinforcement (that was Ranger Team 61 in contact). The enemy soldiers broke contact at 0945 hours and maneuvered back down the trail. Team 22 continued to move towards the suspected enemy camp. On the trail they found three NVA backpacks filled with enemy supplies and one AK-47. The enemy camp turned out to be a sizable bunker complex next to a river along the river and the Cambodian border.

SSGT Harper notified brigade of the situation and the team continued moving along the trail in the direction of a possible pickup zone (PZ) as the Team was now compromised. TL Harper was walking point. Whether it was a chance encounter or a counter ambush, North Vietnamese soldiers spotted Harper as he rounded a clump of bamboo thickets at the exit of the bunker complex and opened fire on him, hitting him with multiple small arms rounds. One of the rounds hit the wooden stock of the AK-47 rifle he was carrying. It went through the stock and through his hand. Several other rounds hit him in the lower abdomen/pelvic area. The Team members were forced to drop back into the scattered bunkers. RTO Dixon called in the second contact and aware of Harper's wounds, requested immediate medical extraction for Harper.

SSGT Harper was out of sight on the trail bleeding badly and was unable to maneuver back around the bamboo thickets and link up with the other team members. Doyle assumed leadership of the team at that time and relayed the situation to brigade. Claypoole was able to maneuver along the trail towards Harper and eventually reach him while Wall maintained suppressive fire on the enemy position. Claypoole was able to drag him out of the line of fire and back into the bunker complex. At 1015 hours, the brigade quick reaction force (QRF), Bravo Company, 8th Cavalry was alerted to move by helicopter to the site.

After Claypoole was able to drag Harper back to the Teams position, they established a defensive position in the bunker complex. Doyle continued to relay information on their situation to Brigade. Shortly afterward a LOH from the 1/9th Cav arrived on station, and at tree top level made several attempts to extract Harper but received intense enemy ground fire each time and was forced to exit the area. Helicopter gunships from the 1/9th Cav and aerial rocket gunships from the 2/20th ARA arrived on station and directed suppressive fire on the enemy positions. This gunship support enabled a Dust-off time to lower a jungle penetrator to the ground and lift out Harper. The plan was to get Harper to a field hospital at FSB Buttons. On the way to the field hospital, the pilot of the Dust-off radioed Team 22 to inform them that Tim had died from his wounds during the flight to the hospital.

Brigade instructed the Team to maintain its current position in the bunker complex while the Bravo, 1/8th Cav troops moved to its position. There were no clearings nearby for the helicopters to land – other than the PZ further up the trail which was now covered with enemy soldiers, so the 1/8th troopers were forced to repel down to the jungle floor under the cover of a 1/9th Cav Pink team. They immediately set cutting charges to trees in order to create an LZ/PZ for the rest of the QRF to get on the ground. At 1118 hours, the QRF linked up with the team in the bunker complex. A sweep of the area produced assorted clothing, enemy web gear, grenades, and numerous rounds of ammunition. Team 22 was extracted at 1453 hours along with the QRF.

One back at Phouc Vinh, the team members were informed that they most likely encountered a point element of a battalion-sized North Vietnamese unit that had just crossed the border into South Vietnam. Over the next few days, the area was heavily bombed, and units of the 1st Cav were inserted into the area to drive the remaining North Vietnamese soldiers back into Cambodia.

RTO Sam Dixon commented “Over the years, Harvey and I have realized that the February 15th mission could easily have resulted in a very different outcome. “Without the help of the helicopter gunships from the 1/9th Cav and 2/20th ARA, and the Bravo 1/8th QRF, the members of Team 22 most likely would not have survived that situation.”

RIP Brother Tim

**RLTW - For those who've fought for it – life has a flavor the protected will never know**



## The Wildcats of Phu Loi

The following is a prime example of what just ten well-trained, well-led Long-Range Patrollers/Rangers can accomplish with equally effective ‘supporting arms.

On 5 May 1968, North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong forces attacked Saigon and 118 other South Vietnamese cities, district and provincial capitols, and American and South Vietnamese military installations throughout the country. These attacks would soon be known as the Vietnam War’s “Mini-Tet” Offensive. It marked a sharp resurgence in the Communist’s effort to carry the war away from the county’s borders and into South Vietnam’s ‘interior’—with the focus particularly falling upon its Capitol, Saigon.

The Lurps of Company F, 52<sup>nd</sup> Infantry, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, were tasked with screening major bases in the division’s Tactical Area of Operations (TAOR). On 7 May, Teams ‘Wildcat 1’ and ‘Wildcat 2’ received warning orders to move south, and conduct reconnaissance and “heavy team” (both teams combined) ‘direct action’ missions around the division’s Phu Loi Base Camp.



Wildcat 2 was a full, six-man team, comprised of its TL, Sgt. Ronnie Luse; ATL Robert “Paul” Elsner; with Bill Cohn, Dave Hill, Al Coleman, and John Mills. The ‘Wildcat’ Teams would be based in Phu Loi, OPCON to DIVARTY S-2 (Intel).

Surrounded by villages, vast rice paddies, and rubber plantations, Phu Loi had been the scene of fierce combat during the 1968 ‘Tet Offensive’ just a few months previously. Large North Vietnamese Army (NVA) units, and their Vietcong (VC) scouts, frequently used the area around Phu Loi for staging and transit routes to move to and strike targets such as Saigon, Bien Hoa, and Long Binh during the period prior to and following “Tet 68”. On 31 January, Team Wildcat 2, led by Sgt. Luse, detected and conducted artillery attack upon an estimated full regiment of NVA/VC, as the enemy was attempting a night crossing five kilometers northwest of Phu Loi, from the village Tan Phouc Khanh, over to the village of An My. That action prematurely precipitated the Tet enemy attacks upon Phu Loi. Phu Loi’s artillery and its helicopter gunships savaged the enemy, the NVA and VC of the badly mauled regiment, scattering and escaping primarily toward An My. The next day, a vicious battle ensued, with the Big Red One’s 1<sup>st</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> Infantry and armor of 1<sup>st</sup> Sq/4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry engaging and killing many of the enemy and dislodging the rest from An My.



*Phu Loi Area Map  
Battle Area outlined in Red*



*Billy Cohn on a training Patrol*

Phu Loi lies along National Highway 13, approximately 45 kilometers northeast of Saigon. It was home base for the division’s artillery headquarters (DIVARTY) and cavalry unit, 1<sup>st</sup> Sq/4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, known as “Quarterhorse”.

Wildcat1 was a four-man team: SSgt. Jack Leisure, Team Leader (TL); Sp4 Roger Anderson, Assistant Team Leader (ATL); with Sp4 Charlie Hartsoe, and Sp4 Chris Ferris.

