



July-August 2017, Issue 74
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See all issues to date at 503rd Heritage Battalion website:
http://corregidor.org/VN2-503/newsletter/issue_index.htm

~ 2/503d Photo of the Month ~
The Youngin's Take to the Air Continuing the Legacy ATW



July 28, 2011: U.S. Paratroopers of Battle Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173d Airborne Brigade Combat Team, U.S. Army Europe, jump into exercise Rapid Trident with soldiers from Ukraine, the U.K., Moldova, Poland and Canada.

(Photo Credit: Spc. Michael Sword, 173d ABCT Public Affairs)





We Dedicate this Issue of Our Newsletter in Memory and Honor of the Men of the 173d Airborne Brigade & Attached Units We Lost 50 Years Ago in the Months of July & August 1967



*"Although no sculptured marble should rise to their memory, nor engraved stone bear record of their deeds,
yet will their remembrance be as lasting as the land they honored."*

Daniel Webster

Donald Raymond Aylett
T/CPL, 7RAR, 8/6/67

Lindsay David Baldoni, 21
SP4, 39th Scout Dog Plt., 8/22/67
"SP4 Lindsay D. Baldoni, a '64 Graduate of St. Mary's Redford was drafted in 1966, U.S. Army. Trained in Fort Knox, KY, Fort Benning, GA & Fort Polk, LA and then was deployed to Vietnam, 1967. He was a dog handler. Was in Vietnam one month to the day when he was shot and killed by a sniper. It was the day after his 21st birthday." **Lindsay Baldoni**



Edward Barden, 19
CPL, C/4/503, 7/25/67
"I'm proud of our Vietnam Veterans. Corporal Edward Barden, served with Company C, 4th Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Infantry Brigade." **Dennis Wriston**



Karl William Baudistel
Capt, AATTV (RAINF), 8/13/67

Myron Stanley Beach, Jr., 29
SFC, A/4/503, 7/10/67
"Myron and I served together with the 5th Special Forces on an 'A' team in Tan Phu 1963-64. He taught me as the kid on the team, the finesse of pinochle and cigars. He was a true born leader and loved the Airborne. He left SF because he always wanted to be a squad leader in combat. He achieved it with the 173rd Airborne Brigade. He left a wife and two children. Butch and I had a great time together on our first tour and I will never forget him. My children presented me a few years back with the 'Veteran at the Wall' drawing dedicated to Myron. It hangs proudly in the entranceway of my home. He is also remembered with a plaque at my VFW hall in Calabash, NC. God rest my cigar chomping buddy." **Ray Ketcham**



~ A Note from The Virtual Wall ~

*"The 4/503rd was rapidly deployed to the Central Highlands after **The Battle of the Slopes**. On 10 July, 1967, moving up Hill 830, A Company came under intense fire from an entrenched Viet Cong main force battalion. On 12 July, after taking the hill, D Company discovered a single network consisting of 60 bunkers with supporting foxholes. In short order, two more bunker complexes were discovered.*

The fighting on 10 July cost 25 American lives; eleven of the dead were from A Company, 4/503rd."



John C. Borowski, 20
PFC, A/4/503, 7/10/67

"We remember, Buddy. We won't forget you nor your heroism under fire, John. Where do we get men like you? I suppose that only God has that answer." **Craig Deegan**



***"I do not fear an army of lions,
if they are led by a lamb.
I do fear an army of sheep, if they
are led by a lion"***

-- Alexander the Great

[See John's Distinguished Service Cross citation on Page 12.]

John David Briggs
SGT, RAE, 7/3/67

Edward Francis Brophy
PTE, 7RAR, 8/6/67



(continued....)





Kenneth Lloyd Brown, 23
SGT, A/4/503, 7/10/67
 (Virtual Wall states B/3/319th)

Citation

By direction of the President, The
 Bronze Star Medal is presented to
SERGEANT E-5



KENNETH L. BROWN

UNITED STATES ARMY

"For distinguishing himself by outstanding meritorious service in connection with ground operation against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 7 April 1966 to July 1967. Through his untiring efforts and professional ability, he consistently obtained outstanding results. He was quick to grasp the implications of new problems with which he was faced as a result of the ever changing situation inherent in a counterinsurgency operation and to find ways and means to solve those problems. The energetic application of his extensive knowledge has materially contributed to the efforts of the United States mission to the Republic of Vietnam to assist that country in ridding itself of the communist threat to its freedom. His initiative, zeal, sound judgment and devotion to duty have been in the highest tradition of the United States Army and reflect great credit on him and the military service."

Clifford Garland Burch, 19
PFC, A/2/503, 7/9/67

"Miss you Cliffy. From your cousin Carolyn." **Carolyn Mayr**



Roger William Clark, 20
SP4, A/4/503, 7/10/67

"Roger, our life together was cut very short but not my memories. Like you said, 'our love will never die.' I still think of you each day and all the plans you had. With love and always a smile just for you as promised, Bev. From his wife," **Beverly Clark Wheelock**



"Dedication of the Pittsfield (VT) Roger William Clark Memorial Library Set", local newspaper.



Gene Francis Colvin, 20
SGT, B/1/503, 7/1/67

"My brother to the person that I love dearly and miss greatly to the greatest person who took care of me I will always love and miss you." **Unsigned**



David Paul Crozier, 23
SGT, A/4/503, 7/10/67
 (Virtual Wall states B/4/503)

"We Remember. David is buried at Arlington National Cemetery."
Robert Sage



Timothy Joseph Cutliffe
PTE, 2RAR, 8/25/67

Jimmy Earl Darby, 18
PFC, B/4/503, 7/10/67

"About my brave brother Jimmy Darby: My brother was in the 173d Airborne Brigade. He entered the Army as a very young and brave soldier March 06, 1967 and died July 10, 1967. He was very special and everyone who knew him loved him. He came from a small town called Opp, Alabama. Jimmy was my brother, my father was killed in 1965 and Jimmy became the man of the house and did an excellent job. All his friends called him by his nickname 'Fish' because he loved to swim.



He is my hero, and my sister and I love and miss him so much. I hope one day I will be able to find other soldiers who served with him in Vietnam. I named my son after Jimmy and I hope and pray he will be an honest and brave man just like his uncle Jimmy Darby. Jimmy will never be forgotten, and all the soldiers who fought for our freedom will also be remembered.

I will love and miss you forever, my dear brother. Your brother Earl and sister Glenda. We love you and miss you. From his brother," **Earl McCormick**



(continued....)



Gerald Edward Davis, 19
PFC, D/4/503, 7/15/67

"Mr. Gerry Davis...a hero from our town. Gerry Davis was a friend of mine in Bethlehem PA. Although he was older than me I always respected and admired him. He was one hell of a football player in high school. If the war didn't take him he would have went pro. Gerry Davis was taken by 'friendly fire'. This was the first time I ever heard that term used. At first the Army would not admit to that, they had a story about an ambush or something and said Gerry was a hero. Well, Gerry was a hero! Gerry still is a hero to me, that's how it will stay. Rest in peace Soldier...and thanks." **Gilbert Johnson**



William Joseph Deuerling, 23
SGT, A/4/503, 7/10/67

"Sky Soldier Honored. As a fellow paratrooper who served in the 173rd 'Herd' Brigade in Viet Nam, I join with all our brothers in offering our respect and gratitude for your sacrifice. May you rest in peace and never be forgotten." **Mike Switzer**

Denis John Donnelly
T/CPL, 104 Sig Sqn

Larry Allen Doring, 21
SP4, A/4/503, 7/10/67
(Virtual Wall states B/4/503)

"Photo was taken from the historic book 'THE FACES BEHIND THE NAMES – The Vietnam War' with the permission of author Don Ward. Thank you Mr. Ward. You were one of the brave that answered the call. You honored us by your service and sacrifice. We now honor you each time we stand and sing the words 'THE LAND OF THE FREE AND THE HOME OF THE BRAVE'. Rest in peace and honor Larry."

Bob Ahles, Vietnam Vet



Arthur Albert Erwin, 19
SP4, A/4/503, 7/10/67

"I know these young men well (Jordan, Beach, Crozier, Erwin) because I was one of them. We were a rowdy family who cared for each other. I thank the Lord for the opportunity to know each one of them personally. It was 40 years ago today. Some memories are fading now but I still remember." **David Alligood, 1Lt, A/4/503**



James Fabrizio, 21
PFC, B/4/503, 7/10/67

"Thank you to everyone expressing gratitude to Jamie - a very special member of our family. If the students that chose Jamie for their project would like to share their work, the family would love it!" **Kara Russell**



A young Jamie Fabrizio

Ronald B. Hamblin, 21
PFC, B/4/503, 7/20/67

(Virtual Wall states B/1/503)

"A Good Soldier & Proud Dad. Ron was in the B Company headquarters command group of the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry (Airborne). His tragic death was especially heartbreaking because he had found out just a few days earlier that his wife had given birth, and he was ecstatic to be a father. His exuberance was infectious. The rest of us were excited at his happy news. Ron was a good buddy, a fine soldier, and a loving father. What a tragic loss to all of us." **Dennis Hupp**



Barleif Alfred Harstad
PTE, 7RAR, 8/6/67

James Francis Hayes
CPL, 7RAR, 8/6/67

(continued....)





Charles James Holland, 28
SFC, E-Troop, 17th Cav, 8/18/67

"An American Hero. I served with SFC Holland in the 173rd Airborne Brigade's Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) Platoon prior to his death. I joined the platoon in June of 1967 as it was conducting extremely dangerous missions in the Dak To area of the Central Highlands. I was a 'new guy', but SFC Holland was extremely approachable and answered all the questions I had concerning the current operations. SFC Holland was very knowledgeable and professional, and could easily have been on an Army recruitment poster for airborne rangers. He was a respected Team Leader and well liked in the platoon. Although I did not run a mission with him for the two months prior to his death, I knew from other platoon members that he conducted his missions with courage and aggressiveness. The Dak To area of Vietnam had thick jungle covered 3,000 foot mountains with steep ravines and few clearings for choppers to land. This area was located where the borders of Cambodia, Laos and South Vietnam all come together, and it provided the trail networks for North Vietnamese troops to infiltrate into Vietnam. The area was extremely active in the summer of 1967, and our missions were conducted to find these NVA units that were operating in these mountains. On the day SFC Holland was K.I.A., (August 18, 1967) I had just returned from a mission, and SFC Holland's team and other teams were still out. Word went around quickly that SFC Holland's team was in extreme trouble with no radio contact. Eventually that day the team was located and extracted by chopper, but SFC Holland was M.I.A. The team had been hit hard by a large NVA force which immediately pursued them through the difficult terrain. SFC Holland went back to the surveillance site to retrieve the team's radio. This action allowed the rest of the team to escape and be extracted without serious injuries. The following day, team members accompanied a reinforced infantry line company back to the site and located and returned SFC Holland's remains. He had fought valiantly to the end. At the time, it was believed that SFC Holland was going to be put in for an award of the Medal of Honor for his actions on that day. I learned years later that he received the nation's second highest award for valor, the Distinguish Service Cross. He was a true American hero and everyone should read his medal citation. General James Gavin of the famed 82nd Airborne Division during WWII once stated 'show me a man who will jump out of an airplane and I will show you a man who will fight. SFC Charles J. Holland showed them."

Irvin W. Moran, 173d LRRP, 1967-68

[See Charles' DSC citation on Page 51]



SFC Holland with his LRRP Team members.

Frazier Daniel Huggins, 19
CPL, B/4/503, 7/10/67

"Frazier, although we never met, I just want you to know you are not forgotten. You gave the ultimate sacrifice, your life for what you believed in. Sleep well my friend, and thank you for protecting the freedoms we have today." **Dave Kruger, 196th LIB, '66-'67**



David Harold Johnson, 18
PFC, C/4/503, 7/10/67

(Virtual Wall states A/4/503)

"David gave his life while fighting in the Battle of Hill 830, Operation Greeley. He was with A Company, 4th Battalion, 503 Inf. 173 Airborne. David was only 3 days from his 19th birthday. David grew up in the Trumann, Poinsett County, Arkansas area and attended school in Central. He wanted so much to join the Army that he completed his junior and senior year together so his mother would let him join the army at 17. His dream was to become a Paratrooper and he lived that dream for a short time. Thank you David, you will never be forgotten by the citizens of Poinsett County."

Barbara Adams



(continued....)



Ronald Russell Jones, 20

PFC, D/4/503, 7/15/67

"REMEMBERED by his comrades in arms from VVA Chapter 421."

"I'm proud of our Vietnam Veterans, Private First Class Ronald Russell Jones, served with Company D, 4th Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade." **Dennis Wriston**



David Geoffrey Milford

PTE, 7RAR, 8/6/67

Harry Julius Moser, IV, 18

SGT, E-Troop, 17th Cav, 8/14/67

"Even though we have never met, you are a part of my life and the love I have shared with your sister Marie. Rest in peace Harry and know that your Mom and sister are well loved and taken care of." **Charles**



John Martin O'Connor

PTE, 7RAR, 8/6/67

Oris Lamar Poole, 19

SP4, A/4/503, 7/10/67

"Miss you every day, think of you every day."
Unsigned

Arthur Clifton Retzlaff, 24

1LT, B/4/503, 7/10/67

(Virtual Wall states B/3/319)

"Boyhood friend. 'Skip' Retzlaff was three years older than I and, as such, he was a role model...focused, straight-arrow, sincere, a solid young man. He was, in the truest sense, a flower of American youth." I know his family and friends from Westfield remember him fondly and proudly."

Charles Miller



Daniel Walter Jordan, 24

1LT, A/4/503, 7/10/67

"When you get to heaven, Saint Peter is going to say, 'How did you earn your living, how did you earn your way?' Gone and missed." **From his son**

[See Dan's DSC citation on Page 52]



Szoltan Sigmond Klein, 19

PFC, C/1/503, 7/9/67

"Childhood friend you are missed. I moved next door to the Klein's in 1959 on 5th Ave. Sonny and I became good friends that summer. Our family moved a year later. We kept in contact over the years until 1967. I was still in Army training when I received the news of his passing. What I didn't realize, we were both at Fort Benning, GA weeks before he left for Nam. A good friend who is still missed." **Terry Wilson**



Siegfried Kofler, 29

SGT, HHC/4/503, 7/10/67

"We Remember. Siegfried is buried at Arlington National Cemetery."

Robert Sage



Peter Shaun McGarry

PTE, 2RAR, 8/1/67

Michael Sidney Mitchell, 20

PFC, B/3/319, 7/10/67

"Kept my word. Mike, It broke our hearts when you were lost to us. Nancy and Marsha remained good friends for many years. Nancy's husband was lost over there too in 1968. I looked in on Marsha over the years and she did well. It was my sister Nancy who helped her cope through those first few months of grief. Oh how I hate war and why is it they always take the best? Take care my friend and rest in peace. What a party we will all have when we all meet next!" **Judy Diaz**



Joel Michael "Doc" Sabel, 23

CPL, B/4/503, 7/10/67

"Joel Sabel was part of the Class of 1961 from Bishop Amat High School in La Puente, California. Joel transferred to Baldwin Park High School his senior year. Joel arrived in-country on 21 April 1967; and was killed at Dak To, South Vietnam, on 10 July 1967. Joel was the 1st of 5 Lancer alumni killed in the Vietnam War. The other KIA's were Joseph Albertini, David Lalich, John Thielen and Stanley Tunall. As a 1970 alumni."

Joseph Montoya

[See Joel's DSC citation on Page 12]



(continued....)



Walter A. Samans, Jr., 21

SP4, A/4/503, 7/10/67

"If anyone reads this please contact me. My cousin Andy Samans was among those from Company "A", 4/503rd Infantry, who died at Hill 830.

I wanted to know if anyone has pictures ...maybe of the group of the guys in Andy's unit? Andy's mom (my aunt) is still alive at age 93 and I know she'd like to hear stories you might have of Andy from men who were with him. From his first cousin"

Barb Samans tourist51@aol.com

(Posted 23 Nov 2007)



Anthony Peter Siggers

T/WO2, AATTV (RAINF)

Bobby Horace Sorrells, 31

SSG, B/1/503, 7/20/67

(Virtual Wall states A/4/503)

"This is to my Dad. It's Memorial Weekend and I found this site. I'm not sure what I want to say, except that I am proud of you. We lost Granny (your Mother) one year ago this month.

Granny sure was proud of everything her Bobby did. Your two sons very much missed you and so did your two daughters. We are all grown up now and have pretty much stayed strong and proud all our lives. Mom and our Step Dad did a great job with five kids (one half sister). You have 5 grandchildren, plus one adopted a year ago. We also have 3 other grandchildren from our half sister. I couldn't imagine life without them or her. Well, we are all doing as well as life could be without you in our lives. I love you and will miss you all the time left in the world. Love from your youngest daughter, Rose. From his daughter,"

Rose Doyle



Donald Michael Sower, 20

PFC, A/2/503, 8/2/67

(Virtual Wall states HHC/2/503)

"Thank you PFC Sower for your courage in dangerous times, in a far and dangerous place."

A grateful Vietnam Vet



Donald Spence Wride

SPR, 1st Fld Sqn, 7/10/67

Australian Army Engineers

The Sappers have provided a significant range of support to both combat operations and peacetime engineer work. 1 Field Squadron, Royal Australian Engineers (1 FD SQN RAE) has a remarkable history of contributing to combat operations and peacetime engineering work commencing with the Boer War of 1899-1902.



William Alexander Scott, 38

SFC, HHC/4/503, 7/10/67

(Virtual Wall states B/4/503)

"You are not forgotten. You taught me, and a lot others how to stay alive. Thank you."

H.J. Peters



Wesley Robert "Bobby" Sexton, 21

PFC, A/2/503, 7/9/67

"Bobby and I grew up living across the street from each other. Bobby was like a brother to me. When the time came Bobby went into the Army and I into the Air Force. Bobby understood the price of freedom and was willing to put his life on the line so all could experience the freedom which we all enjoy. Bobby will always be remembered by those of us who knew him as one of the most talented and likable individuals one could ever know. I know that he and his father had a glorious reunion, when his father went home. We miss him greatly and may GOD bless the USA. From a friend,"

Alan J. DeWitt



Franklin Steve Shepherd, 20

SP4, A/4/503, 7/10/67

"We Remember. Frank is buried at Fishing Creek Arbor Baptist Church Cemetery, North Wilkesboro, NC. PH"

Robert Sage



Malton Gene Shores, 19

PFC, A/4/503, 7/10/67

(Virtual Wall states B/4/503)

We Remember. Malton is buried at Union Grove Cemetery in Clarksville, AR. PH"

Robert Sage

(continued....)



Harry Diwain Spier, 19**PFC, B/4/503, 7/10/67**

"Yo Harry. Harry was my first cousin and was like a big brother to me. It broke my heart when we lost him. Neither Harry or I had any brothers and we spent a great deal of our childhood days fishing, hunting and just hanging out together. I miss him dearly and will meet up with him at Fiddler's Green." Jim Spier

**Valor Awards Earned By Our KIA**

We've listed valor awards here in connection with our KIA as reflected in source records. It is highly likely awards are not shown for many of our fallen troopers, but had been earned by them. Also, it's probable many of the Bronze Star awards shown were for Valor, although available records do not reflect the "V" device. Ed

**The Year Unfolds January 1967****By Steve Welsh****C/2/503**

Stepping off the Plane
 The pungent smell fills your nostrils as you try holding
 down the gag in earnest
 The smoke in the distance of burning shit drifts in the
 air
 Into trucks we file seeing the country jungle and saying
 a prayer
 Finally arriving at the Long Binh compound
 Looking around we see a helicopter flying Eastbound
 Stowing our gear in a tent with plenty of cots
 It smells like something died as it continues to rot
 Lunch and we walk into what looks like a casino with
 food
 Losing money in the slots I decide to eat
 My turn to burn the crap
 All this way and now I'm trapped
 The next day is the same
 Thought I came to fight not watch and feed the barrels
 flame
 Word comes down for every new guy to meet in the
 middle of the compound
 The heat is astounding as my head begins to pound
 Sixty of us stand there as we are sent to our units
 Now, the journey begins and only time will tell
 The word is my unit survival rate is 22 days
 Wow, I said quietly staring off in the distance with a
 gaze,
 I'm here for this tour for as long as it lasts
 Base Camp of Company C, 2nd Battalion of the
 173d Airborne

Our good buddy, Steve, on
 left, with his good buddy
 Jack Croxdale, C/2/503. See
 Page 23 for farewell to our
 Brother, Steve.

**Ralph McGuin Stacey, Jr., 19****PFC, B/1/503, 7/20/67**

"Oh yea Ralph, great all around guy. We went to DeAnza High school together, him, Linda Stacy, Vickey and I would double date, we had a formal and then went and saw Dionne Warwick in SF. Got 2 tattoos with him on some drunken weekend. And then he was gone forever." Norvin Gandolph

**Jesus M. Torres, 19****SGT, B/4/503, 7/10/67**

"Affectionately known as Jay (my Cousin) who was my Guardian at my confirmation. I was so proud to walk hand in hand with my cousin. The photo was taken while we were preparing to go to my confirmation in the Spring/Summer of 1967. He was extremely bright, religious and a true mentor! We were all filled with extreme grief when we were notified that he had been taken that summer. He would of had so much to contribute to society but I am also glad that through his faith he rests with the Lord! Love ya always your cousin Dennis!"

