SIXT SOLDIER



Newsletter of
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF
THE 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE

Winter, 1992

President — Robert Sigholtz Vice-President — Edward Proffitt Secretary — Mark Ludlow Treasurer — COL Kenneth Smith

Vol. 7, No. 1

Editor - Timothy R. Stout

The 1992 Reunion Guest List Announced

Chapter VI and the Reunion Committee Chairman Benito Garcia has announced that the following guests will be in attendance at the reunion during July 2-5, in Chicago, Illinois. The Guest of Honor will be CSM Robert McCoy, Command Sergeant Major of the Fort Benning Jump School. Our other Guests of Honor include the following Medal Of Honor recipients: David Dolby and guests; Mr. & Mrs. Sammy Davis; Mr. & Mrs. Gary Wetzel; Mr. & Mrs. Allen Lynch; the presence of Mr. & Mrs. Milton Olive is tentative.

The Elite Forces Chapter would also like to add that the reunion plans are on schedule and they are anticipating a good turn out. To better accommodate all the attendees and their families, it is requested that all registration forms be sent in as early as possible. To help in paying the initial registration fee, the reunion committee is accepting partial payments until 1 June 1992, at which time all registration fees must be paid in full. The committee realizes that this past year has been a financial strain on some members, and are offering this payment system to ensure as many members as possible can make it to the reunion. For more information see the schedule of events and registration forms inside the newsletter.

Chapter VI Reunion Committee

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REMINDER:

Sky Soldiers History Book THE FINAL deadline for getting in your biographies is April 15, 1992. (See ad inside for more details.)

Coming In The Next Edition

A historical series on operations conducted by 1/503 from 1967 to 1968, as written by the BN historical officer.

Final SITREP on the 1992 reunion hosted by the Elite Chapter VI, Chicago.

From the President

STATE OF SOCIETIES ADDRESS

Thank you Herd Members for all of your efforts in elevating the well being of the Society of the 173rd Airborne Brigade to it's most successful position since it's inception. Finally we are becoming a healthy entity. It is solely through your efforts this is being achieved. The reason may be, as we are all getting older, we have developed a greater appreciation of those we were fortunate to serve with and have realized greater pride in the 173rd. This is evidenced by receiving dues from troopers who haven't paid up for as far back as 1986. We are not fat, but it is a pleasure not having to worry about paying bills when they become due. Also, I am most pleased to state that we have some troopers donating

(Continued on page 2)

From the President - From page 1

money toward our Monument Fund. Mike Ekman is working hard to get this project off the ground and progress is being made. However, we have a long way to go before we achieve our goal. Our deepest thanks for those individuals who have provided support for this worthwhile project.

Mike has some handsome 173rd ties to send to those of you who donate One Hundred Seventy Three (\$173.00) dollars, let us not get complacent because our financial condition is a little better. Please lean on those troopers who are not current in their dues. Additionally, we all must also exert our Airborne effort to perpetuate the giving to our Monument Fund.

To ensure that the Society of the 173rd Airborne Brigade continues to be successful and grows, it is extremely important that each chapter is solid and well organized. The chapters are the foundations for the Society and without this foundation, it would collapse. Some of our chapters are doing much more in providing this foundation. They can always be counted upon to accommodate a request when National is in need. The Elite Forces Chapter is one such chapter. Additionally, they are extremely involved in their local community and have received most favorable recognition for the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

I suggest that all the chapters use the Elite Forces as our prototype and I challenge all chapters to become as well or better than theirs. We have many terrific outstanding troopers in our organization. If we didn't, the Brigade could not have begun to achieve its enviable record of success in NAM.

REMINDER — We have had many editions of our Sky Soldiers publication being returned because the address isn't current. Please notify our Secretary when you move and give your new address.

Robert Sigholtz President

From the Scholarship Committee

As of the end of January 1992, the Scholarship Committee had received **fourteen** requests for scholarship applications, more than in any single year since we made the first awards in 1987. The number of applicants is reflective of three converging trends:

The popularity and success of the program.

The status of the economy.

— The age of our membership. We came back from Vietnam some 22 years ago, and more and more of our children are of College age.

Our Track Record:

The Society can be proud of its scholarship record.

- 1987: \$1,000 divided among 3 recipients.

- 1988: \$1,400 with equal amounts to 4 recipients.

— 1989: \$2,500 divided among 6 recipients.

- 1990: \$2,500 divided among 5 recipients.

 1991: \$3,000 divided among 5 recipients, with the largest award being \$1,000.

Facts:

While awardees appreciate any amount, the cost of education continues to climb. Quite frankly, the donations at the 1991 convention did not equal those of former years. It is at the convention where we conduct most of our scholarship fund raising, but we need to depart from past practices.

Bottom Line: The goal of the Scholarship Committee is to increase annual awards to keep pace with inflation and the rising costs of college. We would also like to increase the number of awards given to help more of our children. But in 1992, WE WILL BE HARD PRESSED TO MAINTAIN LAST YEAR'S LEVEL OF AWARDS WITHOUT MOREHELP! There are numerous worthy causes out there, including our monument fund. But we have a duty to both commemorate the past and prepare for the future. Time to "suck it up" and raise \$1,000.00 before the Chicago meeting. Donations from \$1.00 to \$1,000 help. Let us hear from

Ken Smith Scholarship Committee Chairman

From the Editor:

I would like to thank all the members who responded to the request for information. It was very encouraging for me to know that there are a lot of you who are eager to share a part of your experience with the rest of the members. We all served at different times during the period the 173rd was deployed in RSVN, and each related experience we read about, the more we will know about the history of the brigade . . . first hand.

It was not possible to get all the letters printed in this newsletter. However, you can rest assured that if your letter was not in this edition, it will be in the very near future. Hang in there, you were not forgotten. As is my practice, I tend to write back to anyone who sends a letter to the editor. So you may get a letter from me before your letter is printed.