Wildcat 2’s early warning and the subsequent routing of the enemy was a major setback to NVA/VC operations in the southwestern III Corps region. As sometimes occurred, official After Action reports from the 31 January fight, omitted the fact that the Wildcat Lurps had ‘shadowed’ the enemy force throughout the course of the night, continuously directing and adjusting artillery fire and arial attacks upon them throughout the night; instead crediting the Team only



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*continued*



with having “sounded the alarm” about the imminent ground attack upon Phu Loi.

1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division G-2 (Intel), because of the continued pitch battles still being fought in and around Saigon, and frequent contacts between the division’s infantry units and enemy units in the vicinity of Phu Loi, determined that the Phu Loi area was once again being used as a major enemy transit route toward Saigon and its environs. It therefore ordered F Co. to again deploy two of its teams to Phu Loi to conduct missions in its surrounding area.

Wildcat 1 and Wildcat 2 were ‘given the nod’ and headed south to Phu Loi once again.



*Team Wildcat - F Co. LRP - Lai Khe 1968  
Paul Elsner, ALT and Ronnie Luse, TL*

Though VC casualties had been heavy in the “Tet” fighting, they were still heavily relied upon to provide “scouts”, charged with leading the infiltrating large NVA formations from the Vietnam-Cambodia border region over to Saigon. The NVA moved secretly from one hidden way station to another, eventually reaching their targets in the city. Traveling primarily during hours of darkness, the enemy wrongly felt they could avoid encounters with the Allied forces, as US ‘line’ infantry units typically kept their night ambush patrols in fairly close proximity to their own major base camps or Night Defensive Positions (NDP). However, the division’s Lurp teams had not such constraints, and ranged far from any ‘friendly’ installations on their reconnaissance and ‘direct action/ambush’ missions. Thus Teams 1 and 2 were paired-up to form a “Heavy Team” and were, once again, tasked with “find and fix” the NVA/VC units transiting the vast, open rice-growing areas found on all sides of Phu Loi. F Co. During the past year, LRP had shifted from conducting primarily 'sneak-and-peek' reconnaissance missions to adopting a 'direct-action/ambush' approach in their operations. F Company Lurps didn’t have to take unnecessary risks, but when chances to confront the enemy came up—and the Team Leader decided it was suitable—they did initiate a gun fight. Preferably, such contacts would be through use of ‘stand-off’ weapons, through their directing artillery and/or air strikes. Engaging small enemy units, if practicable, was via the Lurps own small-arms ambushes. Vietnam having become very much a ‘war of attrition’, getting enemy body counts were the order of the day for the Americans. The Lurps also aimed to hinder enemy

movement as much as possible whenever and wherever they came across opposing forces.

Wildcat 1 and 2 began their short-range night missions, moving in varying directions out about 5-8 kilometers from Phu Loi. One such patrol began with a daylight movement by truck to an Army of Viet Nam (ARVN) compound, then a subsequent patrol back toward Phu Loi after nightfall, setting up their overwatch/ambush position at a point along the way.

The individual teams ran these to ‘get a feel’ for the area, able see long distances even at night, using the night-vision “Starlight Scopes” which each carried. Teams 1 and 2 would soon consolidate into their “Heavy Team” and conduct more aggressive operations around Phu Loi.

Despite limited sightings during initial patrols, S-2 suspected enemy forces were moving through the rice paddies near Phu Loi Base Camp. So, the Teams decided to shift their patrols into a new area. So, Team 2 was given a new ‘recon box’, centered approximately five kilometers northwest of Phu Loi. It was to move up toward the gap between Tan Phuoc Kanh and An My, in hopes of catching an enemy unit crossing between the two villages, enroute to the Saigon area. To make this crossing, they would need to traverse open rice paddies for about 800 to 900 meters, leaving themselves entirely exposed. It was in that exact area that Wildcat 2 had found the enemy and pounded them with artillery and air on the first night of ‘Tet’. They hoped that ‘lightning’ could ‘strike twice’ in the same place.



*Team Wildcat 1-2, May 10<sup>th</sup> 1968  
Hill (R), Cohn (C), Anderson(L) (standing)  
Luse (L), Mills (R) (kneeling)*

On 10 May, Wildcat 2 moved out from Phu Loi just after dark. Wildcat 1 stayed at Phu Loi, prepared to serve as a rapid response unit if necessary. Team 2 proceeded about 3.5 ‘clicks’ (each click equals a kilometer) to an old Vietnamese graveyard the team had previously used as an overwatch position. They observed the area for a while through their ‘Starlight Scopes’, then stealthily moved into the graveyard, moving to their selected position, a large, “pagoda-like” concrete memorial, which rose above the rest of the headstones and other memorial stones in the area. The Sgt. then climbed onto it with just his RTO, while the remainder of his team quickly assumed defensive positions behind smaller nearby gravestones. Luse found an ideal perch at the very top of the structure, from where, sitting up about 6 feet above the surrounding



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rice paddies, he could see well over a quarter mile all round his position, and well beyond their projected target zone for the night. Wildcat 2's focus was a narrow road stretching from the woods northwest of Tan Phuoc Khanh and running southeast and to An My. It had been upon that very same path that Wildcat 2 had spotted the enemy regiment on the first night of the "Tet 68 Offensive, and thereby prematurely triggering the initial enemy upon Phu Loi. It was a dangerous, highly-exposed route for the enemy, but also the shortest—and they were not expecting any Americans, let alone ARVNs, to be there to see and challenge them on that dark night, as they would be crossing well beyond the normal patrol range of



*Phu Loi May 10<sup>th</sup> 1068  
Hill, Scout Dog Rex, Liesure, Mills, Luse, Cohn*

most American and Allied units. However, unlike most units, the Wildcat Lurps were confident and effective operating at night, despite their small numbers. "The Night was their friend," offering them concealment and the 'Element of Surprise.'

With the bulk of the team arrayed round the large monument, and claymore anti-personnel mines placed at each corner, first Luse, then Elsner, then each of the rest of the team, in succession, took shifts surveying the area around their position through their Starlight Scope. At approximately 0100 hours, what appeared to be about a platoon of enemy troops exited the wood line northwest of Tan Phuoc Khanh and began to move toward An My. Luse, once again using the Starlight, requested artillery support and directed fire onto the nearest of the previously established 'pre-plotted' artillery targets, which had been set up earlier using a battery of 4.2" heavy mortars at Phu Loi. The initial impacts of American mortar rounds caused the enemy to scatter, most making it, apparently unscathed, back into the woods. However, one squad inadvertently ran in the general direction of Wildcat 2's position. When it was clear that they were turning into the village at a point about 70 meters from the team, Luse decided to engage them with the Lurp's own small arms, rather than let them "get away". After a brief firefight, with no known casualties on either side, the enemy disappeared into the darkness and village. Now having revealed their own presence, it was time for Wildcat 2 to "get out of Dodge". As Luse remained on the Starlight to guard against any enemy advances, the team collected the claymores and made their way back toward Phu Loi as quickly and cautiously as they could. Changing direction frequently, employing two-man "hasty ambushes" to cover their back trail, and relying on their ability to

see with the Starlight Scope, they reached the Phu Loi perimeter before dawn.