Dennis Torres**Walter Douglas Williams, 33****MAJ, HHC/4/503, 7/10/67**

"MAJ Walter Douglas Williams was an alumnus of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY. He was one of 335 men from West Point who died or are MIA in Southeast Asia/Indochina during the period October, 1957 – September, 1972. 'Well done; Be thou at peace.'" KR

**Richard Mervyn Woolford****L/CPL, 2RAR, 8/1/67****Sources:**

173d Abn Bde Society List of KIA
 The Virtual Wall website, The Wall of Faces website
 Australian & New Zealand Lists of KIA websites



Commander In Chief's Memorial Day Address at Arlington National Cemetery



President Donald Trump participates in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery on Memorial Day, May 29, 2017 in Arlington, Virginia. (Olivier Douliery web photo)

Thank you so much. And thank you, General Dunford and Secretary Mattis, for your moving words and for your service to our great nation. Vice President Pence, Cabinet Secretaries, members of Congress, members of the Armed Forces and veterans -- thank you for joining us as we honor the brave warriors who gave their lives for ours, spending their last moments on this Earth in defense of this country and of its people.

Words cannot measure the depth of their devotion, the purity of their love, or the totality of their courage. We only hope that every day we can prove worthy not only of their sacrifice and service but of the sacrifice made by the families and loved ones they left behind. Special, special people.

I especially want to extend our gratitude to Secretary John Kelly for joining us today. Incredible man. I always like to call him General. He understands more than most ever could or ever will the wounds and burdens of war. Not only did Secretary proudly serve in the military for more than 40 years, enduring many hardships, but he and his incredible wife Karen have borne the single most difficult hardship of them all -- the loss of their son, Robert, in service to our country. Robert died fighting the enemies of all civilizations in Afghanistan.

To John, Karen, Heather, Kate, Andrea and the entire Kelly family, today 300 million American hearts are joined together with yours. We grieve with you. We honor you. And we pledge to you that we will always remember Robert and what he did for all of us. Thank you, John.

The Kelly family represents military families across the country who carry the burden of freedom on their shoulders. Secretary Kelly is joined today by his son-in-law, Jake, a Wounded Warrior. And the Secretary's son, Johnnie, will soon leave on his fifth deployment. It is because of families like yours that all of our families can live in safety and live in peace.

To every Gold Star family who honors us with your presence, you lost sons and daughters, husbands and wives, mothers and fathers. They each had their own names, their own stories, their own beautiful dreams. But they were all angels sent to us by God, and they all share one title in common -- and that is the title of hero. Real heroes. Though they were here only a brief time before God called them home, their legacy will endure forever.

General Douglas MacArthur once said that "the soldier who is called upon to offer and to give his life for his country is the noblest development of mankind." Here at this hallowed shrine, we honor the noblest among us -- the men and women who paid the ultimate price for victory and for freedom. We pay tribute to those brave souls who raced into gunfire, roared into battle, and ran into hell to face down evil. They made their sacrifice not for fame, or for money, or even for glory -- but for country.

We are privileged to be joined today by a man whose life demonstrates the values of service and sacrifice: Senator Bob Dole, here with his wife, Senator Elizabeth Dole. Senator Dole fought bravely in World War II, and was severely wounded by German fire. In just a few weeks, Bob will be celebrating his 94th birthday. And, Bob, I know I speak for millions of grateful Americans when I say thank you. Thank you, Bob. We thank you not only for your service, but for helping us to remember your fallen comrades and the countless American patriots who gave their lives in the Second World War.

Since the first volley of gunfire in the Revolution, brave Americans in every generation have answered the call of duty and won victory for freedom in its hour of need. Today, a new generation of American patriots are fighting to win the battle against terrorism -- risking their lives to protect our citizens from an enemy that uses the murder of innocents to wage war on humanity itself.

We are joined today by the wife of Specialist Christopher Horton, who rests on these so beautiful grounds. As Jane tells us, Chris "*was a man who loved his country with every part of his being.*" In 2008, Chris enlisted in the Oklahoma Army National Guard. He trained as a sniper, becoming known as one of the best shots anywhere at any time. He was a talented, tough guy. While Chris was in the National Guard, he was also a volunteer police officer. In everything he did, he was thinking about how he could serve God, serve his family and serve his country.

(continued....)



In 2011, he deployed for the first time to Afghanistan. Chris knew his job was one of the most dangerous there was, but he was determined to go after the enemy at any cost to himself. His missions helped target and kill terrorists who sought to destroy innocent people. Just three months into his first deployment, Chris was near the Pakistan border, trying to eliminate an enemy cell that was doing so much damage and that was planting deadly roadside bombs against his unit and the units of many others. Standing watch with his comrades, he died in the ensuing gun battle with enemy forces. Chris sacrificed his life to protect his fellow soldiers -- and to protect all Americans. He was awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star for his courage. At only 26 years old, Chris secured his place in our hearts for eternity.

Jane, America, grieves with you. Our whole entire nation sends you our support, our strength, and our deep, deep love. You lost your husband, and America lost a hero. And together, we will preserve his memory -- today, tomorrow, and always. Thank you, Jane. Thank you, Jane. Thank you, Jane. Thank you, Jane.

We are also joined today by David and Rose Byers, the parents of Major Andrew Byers. As a boy, Andrew dreamed of the chance to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point. He worked hard, he earned that chance, and he graduated at the top of his class. He became the commander of a Special HALO team, leading his fellow soldiers out of aircraft, hurtling into dangerous and unknown territory.

About this time last year, Andrew was sent on his third combat deployment. This time he went to Afghanistan. On November 3rd, he was one of 10 Special Forces operators to land by helicopter near a Taliban safe haven in northern Afghanistan. They trekked through a mile of waist-deep mud and climbed a steep cliff before finally reaching the village that they wanted to reach. There, a night-long battle ensued. Andrew and his team fought off wave after wave after wave of enemy fighters. A grenade detonated, and as the Taliban began to surround the American and Afghan forces, Andrew ran through the smoke and through the hail of bullets to rescue an Afghan soldier. In the midst of this torrent of gunfire and danger, Andrew worked heroically to open a gateway and get his men to safety -- risking his life to save theirs. And he did it. Unbelievably, he did. But in saving those lives, Andrew was killed right then and there by enemy fire. Andrew has since been awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in battle. To his parents, David and Rose, we stand in awe of your son and his courageous sacrifice. On behalf of the American people, I express to you our everlasting gratitude for what your son did for his country, for his comrades, and for all of us.

Andrew's father has said that he holds on to the promise of Joshua Chapter 1, Verse 9: *"The Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."* Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. What a man he was.

To every Gold Star family, God is with you, and your loved ones are with Him. They died in wars so that we could live in peace. I believe that God has a special place in heaven for those who laid down their lives so that others may live free from fear and this horrible oppression.

Now let us pledge to make the most of that freedom that they so gallantly and brilliantly fought for and they died to protect. Let us also pledge to tell the stories of Robert, Chris, Andrew, and all of America's fallen warriors today and for the next 1,000 years. And while we cannot know the extent of your pain, what we do know is that our gratitude to them and to you is boundless and undying. Boundless and undying. We'll always be there. Thank you.

Their stories are now woven into the soul of our nation, into the Stars and Stripes on our flag, and into the beating hearts of our great, great people.

Today we also hold a special vigil for heroes whose story we cannot tell because their names are known to God alone -- the unknown soldiers. We do not know where they came from, who they left behind, or what they hoped to be. But we do know what they did. They fought and they died in a great and noble act of loyalty and love to their families and to our country.

The letter written that is now famous -- one Civil War soldier captured it all and for all time. He wrote to his wife, *"If I do not return, my dear Sarah, never forget how much I love you, nor that when my last breath escapes me on the battlefield, it will whisper your name."* That is the love we hear whispering throughout this sacred place and from every tombstone on these hallowed grounds. It is the love that binds this earth beneath us and it bleeds from the hearts of all of those who died so that we might live free.

We can never replace them. We can never repay them. But we can always remember. And today, that is what we are doing -- we remember. Words cannot wipe away the tears or bring back those smiling faces. But if Americans just take the time to look into your eyes and tell you how much we thank you and how dearly we pray for you and how truly we love you, then hopefully you can find solace through your pain. And every time you see the sun rise over this blessed land please know your brave sons and daughters pushed away the night and delivered for us all that great and glorious dawn.

Thank you. God bless you. God bless our fallen heroes. God bless their families. God bless our military. And God bless the United States of America.



Senior Enlisted Advisor visits Soldiers in Vicenza

By Mr. Aaron P Talley (IMCOM) May 5, 2017



Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Command Sgt. Maj. John Wayne Troxell speaks to Soldiers at the Caserma Ederle Post Theater during his May 1 visit to Vicenza. Troxell spoke about threats to the United States and the role that troops in Europe will play in combating those threats.

(Photo Credit: Mr. Aaron P Talley (IMCOM))

VICENZA, Italy -- The Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff visited with Soldiers here May 1. Command Sgt. Maj. John Wayne Troxell serves as the principal military advisor to the Chairman and the Secretary of Defense.

During his visit, he toured Caserma Ederle and the housing area at Villaggio before speaking to a group of Soldiers at the post theater. Topics included threats to the United States and the role that troops in Europe will play in combating those threats.

"I wanted them to understand the operational environment, globally, that we operate in, and some of the challenges that we have, not only from nation states, but from violent extremists and non-state actors, so that they understand why the operational tempo we have is high and why it will probably continue to be high," Troxell said.

After having lunch with enlisted service members, Troxell took the short trip over to Caserma Del Din to see the home of the 173rd Airborne Brigade. He received a tour of the base and met with sergeants major and first sergeants of the brigade.

Troxell spoke to brigade senior NCOs about the importance of empowering junior NCOs. He said the strong noncommissioned officer is something other nations have a hard time understanding, but also one that gives the United States a distinct advantage.

"Troops at all levels need to understand the importance of what they're doing," he told the group. Because, he said, when a unit has empowered their junior leaders to make important decisions, it can have large strategic implications by making the U.S. military more agile and responsive.

As he saw many facilities on Del Din and Ederle and learned about support for families, the senior leader said it is crucial to have a strong garrison team, and the role of the garrison is the key to success for a deployed service member.

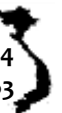
"Everything they do for families is vitally important. Because as we're asking these service members to maintain this high operational tempo, and potential (deploy) for three, six, nine months to go to places like Lithuania or somewhere else, it is vitally important that we're taking care of the families back here."

"The Soldiers can keep his or her mind on the mission they have to do and know that their family members are going to be taken care of. The more we can take care of their families here, the better off those forces will be during that deployment."

The SEAC finished his Vicenza visit by meeting with leadership of U.S. Army Africa.

Source:

www.army.mil/article/187302/senior_enlisted_advisor_visits_soldiers_in_vicenza



HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM
APO San Francisco 96375, 14 September 1967
GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 4665

AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS TO



SABEL, JOEL MICHAEL

Specialist Fourth Class, U.S. Army
Headquarters & Headquarters Company
4th Battalion (Airborne)
503d Infantry Regiment
173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate)

Date of Action: July 10, 1967

Home Town: West Covina, California

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Joel Michael Sabel, Specialist Fourth Class, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Battalion (Airborne), 503d Infantry, 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate). Specialist Four Sabel distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 10 July 1967 while serving as a medic of an Airborne infantry company on a combat mission deep in hostile territory. When his company came under heavy automatic weapons and mortar fire from a well-entrenched enemy force, Specialist Sabel repeatedly ignored his own safety to move among his wounded comrades to treat them. Seriously wounded himself, he refused medical aid and instructed others in treating the injured while he bandaged his own wounds. He continued to expose himself to the withering hostile fire while rendering constant aid to others despite his own injuries. With mortar and automatic weapons falling around him, he never stopped to consider his own welfare. He was mortally wounded while bravely caring for the needs of his comrades in the face of grave danger. Specialist Four Sabel's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty, at the cost of his life, were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS TO



BOROWSKI, JOHN C.

RA168380xxx

Private First Class, E-3

United States Army

Company A, 4th Battalion, 503rd Infantry,
173rd Airborne Brigade

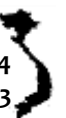
1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced posthumously:

Awarded: Distinguished Service Cross

Date Action: 10 July 1967

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam: Private First Class Borowski distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 10 July 1967 while serving as platoon machine gunner during a large scale search and destroy mission near Dak To. As Private Borowski's platoon investigated a recently traveled trail, it received intense fire from a well-entrenched Viet Cong battalion. Firing rifles, automatic weapons and mortars from concealed bunkers, the insurgents were able to inflict numerous casualties on the friendly force. Private Borowski disregarded his own safety in this storm of fire and maneuvered to within 20 meters of the enemy's right flank machine gun position. When his own machine gun was damaged by an insurgent's fire, he continued to engage the hostile gunners using only his pistol. He received a shrapnel wound but never eased his force of attack. Later, despite enemy fire sweeping the area, Private Borowski crawled to a nearby friendly position. He refused medical treatment, grabbed a rifle and grenade launcher, and once again advanced on the Viet Cong. He was mortally wounded while firing with devastating effect into the enemy's bunkers. Private First Class Borowski's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty, at the cost of his life, were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



A FEW WWII EUROPEAN THEATRE PARATROOPER PICS



"A paratrooper from the American 17th Airborne Division gets a light from a Churchill tank crewman of 6th Guards Armoured Brigade near Dorsten in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany, 29th of March 1945."

(Source - No 5 Army Film & Photographic Unit - Â© IWM BU 2738. Photographer - Sgt. Midgley. Colorized by Paul Reynolds. Historic Military Photo Colourisations).



5 June 1944



All American's suiting up.



"Troops of the 17th U.S. Airborne Division, First Allied Airborne Army, march past a blazing building in Appelhalsen, Germany, as they advance toward the city of Munster, nine miles to the northeast. First Allied Airborne Army troops had landed east of the Rhine river on March 24th 1945." (Colorized by Doug)



The Screaming Eagles



We Commemorate, We Do Not Celebrate



The landing at Gallipoli. *"Many Anzac forces were sent into battle along the ridges of the area."* (web photo)

Dear Australian media, it's time for an education. Just some things that current and former members of the Australian and New Zealand Defence Force would like to point out prior to ANZAC Day on Tuesday, 25 April:

1. We *commemorate* ANZAC Day, not celebrate it. It's not a bloody party.

2. Tuesday 25 April 2017 marks the 102nd anniversary of the landing of ANZAC Soldiers, Sailors, Medical personnel and animals on Gallipoli.

3. Sailors rowed Soldiers ashore during the Gallipoli landings, under heavy fire, without outboards motors. The little boats they used are called 'lighters'.

4. It's a bugle, not a trumpet, and the Last Post is sounded, not played. It's not a bloody dance tune.

5. Not every serviceman/woman was a 'soldier'. Some were Sailors, Airmen and Nursing Sisters. Please take the time to ascertain what Service they served in, and use the correct terminology. It means a lot to them/us!!!

6. No I am not wearing my father's medals, they are mine. I earned them during Active Service while you were enjoying all the comforts that I was dreaming of.

7. They're medals, not badges. They're citations, not pins.

8. Please don't try to draw comparisons between civilians and war veterans, I've never seen a civilian perform acts of heroism whilst under fire to protect their fellow service personnel, flag and Country.



Gallipoli (web photo) *"Seldom have we seen civilians perform such duties in their daily work."* Ed

(continued....)



9. Medals, ribbons and Unit Citations are *EARNED*, not *WON*. It's not a bloody chook raffle. They are awarded to the recipient, not given to them.

10. The RED POPPY symbolises peace, death and sleep of the fallen servicemen/women. While the PURPLE Poppy represents remembrance of the animal victims of war. Learn the difference. Traditionally, Rosemary is worn on ANZAC Day; however, the Poppy has become popular through the generations and is widely worn on both ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day Services.



"Anzac dead in captured Turkish trenches in Gallipoli."

11. 'Lest We Forget' isn't a throwaway line, it actually has meaning: it's an expression of remembrance, par excellence. It has dignified origins, a rich history.



"Meanwhile, in Gallipoli."

12. Yes, I am allowed to wear my 'Return From Active Service' Badge on any day of the year that I choose to wear it.

13. Australian and New Zealand soldiers didn't retreat from Gallipoli, they withdrew.

14. It doesn't matter which side you wear your Poppy on, as long as it's worn with pride.



15. Medal recipients wear their medals on the left side of their chest covering their heart, family members/descendants wear the medals on the right.

16. The 'Ode' comes from the poem *"For the Fallen"*, which was written by Laurence Binyon. The verse, which is commonly known as *'The Ode Of Remembrance'*, is as follows:

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning We will remember them."

Lest We Forget

Here endeth the lesson.



Credit: Shaun Buckney

[Sent in by Jack "Darky" Panossian, C/1RAR]
(web photos & images added)



Casper aviation platoon

Casper Platoon Story

Casper Tries Harder

Reprinted from: *Fire Base 173*
August 2, 1971

LZ ENGLISH - *"As long as there is a chance, we'll go in and get 'em – we can put our ships just about anywhere,"* said Captain Frederick L. Kuhn, Casper Aviation Platoon Commanding Officer.

"Where there is a will, there is a way," and Casper and Casper helicopter pilots usually have the will to find the way when it comes to rescuing the "Herd" out of tight spots.

During the heavy monsoon rains of last October, Casper pilots were rescuing the Sky Soldiers from rooftops, rafts, tops of vehicles, mountain peaks and even trees. Despite lack of visibility and poor communication, the Casper crews never hesitated to pull members of the "Herd" out of trouble.

"Hot LZ's' are no novelty to Casper pilots either. If we can get some gun cover," said Kuhn, *"we won't hesitate to go down and get someone. All we need is enough room to land the craft and maneuver."*

Primarily, missions carried out by Casper in support of the 173d include CAs (Combat Assaults), log missions (re-supply), troop movements (insertions and extractions), Charley-Charleys (Command and Control) and visual reconnaissance.

The only separate aviation platoon in the Army, Casper was organized with the Brigade on Okinawa in 1963 and arrived in Vietnam in May 1965. Since that time, it has flown almost every type of heliborne mission – including resupply, dust-off and "snoopy."

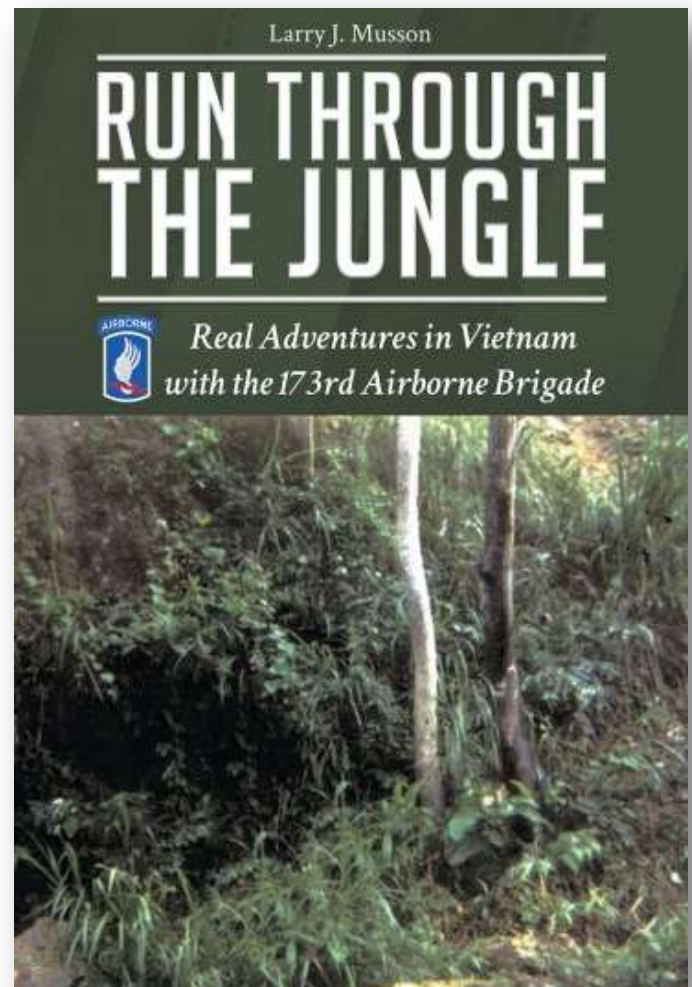


A Sky Soldier's Book...

Run Through the Jungle: Real Adventures in Vietnam with the 173rd Airborne Brigade

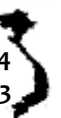
By Larry J. Musson

"An authentic account of combat with an airborne company in the waterlogged rice paddies and demanding jungles of South Vietnam. Share the experiences of fighting men under punishing conditions, extreme temperatures and intense monsoon rains as they search for the enemy in the rugged mountains and teeming lowlands. Relive all the terror, humor, and sadness of one man's tour of duty with real life action in spectacular stunning detail."



Source:

<https://books.litfirepublishing.com/product/run-through-the-jungle-real-adventures-in-vietnam-with-the-173rd-airborne-brigade/>



Some things are simply worthy of reprinting. This is one of those things. Ed

Those We Left Behind

It all began back in 1965 in Vietnam, when I met a fellow soldier at our "A" Company boozier, the Yackananda Pub. We enjoyed our drink sessions together over the times and struck up a strong friendship. Sadly, this friendship was shattered when Peter Gillson, along with my Section Commander Tiny Parker, were killed during action on Operation "Hump" in November 1965 at "Hill 82".

Due to overwhelming odds, we had to pull out of the area in the late afternoon. Unfortunately, we had to leave the bodies of Tiny Parker and Peter Gillson behind. I, along with many others, have carried this Nightmare with us for many years.