If you haven't noticed in the Fall edition, the quality of the printed photographs has improved immensely. The printers are now using a new computerized photo imaging system that ensures good results for the newsletter. The most important part of this system is that they need good quality photos to begin with. They cannot make a bad photo look good. It is recommended when possible, to use a fill in flash to eliminate shadows on faces. Even when they are taken in daylight. If you sent in photos and they weren't printed, it was probably because the photo was too dark. The printers are bending over backwards to help us in this area, please keep this in mind.

The next edition of the newsletter will be out in late April. I will need all letters, information, and photographs for publication in to the editor, NO LATER THAN 31 MARCH 1992.

Thank you and AIRBORNE:

Tim Stout, Editor P.O. Box 412 River Falls, WI 54022 (715) 425-0125



Carney Promoted

Tom Carney, (H/2 Jun 66-Dec 66 and Commander of C/2 from Jan 67 to Jun 67) has been nominated by the President for his third star, promotion to Lieutenant General, and selection as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel of the Army. Tom has served as the Commander of the Recruiting Command and as Director of Programs, Analysis and Evaluation on the Army Staff. Our Congratulations, Sir, and a big AIRBORNE to one of our own!

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

After reading your last newsletter I can see that a few of our Chapters are experiencing the same problems we are, and that is getting former Herd members to join and get

involved, even if it's just coming to meetings.

When I think back to when I attended the 50th Anniversary of the Airborne Forces in Washington, D.C., I can remember how great it was to see the commitment displayed by each member of all the Airborne organizations. . . . I hope that this same commitment continues in our membership. This level of commitment is instrumental in assuring the overall success and well being of our organization.

Thomas M. Girouard Treasurer, Chapter IX 47 Blackstone Road Weymouth, MA 02191-1531

Dear Editor:

My wife and I attended the reunion at Ft. Benning in 1991, and it was just great. Walt Rosso and his chapter did

one hell of an airborne, knock down job!

It was great seeing old friends and comrades with whom I served. It was especially rewarding for me to see MG Carmen J. Cavezza, our guest speaker at the reunion dinner. MG Cavezza was my commanding Officer of Co A 2/503 Inf in 1965-66, in Bein Hoa. He was one hell of a soldiers Commander, and he gained the respect and admiration of all members of his unit. I would also like to be the first to announce that MG Cavezza was promoted to Lt. General, and is now the Commanding General of Fort Lewis, Washington. Quite an honor for him and of all the people, he honestly deserved it. He is an outstanding Officer and Commander.

While at the reunion I was able to meet three former members of my platoon. Dennis Beagley, Mike Guthrie, and Jim Ratz. What was interesting was to meet Jim's son; he is now the same age his father was in 1965. They were

outstanding troopers.

Finally, I would like to know if someone can tell me if the 173rd was awarded the Vietnamese Jump Wings. They can

write to me:

James D. Dresser 1001 Starkey Road (Lot #550) Largo, Florida 34641-3170 (813) 531-7435

(Jim, please let me know what you find out. Editor)

Dear Editor:

In response to your solicitation, here is a copy of the Annual Historical Supplement for the 1/503, during 1967. It was written by Gary Murphy, who was our (Co A 1/503)

weapons platoon leader.

On the cover of the last newsletter was Jerry Cecil. I remember him as a rifle platoon leader with (C/1/503) during the same time I served in Vietnam (June 1967 to June 68). He's a great guy and we need more people like him in Congress. Hope he wins!

I'd also like to have a mini reunion within the bigger 1.73rd get together in Chicago. For all those who served with the 1/503 during 1967, it will be our 25th reunion.

Jerry Quinn 1155 Westtown Road Westchester, PA 19382 Dear Editor:

Edward F. Murphy, 1317 E. Hale Street, Mesa, AZ 85203 (602-833-3826), working on a book on the 173d's involvement in the DAK TO area, wishes to express his sincere thanks to all those who responded to his request for help. Dozens of people responded, who not only related their own experiences, but offered tips on how to contact others. A large number sent in photographs, for which Ed is grateful. If anyone else is interested in helping Ed, please contact him at the above address. Look for his book to be published by Presidio Press in 1993. We will provide specific information in this newsletter as soon as it becomes available.

Dear Editor:

You certainly did a bang up job on the Fall 1991 newsletter! I do not know when I have seen so much information

packed into a newsletter.

I would like to know if someone could tell me which battalion was at LZ Uplift during the summer of 68. The 1/69 Armor were opcon to the Brigade, and initially worked with the 50th Mech. I would like to know if someone remembers the messhall that was built for that battalion, and when it was blown up.

Bill Sanders

6706 Hazel Lane McLean, VA 22101

(If you find out please let me know, and yes, I would like to hear your other stories. Editor)

News About Sky Soldiers

Michael J. W. Sells (C/1 68-69) is a Law Enforcement Supervisor for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Chester B. McCoid (H/Bde & H/1 63-64) initially served with Abn Battle Group 2-503 (Reinforced) from 1960 to 1963, at both Ft. Bragg and then in Okinawa. He is currently retired and is a self-employed antiques dealer living in Middletown, CT.

William E. Martinneau, formerly William McLeod (D/ Spt 64-66) is Building and Grounds Maintenance Supervisor for a large Condominium complex in Abington, MA.

Dennis Hupp (B & H/1 & H/Bde 67-68) is a Senior Organization Development Specialist for the Federal Aviation Agency and lives in Springfield, VA.

Michael K. Crowley (D/4 69) works for Pringles Potato Chips in Jackson, TN.

Darrell E. Cline (A/1 66-67) works for Pratt and Whitney as a Tool and Die Maker and lives in Smiths, AL.

John E. Shaw (C/1 63-66) would like to hear from those with whom he served. Write him at 3911 Beltsville Road #31, Beltsville, MD 20705. John is currently employed as a DOD Police Officer at Adelpha Lab.

Richard Cappotto (404 RRU 67-68) owns Nomad Res-

taurant and lives in Boardman, OR.

Noel B. Ness (3-319 68-69) is a GSA Police Officer living in Eugene, OR.

Augie Kooistra (A/3 70) is attending Seminary School and lives in Sumas, WA.