Luse had contacted Leisure, asking that Wildcat 1 await Team 2 just inside Phu Loi's perimeter in case they needed to come out in direct support. When they joined up inside Phu Loi's bunker line, Luse and Luse led their teams back to their hootch to get some rest and plan the next night's mission. They now believed that the night's sighting and encounter with the enemy verified that, just as they had done on the first night of "Tet", the NVA/VC were transiting the same general area. The two Team Leaders planned to again surprise the enemy, by going back into the exact same position two nights in a row. They believe that it would be so counter-intuitive that it would succeed in surprising and hitting the enemy again.

Later that morning, the Teams met in their hootch and plotted the night's mission. They also contacted DIVARTY and confirmed the artillery concentration points they wanted to have immediately available from the 4.2" mortars and one of the 105mm howitzer batteries located near them. The Lurps, now consolidated into a 10-man "Heavy Team", would exit Phu Loi's defensive perimeter at a different point than that used the previous night. Then, via a different route, they would move back to the same graveyard structure Wildcat 2 had occupied the previous night. They were 'playing a hunch' that transiting enemy troops would again move through the huge, wide-open gap that lay between Tan Phuoc Khanh and An My. They also believed the enemy would not expect any unit would return to the exact same position from which it had initiated a firefight. It was just not standard American infantry "doctrine".

The team was heavily armed for such a small unit, with Elsner now carrying an M-60 machine gun, and Anderson, carrying an M-14E2, would serve as his Assistant Gunner. Every other member carried at least one belt of 7.62mm ammunition for "The Pig," their respectful nickname for the M-60 machine gun. The remainder of the team were all armed with either CAR-15 "Commando" carbines or M-79 grenade launchers (and much more than "standard loads" of ammunition for each of their weapons) and even a couple of LAW, one-shot, disposable anti-tank rocket launchers. The Lurps were confident that they could hold their own against a comparable sized, or even larger, enemy force. But they knew that the artillery and air support at their disposal would be the most critically important and effective power available. With the



*F Co. LRP Heavy Team*



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'wide-open' stretch of rice paddy terrain of their **expected** battleground, and employing their Starlight Scopes, the Lurps hoped to hit the enemy at a distance, and from concealment, if possible.

As night now concealed them, the "men with painted faces" quietly slipped the Phu Loi perimeter, taking a different exit point and route from that used the previous night. They carefully wound their way to within two hundred meters of the graveyard, then stopped, listened, and observed the large grave structure that they intended to again use as their 'overwatch/ambush' position for the night. After confirming that the area and the rest of the graveyard were unoccupied, they advanced carefully, arriving around 2300 hours. As the others set claymores and took defensive positions, Luse and Leisure climbed the structure with Starlight scopes. Moving to the highest point, they assumed their "observation posts" and began scanning the area around the position, with at least one always watching the road leading from Tan Phuoc Kanh over to An My, particularly the wood line leading to it.

Rotating the men in shifts to observe through the scope, one spotted movement just inside the wood line, and handed Luse and Leisure the scopes, directing them to the spot. Luse soon whispered to Leisure and the rest that he had now spotted glimpses of an enemy troop column, and a trailing small vehicle, adjacent to Tan Phuoc Kanh, still just inside the wood line, but now clearly visible and moving slowly and apparently toward the trailhead of the road. Leisure whispered a warning to the rest of the Team, then quickly climbed up next to Luse for a 'look-see' of his own. Now anticipating that the 'road' was the enemies' intended crossing point, Luse quickly called in a 'fire mission' to the Fire Direction Center (FDC) of the 4.2" mortar battery in Phu Loi. He asked them to, only on his command, fire their pre-plotted concentration at the precise point at which he expected the enemy to exit the woods and move onto the open road between the villages. He planned to cut off their route of retreat, once the entire unit was out in the open, and completely exposed. He requested the first salvo to be of high-explosive (HE) rounds, at the wood line. The enemy then moved out onto the road, and Luse began quietly counting, for his men to hear: 10, 20; then 50, 100; until he reached a final count of three hundred enemy, as the last of the troops departed the woods. When they had left the woods 250-300 meters behind them, Luse called for the battery to fire their first salvo of HE. While awaiting the first call of "Shot Out" from the FDC (letting him know that "rounds are on the way"), Luse quickly advised that his next target was "enemy in the open", requesting the mortars to use "Victor Tango" (Variable-Timed Fuse or "air bursts") and 'traversing fire' to sweep all along the road and the now trapped enemy upon it. With no overhead cover, the NVA/VC force soon began to be savaged. The 105mm artillery batter was now also brought into the fight, and the slaughter expanded. The enemy troops could now neither run nor hide. Though obviously under 'observed fire'--as the mortar and artillery strikes moved wherever the enemy did--they knew not from where they were being observed. The mortars also now began to fire illumination rounds (flares) to further increase the Lurp's ability to observe.

The NVA/VC unit lost cohesion as enemy soldiers individually retreated to the woods seeking safety. But the bulk of the enemy force remained "stuck" out in the deadly 'beaten zone', as the American fire was unceasing, highly effective, and lethal.

Helicopter gunships now entered the fray, while also observing dozens of enemy bodies on the ground beneath, delivering their own rocket and 'mini gun' fire into the enemy ranks before departing to rearm and refuel. The battering of the enemy continued unabated throughout the night, with the Lurps continuing to direct and adjust the mortar and artillery fire upon even individual enemy troops attempting to 'escape and evade' the deadly rain of American fire. The Lurps even called Phu Loi to advise them that about six enemy rockets had just passed overhead, inbound to the base camp. Based on the Lurps' estimate as to the launch sites for the rockets, Phu Loi directed some counter fire to it. They then advised Luse and Leisure that, as the mortar and artillery batteries had nearly exhausted their 'ready' supply of rounds, they would 'check fire' temporarily. They said they would then set up a 'time on target' (T.O.T involves directing numerous batteries, would fire a single salvo each, but timed to arrive on the target simultaneously—with incredible total impact), and then check fire until dawn. A Forward Air Controller (FAC) would "keep an eye" on the battlefield for the remainder of the night. DIVARTY also informed the Lurps that they would be sending out a 'relief force' of 1<sup>st</sup> Sq/4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry tanks and armored cavalry vehicles (ACAV) at first light to reinforce the Team and 'sweep the battlefield' of any remaining enemy.