At the presentation of 1RAR's Meritorious Unit Commendation parade and reunion in 1991, at Townsville, I was fortunate to meet Peter Gillson's son, Robert. Robert was born in July 1965, and sadly never knew his father. During this time in Townsville the "A" Coy boys made Robert feel very welcome. Several of us tried to explain to him how and what had happened at "Hill 82", plus how we all felt about leaving his Dad and Tiny behind in Vietnam. Over the following years I lost contact with Robert as lots of things were occurring in our lives that took us in all directions.

In 1997, Ken Baker and I went back to Vietnam with aim of getting as close as possible to where we left Peter and Tiny behind. Due to circumstances beyond our control, we were only able to get within 1,000 meters of the position. Despite this, we were able to release our emotions and feelings, by leaving a token reminder within the vicinity.

The years have passed very quickly and I still had no idea as to the whereabouts of Peter's son, Robert. Then out of the blue, this year on Anzac Day, the Sunday Sun Herald ran an article about the six servicemen that Australia had left behind in Vietnam. In this article was

a picture of Robert Gillson, stating that he lived in Melbourne. This immediately set me to finding him once again. I first got in touch with his Uncle Robert (Peter's brother), who lives in Longwood in Central Victoria as stated in the newspaper. My next phone call was to Robert. It was great to be able to talk to him again.

We arranged to get together in the city, where we caught up on each other's wanderings. I then invited Robert to the Chapter 27 meeting on the following Sunday at Duckboard House, where he was welcome with open arms and subsequently offered membership, which he gladly accepted. Robert has been given GOLD membership with Chapter 27, being a son of a fallen soldier.

Somehow through sheer Luck or Destiny, the circle has been completed again.

Welcome to our Brotherhood Robert.

Written by Colin Butterworth

Note: This report first appeared in *Sky Soldier Newsletter*, Winter 2004/2005 edition, Vol. XIX No. 4.



Diggers of the 1RAR arrive Vietnam throughout March and June 1965.

(web photo)



THE BATTLE OF DAK-TO

Steadfast and Loyal

By Robert Quinn

"The Battle of Dak-To – Steadfast and Loyal, will take the reader to the front line of one of the most pivotal battles of the Vietnam War. Told from author and soldier Robert Quinn's perspective, The Battle of Dak-To pulls no punches in conveying the story of a battle that was fought not only in the jungles of Vietnam but also in the hearts and minds of American civilians at home. The author's first-hand accounts of the bravery, skill and resilience of his fellow soldiers are colorfully and honestly woven into the book's gripping narrative."

The author, Robert (Bob) Quinn, enlisted in the United States Army at age sixteen and was trained as an Army Sailor serving on military ships in Korea and the Atlantic Coast of the United States.

He attended Infantry Officer Candidate School and graduated from Desiderio Barracks, Fort Benning, Georgia commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant (USAR). After graduating Magna Cum Laude from St. Benedicts College, Atchison, Kansas he received a commission as a Regular Army Officer. His Career included service as a Rifle and Mortar Platoon Leader, Company and Battalion Commander in the 2nd Armored and 24th Infantry Divisions. He graduated from the Infantry Career Course, Fort Benning, Georgia, the Special Forces Officers' Course, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, the Army Language School, Monterey, California, the Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Virginia and The Foreign Area Officers Staff College, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

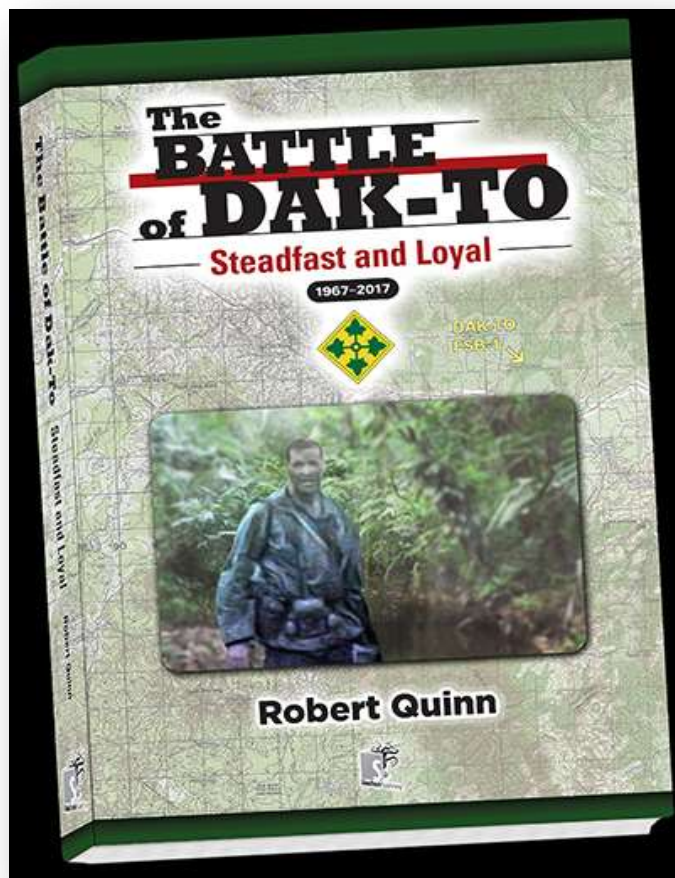
He served in Korea, Japan, Okinawa, Formosa, Philippines, Thailand, Singapore and Malaya.



His service included three tours in Vietnam. He served on a Special Forces "A" Team in MACSOG in 1964. In 1967 he joined the Fourth Infantry Division serving as Assistant Operations Officer in the 1st Brigade, Operations Officer in the 1st Battalion 8th Infantry and G-3 for Task Force Spoiler in Ban-Me Thout. He returned to Vietnam in 1971 serving as a member of MACV Advisory Team 36 in Pleiku Province.

His service included tours as a Green Beret in the 1st and 5th Special Forces Group. He served as the Chief of Supporting Weapons Test Branch at the United States Army Infantry Board, Fort Benning, Georgia where he supervised testing of the "Dragon" Anti-Tank Missile System. He finished his Military Career as the Chief of Training for the United States Army Infantry Center, Fort Benning, Georgia, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel.

He resides in Brunswick County, North Carolina. He previously published, *Rock and Roll Cablesip, A Sea Soldier Remembers* in 2011 and *Giving the Infantry a Green Glow* in 2015.



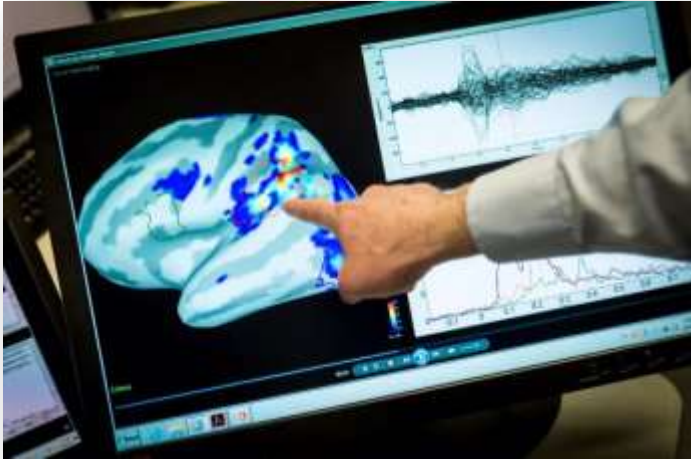
[Source: <http://vietnamveterannews.com/>]

Note: While inclusion of book notices is usually reserved for troopers of the 173d and sister units only, given the topic we thought a number of our guys might have interest in his book. Details found on the web address above. Ed



Service experts discuss progress in recognizing, treating PTSD and TBI

By Cheryl Pellerin, *DoD News*, Defense Media Activity
May 2, 2017



Magnetoencephalography laboratory scientist Mihai Popescu points out areas of magnetic activity in a brain on a display at the National Intrepid Center of Excellence at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., March 16, 2017. (Photo Credit: J.M. Eddins Jr., USAF)

WASHINGTON -- Heads of military centers and programs targeting post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury in service members and their families reported progress Friday in the timely recognition and treatment of these and related health conditions.

Testifying before the House Armed Services Committee's military personnel subcommittee on Defense Department clinical research and program assessment for PTSD and TBI were Navy Capt. (Dr.) Mike Colston, director of the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury, and Air Force Col. (Dr.) Steven Pflanz, deputy director of psychological health for the Air Force.

Joining them on the panel were Army Lt. Col. (Dr.) Chris Ivany, chief of behavioral health in the Army Office of the Surgeon General, and Navy Capt. (Dr.) Thomas Johnson, site director for the Navy Intrepid Spirit Concussion Recovery Center at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

EMPHASIS ON PREVENTION

Colston began the testimony by noting that last year about a quarter of service members were seen for PTSD, TBI or a mental health condition. *"We made PTSD and TBI leadership issues with an emphasis on prevention,"* he said, describing recent progress.

PTSD incidents decreased from 17,000 to 14,000 from 2012 to 2015, and TBI incidents decreased from 31,000 to 23,000 over the period, he said. The center expanded access to care by tripling its mental health infrastructure since 2001, and a recent Rand study found that DOD outperforms civilian health systems in outpatient follow-up after psychiatric inpatient care for PTSD or depression, Colston told the panel.

"One of our largest tasks is better understanding why PTSD and TBI often present with depression, chronic pain, substance use disorders and suicide risk," he said, noting that longitudinal research efforts such as a 15-year study on TBI aid understanding and provide a framework for creating effective rehabilitation and support programs.

"We've evaluated over 150 mental health, TBI, substance use and suicide-prevention programs over the past five years, [and] this program evaluation has been invaluable," Colston said.

"Publication of this five-year study will be completed later this fiscal year and will help us ... [ensure] our funding is tied to programs that work, such as the U.S. Army's embedded behavioral health program and its associated health data portal," he added.

In 2015, there were more 52,000 overdose deaths in America. Opiate overdose deaths went up to 10.4 per 100,000 in 2015. The DOD rate was 2.7 for 100,000, about one-fourth of that. This was accomplished because leaders were focused on service members' well-being and a focused outcome-based effort on prevention -- primary prevention, selective prevention and indicative prevention, drug testing, provider training, pharmacy protections and medication therapies, Colston told the panel.

"We hope to generalize some of the successes we've seen in PTSD and TBI incidents and opioid overdose deaths in other areas such as suicide prevention and alcohol use disorders," he said.

ESSENTIAL TO READINESS

In his remarks to the panel, Ivany said health care is essential to readiness, which is the Army's first priority. No area has faced as many challenges, made as many changes and achieved as many advances as Army behavioral health care, he told the House members.

"Early in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Army realized that the size and the organization of our behavioral health force was insufficient to meet the needs of our beneficiaries," Ivany said. Officials greatly increased resources and expanded the number of clinical programs, he added.

(continued....)



Senior Army medical leaders also made a pivotal decision to centralize the oversight and direction of all clinical programs and built a small team of professionals in the surgeon general's office to do so, he said. The team analyzed the effectiveness of clinical programs, identified best practices and replicated them across the force.

From this process came embedded behavioral health, which has reduced barriers to care for soldiers in combat units, and improved access and readiness.

"Today, over 450 providers in 62 embedded behavioral health teams support every operational unit in the Army," Ivany said, noting that soldiers receive care earlier and need less hospitalization to receive treatment.

Other innovations such as school behavioral health were drawn from the civilian sector. The Army embraced this approach and placed providers in schools on Army posts all over the world.

In TBI care, in partnership with DOD and other services, the Army has implemented a clear set of clinical standards and delivers them in interdisciplinary clinics across the force, Ivany said.

EXTENSIVE SCREENING

In his remarks, Pflanz said all Air Force mental health providers receive training in one or more of the several evidence-based therapies for PTSD, and all airmen can be confident that they will receive state-of-the-art treatment when they enter an Air Force mental health clinic.

Fortunately, Pflanz added, PTSD and TBI rates remain low among airmen.

"Even so," he said, "we're excited about the successful translation of research into clinical practice, including requiring evidence-based therapies for PTSD, event-driven protocols for recognizing TBI, and the use of progressive return activity in the management of concussion."

Other developments that help identify and manage these conditions include integrating behavioral health care into primary care clinics, embedding mental health professionals into operational units within highly stressed career fields, and comprehensive screening for PTSD and TBI following deployments and throughout an airmen's career, he said.

On the horizon, Pflanz added, the Invisible Wounds Clinic being established at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, in 2018 will powerfully enhance PTSD and TBI treatments and will function as a referral center and a projection of treatment and expertise Air Force-wide.



A traumatic brain injury patient walks through a virtual reality scenario at the Computer Assisted Rehabilitation Environment Laboratory at National Intrepid Center of Excellence at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., March 20, 2017. The patient is attached to a safety harness and walks on a treadmill on a platform that moves and rotates in conjunction with movements of the projected environment. Motion capture cameras track the patient's movements via reflective markers that are applied to the patient and supply data on physical deficits to physical therapists. (Photo Credit: J.M. Eddins Jr., USAF)

"A multidisciplinary task force is identifying and resolving gaps in the continuum of care and the integrated delivery evaluation system for airmen suffering from invisible wounds," he said, noting that work is underway on 27 solutions ranging from education and training to culture and policy that will translate directly to improved services for the airmen.

INTERDISCIPLINARY TREATMENT

In his remarks, the director of the Navy's Intrepid Spirit Concussion Recovery Center said that about 80 percent of all TBIs are classified as mild. Those who have suffered mild TBIs may experience only subtle changes in mood, memory, sleep and balance. They have no visible signs of injury, Johnson said, but often struggle to function at work, at home and in the community.

"The reality is there is currently no diagnostic tool that is sensitive and specific for mild TBI," he said. "However, we have worked to overcome this [by] developing a holistic, integrated, interdisciplinary treatment model that employs a standard evaluation that includes physical, psychological and spiritual dimensions."

(continued....)



The center uses this information to diagnose and treat each patient with traditional therapies and complementary and integrative medicine, he added.

"We use a minimal amount of medication, almost no narcotics, and over 90 percent return to full duty upon completing the program," Johnson noted.

The Military Health System, in partnership with civilian academic institutions, has a robust research portfolio to address gaps in knowledge and improve care for service members with TBI, he said, including a progressive return-to-activity protocol that gives providers guidelines on how to increase activity in a way that maximizes recovery.

DOD is undertaking an ongoing longitudinal study of TBI in members of the armed forces to gain a better understanding of the condition and ensure patients receive the treatment they need, Johnson said.

Source:

www.army.mil/article/187073/service_experts_discuss_progress_in_recognizing_treating_ptsd_and_tbi



COMBAT RELATED SPECIAL COMPENSATION (CRSC)

CRSC is a form of concurrent receipt paid monthly to eligible military retirees.

FORT KNOX, KY — Have you heard about a retired veteran's program called Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC)? If you haven't, don't worry, you are not alone. If you are familiar with CRSC, it's likely you're still not sure if you qualify or how retired veterans can apply for this benefit. To shed light on the program, the Army CRSC office at Fort Knox, Kentucky offers the following helpful tips and information.

First, potential applicants should understand that CRSC is a Department of Defense (DoD) program, not a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) program, and is authorized under 10 U.S. Code § 1413a. CRSC is a form of concurrent receipt paid monthly to eligible military retirees. In other words, CRSC restores military retired pay that is offset when a retiree accepts compensation from the VA for a disability or condition that can be directly linked to a combat-related event as defined by the CRSC DoD program guidance.

The CRSC benefit allows eligible retirees to concurrently receive an amount equal to or less than their length of service retirement pay and their VA disability compensation. Retirees must meet all of the following criteria to be eligible for CRSC: • Must be

retired and receiving military retired pay. • VA must have awarded 10 percent or greater service connected disability for a condition that meets the combat-related definition as defined by CRSC DoD program guidance. • Must have a VA waiver (VA Form 21-651, MAR 2005) in place for by-law reduction of military retired pay in the amount of the VA disability payment.

Eligible retiree categories include those who have 20 or more years of service, or a medical retirement under Chapter 61, Temporary Early Retirement Act (TERA), or Temporary Disabled Retirement List (TDRL). A combat-related injury is one that can be attributed to:

- Simulated war training (e.g., combat obstacle course)
- Hazardous duty (e.g., underwater diving, parachute duty)
- Instrumentality of war (e.g., military vehicle rollover during a training mission)
- Presumptive Disabilities (e.g., agent orange, mustard gas)
- Armed conflict (e.g., gunshot wounds, shrapnel wounds, punji stick injuries).

Due to the volume of applications received, the Army's CRSC program is experiencing an average 10-month claims processing cycle. CRSC applicants should note that an uncorroborated statement in a record that a disability is combat-related will not be considered determinative for purposes of meeting combat-related program standards; documentation verifying the cause of the disability is required.

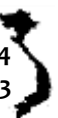
The CRSC program validates your submitted information against your personnel records, available military medical and VA records in making eligibility determinations. Therefore, you only need to submit those documents that directly support your claim that are not already found in your official record. Submitting non-related documentation (i.e., your entire medical history) will only slow the process and increase your wait-time.

Finally, electronic submittal is the best, lowest cost, and most efficient way for you to submit your claim. For more information on CRSC, including how and where to submit an application, visit the Human Resources Command website at

<https://www.hrc.army.mil/content/CRSC>, call toll free (866) 281-3254 (Mon - Fri / 0800-1800 hours), or email CRSC questions to askhrc.army@us.army.mil.

The Human Resource Service Center is an entry point for military-related human resource inquiries. The center responds to Soldiers, Retired Soldiers, veterans, family members, DA civilians and government agencies. Contact HRSC (0700-1900 EST, Monday thru Friday

[Sent in by Ron Thomas, 173d LRRP]



16 January 67

173d Unit Digs out Viet Cong

By S&S Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON – The paratroopers were within 29 yards of the enemy.

The enemy, a reinforced Viet Cong platoon, were well-armed with automatic weapons and fought from trenches, bunkers – reinforced with railroad ties – and spider holes.

Lt. Daniel J. Severson, of North Vale, N.J., led his platoon against the heavily fortified positions shrouded under the canopy of dense jungle in the southern portion of the Iron Triangle.

Earlier in the day, B Co., 4th Bn., 503d Inf., 173d Airborne Brigade, had been on a search and destroy mission. Severson's platoon spotted the communists.

The Americans fought from bunker to bunker for 20 minutes before withdrawing to allow air strikes on the VC positions.

The paratroopers later searched the area and found five VC bodies. They also found tunnels which honeycombed the area, connecting bunkers and spider holes.

Some of the tunnels had as many as five levels. Seventy-eight assorted weapons, including a 60mm mortar and a large supply of ammunition was found. The tunnels also contained food, medicine and clothing.

The commander of the 173d, Brig. Gen. John R. Deane, Jr., who had observed the firefight from his heli-command post, landed nearby to congratulate company commander Capt. John S. Yakshe of Allentown, Pa., and his men for doing a "real fine job."

Dean presented several Bronze Stars with "V" Device (for valor) on the battlefield. The recipients included Yakshe and Severson.



Gen. Deane

[Sent in by a Sky Soldier. Photo added]

2/503 Change of Command



On the broad concourse before Hq, 173d IBCT (Airborne), on the morning of 24 May 2017, command of the 2/503d Infantry Battalion (Airborne) was transferred from LTC Michael Kloepper (former CO, Battle Company, 2/503), to LTC James "JD" Keirse. Crisp, trim, focused, impressive, were they, the battalion, the brigade CO, COL Gregory Anderson.



Their admiring families and friends gathered for the occasion.



THE ROCK

[Sent in by Bob Warfield, A/B/HHC/2/503]





~ C/2/503 Sky Soldier Extraordinaire ~ Stephen Michael Welch

October 19, 1947 - May 26, 2017



"There has been another casualty of the Vietnam War.

Stephen M. Welch, local resident who frequently vented frustration and opinions in the 'Letters to the Editor' section of the *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, has passed away.

Steve, eldest child of Priscilla (Toshikian) and the late Harold Welch, spent his childhood playing baseball and hanging out at the beach. He graduated Santa Cruz High (1965) and took classes while playing a year of baseball for Cabrillo College. Then duty called.

He enlisted in the Army, placed in 173rd Airborne, and served in Viet Nam. He was a heroic soldier who fought many of the deadliest battles in 1967 (Dak To, Hill 875, as well as the first and only combat airborne jump in Viet Nam). Days before returning stateside, Steve stood beside close friend Ray Zaccone when struck by an errant round. The bullet entered Steve's shoulder, plunged into his chest cavity, and ultimately rested in his spine. This ended Steve's professional baseball dream and began his never-ending battle to make sense of his Viet Nam combat experiences. He healed enough to return stateside in late January, 1968.

While recuperating on Medical Leave, Steve's parents urged him to go see a movie in town. That fateful night he crossed paths with a dazzling Diane Brown, who was working at the Rio Theatre. A few weeks later he proposed, and they married on February 29, 1968. Stationed at Fort Ord with Diane, they welcomed a daughter, Terri, in March 1969. Steve completed his military career before returning to Santa Cruz civilian life in the summer of '69.

In the early 70's Steve began working for the cement plant in Davenport. In 1973, their second daughter, Lori, was born. Then in '74, the Welch family roots were cemented on King Street. Through the years, Steve enjoyed fishing, hunting, and using his Veteran and Senior Discounts. He also enjoyed playing rec softball. However, the terror of war never left him.

In 1991, he made career changes that ultimately led him to work with the City of Santa Cruz. He was with the City until he retired in 2006.

Clarity came when he was diagnosed with PTSD and Depression in 1996 - emotional injuries to match his physical scars from Viet Nam. Feelings, behavior, and

outlook on life began to make sense. Steve spent 6 weeks in Menlo Park at a program offered to Veterans with PTSD.