Richard P. Conti (B/2 67-68) is CSM of 2nd Battalion, 109th Infantry of the Pennsylvania National Guard.

Jeffrey R. Breitzman (C/1 68-69) is a District Manager for Hoover Company and lives in Neenah, WI.

Melvin Fernandez (H/4 69-70) works for Big E Enterprises, Inc. and lives in Spring Lake, NC.

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News About Sky Soldiers — From page 3

Juan Herrera (D/4 66-67) is a Senior Designer for Environmental Services Group of the Morrison Knudsen Corporation and lives in Pittsford, NY.

John Siemer (B/3-319 67-68) is a Software Engineer and

lives in Newington, CT.

Larry S. Weddington (H/Bde 70-71) is a Lawyer living in Bristol, TN.

John V. McGinnis (H/Bde 70-72) is a Professor at St. John Fisher College and lives in Fairport, NY.

Thomas G. Conway (3-319 69) is a Partner in J.R. Glass & Mirrors and lives in Bellmore, NY.

Lawrence J. Ashton (Caspers 63-64 & 69-71, and Cowboys - 65) is a Quality Assurance Representative for the Defense Logistics Agency and lives in Fayetteville, NC.

James Kivlin (H/Bde 68-69) is a Transmission Assembler for General Motors and lives in Garden City, MI.

John D. Chapla (A/3 69-70) is a Professional Staff Member, House Armed Services Committee and lives in Alexandria, VA.

Gerald A. Quinn (A/1 67-68) is in Marketing Communications, External Affairs, of the DuPont Company and lives in West Chester, PA.

Thomas J. Levins (C/4 67-68) is a Lieutenant in the Philadelphia Police Department and lives in Philadelphia.

Peter J. Sukaloski (B/4 & H/4 69-71) is a Corrections Officer at the State Corrections Institution in Dallas, PA.

James A. Schaffer (D/2 69) is in Marketing and Sales, of Chemical Waste Management, Inc. and lives in Pittsburgh,

Roger L. Shields (173 Eng 70-71) is a Program Manager for the Army Technical, Test and Training Agency and lives in Silver Spring, MD.

Gene W. Sanford (B/Spt 66-67) is the Owner and Operator of the Alpine Court Motel, 518 S. Atlantic Avenue,

Daytona Beach, FL

Alan C. Rosen C/3, E/3 and A/Spt 70-71) is the Fleet Manager for Avis Rent-A-Car System, Inc. in Overland,

SFC Thomas B. Murray (A/1 67) is the Senior Chemical Controller at the JRTC and lives in nearby Barling, AR.

Ray J. Dwyer (B/2 69-70) works for the USPS and lives in Lake Worth, FL.

L. Daniel Chicoine (173d Eng 65-66) is a Pilot/Captain with U.S. Air and lives in Pelham, NH.

Bill Cochran (C 2/503 64-66) is living and working in Cincinnati, Ohio. Bill is trying to locate someone who may have the first year book published about the Herd in VN. He would also like to hear from any former members of his company, especially Ken (Cleveland, Ohio) from the 3rd Plt. Bill can be contacted at: 9374 Jericho Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45231. Telephone (513) 931-7730.

Ron Grencik (C 2/503 65-66) is looking for two former members of his platoon: Thomas McKinney from Milwaukee, WI and Gary Kruger from New Berlin, WI. Ron can be reached at: 7620 West 163rd Street, Pinley Park,

Illinois 60477 (708) 532-2834.

Thomas R. Gilmore (Casper Plt 67-68) is living and working in Ontario, Wisconsin and would like to hear from other Herd members living in Wisconsin. Tom can be reached at: Rt 1, Box 200-B, Ontario, WI 54651 (608) 337-4835.

William E. Terry (A Btry 3/319 Arty 67-68) has recently written a book. "Letters From A Sinner" published by Vantage Press, Inc. New York. Bill returned to the Army in the reserves, and in 1982 he was awarded "Soldier of the Year" with 2nd Bn 11th S.F.

Ned Campbell (Co A Spt Bn 65-66) is living in Louisville, KY where he has been employed with Louisville Gas & Electric for the past 24 years, and is currently a pipeline inspector. Ned is trying to locate a buddy by the name of Jordan Richard Watts, formally from Indianapolis. He would also like to know if anyone would be interested in having a reunion at Fort Campbell. Ned can be contacted at: 2513 Paddock Court, Louisville, Kentucky 40216.

Phone: (502) 448-1265.

Joe "Mac" McNally (E Trp 17th Cav & 39th Scout Dog Plt 66-68) is currently working and living in California and may be moving to Southern Indiana in the near future. Joe wanted to let everyone know that he was proud to have served with the 39th Scout Dog platoon as the only airborne qualified dog handler. For those of you who might remember Mac, his dog's name was "Diablo" (3A53). Mac worked with the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Battalions. His second dog was named Judge. Mac can be reached at 1015 East Avenue (P5), Palmdale, CA 93550, (805) 947-9380 and would like to hear from Herd members.

Paul Rots (D 2/503, 69-70) is living in Pittsburgh, PA. He is the District Sales Manager for a material handling manufacturing company. After nine years of active duty he joined the USAR. He is a Lt. Col. and his current assignment is the Public Affairs Officer for the 99th ARCOM. He would like to contact those who served in his platoon. His address is: 5006 Julia Lane, McKees

Rocks, PA 15136.

John S. "Doc" Lesniak (Medic HHC, Co C, D, 4/503 69-70) is a Senior Buyer with Truth Div. of SPX Corp., Owatonna, Minnesota. "Doc" can be contacted at: 455 Willow Creek Drive, Owatonna, MN 55060.

Avelardo Valdez (Co 2/503 64-66) is living in Humble, Texas and would like to hear from former members of his company. He can be contacted at: 5423 Dove Forest,

Humble, TX 77346.

Charles R. Shay (E Trp 17th Cav 67-68) is a Criminal Investigator, Deputy United States Marshal, with the U.S. Department of Justice. He would like to hear from former members of his unit. Charley lives at 656 Maple Pond Court, Shore View, MN 55126.