Both Team Leaders protested that "lifting the artillery fire would allow the enemy to escape, along with their dead and wounded (and their weapons)," but DIVARTY was adamant about their intentions.



*Elsner behind Co. F Sign  
'No peace for Charlie'  
LaiKhe 1968*

So, all the Lurps could do was remain in position to await the arrival of the small armor unit. An hour after sunrise, the 1<sup>st</sup> Sq/4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry tanks and ACAVs, now having the visibility to move more safely across the open terrain, arrived near the edge of the Team's graveyard position. The Lurps immediately jumped aboard the tanks and the combined force moved toward the battleground. Since armored vehicles are particularly vulnerable to enemy RPG teams when they operate without infantry support, the Lurps jumped off the tanks about two hundred meters before arriving at



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the anticipated point of contact. They quickly formed a standard 'line of skirmishers,' with two Lurps walking between each vehicle to provide infantry support. Most Lurps, aside from those who had previously served as "line" infantrymen, lacked experience attacking with armor, they nonetheless quickly adapted to their new duties, and the American force cautiously moved in a northeasterly direction, toward their expected encounter with any surviving enemy troops.

Finding a dozen enemy bodies in what had been the previous night's primary impact area, they also spotted a considerable number of blood trails leading toward the wood line north Tan Phuoc Kanh. The American formation pivoted to its right and began to encounter individual enemy soldiers. Hill, carrying his M-79 "thump gun", spotted a lone enemy soldier hunched under a bush, just inside the wood line. The enemy was, fortunately, unarmed, and Hill quickly herded him to the Cavalry's 'make-shift' prisoner holding track. He was bound and held there until a "Huey" helicopter arrived to take enemy prisoners back to Phu Loi for questioning. The end of artillery and mortar fire clearly had allowed the enemy force to withdraw and evacuate most casualties and weapons. Now the armor and Lurps would have to continue their 'sweep' and pursuit, if there was to be any chance of reestablishing contact with the enemy. About fifteen minutes into the sweep, Luse and Mills spotted enemy troops to the north: one group running west toward An My, while another turned back toward an area northwest of Tan Phuoc Kanh. Luse and Leisure decided to split back into their two primary teams and pursue. Luse accordingly placed most of his team on a tank, which headed toward the enemy headed toward An My, hoping to cut them off before they could escape into the village. He directed Elsner, who was carrying the team's only M-60, to join Leisure, as Wildcat 1 had only a four-man team and could use the extra firepower. Leisure immediately took some armor vehicles and swept eastward into the woods. The tank commander carrying Luse's Wildcat 2 Team was unable to move swiftly in the pursuit, due to his concern over possibly "throwing a track", by rolling too swiftly over the many, sun-hardened rice paddy dikes in his path. He also refused to fire his cannon at the fleeing troops because he "could not clearly identify them as the enemy. Frustrated, and sure who the fleeing men were, and not feeling constrained as was the tank commander, he told his own M-79 grenadier, to "light 'em up". Unfortunately, due to the tank's inability to move faster, after just a couple of grenades had been fired, the fleeing enemy had moved beyond the weapon's maximum effective range and would soon be in An My and safety. The team was not happy, but had to accept the situation, and the tanks turned back toward Tan Phuoc Kanh.

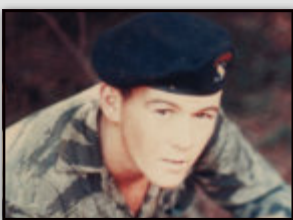
Meanwhile, as Leisure's team, supported by armor, continued their own search. Elsner, guarding the right flank of Leisure's team, spotted through an opening in the wood line, a small clearing in

which he could see some troops or bodies. Leisure decided to investigate more closely and placed Elsner on the northside of it, with his primary team members, Hartsoe and Ferris, covering the west side, while he and Anderson move to the edge of the clearing for a closer look. Anderson later said that it appeared to be an enemy aid station, with bodies lying about. He also noted what appeared to be an elderly soldier, and possibly a senior officer, slightly off to the side, alone. As he was lying down, but appeared still to be moving, Leisure told Anderson to "get a medic from the Cav", so he could be attended to and possibly interrogated by Phu Loi's S-2. While moving to his side, Leisure was struck in the chest by a volley of enemy fire, as was Anderson when he rushed to Leisure's aid. SSG. Leisure had been killed, and Anderson badly wounded, with Elsner, Ferris and Hartsoe arriving only in time to bring their own weapons to bear and end the fight.

After his men had pulled Leisure and Anderson from the clearing and out to where the armored vehicles were sitting in their 'overwatch' positions, the Cav tanks and ACAVs destroyed what remained of the little copse of trees, destroying it (and any enemy it still contained).

A 'dust-off' Medevac helicopter soon arrived from Phu Loi and both Leisure and Anderson were gently placed in it. Though severely struck in both his arm and back, Anderson survived and was subsequently sent to an Army hospital for recovery. Though an estimated 90-100 enemy had been killed in the fight, losing Wildcat 1's Team Leader, Jackie Leisure, and it's ATL, Roger Anderson, was too high a price to pay in the Lurps' view.

As many LRP operations were 'classified', this fight did not garner much attention. The many 'lessons-learned' that might have arisen from it, and how it was conducted, were largely lost, beyond those who had participated in it. Perhaps some of the conduct of the overall fight could be accounted for by the 'all too often' distrust by some officers regarding what the Lurps reported. Sometimes Intel would openly express their doubt, citing the fact that; "A 'line' infantry unit had conducted a 'search-and-destroy' (S&D) operation in the exact same area just the day prior, without having contacted the enemy. They couldn't (or refused to) understand that the Lurps' tactics and, therefore their results, were decidedly different and more effective. A key question is, why didn't the commanders back in Pho Loi quickly air-assaulted at least a company (or more) of heavily armed infantry, to cordon the battle area, and methodically sweep it on the morning of 12 May? Why did they instead choose to just dispatch a couple of tanks and a few ACAVs, which then required just us ten, relatively lightly armed Lurps to support them as 'skirmishers? Why had DIVARTY chosen to erroneously, prematurely cease the mortar and artillery fire, and thereby allow a badly damaged, but still dangerous company or more of the enemy to escape to fight again? A great opportunity to 'complete the circle' had been foregone, and for no good reason.



*Dave Hill was born in 1948 in California and worked as a firefighter in the 60s before joining the military as an 11 Bravo. He was assigned to the 41<sup>st</sup> Inf Plt (Scout Dog), 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Div., Phouc Vinh, RVN, F Co./52<sup>nd</sup> Inf. (LRP), 1<sup>st</sup> ID, Lai Khe, assigned to LRP Team "Wildcat 2" as the Assistant Team Leader, 5<sup>th</sup> Bn/6<sup>th</sup> Inf., 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division, Plt. Sgt. He was awarded the Silver Star, Army Commendation Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB). After his military service he earned a BA in Political Science and an MA in International Affairs and worked at the US Commerce Department as an international economist, and as a Logistics Director in the private sector.*



## Fellow Rangers and Co Vans

The following are excerpts from SP/4 Steve Leighton, RTO with the 42<sup>nd</sup> VN ranger Battalion, ARVN 21<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, south of Bac Lieu VN in August 1967.