The world became brighter for Steve when he became a 'Papa.' Lori and her husband, Joe, welcomed twin daughters, Brooke and Jillian, in 2004. His granddaughters instantly became two of his life's precious blessings.

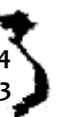
Steve enjoyed retirement time taking family vacations. He also enjoyed watching his granddaughters play softball at Harvey West on the same field his father, he, his brother, and both daughters played on -- his life came full circle. He didn't want to miss anything so he brought his camera everywhere to capture the moments as they happened.

Life took a turn following his 69th birthday. In November 2016, Steve was diagnosed with Stage 4 neuroendocrine lung cancer. This rare cancer is directly linked to his Agent Orange exposure 50 years ago in Viet Nam. Steve valiantly fought this deadly, non-curable cancer. Following 5 unsuccessful rounds of chemotherapy, radiation, back fusion surgery, and massive amounts of strong medicines for excruciating pain, Steve succumbed to his service-related cancer on May 26, 2017 at the VA Hospital in Palo Alto.

Continuing his love and memory: Wife of nearly 50 years, Diane (Brown); daughter Terri, daughter and son-in-law Lori and Joseph (Bettencourt); twin granddaughters Brooke and Jillian; mother, Priscilla (Toshikian); brother and sister-in-law Raymond and Naomi (Zeigler) and their daughters, Christina and Kendall; sister Lydia Feasel; an extended loving family; military brothers Ray Zaccone and Jerry French; and friends, teammates, and *Sentinel* readers. Steve was preceded in death by his father, Harold Welch; childhood friend, Bobby Lamb; and many service men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice.

A private military graveside with honors was held at the Santa Cruz Memorial Park Garden of Honor.
#PapaStrong"

Rest Easy With The Warriors Brother



Commander In Chief Trump's Speech to Veterans' Group in 2016



Mr. Trump addresses veterans' group during presidential campaign in 2016. (web photo)

TRUMP: Thank you, everybody. Thank you. Thank you.

Oh look at this. Boy, what a -- what a response from our greatest people. Thank you very much. Thank you.

Well, at least I definitely know the military likes Trump, right? That's great, it's -- you're amazing people, are (ph) great people and I very much appreciate it.

And speaking of that, we will have this week over 200 admirals and generals endorsing Trump, and that to me is a fantastic honor. In addition, we had 17, now we have 19 folks Congressional Medal of Honor recipients. And to have that many is very unusual and a tremendous honor. I've met many of them over the last two weeks and that, to me, is just a great honor.

So I wanna thank everybody -- I wanna thank everybody in this room. And it's a privilege to be here this morning with you. So many distinguished members of our services, and that's really what you are, very, very highly distinguished members.

Before we get started, we're going to have a Q&A in a little while. I'd like to address one of the most important aspects of America's national security, and that's cyber security. To truly make America safe, we must make cyber security a major priority, which I don't believe we're doing right now, for both government and the private sector.

Cyber theft is the fastest growing crime in the United States by far. As president, improving cyber security will be an immediate and top priority for my administration. One of the very first things I will do is to order a thorough review of our cyber defenses and weaknesses. We have very substantial weaknesses, including all vital infrastructures.

Cyber attacks from foreign governments, especially China, Russia, North Korea along with non-state terrorist actors and organized criminal groups constitute one of our most critical national security concerns. They're learning everything about us and we don't have -- wanna have any servers in the basements, by the way folks. Has anybody here...has anybody in this group -- I know our congressmen hasn't done it, has anybody put a server in their basement? Oh boy, Hillary Clinton's only -- Hillary Clinton's only experience in cyber security involves her criminal scheme to violate federal law, engineering a massive cover up and putting the entire nation in harm's way.

The fact that a former senator and secretary of state claimed not to know what the letter C means is just one more example of why she is totally unfit to hold the office of president. Totally unfit.

It's interesting that during her FBI review, which took place on a massive holiday and which wasn't recorded and lots of other things, that she went 39 times. She didn't remember, she didn't remember. She doesn't remember anything. She remembered practically nothing. But when she has to remember something, she remembers. It's a very sad situation, I will tell you. I'm sure the folks in this room are not thrilled.

The scope of our cybersecurity problem is enormous. Our government, our businesses, our trade secrets and our citizens' most sensitive information are all facing constant cyberattacks and reviews (ph) by the enemy. Just consider some of these recent hacks, JPMorgan Chase, massive bank, had 73 million e-mails stolen. eBay was involved and gave up 150 million passwords. Target was attacked and gave up 40 million credit card numbers. Attacks like these are happening on a regular basis both in the United States and around the world, and the costs in terms of privacy, our security and our financial sector are truly extraordinary

Identity theft, financial laundering, as well as ransom and ransomware -- I mean, think of it -- all involving extortion of a hacked institution are becoming increasingly common....

(continued....)



....They are extorting institutions. Incredibly, hackers were able to obtain at least 20 million identities of people who under FBI background and were under FBI background investigations.

The information hack contains facts discovered by the FBI in doing background checks for people seeking positions with the federal government. It's a treasure trove which can easily be used for blackmail and other reasons by the enemy. The fact that this highly classified information of very, very important people in many cases was so poorly protected demonstrates that cybersecurity is just one more area where the Obama administration has failed.

And speaking of failure, when we do our question and answer period, you look at what's happened with our navy in terms of the number of ships and our armed forces generally, how they are so depleted, how they are at almost record-setting lows and in some cases absolute record-setting lows, it is very, very unfortunate and very, very dangerous for our country. We should not let this be like the history of the Mafia, which was allowed to grow into a nationwide organization which infiltrated and corrupted so many areas of society for such a long period of time.

We can learn from this history, that when the Department of Justice, the FBI, the DEA and the state and local police and prosecutors were combined in a task force directed by and at the Mafia, when they looked at the Mafia and really went after them, they were able to get great great successes and prosecutions out of them and seizing their business interests, did a lot of things, including their business interests, taking them away and removing their infiltration from legitimate areas of society. They've been very, very effective when everybody got together. That was a long time ago.

As president, I will instruct the Department of Justice to create a joint task force throughout the United States to work together with federal, state and local law enforcement authorities and international law enforcement to crush this still-developing area of crime. And it's getting bigger very fast. It's gonna be harder and harder to do. I will make certain that our military is the best in the world in both cyber offense and defense and in every other way, by the way, every other way.

We've rarely needed it more than we do right now. I will also ask my Secretary of Defense and Joint Chiefs to present recommendations for strengthening and augmenting our Cyber Command. As a deterrent against attacks on our critical resources, the United States must possess -- and has to -- the unquestioned capacity to launch crippling cyber counter attacks. And I mean crippling, crippling.

This is the warfare of the future. America's dominance in this arena must be unquestioned. And today, it's totally questioned. People don't even know if we have the capability that we're supposed to have when you look at what's going on with other countries. Cybersecurity is not only a question of developing defensive technologies but offensive technologies, as well. For non-state terror actors, the United States must develop the ability, no matter how difficult, to track down and incapacitate those responsible and do it rapidly.

We should turn cyber warfare into one of our greatest weapons against the terrorists. And they have to know it's coming because right now, they know nothing about us. It just seems they have an open blanket. It's like an open mark, do whatever you wanna do, nothing's gonna happen. Take our youth out of the country, infiltrate our country in so many different ways.

We can't let this happen. We have to have it stopped immediately before it's too late.

To enhance the defense of the other agencies of government, including our law enforcement agencies -- so important, they're doing such a great job, by the way -- we will put together a team of our best military, civilian and private sector cybersecurity experts to comprehensively review all of our cybersecurity systems and technologies.

The cyber review team will proceed with the most sensitive systems first, but ultimately all systems will be analyzed and made as secure as modern technology permits. And hopefully, that's gonna be our technology. We will also require that follow-up reviews take place on a regular basis determined by the sensitive nature of the security involved. The review will be very much exact and recommended by experts. We want experts, our finest people. We don't want people that are B level, C level, D level. We have to get our absolute best and the recommendations have to be a combination of defensive technologies tailored to specific agencies and every other discipline involved.

This will include the various methods of internal monitoring, attack and penetration, investigation of suspected hackers or rogue employees -- and you have plenty of rogue employees -- and identity protection for government employees. The review team will also remain current on the constantly evolving new methods of attack and will attempt to anticipate them and develop defenses as often as possible before breaches occur.

(continued....)



And there are ways of doing this through modern technology, but we are not using that, and frankly, our technology is not up to date. We're letting it slip by. And with technology, as we know, it can go very, very rapidly. This group of experts will set up protocols for each agency and government officials, requiring them to follow best and strongest practices.

They will also establish a training program for all government employees to make certain that they understand what defenses are available and utilize them, along with a continuing education program so everyone is aware of the newest methods of both attack and defense. That means attack and defense. Those who violate classification rules will be held responsible to the fullest extent of the law, something which we don't do too much anymore.

You know, in our country lately, we're more interested in protecting the criminals than we are in making sure that we're strong and powerful and know what we're doing. We're so, so interested in protecting criminals and people that want to do us harm and I think we have to go back to a little more old-fashioned method of thinking, if that makes sense.

I will appoint an attorney general who will reform the Department of Justice like it was necessary after Watergate. My attorney general will restore the integrity of the Department of Justice, which has been severely questioned. Today is just...

Frankly, nobody's ever seen anything like what's happening today. When you have somebody getting a subpoena from the United States Congress to have your e-mails and all other information sent, and after -- not before, after getting the subpoena, 33,000 e-mails are deleted and acid washed. And nobody even knows what that means, acid wash. It's a very expensive thing to do. Most people don't even know what it means. When you see something like that, and there's no crime, everything's just wonderful. You know, if you were in a private case with Mr. Smith and they call for your records and you get rid of your records so blatantly as this, you have serious consequences. Like, the most serious consequences. The congressman sends out a tremendous subpoena, they want to see the e-mails, and they delete the e-mails. I can't think of anything, in terms of we're talking about, much more serious than that. Congressman, do you agree? It's hard to believe. Hard to believe that they can get away with this kind of thing.

Today is just to the beginning of a long and overdue national discussion on how to protect ourselves from modern cyber crime and evolving national security threats and how to develop the cyber offense strategies

necessary to gain a critical security edge in the 21st century. We need the edge, and ideally, a big one.

I want to thank everybody in this room. I have such respect for the people in this room for being here, and now let's begin our discussion. Thank you very much, folks. Thank you.

(UNKNOWN): Mr. Trump, thank you so much for joining us today and I know you are busy traveling but I want to thank you for taking the opportunity to have a conversation with these American warriors (ph) and I first want to thank General Vernon Lewis whose idea was to pull all of these leaders together. We want to thank him for his leadership.

Before we begin, Mr. Trump, I just want to kind of give you an overview of who's in this room. We have gathered here warriors from across America who have fought and defended America and the ideals upon which America is founded in every conflict and war since World War II. They are in this room here today. They have retired and hung up their uniforms but they have not retired from their defending of their oath and that is to defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic.

And they are here today in service to their country.

So, with that understanding that you have a room full of warriors who are ready to report for duty to defend this country, we want to begin with our questions and General Boykin will recognize our first general to ask a question.

MODERATOR: Well, I'd like to say thank you for being here as well.

Our first speaker probably has seen more combat than anybody else in the room here because he's fought in three wars. It's General Frederick or Fritz Kroesen. He was in World War II, Korea, as well as Vietnam. He commanded everything from the company to the corps level and ultimately earned three Purple Hearts and three Combat Infantry Badges. He is -- he had three four-star jobs, he was commanding general of the forces command, the vice chief of staff for the Army, and the commander in chief of the United States Army Europe.

General Kroesen, your question, sir.



General Kroesen

(continued....)



QUESTION: Is this on? I'm on.

Mr. Trump, I only speak for the Army. It's not because I ignore the needs of the Air Force and the Navy but -- and I accept everything you have said about the cyber threat to us but my question has to do with the United States Army which has been too small ever since the Cold War ended and we paid the peace dividend out of the defense budget and the Army has been too small ever since.

When we were committed into Iraq and Afghanistan and the chief of staff of the Army was asked how many troops he was going to need to finish that war and he said "about 300,000" he was made a pariah and no one asked for his advice and counsel for the rest of his tour of duty.

We've been using that army for the last 15 years and it's the first time we ever went to war without expanding the size of the army. Instead of that, they hired 200,000 civilian contractors to do the work that the Army wasn't big enough to do. Now we have an Army that's being worn out. We are losing experienced soldiers who are being left -- being dismissed from the Army in order to bring the size down even more.

Now, we think the United States Army is gonna be a major element that you'll want to use in your national strategy. And we'd like to know what your thoughts are on how to go about this.

TRUMP: Well, General, thank you. And thank you for your bravery, amazing. I've heard your name mentioned many times, so thank you for being here and thank you for the question.

Not only the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Marines, everything is going away at a time when certainly we are at a top priority for making sure that doesn't happen. We're not respected to the extent that we were. And if we keep going like this, we won't be respected at all.

You look at Russia's doing with their nuclear capability and the newness of their capability, and look at we're -- what we're doing, and nobody wants to do that with respect to nukes because nukes are horrible. But you have countries that are going out of their way to do things that we're not doing. And we have to be very, very careful.

The size of the Army, absolutely it's getting too small. In fact a certain general, when he left about a year and a half ago said we are not only too small, we're the least prepared that we've ever been since he can remember - the least prepared. So, it's a combination of that -- of both.

Look, I feel so strongly that I use a different word in going around that our forces are depleted -- they're

depleted. We have the greatest people on Earth, but they're depleted.

You see where the fighter jets are so old that they can't get parts anymore. They have to go to plane -- airplane graveyards and museums to get parts for our fighter jets that we're currently using. They don't make the parts. And you have other countries that have brand new equipment. And in some cases, we sell them the equipment. The whole thing is ridiculous.

Now, we're gonna build up our forces, including the Army. But we are gonna build up our forces. We have no choice.

You know, they can talk about sequester, they can talk about all of the different things that they've -- they're doing. But this isn't like we have a choice. This is something where -- and we're gonna be cutting elements of government certainly. But when it comes to the military, we have no choice. We cannot have a depleted military. We have to have the strongest military by far. And with that being said, as you know, we spend a lot of money on protecting other countries. And yet, those other countries aren't paying nearly what it costs us for that protection. Where -- they're getting one of the great bargains of all time.

But we're spending on numerous countries, very substantial countries. You know the countries we're talking about. But we're defending them for a fraction of the cost.

We have to go to those countries and we have to ask them to make contributions that are greater than the contributions they're making right now. You know, we're gonna protect them. We're gonna remain loyal to them. But at the same time, it's a two-way street. They have to help us also.

So I think your question is a great one. We will build our military forces to a level that will be, I believe, stronger than ever before if I become president of the United States.

OK? Thank you.

MODERATOR: Earlier, before you arrived, we mentioned today is the anniversary of the Black Hawk Down in Mogadishu. And one of the officers that was there that we recognized is going to ask our second question, Major General Gary Harrell.



General Harrell

(continued....)



MODERATOR: General Harrell has had multiple tours with the 82nd Airborne Division, has been on combat missions from Panama to Somalia. He was a commander of the U.S. Special Operations Forces in CENTCOM and led the first special forces into Afghanistan. He retired in 2008 from the United States Army Special Operations Command.

General Harrell.

TRUMP: Hello, General.

QUESTION: Hello, sir.

The Obama administration has yet to develop a strategy for dealing with the global jihad movement. The terrorists are motivated by theology that drives them to atrocities against non-believers, be they Christians, Jews or other faiths. Americans have not been allowed to know the enemy or call them by name. We need a strategy, not a tactical plan.

What is your plan to defeat radical Islam? And how will you reverse the strategic confusion of the Obama era?

TRUMP: Well, it is confusion not only there, but it's confusion in many other fields long beyond military and defense. The country's confused in terms of even the divide in our country. We have such a divide and really divides, we have many different forms of divides. So there's a lot of confusion.

But we have a president that won't use the term radical Islamic terrorism, won't use it. Will spend long periods of time explaining to people why he won't use it. At the end of the explanation, nobody knows why he still won't use it because the explanation is no good. And I mean, honestly, we have a president that in my opinion really doesn't know what he's doing. We have a president that doesn't know what's happening, and when it comes to the military, you know, I always say, keep the oil. I said don't go in, but I said keep the oil. Had we kept the oil, you wouldn't have ISIS, because they fuel their growth with the oil.

But I read something and saw something over the week-end that really bothered me because I believe in -- I'm a big fan of General Douglas MacArthur and General George Patton, and you know, these great generals, some of the generals -- big fan of some of the generals in this room. We have -- General Flynn is with us and General Kellogg. We have a few generals that have been so incredible to me. Now we have 200. But generals and admirals. I'm never gonna forget admirals, right?



General Flynn

Those admirals (ph). I will never forget the admirals. That I can promise you.

But it was very disconcerting when I saw that an attack is planned on Mosul, an attack is planned. And you know, we're involved in the attack, but the Iraqi forces are planning an attack on Mosul. It should happen over a short period of time and the work will be -- why do we have to talk about it?

Why? I never saw anything like this. Every time we are going to attack somebody, we explain. We're going to attack, we'll be attacking at three, noon on March 25th.

I don't know, unless you disagree with me, wouldn't it be better if we were going to go after Mosul to not say anything and do it, as opposed to announcing -- they're announcing all over television they're planning to attack Mosul.

And whenever they asked me the question about what are you going to do about ISIS, I say, you know, I have a real chance of winning. I don't really want to tell you. I have very strong ideas and I'll be dealing with the people in this room and other folks that are, you know, very good at this, but the last thing you want to do is give notice to the enemy. When President Obama announced that he was leaving Iraq, I mean, he was talking about dates and times and what we're going to do.



General Kellogg



President Obama speaks to military. (web photo)

The enemy pulls back. We think we're doing well. Well, they pull back. They're not stupid. And then after we leave, you see what happened. So I just -- I just want to say that we are going to hit ISIS hard, and I mean really hard, but I do think this....

(continued....)



....The American public doesn't have to know the date and hour and second that we're going to attack and from what side we're going to attack. We're going to attack from the eastern quadrant and it'll take place on a certain day, at a certain hour.

We don't need to -- they just want to see victory. We don't have victory. I mean, we're dropping our -- we're dropping things all over the place. Who knows what they're hitting. Who knows how many people are being killed and who knows if they're the right people.

But at some point, we have to stop a force that's going out and drowning people in steel cages and chopping off heads. These are barbaric people. These are people that -- you know, I used to study medieval times, and you know, they chopped off heads. But until recently, this was a phenomena that you wouldn't see, the level of barbarism is unbelievable.

So we're gonna stop them, we're gonna stop them cold. We're gonna stop them very powerfully. But I don't think all of us should be -- unless it's a very confined room, we shouldn't be giving up our plans and it bothers me every time I see where we're planning to attack this one, that one.

But the one I saw over the weekend was Mosul and they're talking about attacking. The other problem is, you have a lot of the leaders in Mosul. Well, they're not gonna be there, they're getting out because they hear they're gonna be attacked, so they're getting out, they're going some place (ph).

Congressman, would you agree with this? If I'm a leader and I'm seeing and I'm watching what everybody else is watching and an attack on Mosul is imminent, I'm saying bye folks, have a good time I'm moving into a different city.

So what are they doing? Can there be allowed -- are we allowed to have any more in the military, General, the element of surprise? You know, I would think it would be a good thing. It's called an ancient strength and we don't use it anymore.

MODERATOR: Principle of war.

TRUMP: I think it's one of the great principles. The element of surprise, I mean, you could take a force that's not nearly as strong and with the element of surprise you could wipe out a much more powerful force.

And I don't pretend to be a general or an admiral or anything else, but I just -- every time I see -- I see President Obama get up, "*Ladies and gentleman, we are sending 50 people to Iraq,*" 50.

So that's bad in two ways. Number one, it's such a low number that the enemy's saying is that all?

And number two, when you think 50, those people now have a target on their back. They wanna find those 50 people and they look for those 50 people.

When Hillary Clinton says no boots on the ground, now, whether you want boots on the ground or not you shouldn't say it because you've just taken -- so she said there will be no boots on the ground, she's very strong (ph) because politics, you know, it sounds a little bit better to say no boots on the ground.

But by doing that, she has empowered the enemy, she's empowered the enemy. And I think she possibly means it, I'm not sure if she means it or not. But she says no boots on the ground. She has taken a tremendous -- I mean, that's really giving strength to the enemy. And even if she felt that, she should never admit that. She should never admit that. You have to leave all your options open. And if you don't leave your options open, you're a fool. And I hated to hear her say that.

MODERATOR: So...To summarize, you're not going to send a message about date and time, but you are going to send a message that their days are numbered?

TRUMP: Their days -- their days will be numbered very quickly.

MODERATOR: OK. Our third question is asked by our Rear Admiral Frank Gallo. Admiral Gallo is a retired naval aviator with 35 years' service. He has hundreds of carrier landings, flew almost every fixed wing aircraft in the Navy in his time.

He was commander to the squadron wing and fleet wing levels and he was chief of Naval Personnel Command for the Department of the Navy. Admiral Gallo.



Admiral Gallo

QUESTION: Mr. Trump, I'm happy you haven't forgotten the admirals, of course.

TRUMP: I will never.

QUESTION: And I hope you'll pardon the remnants...

TRUMP: I don't have the courage to do that.

QUESTION: I hope you'll pardon the remnants of a Brooklyn accent.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has a horrible record of taking care of veterans. As you recall, there was a -- there were lengthy lines at V.A. hospitals, substandard medical care and falsified medical records and accounting....

(continued....)



....Leadership changes and new unrealistic laws have failed to correct the problems.