John Brown (173rd Eng Co 65-66) would like to hear from former members of his company, especially Sgt Oscar Harwood from the demolition team. John can be contacted at: 14710 Lake Drive, Forest Lake, MN 55025

(612) 464-7711.

Jack K. Tarr (C 4/503 6/66 1st Jungle School Com mander 2/67-6/67) is now a "Headhunter" for Engineer: Placing Hi-Tech Engineers with local companies. Jacl can be contacted at: P.O. Box 3827, Reston, VA 2209((703) 742-9284.

Lewis A. Ermi (June 7 68 to Dec 30 68) would like to hea from members of the unit he served with. Due to a seriou head injury, Lou is a resident at the Tomah VA Medica Center, in Tomah WI. If anyone remembers Lou, h would appreciate it if you would drop him a line. Lou ca be contacted at: Tomah VA Medical Center, Ward 401A Tomah, WI 54660.

Harry Persinger (B Med 69-70) retired from active duty i 1988, and is now working at a hospital in Rosemon MN. Harry would like to hear from those who may have

(Continued on page

173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEP) HISTORY BOOK

ATTENTION SKY SOLDIERS:

This is your last chance to be included in YOUR HISTORY BOOK. We have extended the final deadline to April 15, 1992, so your 200 word biography and your picture can be included. Send yours TODAY!!! There is no cost to have your biography printed.

CONTENTS

- ★ History of the 173rd in Vietnam
- ★ Biographies of 173rd veterans
- ★ Personal war stories
- * Maps and charts
- * Association roster
- ★ Hundreds of rare photos



All volumes are 9 x 12 inch coffee-table size editions printed on glossy, acid-free paper for superior quality photo reproduction.

DEADLINE: APRIL 15, 1992

173rd	Qty	Price	Total			
Standard		\$48.00	11	Name to be emb	ossed (24 spaces)	
Leather		\$84.00				
(Kentucky residents add 6% sales tax)					heck 🗖 VISA 🗖	MC
Embossing - \$5.00 per b	ook	\$ 5.00		Credit Card No.		
Additional 15 cents per biography over 200 wor				Exp date		
Shipping/Handling: \$5. first book, \$2.50 for each				Name		
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☐ Send me a free military	catalog and a	biography fo	orm.	City	State	Zip
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1992 Reunion In Chicago

TO:

The members of the International Society of

the 173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate)

FROM:

173rd Reunion Committee

SUBJECT:

1992 Reunion

OBJECTIVES: (1) Inform (2) Solicit Assistance (3) Motivate

The reunion planning is on schedule; but then, it all depends on who's schedule you are looking at. As usual, their are some poeple who are dragging their feet in sending in their registration fees and forms. Of course I know times are hard! That's why I work two jobs! But I know some of you can send in your

registration fee now, don't wait. Do it now.

If you are in this category, shame, shame! Get on the stick and do it now. For those of you who do not fall into that category, please be advised that it has been decided to allow you to send in your registration with a partial payment. (It might take "the sting" out by sending in two (2) or three (3) partial payments until it is fully paid.) In doing this we hope to know well in advance of the deadline date how many people will be coming. WE MUST HOWEVER, HOLD TO OUR 1 JUNE DATE FOR ALL REGISTRATION FEES TO BE PAID IN FULL

We are looking for help from the membership in sponsoring some disabled veterans who will be attending. If anyone, or any chapter would like to sponsor a veteran, or one of our Honor guests, please send your donation to the Reunion Committee Chairman, or contact Benito Garcia at (H) (312) 486-6316 or (W) (312) 342-0242. We need all the help we can get. Thank

Guys, I suggest that you pay attention because you could miss out on part of the reunion. Specifically, the formal dinner dance on Saturday night. We only have seating for 350 people. I assure you in this case, if you are late, you will not skate!

A REMINDER TO ALL: PLEASE MAKE YOUR HOTEL

RESERVATIONS NOW!!!!!

GENERAL INFORMATION

1992 Reunion By: Benito Garcia

When:

July 2, (1300 Hrs.) 1992 to July 5, (1200 Hrs.) 1992

Where:

Blackstone Hotel

636 South Michigan Avenue Chicago, IL 60605

Hotel Phone:

(312) 427-4300

Room Rate:

\$69.00 + (14.9% Tax) \$10.28 = \$79.28

(Per room, per night, with up to four

guests per room.)

Registration Fee: \$100.00 per person (16 yrs. or older)

Committee Phone Nos.:

Benito Garcia / Chairman (312) 486-6316 Home (312) 342-0242 Office

Frank Miceli / Co-Chairman, Chapter President

Home (708) 562-5074 (708) 980-1189 Work Joe Parra / Registration Committee (708) 998-9282 Home Work (708) 547-7766

Dawn DiNardo / Ad-Hoc Chairwoman

(708) 358-1560 Home

PARKING: AIRLINE:

Pending (Arrangements not guaranteed)

American Airlines Phone: 1-800-433-1790

Package I.D. 173rd Abn. Bde. Chapter VI Group Discount "Shelly", File #026241.

REUNION OUTLINE

THURSDAY, JULY 2, 1992

1300 Hrs. - Open Registration

Open Hospitality Suite (At all times, all alcoholic and non-alcoholic refreshments and snacks in the Hospitality Suite are free and part of the reunion registration fee.)

1700 Hrs. - Close Registration

Close Hospitality Suite

1900 Hrs. - Sigholtz Scholarship and Project Uplift 50's-60's Dance & Buffet (Main Ballroom)

(Open bar beginning at 2200 hrs.)

Hot hors d'oeuvres will be served from 1900 hrs. to 2000 hrs. consisting of pollo, bistek, carnitas with Pico de Gallo, tapatio sauce, lettuce, chopped onions, tomatoes, cheese, Mexican sour cream, guacamole, mini-burritos, taquitos, chimichangas, and tortillas.)