### Ranger Adventures:

First Operation W/ the 42<sup>nd</sup> Rangers

Eventually, we were given our orders for a Division Operation. I was the RTO and jumped on the slick like I knew what I was doing. I managed to the area directly behind the right seat plot so I could sit in the open door with my legs hanging outside in the air and have something to hang on to. Everything was fine and I had no problem looking down from about 1500 feet at the rice paddies below.

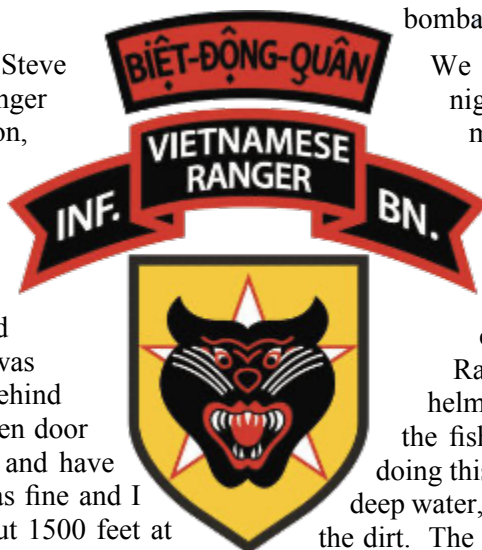
We started our descent into the OP area and suddenly, I felt a couple of thumps on the bottom of the ship. Soon I realized that these were in-coming rounds of small arms. All I could imagine was a round hitting me in the bottom of foot and coming out the top of my knee... ouch! I pulled my legs in the chopper so fast I could have wrapped my legs around my neck. We hid the LZ and everyone quickly exited the aircraft. All of the sudden, all hell broke loose. There was shooting everywhere. Small arms, grenade launchers, machine guns ...everything we had was firing at the tree line! I thought ...what the hell did I get myself into? Soon I realized that the idea was to assault the tree line from an open rice paddy. Makes sense anyone there would keep their heads down until we got clear of the open rice paddy. Makes sense to me now! With all the shooting going on, I was curious how you could tell if they were in-coming or out going? I would figure that out later.

The operation was pretty normal...not much contact, lots of bobby traps and pretty uneventful. After searching the area assigned to us, we would group up in the paddies, 5 and 5 stagger trail for pickup.

Operation done...a few booby trap casualties, but not very eventful.

### Next Ranger Event:

We were assigned to the "Salt Flats" for town security. In early June, 767, the VC were very active in the Salt Flat area, just east of Bac Lieu. The VC were collecting taxes from local farmers gathering salt for the market. (During the wet season, they flooded the rice paddies with salt water and when it dried during the dry season, they would scrape the salt up and harvest it for the market). It was an area that had enough solid ground to set up mortars or recoilless rifles to



bombard the city where we were located.

We were to spend 17 days in this area doing night listening posts and night ambushes. We made a small lean-to to live in. It was very small and for 4 of us, it was very tight...to say the least. During the day I would walk along the rice paddy dikes and shoot fish. The fish were very small (2/3 inches some bigger), but if you shot at them, the concussion would kill or stun them. The Rangers with me would carry their steel pot helmets, by the chin strap, like a pail and collect the fish. I would feed 200 rangers for 17 days doing this. When we came to a canal intersection or deep water, I would pop a grenade and we would all hit the dirt. The fish did not float, as you might expect, but the Rangers would jump in the canal and "feel" for them until they got all of them. It was great fun and I was having a ball doing it.

One day, we were on the main canal fishing and we walked a long way. Suddenly I found myself in a small village with the people all staring at me. They had probably never seen an American before, so they all stood like statues... staring. We stopped at a hooch and took some water out of their barrel. I walked out into the sunshine, very thirsty and drank some water. I noticed movement in the water and took a closer look. Yep, there were many little critters swimming in it. Oh well, more protein for me.

The rangers were getting quit apprehensive ( I was the only one with a rifle), so we decided to depart area. As we left, I kept looking back at the villagers... still no one moved...they all stood like statues. I noticed the Rangers kept looking back as well and soon the pace quickened. My guess is the local VC were thinking it was a trap and led us go by...not really sure, but would not do it again.

Fish for all my friends! A great dinner was had by all!!!

### Quote - Selfless Service:

**'Put the welfare of the nation, the Army and your subordinates before your own. Selfless service is larger than just one person. In serving your country, you are doing your duty loyally without thought or recognition or gain. The basic building block of selfless service is the commitment o each team member to go a little further, endure a little longer, and look a little closer to see how he or she add to the effort.'**

The Patriot's CREED  
Kris "Tanto" Paronto  
Biet Dong Quan Sat!