The V.A. is the most -- probably the most ineffective bureaucracy in all of Washington and it is time for drastic action. The question is, with the near daily revelations that the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs fails veterans in some form or another, what is your plan to reform and fix the system to ensure veterans can have timely access and quality care for health care services?

TRUMP: OK. So first of all, I want to ask you one question. You had all those aircraft landings on the carriers, right? So can an otherwise excellent pilot, a very, very good pilot, because I've heard that some just can't do this. What percentage of very, very good pilots cannot land on an aircraft carrier with training?

QUESTION: Any very good pilot can land on a carrier after they get the training.

TRUMP: After training.

QUESTION: The training is marvelous.

TRUMP: Because I understand it's a very, very special talent.

QUESTION: It's a talent that you acquire if you start off with the basics.

TRUMP: OK. Very good. See, he puts it down a little bit. That's very good.

QUESTION: OK.

TRUMP: That's very good. I've heard it's very, very tough.

The Veteran's Administration is a disaster, the V.A., it's a disaster. I have gone to all over the country and I've met so many veterans and I have tremendous veteran support. And I see what those people are going through. To see a doctor, sometimes it takes six and seven days and then you finally get there and the doctor is gone on vacation.

We have to change that whole system. It starts with management. We have to have a whole different set of protocols. And we have to get people off the lines. You know, people are dying, not only the 22 suicides a day which is inconceivable when you hear that. When I first heard that I said, no you mean a month. I mean, can you imagine a day, 22 suicides a day? A lot of the suicide is people can't get to see doctors, a lot of it because the waits are so long. That's an administrative problem.

And by the way, the V.A. has some great doctors. I've been told by some of the veterans the doctors are great when you can get to see them in many cases. So we have a plan and it's been put out on my website and people love it. If you're going to have a wait of six days, five days, two days, one day, we're going to give our great veterans the right to go out, go across the

street to a private doctor or a private hospital or a public hospital, whatever happens to be in that community, without having to drive 400 miles to another hospital.

And we're going to give them the right to see their private doctor, get taken care of it, perhaps the private or public hospital. Get taken care of quickly, effectively and go about their business. And the government, we are going to pay the bill. That will totally reduce all of the waiting times, all of the problems. And I think it may actually get the V.A. to respond better to things because, you know, there is a little competition you would think.

But it's not like we have a choice. We can't let what's happening happen. I mean, I've heard stories that are so horrible. I mean, people are killing themselves while they're waiting on line because they can't -- you know, they know it's days and days before they can have what could be a simple procedure, what could be a simple prescription.

They have to wait so long that they end up -- they can't take it. They can't take it. So we're going to establish a procedure where people can leave the line, go outside, take care of themselves and the government's gonna pay.

And by the way, that's a far less expensive solution than other very foolish solutions I've heard. The veterans love it, they love it. But it's a far better solution than anything anybody's heard and its common sense and it's there.

And the doctors need the business and the private hospitals and public hospitals need the business and they're sitting there, waiting. So we don't have a choice. We have to do that. OK? Thank you.

MODERATOR: Thank you, Mr. Trump. We're gonna transition to another set of issues, one that really has become a hallmark of your campaign. And that is, challenging the area of political correctness, Colonel Don Barfamu (ph) was an adjutant general officer and former covenant of the Army A.G. School. He is a decorated combat veteran and he has our next question. Colonel.

QUESTION: Sir the U.S. military has been long successful because of the warrior ethos that's part of its DNA. But under this administration, that ethos has been under attack and in some cases, undermined by the forces of political correctness.

(continued....)



The military has become an institutional for social experiments and as a result, the military's undergone a number of changes through regulations with regard to women in combat, transgender rights and other issues. None of these P.C. actions were combat effective or readiness driven. In fact, the opposite is happening. Deployability, readiness and moral are all adversely effective -- affected.

So my question to you is, what will you do about the social engineering and political correctness that's been imposed upon our military?

TRUMP: Well, we're gonna get away from political correctness and we're gonna have to do that, and...Like the whole concept of profiling, you know, I mentioned the other day profiling, everyone goes, profile and profiling. Well, profiling is you know, in Israel they're doing it and they're doing it well.

And we may have to do that, and we may have to do other things. But you're right, we have a politically correct military and it's getting more and more politically correct every day. And a lot of the great people in this room don't even understand how it's possible to do that.

And that's through intelligence, not through ignorance, believe me. Because some of the things that they're asking you to do and be politically correct about are ridiculous.

I will say I would leave many of the decisions of some of the things you mentioned to the generals, the admirals, the people on top, and we get some of the -- the Congressmen just mentioned to me and I -- I think it's true 100 percent, you get your top enlisted people in that and you have some discussions with some of these top enlisted people who know it better than probably anybody.

But we get our military people to come back and make recommendations to me and I will follow those recommendations. I will follow them very strongly.

MODERATOR: Mr. Trump, the next question will come from Colonel Retired Chaplain Ron Crews.

Ron is a highly decorated Army chaplain. He's been deployed several times into combat areas in several different locations. He has personally witnessed the attacks on religious freedoms in the military. After 28

years of service, he now heads the Chaplains' Alliance for Military Religious Liberty. He works closely with the House and the



Chaplain Crews

Senate Armed Services Committees to protect these religious liberties.

Chaplain Crews?

QUESTION: Mr. Trump.

TRUMP: Any relation to Ted Cruz?

QUESTION: Negative.

TRUMP: And Tom Cruise?

QUESTION: Negative, sir.

TRUMP: OK now you can take the question.

QUESTION: Mr. Trump. Army Chaplain who's also a Ranger Joe Lawhorn had a potentially career-ending reprimand for the crime of using Scripture while mentoring a suicide prevention class. Navy Chaplain Wes Modder, who is present today, was detached for cause and threatened with separation for using biblical answers to questions during pastoral counseling sessions with sailors in his command.

Air Force Senior Master Sergeant Phil Monk was relieved of duty when his lesbian commander tried and failed to force him to vocally voice his open support for her personal views on marriage.

Decorated veteran and retired Air Force Sergeant Oscar Rodriguez was forcefully removed from a friend's retirement ceremony because he intended to use the word "God" in that retirement ceremony.

Marine Lance Corporal Monifa Sterling was convicted at a court martial for failing to remove Scripture from her personal workspace.

Today commanders are prohibited from having Bibles on their desk or using Scriptures while they're counseling troops. The Obama administration has deliberately set out to take the Christian religion out of the military.

Mr. Trump, how will you in your administration combat these attacks on military religious freedom of expression?

TRUMP: Well, thank you, that's a great question. And have we ever had a time like this? Have we ever -- has there ever been a thing like what's going on? The other day just to add to your list, I was watching one of the news programs and they had a -- I think high school football coach, you know they're going into battle...

QUESTION: He's here.

TRUMP: Is he here? Oh stand up. Wow. They really went after him.

QUESTION: Coach Kennedy.

TRUMP: For saying a prayer before the -- that is just -- I didn't know you'd be here.

QUESTION: (OFF-MIKE)

(continued....)



TRUMP: Wow. The world is changing isn't it? So you're not allowed to pray before a football game. I thought it was horrible. I thought it was horrible. So what did they do to you?

What happened? Sorry to take away from your question but it's sort of an extension of your question. What did they do?

QUESTION: They put me on suspension, then at the end of the year they gave me a really adverse write up about how well I did my job. I didn't change anything for eight years, always prayed after every game. And then he just really slapped me on it, said what a horrible person I was. And ended up just not renewing my contract, ultimately firing me.

TRUMP: I think that is absolutely outrageous. I think it's outrageous.

I think it's very, very sad and outrageous. Religious liberty, hey, it's about religious liberty. And there has to be a melding of both. We're living in a time where you have to have a melding of both. But it's very unfair what they're doing to religion in this country.

And you know one of the things that I'm doing and I'm -- we have the Johnson Amendment. You know what that is. That Lyndon Johnson in the 1950s passed an amendment because supposedly he was having a hard time with a church in Houston, with a pastor. And he passed an amendment saying basically if you're a pastor, if you're a religious person, you cannot get up and talk politics. You can't really, here's a prime example of it. You know how strongly I feel about it.



President Johnson signing bill at his desk (web photo)

And I had 50 pastors, ministers, I had priests, I had a couple of rabbis in a big conference room in one of my buildings. And we're talking and I could see they really liked me. But I could also see they couldn't endorse me. And I said, *"Just out of curiosity, why?"* *"Well, we can't do it because we'll lose our tax-exempt status."* I said, *"Why is that?"* In other words, you're taking away your freedom of speech. And they started telling me about

the Johnson Amendment which really was the first time -- and I started studying it and we had a meeting a month later and I said, *"We're gonna get rid of the Johnson Amendment because they're stopping you and our great people from talking."*

And Tony and all the people, I mean these are the people we have to hear from and we wanna hear from them. And you don't mind opposing views but they're stopping you from speaking. And actually, your opposing views are able to speak because they don't have to worry about tax exempt status and things. So I think it's very unfair.

And one of the things I will do very early in my administration is to get rid of the Johnson Amendment so that our great pastors and ministers and rabbis and -- and everybody -- and priests and everybody can go and tell and can participate in the process.

I actually looked at 50 people in the room, they're strong people, powerful people by personality and I said they're really holding your voice back. So you have these powerful people, some were incredible speakers, just a natural gift for speaking.

And I pointed down, way down on the street on 5th Avenue, I said so those people walking along the street have more power than you do? And I think that's very unfair. You should be able to speak. And I think that we'll go a long way to addressing the problem that you had but you have lost a lot of the -- the -- its amazing, the church and religion has lost tremendous power and positive power.

This isn't negative power, this is positive power by the fact that they are essentially prohibited from speaking because of the tremendous problem they have. So one of the things I'm gonna do and I have tremendous support with the evangelicals and with the Christians and with everybody, is we're going to get rid of the Johnson Amendment that is very, very unfair, OK?

MODERATOR: Thank you, Mr. Trump. And in fact, in relation to that, last week the Republican leadership introduced a measure that would in fact repeal the portion of the Johnson Amendment that prohibits speech by churches and non-profits.

And that was in a large part because of the visibility you're given to that issue, in fact insisting that it be in the GOP platform, the repeal of that, as well. So we thank you for speaking out...

(CROSSTALK)

(continued....)



TRUMP: I'm very honored by that, yeah they did it last week so that's the beginning of my process.

MODERATOR: Let me speak to another issue...

TRUMP: That's on the assumption I win. If I don't win you just wasted because that's never happening, folks.

You've wasted a lot of time and energy and money.

MODERATOR: Well, yesterday -- speaking of the Johnson Amendment -- yesterday was the Pulpit Freedom Sunday and there were thousands of pastors across the nation, myself included, that preached messages about this election and the importance of this election.

And the IRS can be on standby, my sermon is on the way to the IRS now so that they can evaluate it. And -- and we'll see what happens at that point but it's time that churches and Christians have the freedom to speak in this country about what is affecting this country.

TRUMP: Why is your sermon on the way, did they ask you for it?

MODERATOR: No I want -- I want them to hear it. I speak good for them to hear the Gospel first off and then my political statement secondly.

TRUMP: OK good, but that is a terrible situation, isn't it? Where they can say we don't like the way you're speaking about Christianity, about God. We don't like what you just said and we're gonna take away your tax exempt status which you know how important it is. It's very, very -- it's a very sad thing.

MODERATOR: You had mentioned that generals and the admirals and I wanna talk -- don't forget the sergeants, all right?

TRUMP: No that's what I'm talking about. We wanna get their advice also, believe me.

MODERATOR: In fact, Coach Kennedy -- his story which was actually broken by Todd Starnes at Fox News -- is a retired Marine gunnery sergeant and...and our -- our final question -- I do wanna thank you again for being so generous with your time and having this conversation with these military warriors. I want to go back to something you spoke about earlier in relationship to the V.A. but also about the well-being of our warriors.

You know a nation is judged by how it takes care of its warriors. Those who have defended our ideals and our principles and have been willing to put themselves in harm's way. And this is not unconnected with the conversation we were just having. Because it is that Christian ethic that even Jesus talked about, *"Greater love hath no man than to lay down his life for his friends."*

And many in this room have been willing to do so. But they have seen their friends make the ultimate

sacrifice. And that is -- that is a burden that they carry. And it is a difficulty that they face. And we should not require them to face that alone as a nation.

And so our final question comes from Staff Sergeant Chad Robichaux. Sergeant Robichaux is a former Special Operations Force Recon Marine. That is the toughest of the tough in the USMC. He was deployed eight times to combat. He suffered and has fully recovered, done that.

He now heads the Mighty Oaks Warrior Program that serves active duty veterans and their families in the most statistically successful such program of its kind in the country. Staff Sergeant Robichaux.



SSG Robichaux

QUESTION: Good morning Mr. Trump. As you mentioned there is a tragic suicide epidemic among our veterans, among our military and their families. While the military and the V.A. are working on the problem, their efforts continue to fall short. There are a number of faith-based programs outside the DoD and the V.A., that are continuing to be successful in stopping suicide and divorce rates.

Spiritual fitness works on these types of problems. The government is not taking advantage of these programs and services. So my question for you is, when you become president, will you support and fund a more holistic approach to solve the problems and issues of veteran suicide, PTSD, TBI and other related military mental and behavioral health issues and will you take steps to restore the historic role of our Chaplains and the importance of spiritual fitness and spiritual resiliency programs?

TRUMP: Yes I would. Look we need that so badly and when you...when you talk about the mental health problems, when people come back from war and combat and they see things that maybe a lot of the folks in this room have seen many times over and you're strong and you can handle it. But a lot of people can't handle it. And they see horror stories. They see events that you couldn't see in a movie, nobody would believe it.

Now we need a mental health help and medical. And it's one of the things that I think is least addressed and is one of the things that -- like your question....

(continued....)



....one of the things that I hear the most about when I go around and talk to the veterans. So we're going to have a very, very robust, level of performance having to do with mental health. We are losing so many great people that can be taken care of if they have proper care.

You know when you hear the 22 suicides a day it's a big part of your question. But when you hear the 22 suicides a day that should never be. That should never be. So we're going to be addressing that very strongly and the whole mental health issue is going to be a very important issue when I take over and the V.A. is going to be fixed in so many ways but that's going to be one of the ways we're going to help.

And that's in many respects going to be the number one thing we have to do. Because I think it's really been left behind. OK? Thank you very much.

QUESTION: Can I just say one thing? Tony, we were talking last night, and one of the things that we are excited about is that you're beholden to nobody.

TRUMP: That's true.

QUESTION: Except maybe Kellyanne (ph).

TRUMP: Kellyanne (ph).

QUESTION: Yeah. But you're gonna have to choose leaders. You're beholden to no one. We'd like to see a secretary of defense that is there because he or she has the capabilities and the qualities that are required to move our military back to where it needs to be. You're beholden to no one, we could give you several recommendations if you're interested, but -- but.

TRUMP: I do want that. I actually like that, I think -- I mean who else should I be listening to but the people in this room?

QUESTION: Military leaders. Obviously, we believe that some of your key employments will be the military leadership, civilian and in uniform.

TRUMP: I agree 100 percent, General.

MODERATOR: Again, Mr. Trump thank you for the generosity of your time. But I wanna close our time together asking you to speak directly to these warriors who, as you look in their faces, you can see some of the scars that came with their service to our country.

You can see the years that they have devoted to the principles and ideals that made America great. But they're here reporting for duty again. They realize that a lot is on the line for our country.

And so as you sit here before them this morning before you depart, what would be your final words to them as they go back to their respective parts of the country?

TRUMP: Well, Tony, thank you very much and I will say this. Just as the General said I'm beholding to nobody, I've spent you know, tens and tens of millions

of dollars on the campaign. I am going to spending a lot more over the next month. In addition, we've raised a lot of money from small people that -- people that give small donations, people that wanna be a part of it and they've been very much left behind.

We call them the forgotten man and woman. And we've raised millions of -- more than any Republican ever thought possible and you know, you've heard \$28 million one month and \$41 million and that these are in small, \$61 average donations approximately.

And we're very proud of that but the truth is I am beholden to no one, nobody's gonna tell me what to do, no -- no group that owns a military firm that gives military supplies. Because I know -- I've heard the case where often times you wanna buy certain weapons or something and you like one but you get the other one because that one has a contact to our politicians.

Those days are over, those days are over. You're gonna get the best -- you're gonna get the best equipment.

You're gonna get what's good, you're gonna get what the generals and what the admirals and what -- and the enlisted and they'll -- we'll get together, we wanna get the right stuff. But the truth is, that the people in this room and your representatives all over this country, the military people are so important to our country. Without you, we wouldn't be here. I don't think you've been given the respect that you deserve. I don't think you've been allowed to fight ISIS as an example the way you wanted. I don't think you've been allowed to fight for Iraq the way you've wanted.

If they listen to the military people, we probably wouldn't be having an ISIS right now. I think I can say not probably, I think we definitely wouldn't be having an ISIS right now.

But we're running a war by politicians and we're running a war by political correctness as per that question. I can only tell you this and I used to speak about it all the time, we have a Navy that hasn't been in this position since World War I.

We have an Army that hasn't been in this position since World War II, in terms of levels and in terms of readiness and in terms of everything else. We are not capable like we have to be.

This will be one of my most important elements. When I talk cost cutting, I do for so many different departments where the money is pouring and they don't even know what to do with it.,,,

(continued....)



....But when it comes to the military we have to enhance our military. It's depleted. That's the word I tend to use. It's a depleted -- we have a very depleted military.

We have great people, we have a depleted military. I told you about the jet fighters. Well it's like that with so many other things. So we are going to take care of our military. We're going to take care of our military -- the people in our military, the finest people we have.

We are going to take care of our law enforcement because in some ways that's going hand in hand now more and more when you see what's going on. And the people that we're allowing into our country, we are allowing people into our country that are going to cause us tremendous problems. This isn't a question of will it happen; this a question of when.

Where people coming into our country who are going to cause you and our law enforcement tremendous problems and therefore our society in the future. Because we have politicians that should be ashamed of themselves. So I can only say this, a very, very important element of any country, but our country, and in my opinion, the single most important thing that a president can do is the defense of our country. I mean we can talk all of the elements. We can talk about Medicare and Medicaid and Social Security. We can talk about school, we can talk about everything. Defense is number one or we don't have a country.

Our military and the strength of our military and the strengthening of our military is a number one priority for the Trump administration. And the world's going to respect us again and they don't now. A lot of that has to do with the leader. And a lot of it has to do with leadership. But our country is going to be respected again and we are going to make America great again.

Thank you all very much.

Source:

See text of speech and video at:

<http://time.com/4517279/trump-veterans-ptsd-transcript/>

[Photos added]



Commander in Chief

Excerpts from Military.com on-line entitled....

“Proposed VA Benefit Cut Angers Elderly, Disabled Vets”

In a June 1 article by Richard Sisk of Military.com, he states, *“The plan to cut financial support for aging and disabled veterans included in President Donald Trump’s \$1.1 trillion federal budget proposal has led to bitterness and confusion among the estimated 225,000 vets who could lose the payments.”*

In the same article one vet states, *“Make that guy in the White House keep his promise to all of us veterans, lest we all fall by the wayside and be left on the battlefield,”* said a former Army staff sergeant who served in Vietnam.

The journalist reports the Office of Management and Budget projects \$3.6 billion in savings from trims to benefits, while \$2.9 billion would be earmarked for the “Choice Program”. VA Secretary Shulkin stated about the cuts, the VA is *“sensitive to the issue”* but had to find savings to pay for other programs, reports Mr. Sisk.

Veterans and veterans’ organizations throughout the country have lodged with the VA and Washington their complaints about the proposed cuts. As of this writing there has been no resolution to the matter. **Ed**

“Never again will we allow any veteran to suffer or die waiting for care.

To keep America safe we must provide the men and women of the U.S. military with the tools they need to prevent war and, if they must, to fight and to win. I am sending the Congress a budget that rebuilds the military, eliminates the defense sequester, and calls for one of the largest increases in national defense spending in American history.”

President Donald J. Trump

You can read the entire article at:

www.theblaze.com/news/2016/07/26/trump-vows-to-take-care-of-our-veterans-like-theyve-never-been-taken-care-of-before/



"No Suicide Cliff"

Tony Sierra
2/503d, PRCT, WWII



The late trooper Tony Sierra

From Tony Sierra to Paul Whitman



Of all the fellows who was 100% in on the Corregidor action, save for the few hours the third battalion was ahead of us second battalion contingent, I

remember the least, if all the history coming out recently is to be believed. But now at last I have come across an incident where I have indisputable remembrances, *"Suicide Cliff fairy tale."*

I was one of the most active of troopers in the so-called two platoons who were assigned to heave the bodies of the killed Japanese soldiers early on the morning after the 19 February. I never saw a single Japanese "leap" over the cliff or any sign that any had done so during the night attack. Any of them that ended on the beach either fell during the attack (which is pure speculation) or were thrown over.

One of us would grab the feet and another the arms and swing them over as far as we could. I believe this was done to reduce the smell of decaying bodies in that tropical setting, if that was ever possible. We were so desperate to get this chore over with that I can't even recall any of us worrying in the least with searching their bodies for souvenirs or even military information. I hope this sets to rest this small item once and for all, brochures notwithstanding.

Tony Sierra

From Don Abbott to Paul Whitman

The Filipinos love rumors. If they don't have an old one to pass on they make up a new one.

During my first trips back to the Island, in the 80's there was little, or no, electric power. They had the

strangest collection of lamps you could imagine but those were hot and smelled bad. A good deal of the time you sat around in the dark, drinking San Miguel, and telling stories (lies).