2000 Hrs. - Dance Music - DJ (raffles, music, door prizes)

2400 Hrs. - Close Dance

Open Hospitality Suite

0100 Hrs. - Close Hospitality Suite

(or at the discretion of the Hospitality Suite Chairman)

FRIDAY, JULY 3, 1992

0900 Hrs. - Open Registration Open Hospitality Suite

PLACES TO GO / THINGS TO SEE: Taste of Chicago, Shedd Aquarium, Museum of Science & Industry, Art Institute, Chicago River Boat Tour, Sears Tower, "Magnificent Mile" Shopping, etc.

1700 Hrs. - Close Hospitality Suite

1830 Hrs. - Depart for barges on Lake Michigan

1900 Hrs. - Buffet followed by music, dancing, drinks, raffles, and time out to watch Chicago fireworks display.

2400 Hrs. - Return to hotel.

Open Hospitality Suite (until Chairman's discretion)

SATURDAY, JULY 4, 1992

0900 Hrs. - Open Registration Open Hospitality Suite

Officers Meeting 1100 Hrs. - End Registration

End Officers Meeting

1200 Hrs. - Close Hospitality Suite 1300 Hrs. - General Membership Meeting

Ladies' Activity

1500 Hrs. - End General Membership Meeting

End Ladies' Activity 1700 Hrs. - Open Hospitality Suite 1800 Hrs. - Close Hospitality Suite

1830 Hrs. - Cocktails (Open Bar) Main Ballroom

1930 Hrs. - Post Colors Dinner

2030 Hrs. - Awards & Ceremonies

2130 Hrs. - Retire Colors Begin Dance

0100 Hrs. - End Dance

Open Hospitality Suite

SUNDAY, JULY 5, 1992

0800 Hrs. - Depart for Olive Park 0830 Hrs. - Memorial Service 0930 Hrs. - Brunch at Excaliber

1130 Hrs. – End Brunch 1300 Hrs. – Close Reunion

REUNION '92 REGISTRATION FORM

Register By June 1 To Be Eligible For Free Accommodations Raffle. (3 Days / 3 Nights at Blackstone = \$237.84)

Mail To: SOCIETY OF THE 173rd AIRBORNE BRIGADE c/o Joe Parra 620 South 28th Avenue Bellwood, IL 60104

YES! I will attend the 173rd Airborne Brigade (SEP) Reunion at the Blackstone Hotel, Chicago, IL, July 2-5, 1992.

, , ,			
NAME			
STREET			
CITY, STATE & ZIP			
TELEPHONE ()			
REGISTER NO LATER TH	AN JUNE 1, 1991!!		
I will be accompanied by	persons. Please	list names:	
NAME	RELATIONSHIP	SHIRT SIZE	(Please indicate) ADULT/CHILD
-	rend Ladies' Activity		
	0.00 per person (adults and children	16 years of age and older	r).
I have reservations at the Blac (If you are not staying at the B	ckstone. Yes No Blackstone, please list the name of the	 e Hotel where you have s	
Arriving on (Date)	at (Time	.)	
Departing on (Date)	at (Time)		
of the 173rd Abn. Bde. (Sep) i	lected for REUNION '92 travel. Am is offering special rates which afford a providing all rules and conditions of	5% bonus off American's	
(1) Call Americ	can Airlines at 1-800-433-1790.		

(2) Refer to 173rd Abn. Bde. Chapter VI Discount "Shelly", File #026241.

RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR REGISTRATION FEE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. DO NOT SEND CASH.

Chapter News

Chapter I: Sigholtz Capitol Chapter, PO Box 27478, Washington, DC 20038-0478

Chapter II: Lozada Watters Chapter, 404 Tarrytown Road, Suite 564, White Plains, NY 10607

The Chapter II reunion and family day is scheduled for 6 June 1992, at the Norwood New Jersey American Legion Post, RAIN OR SHINE! Coordinator is V.P. Tom Kelly. The Emerald Society of the New York City Fire Department will provide Pipers and Drummers. The reunion will be an opportunity for all Sky Soldiers and their families to get together. Bring memorabilia, photos, etc.

Chapter III: Columbus/Ft. Benning Chapter, PO Box 1977,

Ft. Benning, GA 31905

The Columbus/Ft Benning Chapter of the Society has donated \$173.00 to the Chicago Chapter VI for the reunion in 1992. In the spirit of good fellowship, the Columbus/Ft Benning GA Chapter wanted to help finance the Reunion hospitality suite. Chapter III is challenging other Chapters to assist the elite Chicago Chapter with donations.

Chapter IV: Philadelphia – English Chapter, PO Box 345, Ft. Dix, NJ 08640

Annual Chapter elections were held in January and the new officers assumed their duties at that time. If you want the challenge, joy, and the headaches with running a veterans organization come to the meeting and stake your claim.

Chapter V: Ft. Bragg Chapter, PO Box 71313, Ft. Bragg, NC 28307

A member recommended that Brian Cullinan submit information on your Chapter activities. Is it plausible?

Chapter VI: Elite Forces Chapter, 1831 W. Algonquin Road, Suite 205, Mount Prospect, IL 60056

Benito and his committee are hard at work preparing for the 1992 reunion. The Elite Forces Chapter is encouraging you to send in your registration as early as possible, this will allow the Chapter time to attend to all your needs when you are in Chicago. We are looking forward to the reunion and your visit.

Chapter VII: Florida Chapter, Route 1, Box 69C, Hilliard, FL 32046

Steve Turpen has "assumed" the leadership of the Chapter and is eager for any help.

Chapter VIII: Hawaii Chapter, 44-130 Kou Place, #4,

Kaneohe, HI 96744 (NOTE: New Address) Chapter VIII would like to announce that the following Sky Soldiers were among the 1800 US military participants

Sky Soldiers were among the 1800 US military participants in Exercise Yama Sakura XXI held last month on the island of Hokkaido, Japan. COL Wood and CPT Blaser are on active duty with the 6th Infantry Division in Alaska, and COL Ibanez is assigned to U.S. Army, Japan. Most of the group got together for more than a few beers and told some lies that haven't been heard in over 20 years.