Mu Nau  
Bill Miller  
Unit Director



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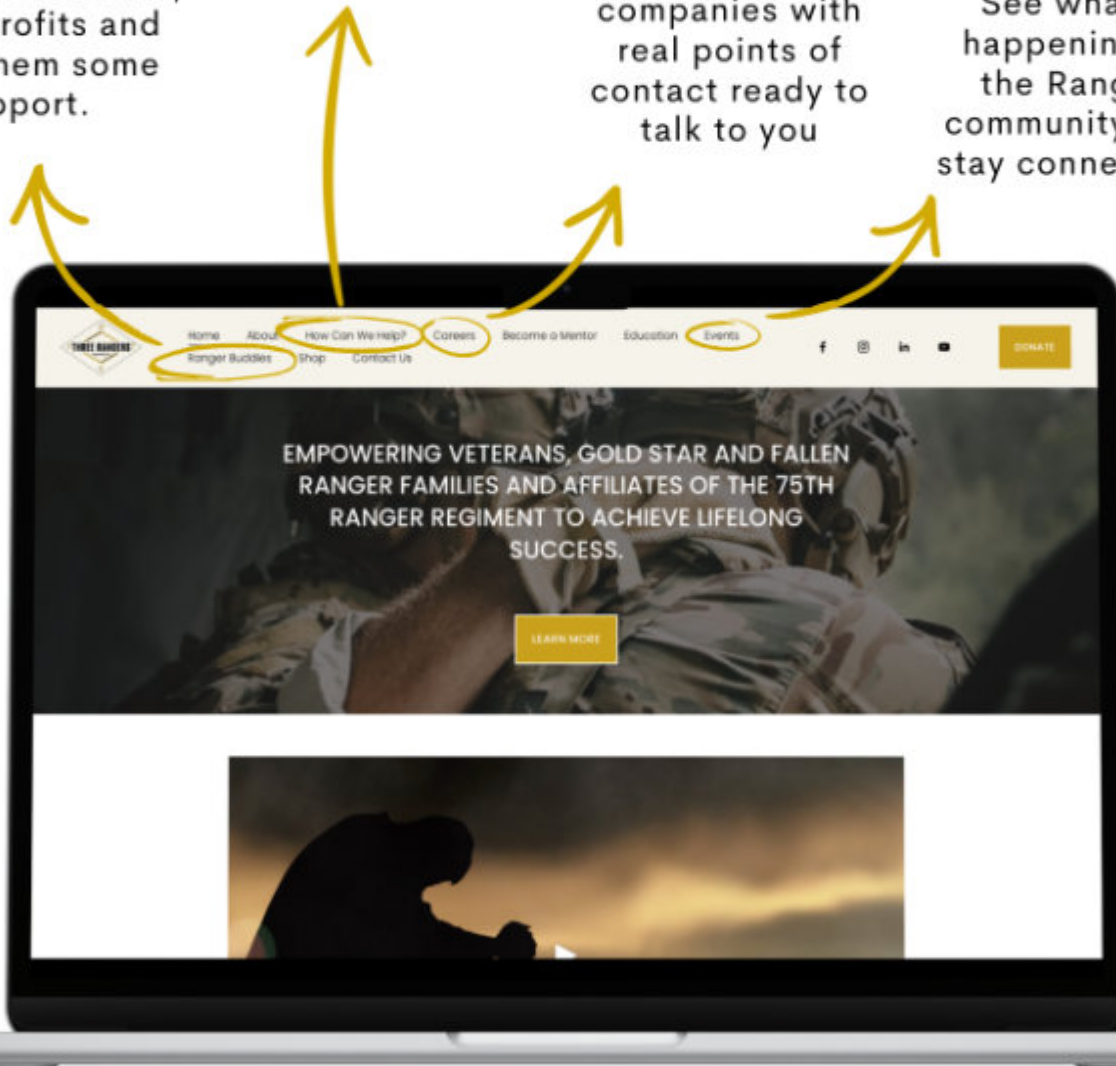


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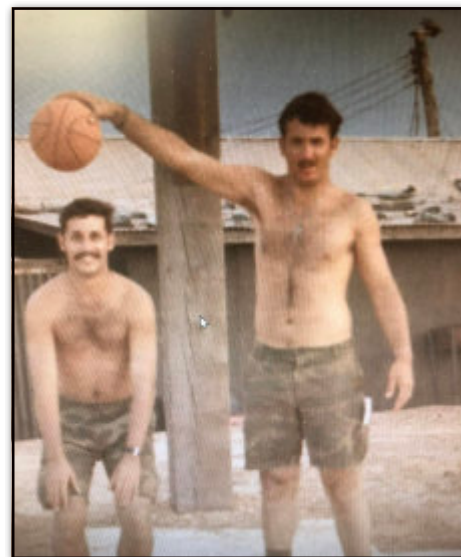
UNIT DIRECTOR - CHARLES "CHUCK" REILLY



Well, it's probably the middle of the summer of 2026 by now, even though I'm writing this in the middle of March and it's not officially spring yet. Pardon me for going off on a bit of a tangent from the usual "L" Company and "F" Company LRRP news, but the Ides of March recently passed. I immediately thought about the famous and historical assassination on that date in 44 B.C. when the newly-named dictator, Julius Caesar, was murdered by members of the Roman Senate led by his former best pal Brutus and co-conspirator Cassius. History's first recorded autopsy took place immediately following the event and it was noted that Caesar had suffered 28 stab wounds. Caesar's righthand man, Marcus Antonius (Marc Antony), gave a stirring oration during his cremation (i.e. "Friends, Romans and countrymen..."). According to William Shakespeare, Caesar's last words were "Et tu, Brute" (translation: "And you, Brutus") before the final knife plunged into him. I always wondered how Shakespeare could have known of that exact quote when writing about the event over 1600 years later. Answer: he didn't. According to Roman historians of the time, Caesar had no recorded last words. He simply pulled his bloodied cloak over his head and fell to the floor, dead on arrival. But I guess the famous quote fit in well with Shakespeare's play, in general. History records that it wasn't too long before Marc Antony and Caesar's nephew Octavius hunted down Brutus and Cassius and sent them to the hereafter. According to Shakespeare (again), Marc Antony lamented over Brutus' corpse and declared him "the noblest Roman of them all." That too was made up for dramatic effect. He probably said something like, "Good riddance, you traitor." But that would've ruined the gist of the play.

According to Dante's "Inferno" section of the "Divine Comedy," Brutus now resides in the lowest pit of hell itself

where all the worst traitors suffer eternal damnation and agonizing pain. The old Bard of Avon (Shakespeare) didn't believe that. He surmised that Brutus was trying to save Rome from a dictatorship and attempting to preserve the Republic. As author John Steinbeck would say, "it was the best laid plans of mice and men." But the republic wasn't saved after all. Antony and Octavius battled it out for the top job and the latter ended up with the grand prize after the decisive Battle of Actium in 31 B.C. It was the last great sea battle of the ancient world. Antony and his girlfriend Cleopatra were forced to commit suicide and Octavius became Rome's first official emperor renaming himself Augustus Caesar. Rome was never a republic again. The rest, as they say, is history. The last time I was in Las Vegas to spend my money recklessly, I strolled by Caesar's Palace on the strip and viewed Augustus' statue in front of the casino. I thought that was seriously misguided since Augustus viewed gambling as a severe vice and discouraged it among the citizens of Rome. It was his old uncle Julius who had "cast the die" and gambled with his life. Bottom line: it's the wrong Caesar in front of the casino. I hope you've enjoyed this little sojourn into the distant past and now for the news of the day.....



*Barr and Rothwell on court*



Our Ranger brother Randy Kirkpatrick has informed me that he has been attending a Ranger/Special Forces breakfast gathering in Orlando that has been an especially gratifying event for all involved. The address is 4301 N. Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando Florida 323804. It has now turned into a very welcomed tradition and all Rangers and Special Forces personnel in the local area (and within driving distance) are invited. For more information on this, please contact me at (424) 408-9894. I have included a photo of Randy with some of his breakfast guests for this issue.