One rumor which has taken on the cloak of fact is the *"suicide cliff"* along the Cheney road. One 503rd friend who was there the morning of 19 Feb 45 told me the dead Japs began to smell early in the day and he, and others, were detailed to drag them over to the cliff and throw them over. He said one man would grab the feet, another the hands. They would pick them up, get them swinging and then give them a good toss.

When "E" Company was attacking Battery Monja on 23 Feb 45 we saw the results along the hillside to the North of the South Shore Road. There looked to be many swollen bodies and equipment. Graves registration must have spotted the remains later on and maybe they started the rumors about *"suicides."*

I tried to get this across to some of the Filipino guides but they told me they had many Japanese tourists they tell the story to. The Japs get all weepy and give the guide "big tips". The rumor will continue as long as the Japs tourists come.

Don Abbott/503rd

From Robert J. Flynn to John Lindgren



I talked tonite with one of the former Engineers from the 161st, a Warren Elfrank who was a corporal at the time we jumped on Corregidor. He related that his squad which was led by Sgt. Eugene Whitman, was sent to Wheeler Battery after the fighting to help dispose of the bodies of the enemy and recover the dead and wounded American troops. His account supports your recollections and those of Tony Sierra.

Warren indicated that the men assigned to the detail paired off and took the Japanese corpses by the arms and legs and swung them over the side. He indicated that he could not see the beach below and had no idea where the bodies would come to rest after they were disposed of. That puts the beach patrol that I was in at a different location on the island.

There aren't many of our engineer group left but I will pursue this until we get at least one other eye witness. Cecil Duquesne should be able to shed some light on this.

Bob

Courtesy of 503rd PRCT Heritage Battalion website



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This is the third and final report included for military historians and enthusiasts provided years ago by the late LTC Bob Carmichael, our former 2/503 battalion XO in '65/'66, and CO in '66. Ed (Bob's RTO)

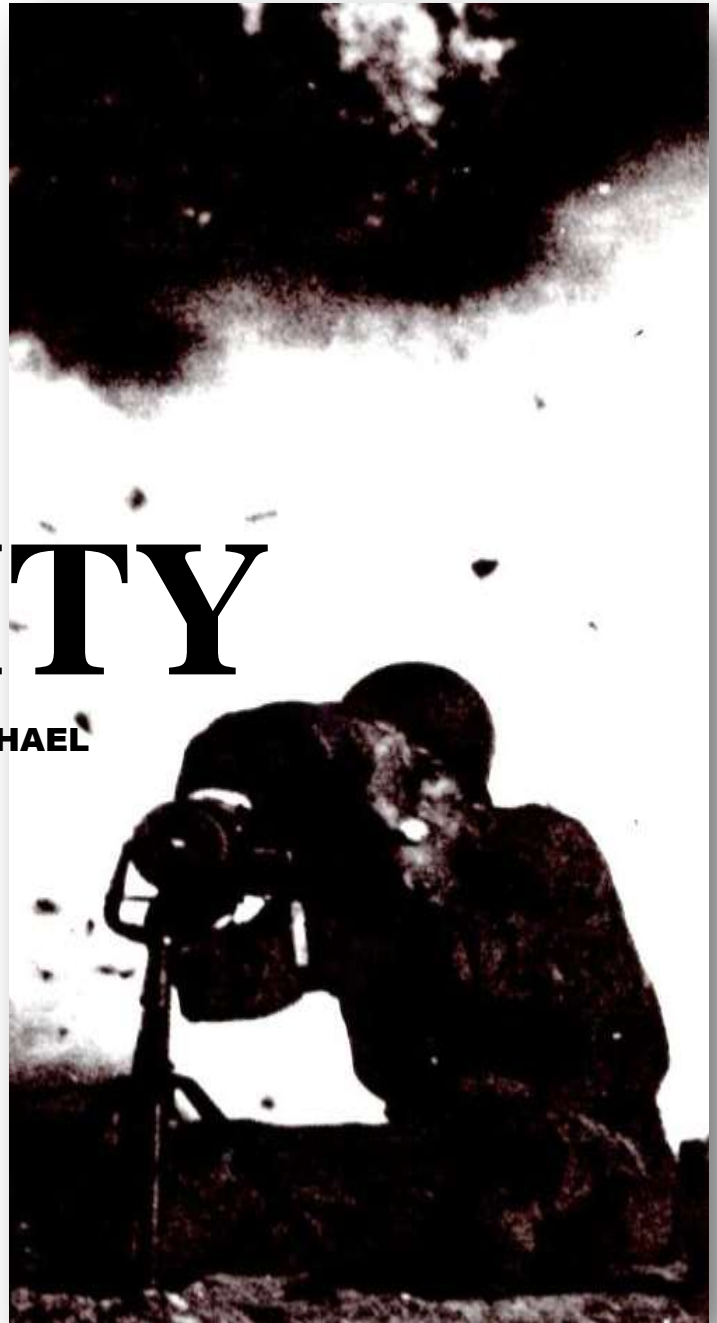
Defense Requires MOBILITY

**LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROBERT CARMICHAEL
MAJOR JOSEPH KEYES**

If war were to break out in Europe, allied forces would probably face thousands of armored vehicles – all committed to a doctrine that requires a forward movement of 50 kilometers or more every 24 hours. If this should happen, the allied small unit commander, armed with the anti-armor weapons currently available, would be fighting “close combat,” particularly when the closing speed of the attacker is considered.

Because of this threat, we must continue to improve our anti-armor capability. True, much is being done to increase the range, lethality and number of anti-armor weapons available to the small unit commander, and the armor-killing units supporting him. However, we must also improve our tactical doctrine. But how does this relate to mobility? The answer is simple. For the small unit leader, being more mobile than the enemy becomes of paramount importance in retaining viable courses of action. Current tactical doctrine – particularly the defense – must fully exploit new developments in battlefield mobility and improved anti-armor weapons – notably TOW, which is now being used.

To paraphrase a part of Major General Talbott's address to the Infantry Aviation Systems Review at the Infantry Center in November 1971, mobility is perhaps more a state of mind than a matter of equipment or



hardware. To even consider conducting an effective defense against a massive, sophisticated armor threat, we must first have mobility at least equal to that of our adversary. We have that – and we can achieve a considerable mobility edge as we improve and expand our airmobile capability. But hardware alone will not give us the mobility edge we must have. It is essential that we think in terms of mobility. To achieve that all-important frame of mind, our tactical doctrine must be designed to preserve freedom of action for all units – including the mechanized Infantry squad.

(continued....)

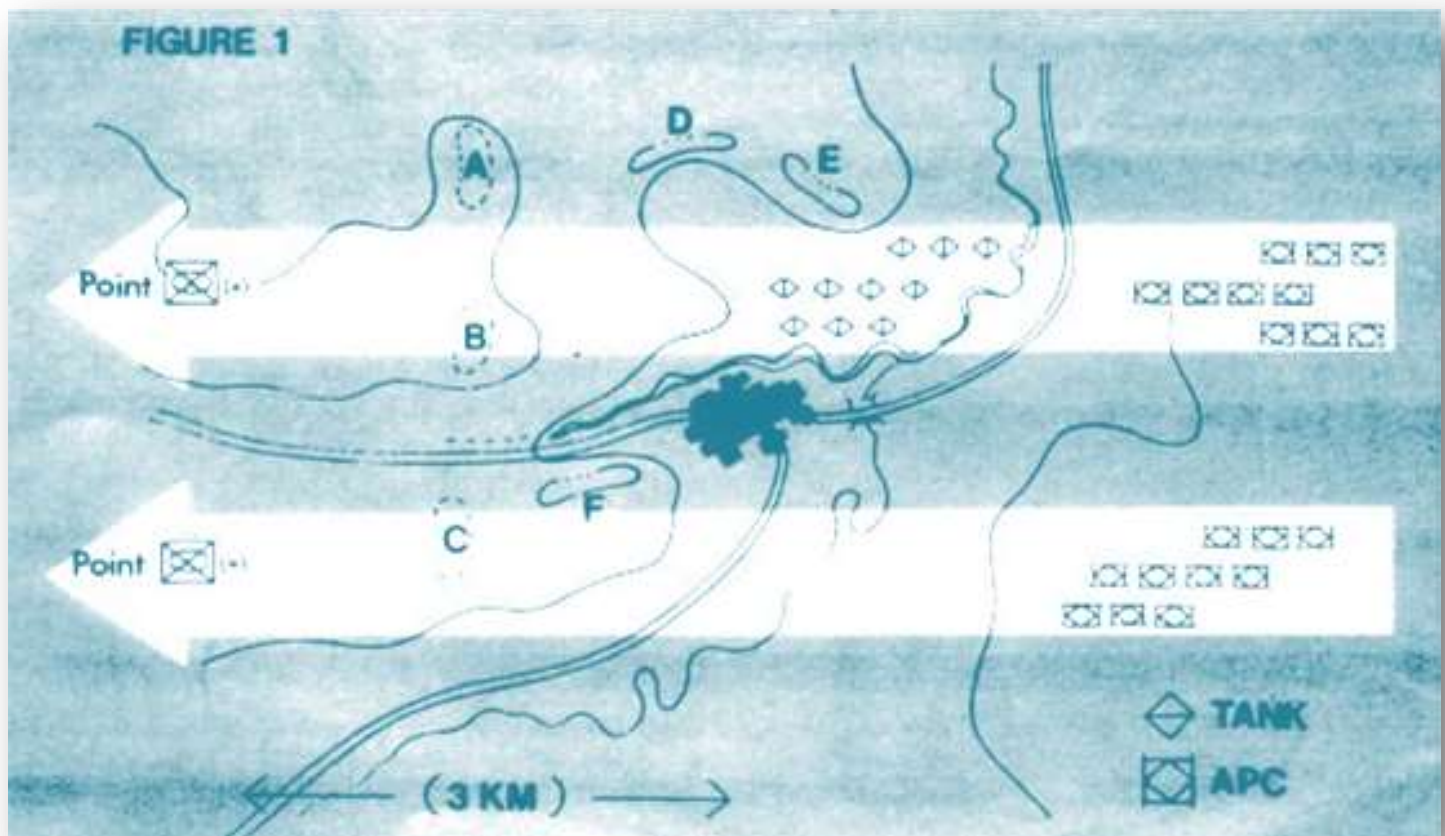


Considering the combat power ratio that presently exists in Europe, any proposed tactics must emphasize avoidance of decisive engagement, at least during the initial stages of combat. At the same time, our anti-armor capability must be fully applied – but carefully preserved. To sustain freedom of action, defensive sectors must be deep. Tactics within those sectors must be organized not to deny use of the terrain to the enemy, but to provide opportunities for armored vehicle kills in the enemy's well-disciplined formations. Assigned unit missions, down to and including the mechanized Infantry squad, must be to destroy as many armored vehicles as possible without becoming decisively engaged.

The enemy attacks with two motorized companies abreast. A tank company from the motorized Infantry regiment's tank battalion leads the attack on the northern company axis (See Figure 1).

armor weapons available to the platoon (400 meters or less), and to the assumption that the enemy, attempting to maintain the momentum of his attack, will remain mounted and overrun or bypass lightly defended positions. Mutual support between platoon will be minimal – each platoon, in effect, constituting an ambush force.

In order to attain the maximum number of vehicle kills against the enemy formation depicted in Figure 1, the mechanized Infantry squad must accept close combat with the attendant risk of decisive engagement. There will be few daylight situations which permit engagement of armored vehicles at 200 meters or less – allowing the squad to escape intact.



To execute his assigned mission, our company commander does not deploy his platoon on positions A, B, and C in the conventional blocking position manner. He deploys them at positions D, E, and F. Since he has no intention of holding terrain – a reserve would be of little value against such a threat – he deploys all maneuver platoon to engage the enemy formation. He must locate the enemy to obtain the best possible field of fire against his flanks and rear. This orientation is primarily related to the short range capability of anti-

Enemy armored forces can be expected to avoid terrain which restricts their freedom of movement. That type of terrain permits an effective ambush and subsequent withdrawal of the ambushing force to its next series of ambush sites.

(continued....)



To exploit situations which permit engagement at short range, the individual squad must be trained to hold a position while controlling and distributing anti-armor fires on the greatest number of armored vehicles, in the shortest time possible. The squad position (See Figure 2) should parallel the expected direction of attack, and should be prepared, if at all possible, with communication trenches connecting firing positions.



Great care must be taken to exploit every possible advantage offered by the terrain and to camouflage positions carefully. Routes of withdrawal must be planned and improved if necessary. Anti-armor munitions must be prelocated at many firing positions within the squad position. The squad APC should be located to protect it from direct fires and to facilitate the squad's withdrawal. Detected hard targets in the main battle area will be quickly engaged by enemy gunners. Although the mounted 80-caliber machinegun is a potent weapons against dismounted Infantrymen, destruction of the APC, with the resultant loss of mobility, is not worth the slight effect of one weapon against armored vehicles.

It must be emphasized that platoon and squad ambushes (at ranges less than 200 meters) may not be practical in many situations – because of insufficient cover and concealment to facilitate withdrawal. In those instances, only long range weapons such as TOW may be employed to engage armor formations at great ranges. Even then, they must withdraw before threatened with decisive engagement. It is critical that our anti-armor capability be exploited to the maximum extent feasible, but not sacrificed for the sole purpose of offering resistance to the attack.

Massive penetrations will probably occur – resulting in large numbers of platoon and squad-size units being bypassed. Consequently, increased emphasis must be given to training small units to conduct semi-independent operation in enemy-controlled territory. The use of smaller than squad-size elements to conduct

raids and ambushes in the enemy's rear is an intriguing idea, but probably would not be productive. Hunter-killer teams, smaller than squad-size, would present control problems and would be relatively easy to isolate and destroy. Bypassed units, retaining a high degree of mobility, could be used with devastating effect against soft targets in the enemy's rear.

Our tactics must shift in emphasis from defending a piece of terrain to deny its use to the enemy – either indefinitely or for a specified period of time – to using terrain only for the purpose of reducing the combat power of the enemy. A standing and defending unit is immobile. All effort must be made to slow, disorganize, and reduce an attacker, but not to the extent that we forfeit our freedom of action. Survival in an armor mechanized environment will demand implementation of a high order of mobility. Technology has provided the hardware. The frame of mind must now be developed.

Lieutenant Colonel Robert B. Carmichael, Infantry, is currently chairman of the Defense Committee, Brigade and Battalion Operations Department, USAIS. A 1952 graduate of the University of Texas, he served as a battalion XO with the 173d Airborne Brigade, and as a battalion commander with the 25th Infantry Division during two tours in Vietnam. Major Joseph D. Keyes, Infantry, is currently an instructor with the Defense Committee, USAIS. A 1958 graduate of USMA, he was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam. He has a masters degree in physics from the University of Virginia.

Source: *Infantry* magazine, circa 1970s



The late LTC Robert B. Carmichael, Abn Inf (Ret)
(No photo of Joseph Keyes available)



The Passing of a Brother of War

Lew (Smitty) and Frank,

I know I sent you both the e-mail of the passing of Ted, but never attached a photo, so here is an e-mail with photo attached.

Airborne

Pastor Raymond A. Chapman
OAM JP (Qual)

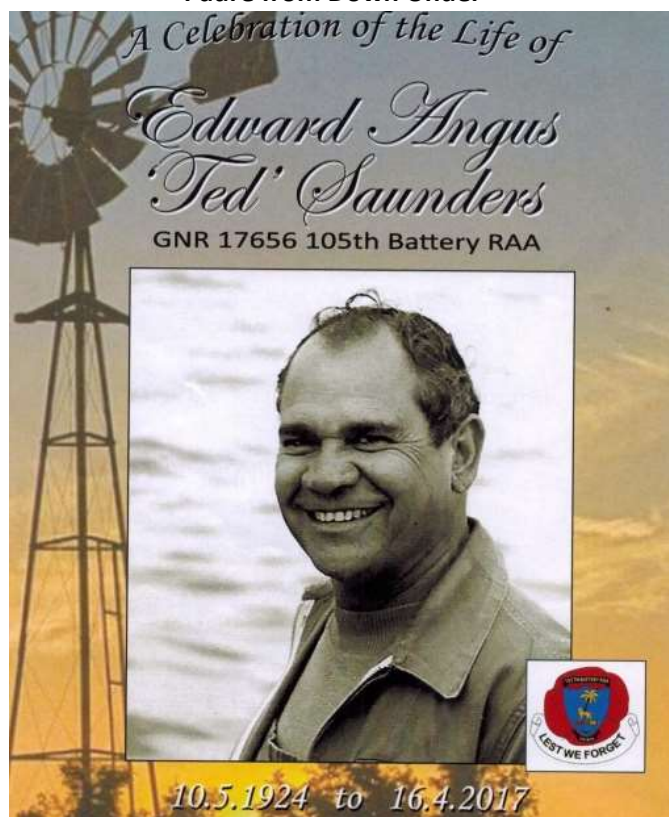
Hi to All Our American Friends of the 173d Airborne Brigade.

Another one of our Gunners has now departed for the Great Gun Park in the Sky. Ted was with the 105 Field Battery - Royal Australian Artillery – 1RAR Battle Group – 173d Airborne Brigade - Bien Hoa, Vietnam 1965 – 1966. He did 2 Tours in Vietnam with the same Artillery Battery, which not too many of us got to do that with the Aussie Artillery (Vietnam 1965-66, 1969-70).

Ted was our only aboriginal soldier in the Battery on the first tour. Ted had also been to a 173d Reunion in USA and was presented to the Lakota Indian - Sioux Nation Tribal Chiefs, whilst there he presented some Australian Aboriginal Artefacts to them from one indigenous people to another.

Rest now Great Warrior. Airborne

Pastor Raymond A. Chapman. OAM JP (Qual)
Padre from Down Under



Rest easy brother

Last Month's *WHODAT?*

In Issue 73 of our newsletter we asked if anyone recognized this young, handsome, hardcore, Sky Soldier paratrooper of Alpha & Delta Company fame of Vietnam vintage?



The young lad is our very own 173d Airborne Brigade Colonel Emeritus, Kenneth V. Smith, former company commander of Alpha & Delta Companies in RVN.

Here's a more seasoned version of the same trooper taken a few years and gray hairs later at one of our brigade reunions.

ATW Ken, and then some!

Kenneth V. Smith
Col Abn Inf (Ret).
173d Colonel Emeritus



A sad historical excerpt...

A Sky Soldier's Fall From Grace

Dan White

Government Official (1946–1985)

Born in San Francisco in 1946, Dan White became infamous in 1978 when he assassinated San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk in City Hall following a dispute with Moscone. He was convicted of manslaughter in a highly controversial trial.

When Dan White shot dead America's first openly gay elected official, Harvey Milk, and San Francisco Mayor George Moscone in November 1978, the case caused a sensation that would go down in history as the "Twinkie Defense" and make Milk into a gay icon.

Daniel James White was born on September 2, 1946 in Long Beach, California. He was the second of nine children and often described as an "an all-American boy." He excelled in sports in high school and went on to serve in the Vietnam War as a paratrooper with the 173d Airborne Brigade. He returned home to work first as a policeman and then as a fireman in San Francisco. In 1977, he was elected to the Board of Supervisors on a conservative platform.

White was troubled by growing official tolerance of overt homosexuality and crime. He represented a predominantly white middle-class section that was hostile to the growing homosexual community of San Francisco and became part of a loosely formed coalition to oppose Mayor George Moscone and his liberal ideas. He also had frequent disagreements on policy with fellow supervisor Harvey Milk....

On joining the board, Dan White was forced to resign his job as a fireman due to a provision in the city charter that barred anyone from holding two city jobs. He started a restaurant business, but it failed due to the pressures of his work for the city. Finding it impossible to support his family on the meager supervisor's salary of \$9,600 a year and the increasing back seat he felt he was being forced into by Moscone, Milk and other progressive board members, he abruptly resigned his seat after Milk's gay rights bill got passed. White had opposed it.



Web photo purported to be Dan White

White's colleagues and constituents convinced him to retract his resignation, so he approached Moscone and asked to be reappointed to the board. Although Moscone considered White's plea, he had already been strongly influenced by Milk and other board members to appoint liberal-minded federal housing official Don Horanzy, instead.

On November 27, 1978, Dan White went to City Hall with a loaded .38 revolver. In order to avoid the metal detectors, he entered through a basement window that had been left open for ventilation. He proceeded to the Mayor's office, where the two men began arguing until Moscone suggested they go to a more private room so that they could not be heard. Once there, Moscone refused to reinstate White to his previous position, and White shot the mayor twice in the chest and twice in the head.

He then went down the corridor and shot Milk, twice in the chest, once in the back, and twice again in the head. Soon after, he turned himself in at the police station where he used to work....

During a videotaped confession, White came across as a pathetic man who was barely able to explain why he had assassinated his colleagues. His defense lawyer, Douglas R. Schmidt, claimed White had acted in the heat of passion and not out of malice. He made a plea of "diminished capacity," due to extreme stress in White's home life and depression. Describing White's emotional state, psychiatrist Martin Blinder, one of five defense therapists, explained that in the days leading up to the shootings, White grew slovenly and abandoned his usual healthy diet and indulged in a diet of sugary junk food like Coke, doughnuts and Twinkies instead....

The jury found White guilty of voluntary manslaughter instead of first-degree murder. White was sentenced to a maximum of seven years and eight months in prison and never expressed public remorse for the murders....

White served five years, one month and nine days at Soledad State Prison and was released on parole on January 6, 1984. He lived away from his family in Los Angeles for a year and then asked to return to San Francisco. New Mayor Dianne Feinstein issued a public statement asking him not to.