COL Armando Ibanez, HHC BDE 172nd MI, 1969-71 MSG David R. Johnson, D/2/503 Inf, 1967-68 MAJ Dean A. LeVay, E/2/503 Inf, 1971

CSM Arthur Mandaquit, D&E 16 Cav; C/3/503, 1966-

LTC Paul Schertel, A & HHC 3/503 Inf, 1969-70 SFC Dennis Lovell, A/1/503 Inf, 1967-69 COL Jim Wood, 4/503 Inf, 1966-67 MSG Ron Miner, C/2/503 Inf, 1967-68 CPT Charles W. Blaser, B/2/503 Inf, 1970-71

Chapter IX: New England Chapter, PO Box 411, East Hampton, MA 01027

Chapter X: Western States Chapter, 1325 Imola Avenue West, Suite 427, Napa, California 94559 (707) 252-6732

Hello from the Western States Chapter X, all is going well out here. A new group of Chapter Officers were elected and they are: President Ken Gaudet, Vice President Jim "Doc" Gore, Secretary John Hosier, and Treasurer, David Miller. We all look forward to serving our Society's needs and hopefully hosting another reunion in the near future.

Chapter X has been busy working on the PTSD ward at the Menlo Park VA hospital. This was our second year at serving a Thanksgiving Dinner to over 100 veterans. Under the excellent direction of the "head cook" Ray Vasquez, the dinner was served with all the trimmings.

Please note our new mailing address! Airborne All The Way!

Chapter XI: Australia (Down Under) Chapter, 76 Oratava

Avenue, West Pennant Hills, NSW, Australia 21625

Chapter XII: Farthest North Chapter (Alaska), PO Box 35158, Fort Wainwright, AK 99703

Chapter XIII: Southwest Chapter, PO Box 732, Lampasas, TX 76550

The Texas Chapter is still at work on coordinating functions for the 1993 "TEXAS STYLE REUNION." There will be more information forthcoming after the 92 reunion.

Chapter XIV: New address due — meanwhile send info to Sky Soldier editor, Tim Stout.

The members of Chapter XIV are sad to report that the son of CSM (Ret) and Mrs. Lawrence D. Okendo, was killed in a car accident on December 19, 1991. Paul Okendo was thirty-five. Our deepest sympathy and condolences to Mrs. Okendo and Larry.

Chapter XV: North Central Chapter, 4426 Jefferson Street

NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421

Chapter XV, The North Central Chapter held elections for 1992 officers. Officers elected were President Charley Shay; Vice President John Brown and Secretary John Staads. The election results were announced at a combined Airborne Christmas/New Year Dinner with the 82nd Abn Assoc. The Chapter is in the process of forming a committee to host the 1995 reunion in Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN. The Chapter is also planning on having a "roaming meeting". Members of the Chapter who do not live in the metropolitan area of the Twin Cities should contact Charley Shay to set up times and dates. (How about starting with a meeting in Wisconsin? Editor)

Chapter XVI: Pacific Northwest Chapter, 27610 27th

Avenue South, Federal Way, WA 98003

Chapter XVII: Western Pennsylvania Chapter, c/o Jerry Sopko, 101 Center Street Ext., Jeannette, PA 15644

News About Sky Soldiers — From page 4 served with him, he can be contacted at: 14875 Charleston Avenue, Rosemont, MN 55068 (612) 423-1102.

Arlen Johnson (F.O 3/319 70-71) is an electrical engineer working in Forest Lake, MN and would like to hear from those with whom he served with. He can be contacted at: 575 Morningside Place, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127 (612) 653-7273.

Jim Long (Co N. 75th Rangers 69-70) is a police officer for the City of St. Paul, MN. Jim has been with the police K-9 unit for the past 13 years. Jim would like to hear from former members of the 173rd Rangers. His address is: 713 Koehler Road, Vadnais Heights, MN 55137.

173d MONUMENT FUND UPDATE

COL (Ret) Mike Ekman

WINTER '92 UPDATE. The direct mail campaign to the Society members is producing results. As of 27 January, 159 Sky Soldiers have contributed \$6,126.00 to the Monument Fund. That's pretty decent progress! Our Fund, after deducting the \$1500 we needed to mount the direct mail campaign, now stands at \$14,600.

A special thank you and a tip of the hat to the following folks who have got the ball rolling with their contributions since the Holidays:

Steven Spencer COL(ret) Ed Jentz James Goodwin John Fisher Roger Krauel Michael Weaver Frank Muller William F. Johnson Dr. Frank Elliott Steve Valdez COL A. L. Wells Roy Peters Bar O'Leary Jackson E. Fields Ed Mastromonaco Walter Tanaka Kenneth E. Wilson Dimitri Brandetsas Walter Adams Joe McDonald Thomas G. Conway Bobby E. Tharp James J. Gavin Mike Riccitiello Robert P. Doyle Mike Crowley Stanley Penn Wayne D'Agostino Gilroy Yorkman Scott D. Smith Donald Holub Robert Jenson Anthony Perry Richard Gomes Gordon Roberts Leslie Fuller James Colinet Preston Foskey Risden B. Wall Dennis Schreiber Gerald Newman Gerald Nuzzo Kevin Begley Elmer L. Davis Walter F. George

Dennis McEachen C. J. Watkins Robert Lewis Dana Kwist Frank Vavrin Larry Gossett Trent Johnson Frank Boudloche COL Bob Stryjewski Fred Hodgkin Richard A. Little Loyd Cooper Fredrick Mullen Michael R. Smith Ken Onufrock Peter Moro Charles J. Du Pont Bertis Dysart Elton Vicent **Bob Perkins** William O'Sullivan Robert Hurt Mark Ludlow James Dresser Charles Fox Harold Via Charles Reep Augie Scarino Anthony DiCarlo David A. Gee Kenneth R. Rocks Galen Crist William Winkler R. R. Dudley Victor Halme Michael Schwartz Larry McCorkle Ewing Thomas Kenneth Greene Jim Sincere COL Robert Bailey John Hilmer MG Paul F. Smith MG H.S. Cunningham William Roseboro