I'm sure all of my Ranger and LRRP brothers know Dave "Muldoon" Rothwell including what he did as a Ranger in Vietnam and what he's contributed to our collective brotherhood in all the years afterward. I'll sum it up succinctly: a whole hell of a lot. During nearly my entire



# L/75-F/58 LRP - 1/101<sup>st</sup> LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - CHARLES "CHUCK" REILLY

continued



time in "L" Company, we were teammates and participated in some very eventful missions, to say the least. One of them involved a serious encounter with a superior NVA force in the A Shau Valley. Without going into any specific details, our team was lucky to escape with our lives. Simply put, the enemy never quite figured out where we were. If they had, I would not be writing this column. After over six months of missions, and specifically after the battle on Hill 809, Muldoon was given a job in the company's Tactical Operations Center (TOC) along with Steve Barr.



Dave Rothwell

It was a reward for a job well done out in the field where Muldoon had won two Silver Stars among other awards. According to everyone in the company, he did exceptionally well in the TOC and won the confidence of all, as did Mr. Barr. In the years that have passed, Muldoon has rallied the troops to attend reunions, hand out donations to former Rangers and LRRPs who may have hit some hard times and, in general, has supported his fellow comrades-in-arms in a variety of ways, and all of them productive. Our next reunion for "L" Company veterans will be in Washington D.C. sometime in April of 2027. I do not have the exact date yet, but will get that information out to everyone as soon as it is set in stone. I know that "Big Al" Parada will be involved since he lives relatively close to the D.C. area and, like Muldoon, has contributed much to our brotherhood over the years. I have included photos of Muldoon and Big Al and a few other gentlemen for this publication.



David Rothwell receiving an award

I mentioned Jim "Lobo" Bates in my last article but failed to include a photo of him. In this issue there is one of him from his days in the company area. As most of you know, he and Dave Hazelton preceded Muldoon and Steve Barr in the TOC. Other photos include a picture of Muldoon with our teammate Scott Whitmore in full camouflage. Another picture is of Muldoon and Steve Barr on the basketball court in the company area. As you can see, Muldoon has the height advantage. There is a photo of Rothwell receiving an award during our reunion in Scott, Louisiana, with members of that city's councilmen. I could not find an individual photo of Big Al Parada,



Central Florida Ranger Breakfast

but I included one where he's second from the left with a group of his fellow Rangers at a reunion. Others in the same photo are L-R Randy Kirkpatrick, Big Al, Jim Kwasniewski, and Steve Barr on the far right. Lastly, there is a recent photo of Muldoon relaxing and enjoying a drink.

Muldoon also sent me a poem written by Wes Duren, the son of former Ranger Marvin Duren who was severely wounded in April of 1971 on Hill 809. Wes has attended many reunions with his father and is always a welcomed presence at these events. His poem is titled "The Last Mission." I believe it's worth printing and here it is in a slightly abridged form due to spacing issues.



Randy, Al, Ski and Barr



### THE LAST MISSION

Deep in the heart of the A Shau Valley in northern Vietnam, A chopper  
dropped a troop of Rangers into a ticking time bomb,

It was a simple radio relay mission to take out a strategic bridge,  
A team of brave soldiers were positioned on top of a nearby ridge.  
The mountains stretched for the sky like jungle covered tombstones.

Those thickets yearned to claim flesh and consume bones,  
Onto the landing zone the Airborne Rangers boldly stormed,  
and from the Ho Chi Minh trail below, the NVA hornets swarmed.

With bullets whizzing and bombs exploding, time itself froze,  
An echo rang out loudly, "Rangers lead the way!"

Caught in the crossfire, the wounded were bound to the ground.  
Artillery shells scorched the earth and left earthen craters.

Some called this grisly incident the A Shau Meat Grinder.  
The physical and invisible scars left behind are a discreet reminder,

American soldiers know the risks and price they pay,  
Many fine young men bravely lost their lives that day.

Honor the fallen, the wounded and the mentally afflicted,  
Pray for the United States Military as they fight for us.

Pray for their success and safety. In God we trust!

Every brave soldier who fights in our wars is our protective wall.  
All of them gave some, while some of them gave all.

As we've seen on the news, this country is currently in another war, even if it consists mostly of air strikes at the present moment. Hopefully these surgical strikes will make fast work of it and not involve any "boots on the ground." I hope all my fellow Rangers and LRRPs are doing well and staying healthy and happy as time moves on for all of us. Yes, the summer months are upon us once again.

Stay cool, brothers. And as always, RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!!

Charlie Reilly

Unit Director



Are you  
*...of the Scroll?*

Scan the QR code with your  
phone's Camera to join  
The 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association





# RANGER HALL OF FAME

BY: RICK BARELA



We hope our fellow members of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association did not have too difficult a time with the weather this year, and that you have all recovered well from winter's challenges. It is also that time of year for Ranger Hall of Fame. We had eleven packets submitted this year. Three were sent back due to being incomplete packets. Our internal board reviewed the remaining eight packets, and we selected the three best packets to move forward to the Ranger Hall of Fame Board. The rangers selected by our board are as follows:

**MAJ (Ret) Doug Phillipone** of 3<sup>rd</sup> Ranger Bn and the Special Troop Battalion

**SGT Stephen Johnson** of G Co 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger

**CPT (Ret) Pete Dencker** of H Co 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger

This will be a hard selection year, much more stringent than the past. We only have ten slots for induction compared to fifteen in previous years. This was a decision made by the Ranger Hall of Fame committee to ensure only the best are selected for induction into our esteemed Hall of Fame. Additionally, it was observed that a ranger nominee may be considered for induction into the RHOF by the full board as many as five times. If a candidate has not been chosen by their fifth nomination, they can no longer be considered for future nominations.

Thank you to all units who submitted an RHOF packet; your efforts were excellent, and the selection process was very competitive. All packets were reviewed objectively and graded on the same scale. Granted the scale is set to an extremely high standard. We look for the absolute best who have served in a Ranger unit and have promoted the Ranger Ethos after their service. We look at the whole person not just their military career. Have they supported the Ranger Associations, do they live and support the ranger creed and especially do they promote our association in their communities.

On another note, Ranger Marshall Huckaby who was inducted into the RHOF in 2023 is currently in the hospital in Macon GA. He has suffered a stroke and is currently in the hospital in Macon GA. He will be undergoing Kidney dialysis. 1SG (Ret) Huckaby has been extensively involved with our 75th Ranger Regiment Association since its conception and has held multiple positions within our organization. He has served as the Unit Director of Company F, 25th ID LRRP/50th Inf /LRP/75th Rangers. He has been an instrumental member of Company F and of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. He has become a member of the US Army Mountain Ranger Association and has volunteered his culinary services multiple times for their annual "Critter Cook-Out". Let us keep him in our prayers for a speedy recovery.

Unit Directors get with your company membership and start looking at Ranger Hall of Fame packets for 2027. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me regarding this or any matters regarding the Ranger Hall of Fame. I look forward to seeing many of you at this year's Best Ranger Competition or at the Ranger Hall of Fame Induction ceremony honoring those who are inducted for 2026.