Ignoring her wishes, he returned to a city where he was not welcome. Dogged by fears of retaliation, his marriage fell apart and he became increasingly depressed, eventually committing suicide by carbon monoxide poisoning at the age of 39.

Read entire story at:

[www.biography.com/people/dan-white-17169664?_escaped_fragment_ =](http://www.biography.com/people/dan-white-17169664?_escaped_fragment_=)

Note: One can only imagine what role, if any, PTSD may have played in Dan White's life? Ed



Diversity more than black and white, Army leaders say

By C. Todd Lopez, May 5, 2017



Brig. Gen. Lapthe Flora, the assistant adjutant general for strategic initiatives with the Virginia National Guard, spoke during an Army Diversity Reception, May 3, 2017, on Capitol Hill. Flora came to the United States in 1980 as a refugee from Vietnam, following the fall of Saigon in 1975. During the reception, this photo collage was on display, illustrating Flora's path from refugee to Army leader.

(Photo Credit: Imagery courtesy of Brig. Gen. Lapthe Flora)

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) -- What is diversity? It's more than a matter of race or gender, say Army leaders.

"Diversity isn't about looks, it's about perspective," said Brig. Gen. Lapthe Flora. *"It's a different mindset, different thinking, different thought processes."*

Flora, originally born in Vietnam, came to the United States in 1980 as a refugee from that country. He served as keynote speaker at an Army Diversity Reception, Wednesday, on Capitol Hill.

For the Army, increasing diversity among the uniformed and civilian workforce means making military service appeal to a wide array of Americans from a variety of faith groups, ethnicities, backgrounds, upbringings and geographic locations. The goal is to create a system that maximizes individual talent, increases morale and enhances military effectiveness.

Today, 37 years after he arrived in the United States, Flora serves as the assistant adjutant general for strategic initiatives with the Virginia National Guard.

"However you were raised in your family defines who you are," Flora said. *"And whoever you are, you have a different thought process and a different perspective. That to me is diversity, and that kind of gives you a richness. You need to harness those different ideas. It definitely makes the Army better and stronger."*

Flora is an Army infantry officer who originally fled the cities in Vietnam after the fall of Saigon in 1975. He and his brothers lived for more than three years in the jungles there, he said, to avoid the North Vietnamese military.

"My unyielding resolve to stay alive motivated me to endure three and half years of harsh jungle life in Vietnam, where there was no electricity, no running water, where we grew and hunted our own food, and built our own thatch hut," he said.

Later, he made the bold choice to flee Vietnam. He spent five days on a fishing boat without food or water, he said, traversing the South China Sea, before he finally landed in Indonesia. Going into the trip, he said, he knew he had poor odds for survival. *"I beat those odds and lived to tell the tale,"* he said.

In May 1979, he found himself in a refugee camp in Indonesia, where he was able to plead his case for a chance to live in the United States.

"As a result of your generosity, I was blessed with the privilege to migrate to the United States, a year later, arriving April of 1980," Flora said. *"Today I stand before you as a humble servant who owes a great debt of gratitude to America, a debt which I can never fully repay, especially to our Vietnam veterans. I am humbled when recalling who I once was, while beaming with pride and gratitude at who I have become: a proud citizen-Soldier of this great nation."*

ARMY NEEDS DIVERSITY NOW MORE THAN EVER

Sen. Tammy Duckworth, who represents the state of Illinois and who is herself a decorated Army veteran, a wounded warrior, and a UH-60 Black Hawk pilot, said the world is in conflict now and the Army needs the strength that diversity provides to continue to protect the nation.

"We are at uncertain times on a global scale right now, at a time when American leadership is ever more important than it has ever been throughout our nation's history, probably since World War II," she said.

When the Army goes overseas, Duckworth said, the diversity that it brings with it in its formations has an impact on those who witness it, and even on the Army's ability to operate.

"Diversity is so ... critical to who we are and how we can function as a nation but also to the readiness and our ability to project our forces overseas," she said.

(continued....)





Sen. Tammy Duckworth, of Illinois, spoke during an Army Diversity Reception, May 3, 2017, on Capitol Hill. Also in attendance were Maj. Gen. Laura J. Richardson, the chief of the Army's Office of Legislative Liaison; Lt. Gen. Gary H. Cheek, the director of the Army staff; Brig. Gen. Lapthe Flora, the assistant adjutant general for strategic initiatives with the Virginia National Guard; and Lt. Gen. Karen E. Dyson, who serves as the military deputy for budget with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management & Comptroller). (Photo Credit: C. Todd Lopez)

Duckworth cited the Illinois National Guard's Partnership for Peace program with the nation of Poland as an example. She said when the Illinois Guard goes to Poland, they bring with them native Polish speakers to facilitate the mission. Likewise, she said, when Soldiers deploy from Hawaii to go to the Philippines, they bring with them native speakers of Tagalog.

"This is why we are so effective on a global stage," she said. "The fact we can have a Sikh officer show up wearing his turban and represent the greatest military the world has ever seen, and for the rest of the world to say 'that's America' is really important. The importance of diversity to our nation's strength, on an ongoing basis, cannot be underemphasized. And the fact that we have a former refugee who is now a general in the U.S. military says something about who we are as a nation."

Now is not the time, Duckworth said, to limit who can join the U.S. Army. Instead, it's a time to bring more kinds of people into the Army to serve.

"To limit who can serve in the military, to limit who we are as a nation, will limit our strength," she said. "I want us to continue to lead the free world the way we have and to lead into the next century. The way we do that is to emphasize what makes this nation great: our values, and our values is why we are diverse."

Warren Whitlock, who serves as the deputy assistant secretary of the Army for leadership and diversity, said events like the reception on Capitol Hill are meant to highlight the diversity already in the Army.

Whitlock said the more Americans know about how diverse the Army is, the more likely they will be to consider the Army as an opportunity for themselves.

"The history of the Army is one that has always been an organization that embraces diversity," he said. "It is a tremendous place to work, and a tremendous place to seek careers, and at the end of the day we are serving our nation to protect our interests."

Source: U.S. Army

www.army.mil/article/187179/diversity_more_than_black_and_white_army_leaders_say

A Little 2/503 Diversity of Our Own



A.B. Garcia (The "Aussino")
HHC/2/503
BS/V



Gary Prisk ("Cap")
CO C/D/2/503
Author



Milton Olive
B/2/503, MOH Recipient
Died saving his buddies



Jim "Top" Dresser
A/HHC/2/503
A good 'ol boy' & friend

One can imagine all, or most of us no doubt, have spent quiet moments reflecting on our time in combat, way too often for many. And when I find myself in that place, it's easy to recall particular life and death situations, such as March 16, 1966, when our entire battalion was at risk of being overrun by bad guys. Others will remember surviving the battles in the Mekong, Xuan Loc, Dak To and countless other, lesser known locales. And I propose to you, not once did we look to our left or right during those vexing times and think, he's a Chicano, a black guy, a future novelist or country boy, and their religious beliefs or lack thereof was furthest from our minds...in their own way, each man was keeping me, and you, alive; for we knew in every case their blood ran red, their color was jungle fatigue green, and before anything else we knew, they were Americans. Ed



A 'coming home' story

By Lew "Smitty" Smith, HHC/2/503, '65/'66
Editor, 2/503d Vietnam Newsletter

"I Don't Think I'm Coming Back Kenny..."

"Don't say that," my best friend Kenny Haines responded after he picked me up from home in the early a.m. before my parents and younger brothers awoke. He was helping execute the plan we had drawn up for my escape, thus avoiding sad farewells I chose to avoid -- instead leaving a goodbye note on the kitchen table. Not a brave act for a soldier off to war, but preferred to being a tearful soldier off to war.

He drove me to Ontario Airport not far from my home and family in Fontana, CA, then a small steel mill town, later garnering some notoriety for being the birthplace of the Hells Angels. A flight to SFO, then an uneventful passage on the wings of TWA to the land of no tomorrow, Vietnam, the first foreign soil I would touch as a boy and a recently anointed Screaming Eagle.



A young, new Puking Buzzard and future 2/503 RTO on the parade grounds at Ft. Campbell in '65.

The plane door opened to a heavy, damp and unusual heat which welcomed us on the tarmac at Tan Son Nhut Airport. Over the years I've sometimes pondered if I was alone in wondering about the possibility of being shot at while disembarking that bird? I suspect not.

At the Repo Depot they called out names and units, "Johnson, Brown, Smith, 173rd, Bien Hoa!" Huh? Wait a minute, I thought. I'm a goddamn paratrooper, I'm going to the 101st not to some fucking Leg unit!!! I didn't go thru jump school to fight in war with a bunch of raggedy-ass Legs!! I'm the *third* paratrooper in the family for Christsakes!

I would learn unit assignments or re-assignments at the time would often be dictated by the need for one's MOS, and it must have been that *Leg unit* in Bien Hoa was in the market for a school-trained radio guy -- unknown to this jumper at that moment, this young Buzzard was off to the 2nd Battalion of the 173d Airborne -- they called them Sky Soldiers.

A year later, nearly to the day, we were loading up for yet another sojourn into the jungle or some other god forsaken place when I heard, "Smith! Turn in your gear, you're going home." No time for goodbyes, no slaps on the back, no promises to meet back in the world. Lee, Joyner, Willie, Andy, Jerry, Phuc, all of them are on the trucks pulling away, Sigholtz in command (whom 34 years later would become a friend), someone else carrying the battalion's number 2 Prick for Christensen, me standing there wearing ruck and radio, alone, in the dust. I'm going home.

Over 30 years later Lee and I would speak by phone, as we shared memories, and tears together. It was good to hear my friend's voice, a more mature voice, but the same. Lee would pull a second tour in Vietnam.



2/503 Bn RTOs and commo guys, 1966 at Zinn.

SP4 Lee Braggs, back row, second from left, retired SFC.

(Photo by Smitty)

"They're gonna check you for weapons and anything else, so don't take any gear with you or you'll end up in Leavenworth," the old supply sergeant told me. He either lied or didn't know there would be no such check. Not even my helmet? That's MY helmet!! Vose has *his* helmet!

(continued....)



Fearing a lifetime prison sentence for theft of government property all my gear remained behind in the war zone, including my trusty helmet which, no doubt, came into the possession of a FNG -- I hope it served him as well as it had me. Did it make the combat jump? Did it end up on *The Slopes* where buddy Phuc and so many others died? Was it piled in a heap of bloody gear at *Hill 875*? Or maybe it lies today somewhere on a shelf in an Army-Navy store in some non-descript city, well worn, well-traveled, the keeper of stories. *"Look son, I wore a helmet like that in Vietnam, see how heavy it is?"* the old Vet tells his young grandson. One thing I am sure of, it was later worn by a warrior.



The RTO with his trusty helmet, some time, somewhere in Vietnam.

Gearless and now buddyless, as instructed I made my way to the medic's tent at Camp Zinn for a special inspection. Without even being offered dinner and a movie I was ordered to drop my jungle fatigue pants in front of a sitting Doc who told me to vigorously pull on my special purpose as he studied the action to identify any abnormal emissions which, if present, would delay one's departure. Having never undergone such an examination I nevertheless passed cleanly which I credited at the time to years of experience at the procedure. The Doc, however, failed to discover the crabs which unknown to me were looking to hitch a ride to the U.S. -- this might also explain why the girl never returned my calls following our drive-in date after returning home. My poor mother had to burn all the sheets along with the illegal aliens.

Buddyless, gearless and STDless, away on a deuce I and my little friends were off on the journey home.

The plane lifted off to near silence in the cabin. It's really happening, it's over, we're going home, there's no place like it. I recall once out of Vietnam airspace I gave a sigh of relief, but until good buddy Ed Kearney,

B/2/503, described his own airborne exodus from the land of little people, I had forgotten the cheers and hoots ricocheting off the cabin walls once we were informed we over the South China Sea and out of range of enemy fire. We're really going home.

Twelve months are over. The fear is over. The death and maiming are over. The malaria is over. The madness is over. It is all over, but only for me. And it would remain that way for more than 30 years.

Theatrical as it was, I was not alone in, literally, kissing the tarmac at Oakland or SFO, or wherever we landed. Yes, Dorothy, there's no place like it.

After clearing, I somehow got to Los Angeles, about 60 miles from home, and decided to thumb the rest of the way to save a few P's. Standing along the street forever in my pretty, ribboned, bloused paratrooper attire with cunt cap on top and glistening Corcorans below, I didn't get a bite. Went off into the bushes and changed into civvies and was picked up right away. Welcome home hitch hiker paratrooper guy.

My three-tour SF older brother, Bob, from whom the bad guys claimed an eye and left souvenirs of shrapnel in his brain on his final tour, was home on leave in Fontana between tours, when he decided to go out to a local beer bar wearing his fighting-soldier-from-the-sky regalia, including his jazzy beret. A group of steel workers beat the shit out of him. These returns home were decidedly different than 5th Avenue and confetti. There's a lot to be said for confetti.



The RTO, on right, with his Sneaky Pete older brother Bob at Camp Zinn in December '65.

Kenny. I'm home buddy, I made it. I'm one of the lucky ones, Ken, I'm sure of that. I'm pretty sure of that, Ken.

Lew "Smitty" Smith is editor of the *2/503d Vietnam Newsletter* published for the men of his battalion. He served with the 2/503d from Dec. '65 to Dec. '66 as an RTO, where he was awarded the CIB, and Bronze Star w/V for silly actions on Operation Silver City during the battle at LZ Zulu Zulu where he was also wounded. Today he is retired and resides on Merritt Island, FL with his wife Reggie of 49 years and his golf clubs. Smitty is a substandard golfer, but consistent.

Coming Home Stories....2/503d Troopers are invited to send their "Coming Home Story" to rto173@att.net for inclusion in a future issue of our newsletter. Ed



FIGHTING SOLDIERS FROM THE SKY....THEY CALL THEM GREEN BERETS



Excerpt...

"The US Army celebrates its birthday as June 14, 1775, but it didn't have the special operators with their distinctive green beret until much later.

Army Special Forces got its start on June 19, 1952 — 65 years ago Monday — and since then its soldiers have been at the forefront of fights in Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan and are now advising US-backed forces inside Syria.

They call themselves the quiet professionals, and they are one of the most elite fighting groups in the world.

Their mission is unconventional warfare — taking small teams to train and lead guerrilla forces.

Special Forces soldiers usually work together in a 12-man A-Team, with each man holding a specific job: The ranking officer is the team leader, the weapons sergeant knows just about every weapon in the world, the communications sergeant tees up ordnance or extract, and the medics can take lives as quickly as saving them.

It may seem crazy to send only 12 guys into a hostile country, but it's not crazy when they are Special Forces."



The US Special Forces are known for their exceptional skill and professionalism in modern war.

(Department of Defense)



Alongside the CIS, they were the first Americans on the ground in Afghanistan only one month after 9/11.



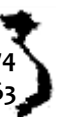
High altitude low opening jump training.



Most recently, Green Berets and other elite special operations forces have embedded and advised with Iraqi security forces and Kurdish militia fighters to take on ISIS.

Visit site below for complete report & photos:
www.businessinsider.com/green-berets-army-special-forces-intelligent-well-trained-deadly-2017-6

(continued....)



The SF in Vietnam....



„„Some of America’s Best



(web photos)

De oppresso liber
To liberate the oppressed





173d Airborne Brigade Association



Congratulations Mr. President!!

Congratulations to Terry Aubrey, E/2/503, on being elected the new President of the Society of the 173d Airborne Brigade. Long live the President!

"Leadership you can count on"



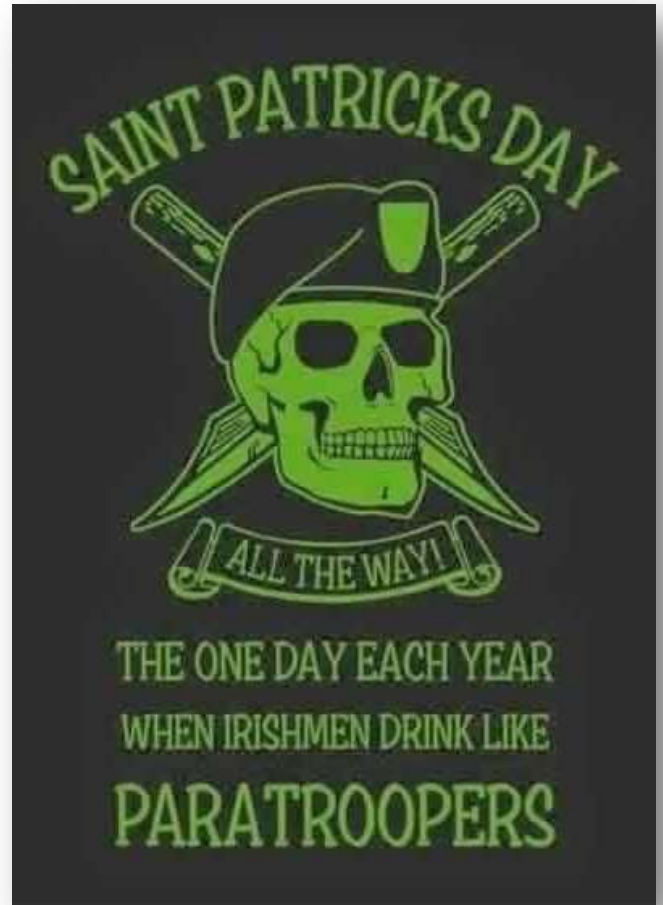
Whodat?



Anyone recognize this young leader of warriors from A/HHC/2/503 from '66/67? Following his genuinely heroic months in the boonies with Alpha when he should have been awarded the DSC, he became platoon leader of our Anti-Tank Platoon, and I'll be damned, we were never once attacked by tanks!

Hint: He had hair then. Ed

SENT IN BY, WELL, A PARATROOPER



North Korean officers... Could be easily defeated with a **giant magnet...**

"And if they fell in a swimming pool, they'd sink."

[Image caught by the keen eye of Jack Tarr, 4/503]





INCOMING!



~ Wow! ~

Wow! I did not know this very valuable newsletter existed. A paratrooper from C/2/503 (Don Yoder by way of Robert Ryan) contacted me several months ago, and he gave you my name and email.

I thank John Barnes, Chaplain Walker...every day for continuing the ALL the Way tradition. Thank you, RTO, for your continuing service.

Stand in the door!

**Harold (Hal) W. Mahar, C/2/503
Nashua, NH**

See Veterans Forum with Bob Stevens for interview with Hal Mahar, US Army 1964-1969.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QJ03M3gOuAg>

Note: We watched the interesting video interview with Bob referenced above, and recommend it to other troopers. Ed

~ What a Great Read ~

Hello Sir,

I was just reading the article "*The Ghosts of Zulu Zulu*" in issue 51. What a great read!

I'm just an avid amateur Vietnam War buff/historian with a keen interest in collecting Battlefield relics from the plethora of battles that were fought during the War.

I noticed while reading the article some soil and relics were found and collected from the Battle site. If ever some of the soil and/or relics from LZ Zulu Zulu are for sale I would be willing to make a generous offer.

Also if you know of any other relics that were found on any other battle sites I would be extremely interested as well.

Is it possible to purchase hard copies of the Newsletters as I cannot seem to open a lot of them?

Thank you for your time.

Kindest regards,

Sandy Campbell

~ Our Reply ~

Thanks for your interest in the history of our unit in Vietnam. I have nothing available to sell relating to the battle at Zulu Zulu, nor will you find many or any Sky Soldier willing to sell items in their possession from their time at war. Attached is a piece I put together, "*The Battle at Bau San*", about Operation Silver City which you may find interesting?

You can freely see all issues of our newsletter at http://corregidor.org/VN2503/newsletter/issue_index.htm

Best regards,

Smitty

~ What About The Later Years? ~



Good buddy Dave (Link) Linkenholder between ops in '69 or '70.

So, can't even imagine the effort that went into this Issue (Issue 73). Emotionally exhausted me just going through it. Commendable job buddy!

Also, as an aside, question that you may have some insight into.....While us Herd boys all recognize the significance of Dak To, and the early years, it does seem to those of us from late '69 through '70 that it is almost assumed we weren't really even there. No specific year book was done, just an addendum to '69 really.

I was in the field either in pacification, search and destroy, or Stag Team 2 (5 months) for all but a couple weeks where our unit was pulled back in for cleanup and bunker duty at LZ English, or my week in Bangkok. We literally stayed in the field for two months in spring of '70 before our wasted asses were brought in for haircuts, ear cleaning, and a few days of bunker duty.

2nd Bat actually had a major encounter near the Dak To area in early April of '70 for which myself and several others received Bronze Stars, and several others received Silver Stars, in contact with NVA forces. So, are you aware of documentation, sit rep reports, photo/video documentation of that period that is for some reason not expressed generally over the years?

(continued....)



Truthfully, there were few troopers for my '70 period at the two reunions I attended. I'm sure with the casualties in the early years, '70 was not considered quite the level of battle, but we lost a lot of guys WIA, KIA, though mostly booby trap related during the period.

Anyway, if you happen to have some insights into historical documentation available for late '69 through December '70 when 2nd Bat was moved to Anh Khe to pull security I would appreciate it. —

J. Dave Linkenhoker

~ Our Reply ~

Hi Link, good hearing from you. We're always receptive to receiving and are on the lookout for reports, stories, newspaper articles, official docs, photos, anything really, which captures activities and operations of our battalion post Dak To. With your o.k., I'll include your note in our next newsletter and again ask our guys to send in info covering the period you cite.

Thanks, Dave, and *ATW brother!*

Smitty

“If you don’t tell your story, no one else will.”