Lee Surut Paul O'Donald BG Wesly Taylor Ken Lambertson Gregory Darling Dana Castle MG(ret) Gerald Bethke Bill Conan William Delia James Myers MG(ret) John Bames Stephen Long Nathan King Carl Davis Ray Zaccone Robert Carroll John Vassallo David Shaganaw David Brauer Larry Lttanzio George Wetzell George Richter BG(ret) J. Leszczynski Edgar Parker Allen Nestor David Cooley Mark McClintock Richard Koziana Larry Russell James R. Mailler Frank Winnberg Tom Marrinan Patrick Lagerstedt Thomas Murray Douglas Foster Francis Nelson John Ernst Tom Schroeder John E. Noble Roland Castanova John Goss Ray A. White John Gole Gary Benge Charles Kankel

Dr. Robert Price William Daniel LTC J. E. Spaulding Darrell Cline Roy T. Sparks Thom Sonnenberg Peter L. White Brian L. Coughlin Mike Matthews

Joseph W. Able Theresa Levins Larry Bernard Ira Krinsky Joe Massimino Ted G. Legones R.N. Reynolds

Crist Nelson Dauberman William C. Sanders James Bettinger Lewis A. Wood CSM(ret) Ted Arthurs Eric Wintersteen Gilpin N. Wescoat COL Arthur C. Coogler

The average donation so far has been around \$38.00 not bad given the current economic conditions. Five have given \$173, and two have contributed \$200 each, and a ton gave \$30 contributions (while we welcome any amount, I did not mean by mentioning in the flyer that "if everyone gave an average of \$30" that this ought to be our target figure....

So, once again with fervor: The Monument Fund needs YOU!!! If you haven't contributed, please do. Use the flyer or

the form, and give what you can.

And again, a hearty thanks to the 159 Sky Soldiers who have combined to contribute over \$6126 to the Monument Fund. I will continue to update you and to recognize contributors in future newsletters. let's get everyone to "hook up" on this drive. Airborne! Mike Ekman.

Memorable Experiences

SUBMITTED BY: Victor P. Halm (Bde APO 1969-70)

Victor wrote to pass on some of his most memorable experiences while serving with the Brigade. He was also quick to point out that he was a "leg" while serving with the 173rd post office. In fact, Victor is guite proud of his non airborne status and cites the following reason why.

Being a leg and at jungle school graduation, BG Cunningham mentioned me by name in front of the graduating class as a Leg and congratulated me and welcomed me

to the Brigade.'

Victor also wanted to share with other Herd members the answer to what happened at LZ English on the night of 4 July 1970. Victor started his own version of a July 4th fireworks display. He wrote: "I popped a flare, and the November Rangers popped a flare of their own. I then popped two more flares, and the Rangers responded with two of their own. Suddenly the whole LZ started popping flares and firing off tracers; the 3/319th Artillery then opened up, and then finally there was an alert called and it all came to an end." If anyone remembers that night, Victor would like to hear from you. He can be contacted at: 7908 Covington Avenue, Glen Burnie, MD 21061 (410) 787-9571.

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0	Monument Contri				
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173d Jungle School

One of the common ties for troopers who joined the "Herd" after February 1967 was the 173d Brigade Jungle School.

Brigade Commander, General John Deane, directed the start-up of a comprehensive in-country training program as the tours of the originally-deployed battalions were close to ending and casualties were thinning the ranks.

Replacements were arriving at a rate of 75-250 a week and General Deane didn't want them put in combat until they'd had thorough training. Two officers and 12 NCO's were selected from the line battalions to staff the new school. All had been in the country at least 8 months and the commandant and 2 NCO's were on their second tour.

Beginning in mid February, all new arrivals to the Brigade were required to complete Jungle School. Only field grade

officers were exempt.

The Jungle School was set up with several tents and bleachers behind the 2d Battalion area. Each Monday, 100 to 250 new troopers reported for the 5½ day course. They carried their assigned weapon, full field gear, C's and 2 full canteens. The cadre wore distinctive camouflage cowboy hats. Each class was broken down into squads and platoons with new officers and NCO's filling all leadership positions. An experienced Jungle School officer or NCO was a "TAC" for each unit.

The first 4 days consisted of practical "hands on" training in key combat skills so graduates would be able to "hit the ground running" when they joined their unit in the field. Training included: map and compass reading, formations, day and night patrols, ambushes, counterambush, defense, communications, etc. The new troopers were familiarized with LAWS, M-60s, M-79 and Claymores. They zeroed their weapons, went thru a "quick reaction" course and a boobytrap lane. They learned about VC tactics and civic action.

They wore full gear all day. Moving between training areas was done "on the double." By the time of the 18-hour combat operation on Friday and Saturday, each trooper was comfortable with his gear and was well on the way to being

acclimated to the humid conditions.

Culmination of the training was a carefully-planned combat operation in the jungle surrounding the sprawling Bien Hoa Air Base. The day portion was a sweep of several kilometers, with defensive positions and ambushes set up at night.

The platoons moved separately thru the jungle calling in check points. Late in the afternoon, they linked up at the designated company base camp and secured a company perimeter. Choppers were called in to bring in hot chow and water.

At dusk, clearing patrols swept the perimeter and ambushes slipped out. The next morning, clearing patrols again checked the perimeter and the ambush patrols returned. After foxholes were filled, the platoons returned to base camp to clean gear and be debriefed.

At least twice, the new troopers got into firefights with VC outside the airbase. The first time, a cadremen, SFC Rodriguiz, was seriously wounded. The next week, the cadre devised an elaborate string of ambushes using several "drop off" ambushes on known VC movement routes. That night, 2 of the ambushes were tripped and 3 VC were killed with no US casualties.

By early June almost 40% of the Brigade had rotated to the States. Several thousand new troopers who completed Jungle School fit right into their units in the field. Those who set up and served in the Jungle School prevented many casualties to 173d troopers.