Rangers Lead the Way!!  
Richard (Rick) S. Barela  
Chairman, Ranger Hall of Fame  
75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association

**As I have done for each issue of Patrolling magazine, I am attaching the citations of two Rangers who have been inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame along with their citation from the induction ceremony. Please note I do not select only members of our association but from across the board from inception to the latest class. This is our history and our brothers who have gone before us. This is another way to honor them.**



## Master Sergeant ROY H. MATSUMOTO

Master Sergeant Roy H. Matsumoto is inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame for extraordinary courage and service with the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional) known as Merrill's Marauders. In the fall of 1942, Matsumoto and many other young Japanese Americans incarcerated in internment camps, volunteered for service in the United



*MSG Roy H. Matsumoto*

States military. His unit would trek the jungles of Burma, conducting operations behind enemy lines in the steaming jungles to sever Japanese communications and supply lines. Master Sergeant Matsumoto accomplished many dangerous missions by infiltrating Japanese lines every night to listen and snipe. During the siege at Nhpum Ga on an intelligence gathering mission, he returned one night with news of an impending attack. The Marauders met the enemy with devastating fire. When the attack failed, Matsumoto stood and yelled in Japanese for the attack to continue. The next wave met the same fate as the first. The siege was finally lifted after ten days by an attack of the remaining Marauders. The Marauders continued to march and capture the all-weather airstrip at Myitkyina where Matsumoto was in the last group of 17 men to be evacuated after the mission. He then joined the 475th Infantry "Mars Task Force" where he was attached to the Chinese Nationalist Army guerrilla forces behind enemy lines to serve as an Intelligence NCO near the French Indochina border. Master Sergeant Matsumoto's dedication and proven combat abilities in service to our nation are in keeping with the highest traditions of selfless service.

## Staff Sergeant JACK E. KUHN

Staff Sergeant Jack E. Kuhn is inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame for his extraordinary feats of courage, while serving with the 2nd platoon, Company D, 2nd Ranger Battalion at Pointe du Hoc, Normandy, France. On D-Day June 6, 1944, he was an acting Platoon Sergeant. The actual Platoon Sergeant had been transferred to acting First Sergeant just prior to D-Day. Staff Sergeant Kuhn and his platoon fought their way up the 100-foot cliffs of Pointe du Hoc through the German defenses and continued fighting out to the coast road, about one mile inland, and helped establish the D Company roadblock. He then went on a two-man reconnaissance patrol and helped his acting platoon leader First Sergeant Leonard G. Lomell find and destroy the five large mobile coastal guns that were missing from the Points. He returned to his outpost duty, setting the example for the rest of D Company. When engaged in helping repel three determined German counterattacks by a numerically superior enemy force. Staff Sergeant Kuhn refused to surrender the roadblock position until properly relieved, which occurred on D-Day plus two. The gallantry and courage displayed by Staff Sergeant Kuhn reflects great credit on his leadership, courage, and determination. Staff Sergeant Kuhn was later promoted to First Sergeant of D Company and later served in the Korean War. Staff Sergeant Kuhn actions were in the highest traditions of the United States Army Rangers and the military service.



*SSG Jack E. Kuhn*

**DANIEL  
DEFENSE**

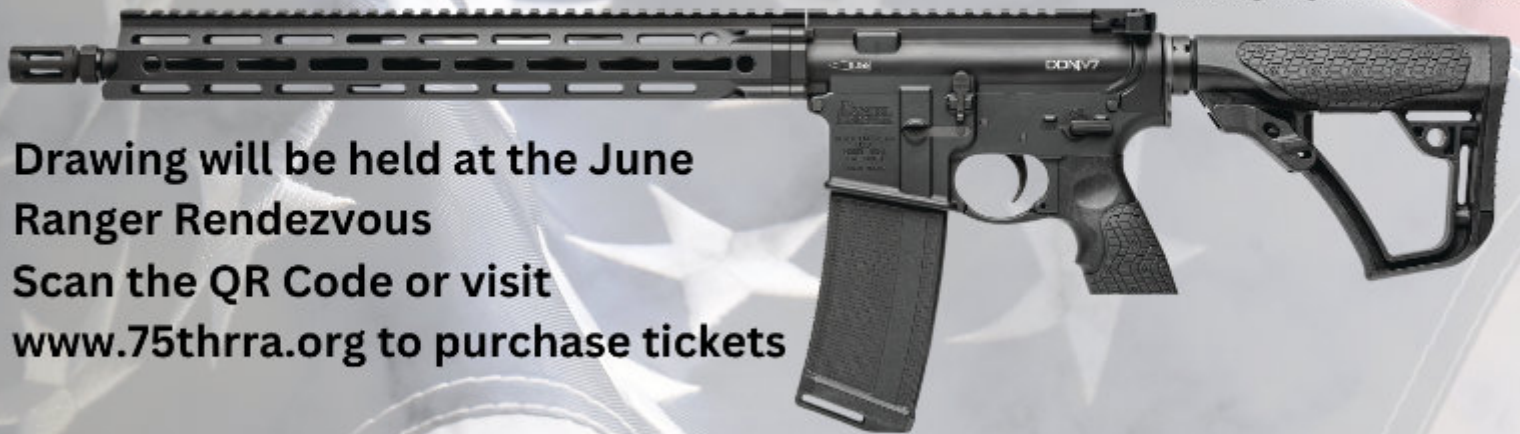
**DANIEL**

**DDM4V7**

**RAFFLE**



75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc.



Drawing will be held at the June  
Ranger Rendezvous  
Scan the QR Code or visit  
[www.75thrra.org](http://www.75thrra.org) to purchase tickets

**1 Ticket - \$20**

**6 Tickets - \$100**

**FEATURES:**

- + 15" rail with M-LOK attachment technology provides weight savings and plenty of space for accessories
- + Daniel Defense improved Flash Suppressor significantly reduces flash signature
- + 16" chrome-lined, heavy-phosphate-coated Government-profile barrel for accuracy & durability

5.56

16"

**Details:**

The DDM4 V7 AR15 style firearm features M-LOK attachment technology with the Daniel Defense MFR 15.0 rail. Built around a Cold Hammer Forged, 16 inch barrel, the V7 has a DD improved Flash Suppressor to reduce flash signature. The mid-length gas system provides smooth and reliable cycling under any condition and reduces both perceived recoil and wear on moving parts. With the M-LOK attachment points that run along 7 positions and an uninterrupted 1913 Picatinny rail on top, the V7 has plenty of room for the sights, optics, and accessories the user may require. The independently ambi GRIP-N-RIP Charging Handle accommodates left- and right-handed shooters. This rifle also comes with the ergonomic Daniel Defense Buttstock and Pistol Grip.



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75th RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

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