Jack K. Tarr

HUMOR FROM THE FIELD

This is dedicated to the members of the 39th Scout Dog Platoon and especially to Joe "Mac" McNally, 39th Scout Dog Plt and E Trp 17th Cav 1966 to 1968, and his dog Diablo (serial number 3A53).

"GETTING ONE UP ON A LEG"

In mid 1966 my squad of Brigade MP's was attached to the 4th Bn for what was then called "cross fertilization" training with the infantry. [To this day, I still believe it was for not writing enough DR's.] Anyway, while on an operation in the field somewhere, the company we were attached to had a scout dog working with the point elements. After four or five hours of marching through thick undergrowth the company was called to a halt.

At the time of the halt I was up front with the scout dog handler passing the time talking about dogs. A platoon sergeant came up to the handler and started to get on his case because the dog had not detected any signs of activity in the area. (Even though it was quite evident to us humans that someone or something had been living in that part of the jungle.) The rough old platoon sergeant was ripping into the handler, a young kid like the rest of us, and not however "airborne qualified"; he was petrified by what he was hearing from the sergeant.

Sarge placed his hands on his hips and then leaned forward at the waist to make sure the handler heard every word and to let him know what he thought about his "leg attitude" and his "leg dog". The dog, (which had apparently heard enough insults for one day) casually got up and with his tired paws dragging waddled over to where his family bloodline was being questioned. Standing close to the sergeant and his body shaking, he lifted his rear leg and commenced to pee down the back of the Sergeants' leg.

The dog then stood there wagging his tail as it looked up to the Sarge with a "gotcha!" grin on its snout and a gleam in its eye as if to say: "legs are good for something!" Everyone who witnessed the event burst into laughter, the Sarge was good enough to laugh with the rest of us and it brought a sense of relief to that long day.

Editor

Scout Dogs

One of the saddest parts of the Vietnam War is the fate of the loyal scout dog who serves the brigade. Unlike the paratroopers he has no DEROS. He is here until death relieves him of his duties.

"Buddha" has risked his life daily for four years. In that

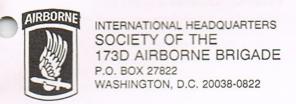


Taking a break from boobytraps.

time, he has gone through eight handlers and has been wounded five times. Buddha has been through the fire fights of the old search and destroy days and has detected many bodytraps during pacification that would probably have killed an unwary trooper.

Buddha is luckier than other dogs. Many of the dogs in the 39th Scout

(Continued on back)



Date

Amount

Date

APPLICATION FORM

Society of the 173d Airborne Brigade Annual Dues: \$20.00 Life Membership: \$173.00

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NEW PRODUCTS

SILVER ANNIVERSARY PRESTIGE WINE PROJECT

The Society of the 173rd Airborne Brigade makes no guarantees, nor does it accept any responsibility for any and all business transactions with advertisers in this newsletter (Editor).

Society members are responding with interest to the Fall 1991 SKY SOLDIER announcement, offering award winning wines bearing our label, the Brigade "Silver Anniversary", and multi-color logo (see pg. 12).

While planning with our California winery moves forward, we can report that one additional state (Florida) is added to our list of states permitting direct-to-your-address shipping; we expect even more states to cooperate.

This celebrated project, by Chapter I (Sigholtz), will add a \$5.00-per-case donation to the 173d Airborne Brigade Scholarship Fund.

We plan to offer minimum order case lots (12 bottles) of Red, White and Rose at about \$150, \$95, \$85, respectively. The actual label design will be displayed for you, in a subsequent issue of SKY SOLDIER.

What You Can Do, Now: First, send no money. Second, to be helpful, mail a postcard or letter — with your home address, to reflect your interest [e.g. 1) which wines wanted 2) No. of cases)]. This will help us to plan, and to better negotiate lowest (volume) prices.

Mail your response to: Jim Mailler, 3611 S. Wakefield Street, Arlington, VA 22206 (703) 671-8056.

Scout Dogs — From page 10

Dog Platoon and 75th Combat Tracker Team have died in combat or from disease. But, in the long run, Buddha's fate will be just about the same.

This is unfortunate, because the large dog has allowed eight handlers to go home alive and saved countless others because of his skill and alertness in the jungles, mountains and plains.

He has made his mark on the enemy too. Since 1966 he has "personally" killed five communists.

Buddha won't get any medals. The only thing going for him now is the gratitude of those few men in the brigade who know him.

ALL THE UNSUNG HEROES

The Society of the 173rd Airborne Brigade makes no guarantees, nor does it accept any responsibility for any and all business transactions with advertisers in this newsletter (Editor).

All the Unsung Heroes is the story of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, a heartfelt tribute to all who served in Vietnam, and a special salute to those who gave their lives or remain missing in action. Of special interest to our membership is the video's inclusion of Milton Olive, Jr., a member of the 173rd Airborne Brigade who received the Congressional Medal of Honor for heroism in Vietnam.

PBS Television chose All The Unsung Heroes to lead off its nationwide prime time programming this past Memorial Day, the most important one in decades. TV GUIDE magazine rated it one of the five best documentaries on television during the entire month of May.

The Chicago Sun-Times gave it 3-1/2 stars. The Washington Post called it "emotionally clutching with captivating camera work and a haunting soundtrack." And both GEN H. Norman Schwarzkopf and BG George Price had high praises for the program.

173rd Brigade members can order their own personal copy of this outstanding video, by sending \$14.95 (plus \$3.50 shipping and handling) to Unsung Heroes, 8328 Chapel Lake Court, Annandale, Virginia 22003. Portions of the proceeds from the sales of the tape will be donated to the Society of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Memorial Fund, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, and Friends of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

"HOOK UP"

We are trying to locate any sky troopers who served with the 75th INF Combat Tracker Team detached to the 173RD from 1968 thru 1969. We were a small unit housed with the Scout Dog handlers. Any information would be greatly appreciated. Please contact:

David Herbert, 28 West Oakwood Drive, Carlisle, PA 17013. Phone (717) 258-0773; or

Klaus Peterson, 90 Maraga Drive, Belen, NM 87002. Phone (505) 864-0772.



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