**Bob Stevens
Veterans Forum
Nashua, NY**

~ All Days Are Beautiful... Only The Weather Changes ~

“Once, I was traveling in Kenya and I met a refugee from Zimbabwe. He said he hadn't eaten anything in over 3 days and looked extremely skinny and unhealthy. Then my friend offered him the rest of the sandwich he was eating. The first thing the man said was, ‘We can share it.’”



[Sent in by Reggie Smith, Skysoldierette &
‘Official Proofreader’ of our 2/503d Vietnam Newsletter]

~ 3rd BATT BULLETIN BOARD ~

May 15, 2017

Attention 3rd Batt Skysoldiers: I received this email from George Paul Farris, who during his tour in the 3rd Batt was CSM Teague’s driver.

Mason Branstetter, LTC (Ret), HHC/D/E/3/503

Dear Mason:

It is with deep regret that I write with the sad news of the passing of CSM (Ret) Bobby V. Teague at noon on 14 May 2017. He succumbed to multiple maladies as a result of exposure to Agent Orange.

As you are aware Sergeant Major Teague deployed the 3d Battalion, 503d Infantry (Airborne) to Vietnam under MG (then LTC) Cleland’s leadership when it initially deployed in 1967. He later returned in 1969 for a second tour as the Battalion’s CSM.

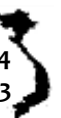
A legendary warrior, he was truly the Top of The Rock! At the time of his promotion Bobby had the unique distinction of being the youngest sergeant major in the Army and upon retirement he was the ranking sergeant major. In retirement Bobby also served as President of both the Society of the 173d Airborne Brigade and the 82nd Airborne Division Association.

His awards and decorations include the Combat Infantryman Badge with Star, Master Parachutist Badge, Ranger Tab, Pathfinder Badge, Silver Star, Legion of Merit with OLC, Bronze Star Medal with Valor Device & 7th OLC, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal with OLC, Air Medal with 5th OLC, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal with 2nd OLC, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal with 8th Award Clasp, RVN Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Palm, RVN Civic Action Medal 2d Class, and the Royal Cambodian Parachutist Badge.

Interment was held at Sandhills State Veteran's Cemetery. For those who wish, donations may be made to the Association of the 173d Airborne Brigade Scholarship Fund, in lieu of floral tributes.

This was rough timing as it comes at a time when our reunion is taking place in OKC. I urge you to forward this to our 3d Batt distribution e-mail list. Also, would you contact Tim Austin to determine whether a moment of silence can be observed at the banquet and intentions for the repose of his soul included in the Memorial Service prayers on Sunday.

With warm fraternal regard I remain very respectfully, **George FARRIS, CPT, IN, USA (R)**





DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

awarded to

Charles James Holland, SFC

E-Troop, 17th Cav



Action Date: 18-Aug-67

Service: Army

Rank: Sergeant First Class

Company: Troop E

Regiment: 17th Cavalry Regiment, 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate)

Citation:

Awarded for actions during the Vietnam War. The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918 (amended by act of July 25, 1963), takes pride in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) to Sergeant First Class [then Staff Sergeant] Charles James Holland (ASN: 12588xxx),



United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Troop E, 17th Cavalry, 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate) in the Republic of Vietnam. Staff Sergeant Holland distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 18 August 1967. On this date, in an area 15 miles northeast of Dak To Special Forces Camp, Dak To Province, in support of Operation GREELEY, the Team's mission was to penetrate an area heavily infested by Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army elements, to conduct surveillance of enemy routes and to detect and report all enemy activities. Because heavy enemy activity had been reported in the area, the mission was considered to be very dangerous. Only minutes before the team was to be infiltrated, information was received that six-to-eight Viet Cong had been observed from an aircraft and that they had fired on the aircraft from a location 1,000 meters from the team's primary landing zone. When offered the opportunity to postpone the mission, Sergeant Holland declined, merely changing the location of the infiltration landing zone. During the first few hours after landing,

the team located more than 25 foxholes, only 2 to 3 weeks old. The following morning they established an observation point from which they could watch both nearby Highway 14 and a known enemy trail a short distance away. The observation point, located on the side of a hill, was well concealed by the vegetation, but permitted an unobstructed view. A short time later, 21 Viet Cong were observed moving along the trail. After calling for artillery fire, voices and movement were heard to their rear and they were assaulted by intense enemy automatic weapons fire, hand grenades and M-79 grenade launcher fire. Sergeant Holland immediately returned fire but, realizing the extreme danger to his men, ordered the team to withdraw from the area. He remained behind to provide cover fire for his men, several times overtaking them only long enough to give additional instructions. When all the men had safely reached the bottom of the hill, it was noted that the radio had been left behind. Completely disregarding his own safety, Sergeant Holland charged back up the hill, firing his weapon in order to draw the enemy fire from his men. As a result of his gallant actions, it was possible for the remainder of the team to be safely extracted from their vulnerable position. The following day, Sergeant Holland's lifeless body was found a short distance from the point of initial contact. Because he was wearing part of the equipment which had been left behind, it was determined that he had reached the observation post and was overtaken by the enemy force while attempting to return to his men. From an examination of the area in which his body was found, it was discovered that he had valiantly fought the enemy until he was overcome. Moreover, evidence revealed that he had inflicted serious injury on several enemy soldiers. His courage in the face of a determined enemy force was instrumental in saving the lives of his team members. Sergeant Holland's conspicuous gallantry, his profound courage and his intrepidity at the risk of his own life above and beyond the call of duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.



HQ US ARMY, VIETNAM

APO San Francisco 96375

21 September 1967

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 4802

AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS



TC 320. The following AWARD is announced posthumously.

DANIEL WALTER JORDAN

1st Lieutenant, Infantry

Company A, 4th Battalion, 503d Infantry Regiment
173d Airborne Brigade (Sep)

Date action: 10 July 1967

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Daniel Walter Jordan, First Lieutenant (Infantry), U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company A, 4th Battalion (Airborne), 503d Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate). First Lieutenant Jordan distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 10 July 1967 while serving as platoon leader of an airborne infantry platoon on a combat mission near Dak To. Late in the afternoon, the lead platoon of Lieutenant Jordan's company was attacked and pinned down by heavy automatic weapons fire from a well-entrenched Viet Cong force. He received an order to maneuver his men in a flank attack on the insurgents to relieve the attack pressure on the engaged element. Because of poor radio contact, he was forced to run through areas exposed to hostile fire to coordinate with his commander. He then returned to his men and



braved constant hostile fire to organize his men and lead them forward. For a half hour, Lieutenant Jordan made repeated trips to the command post to report his element's progress and receive instructions. He moved among his men, calming and encouraging them, although this forced him to expose himself many times to the enemy's weapons. Under his leadership, the platoon was able to advance to a position from which to assault the Viet Cong machine gun positions. While courageously leading his men against the numerically superior insurgent force, he was mortally wounded. First Lieutenant Jordan's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty, at the cost of his life, were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

The Distinguished Service Cross (DSC)

The DSC is the second highest military award that can be awarded to a member of the United States Army (and previously, the United States Army Air Forces and the United States Air Force), for extreme gallantry and risk of life in actual combat with an armed enemy force.

Actions that merit the Distinguished Service Cross must be of such a high degree that they are above those required for all other U.S. combat decorations but do not meet the criteria for the Medal of Honor.

The Distinguished Service Cross is equivalent to the Navy Cross (Navy and Marine Corps), the Air Force Cross (Air Force), and the Coast Guard Cross (Coast Guard).

The Distinguished Service Cross was first awarded during World War I. In addition, a number of awards were made for actions before World War I. In many cases, these were to soldiers who had received a Certificate of Merit for gallantry which, at the time, was the only other honor for gallantry the Army could award, or recommend a Medal of Honor. Others were belated recognition of actions in the Philippines, on the Mexican Border and during the Boxer Rebellion.

The Distinguished Service Cross is distinct from the Distinguished Service Medal, which is awarded to persons in recognition of exceptionally meritorious service to the government of the United States in a duty of great responsibility. The Distinguished Service Cross is only awarded for actions in combat, while the Distinguished Service Medal has no such restriction.



What does this poem have to do with the 2/503d or military issues? Not much, other than Service did serve in the military. It's one of my favorites from youth, and a fun read over coffee on the veranda on a warm summer morning. Ed

The Cremation of Sam McGee

by Robert W. Service

There are strange things done in the midnight sun
By the men who moil for gold;
The Arctic trails have their secret tales
That would make your blood run cold;
The Northern Lights have seen queer sights,
But the queerest they ever did see
Was that night on the marge of Lake Lebarge
I cremated Sam McGee.

Now Sam McGee was from Tennessee, where the
cotton blooms and blows.
Why he left his home in the South to roam 'round the
Pole, God only knows.
He was always cold, but the land of gold seemed to
hold him like a spell;
Though he'd often say in his homely way that "*he'd
sooner live in hell.*"

On a Christmas Day we were mushing our way over
the Dawson trail.
Talk of your cold! through the parka's fold it stabbed
like a driven nail.
If our eyes we'd close, then the lashes froze till
sometimes we couldn't see;
It wasn't much fun, but the only one to whimper was
Sam McGee.

And that very night, as we lay packed tight in our
robes beneath the snow,
And the dogs were fed, and the stars o'erhead were
dancing heel and toe,
He turned to me, and "*Cap,*" says he, "*I'll cash in this
trip, I guess;
And if I do, I'm asking that you won't refuse my last
request.*"

Well, he seemed so low that I couldn't say no; then he
says with a sort of moan:
*"It's the cursed cold, and it's got right hold till I'm
chilled clean through to the bone.
Yet 'taint being dead—it's my awful dread of the icy
grave that pains;
So I want you to swear that, foul or fair, you'll cremate
my last remains."*

A pal's last need is a thing to heed, so I swore I would
not fail;
And we started on at the streak of dawn; but God! he
looked ghastly pale.
He crouched on the sleigh, and he raved all day of his
home in Tennessee;
And before nightfall a corpse was all that was left of
Sam McGee.

There wasn't a breath in that land of death, and I
hurried, horror-driven,
With a corpse half hid that I couldn't get rid, because
of a promise given;
It was lashed to the sleigh, and it seemed to say: "*You
may tax your brawn and brains,
But you promised true, and it's up to you to cremate
those last remains.*"



Now a promise made is a debt unpaid, and the trail
has its own stern code.
In the days to come, though my lips were dumb, in my
heart how I cursed that load.
In the long, long night, by the lone firelight, while the
huskies, round in a ring,
Howled out their woes to the homeless snows—O
God! how I loathed the thing.

And every day that quiet clay seemed to heavy and
heavier grow;
And on I went, though the dogs were spent and the
grub was getting low;
The trail was bad, and I felt half mad, but I swore I
would not give in;
And I'd often sing to the hateful thing, and it
hearkened with a grin.

(continued....)



Till I came to the marge of Lake Lebarge, and a derelict there lay;
It was jammed in the ice, but I saw in a trice it was called the "*Alice May*."
And I looked at it, and I thought a bit, and I looked at my frozen chum;
Then "*Here,*" said I, with a sudden cry, "*is my cre-ma-tor-eum.*"

Some planks I tore from the cabin floor, and I lit the boiler fire;
Some coal I found that was lying around, and I heaped the fuel higher;
The flames just soared and the furnace roared—such a blaze you seldom see;
Then I burrowed a hole in the glowing coal, and I stuffed in Sam McGee.

Then I made a hike, for I didn't like to hear him sizzle so;

And the heavens scowled, and the huskies howled, and the wind began to blow.
It was icy cold, but the hot sweat rolled down my cheeks, and I don't know why;
And the greasy smoke in an inky cloak went streaking down the sky.

I do not know how long in the snow I wrestled with grisly fear;
But the stars came out and they danced about ere again I ventured near;
I was sick with dread, but I bravely said: "*I'll just take a peep inside.*"

I guess he's cooked, and it's time I looked;" . . . then the door I opened wide.

And there sat Sam, looking cool and calm, in the heart of the furnace roar;
And he wore a smile you could see a mile, and he said: "*Please close that door.*"
It's fine in here, but I greatly fear you'll let in the cold and storm—
Since I left Plumtree, down in Tennessee, it's the first time I've been warm."



There are strange things done in the midnight sun
By the men who toil for gold;
The Arctic trails have their secret tales
That would make your blood run cold;
The Northern Lights have seen queer sights,
But the queerest they ever did see
Was that night on the marge of Lake Lebarge
I cremated Sam McGee.

—From *Later Collected Verse*; by Robert Service;
Dodd, Mead & Company; New York; 1970; pages 33-36.

~ Robert Service Biographical Sketch ~

"Robert W. Service, a Canadian poet and novelist, was known for his ballads of the Yukon. He wrote this narrative poem which is presented here because it is an outstanding example of how sensory stimuli are emphasized and it has a surprise ending.

Robert William Service was born in Preston, England, on January 16, 1874. He emigrated to Canada at the age of twenty, in 1894, and settled for a short time on Vancouver Island. He was employed by the Canadian Bank of Commerce in Victoria, B.C., and was later transferred to Whitehorse and then to Dawson in the Yukon.

In all, he spent eight years in the Yukon and saw and experienced the difficult times of the miners, trappers, and hunters that he has presented to us in verse.

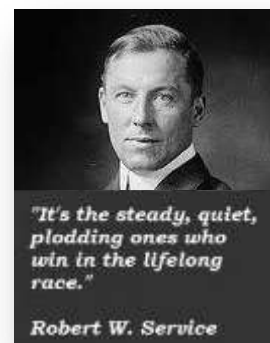
During the Balkan War of 1912-13, Service was a war correspondent for the *Toronto Star*. He served this paper in the same capacity during World War I, also serving two years as an ambulance driver in the Canadian Army medical corps. He returned to Victoria for a time during World War II, but later lived in retirement on the French Riviera, where he died on September 14, 1958, in Monte Carlo.

Sam McGee was a real person, a customer at the Bank of Commerce where Service worked. The *Alice May* was a real boat, the *Olive May*, a derelict on Lake Laberge.

Anyone who has experienced the bitterness of cold weather and what it can do to a person will empathize with Sam McGee's feelings as expressed by Robert Service in his poem, *The Cremation of Sam McGee*."

Source:

<http://wordinfo.info/unit/2640>



Reunions of the Airborne Kind 2017



173d Airborne Reunion in Vicenza, Italy,

July 4-8, 2017, hosted by Chapter 173.

Contact: Web: Skysoldier.net



2017 National Convention, The 100th Anniversary of the formation of the 82nd All American Division, Orlando Chapter,

August 9-13, 2017, Rosen Center, Orlando, FL.

Contact: Web: www.paratrooperdz.com/2017-conventionregistration/2017reg



503rd PRCT Association, WWII National Reunion,

September 13-17, 2017, Killeen, Texas. Contact: Rick Miller, Reunion Host,

treasurer@503rdprct.org



2/501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Abn Reunion

is being planned to celebrate our departure to South Vietnam 50

years ago. December 13, 2017, Fort Bragg, Fayetteville, NC.



11th Airborne Division Association

Reunion, Colorado Springs, CO, September 18-

22, 2017. Contact: C.J. Magro, 256-247-7350



187th ARCT "Rakkasan's Reunion,

September 2017, Boulder, CO. Contact:

www.rakkasan.net/reunion.html



B/2/501st Reunion 2017,

Great Falls, MT. Dates to be determined. Contact:

Web: <http://b2501airborne.com/reunion.htm>



509th Parachute Infantry Association

Reunionn 2017, Shreveport, LA. Contact

Web: <http://509thgeronimo.org/reunions/freunions.html>

NOTE:

If you are aware of any upcoming "Airborne" or attached unit reunions, please send complete details to rto173d@cfl.rr.com for inclusion in our newsletter.



Sky Soldier Looking For Buddies

Hello:

This is Dave Gardner and I'm sending you the proof of being in E-Company, 2/503 and wish you would post it in your newsletter so all the guys in E Company, 2/503, 1970-71 can see proof of my existence in Vietnam. It's a shame for a soldier with as many tours as I had to not be remembered. I did 43+ months in Vietnam.

In December 1966 I extended and was assigned to E/17th, 3rd Platoon Recon. Was on a lot of missions the last one I really remember was the battle of the Slopes at Dak To where I was set on the side of a mountain and had my 106 dug in and fired point blank for what seemed like hours trying to keep the NVA from overrunning A Co., 2/503.

In June 1970, I was sent back to Vietnam and assigned to the 2/503 where I spent 12 months there as a grunt.

I'm hoping some of our old guys will remember me and make contact.

Thanks!

Dave Gardner

E-17 Recon Scout

[sky22074 <sky22074@yahoo.com>](mailto:sky22074@sky22074@yahoo.com)

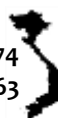


Airborne...All The Way!



2/503d VIETNAM Newsletter / July-August 2017 – Issue 74

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Faces on the Wall Project – 2nd Battalion – 173d Abn Bde

Status as of 26 June 2017

Photos Needed for These Fallen Troopers

ALSTON, Ruben Cleveland Jacksonville, FL	Feb 26, 1946 - Jan 2, 1966 HHC/2-503	SANFORD, James Walter Orangeburg, SC	Apr 23, 1947 - Jun 22, 1967 A/2-503
GOSSETT, William O. Phoenix, AZ	Aug 27, 1946 - Mar 16, 1966 HHC/2-503	OROSZ, Andrew John New York, NY	Aug 19, 1946 - Nov 19, 1967 A/2-503
CAMPBELL, Thomett Darthan Millington, TN	Mar 8, 1945 - Jun 5, 1966 HHC/2-503	LESZCZYNSKI, Witold John New York, NY	Mar 16, 1948 - Nov 19, 1967 A/2-503
BERRY, Malcolm Crayton Hartford, CT	Nov 22, 1945 - Jun 29, 1966 HHC/2-503	POWELL, Steven Reed Danville, VA	Sep 25, 1947 - Nov 20, 1967 A/2-503
GREEN, Moses Jamaica, NY	Nov 29, 1945 - Mar 3, 1967 HHC/2-503	BETCHEL, David Brooks Los Angeles, CA	Nov 18, 1947 - Nov 20, 1967 A/2-503
PATTON, George New York, NY	Jun 4, 1948 - Jun 22, 1967 HHC/2-503	GREENWALD, Dennis Southfield, MI	Nov 23, 1948 - Nov 20, 1967 A/2-503
WARD, Rudolph Nathinal Portsmouth, VA	Nov 1, 1945 - Nov 19, 1967 HHC/2-503	STOKES, Frank Edward Monticello, NY	Sep 7, 1947 - Nov 20, 1967 A/2-503
SPAIN, Ervin Chicago, IL	Mar 28, 1935 - Nov 20, 1967 HHC/2-503	LAUREANO-LOPEZ, Ismael New York, NY	Aug 16, 1945 - Feb 21, 1969 A/2-503
FRANKLIN, Willie Detroit, MI	Nov 16, 1937 - Oct 14, 1967 HHC/2-503	DOMINE, Manuel DeLeon Fort Sill, OK	Jun 7, 1946 - Oct 25, 1970 A/2-503
WALKER, Richard Jr. Chicago, IL	Jun 19, 1948 - Nov 19, 1967 HHC/2-503	PEGGS, Albert Lee Chicago, IL	Sep 10, 1945 - Dec 4, 1968 A/2-503
RINEHART, Joseph Lester Washington, DC	Jun 26, 1948 - Dec 2, 1968 HHC/2-503	MOLTON, Kenneth Wayne Birmingham, AL	Apr 9, 1948 - Dec 7, 1968 A/2-503
STONE, Gregory Martin Torrance, CA	Sep 1, 1949 - Mar 24, 1971 HHC/2-503	HOWARD, David Lafate Fountain Inn, SC	Mar 20, 1943 - July 7, 1965 B/2-503
La VALLEE, Robert C. Jr. Middletown, RI	Oct 10, 1947 - Nov 19, 1967 HHC/2-503	HATCHETT, Kyle Henry New York, NY	Aug 3, 1945 - Aug 23, 1965 B/2-503
BIRCO, Jose Gotera Philippines (Grover City, CA)	May 31, 1936 - Jan 11, 1966 A/2-503	ROBILLARD, Wilfred Roland Manchester, NH	Feb 26, 1947 - Oct 10, 1965 B/2-503
BELLAMY, Simmie Jr. Conway, SC	Aug 16, 1946 - Feb 26, 1966 A/2-503	WILLIAMS, Van New York, NY	Aug 3, 1946 - Oct 10, 1965 B/2-503
MITCHELL, Clarence Nashville, TN	May 24, 1932 - Feb 26, 1966 A/2-503	HARPER, Richard Earl Birmingham, AL	Feb 21, 1944 - Jan 12, 1966 B/2-503
HIMES, Jack Landen Phoenix, AZ	Aug 8, 1946 - Feb 26, 1966 A/2-503	MORRIS, Robert L. Columbus, OH	Jul 10, 1948 - Dec 2, 1967 B/2-503
CLARKE, Irvin Jr. New York, NY	Sep 24, 1941 - Feb 26, 1966 A/2-503	WESTPOINT, Thomas Lee Charleston, SC	Oct 8, 1941 - Sep 30, 1966 B/2-503
FELDER, Jesse Clarence Jersey City, NJ	Mar 17, 1943 - Jun 29, 1966 A/2-503	TIGHE, John Roy Lomita, CA	Apr 22, 1947 - May 17, 1967 B/2-503
STEVENS, Francis George Ellsworth, ME	Jun 18, 1945 - Jun 29, 1966 A/2-503	ROST, Leroy Alphas Moline, IL	Nov 11, 1948 - Nov 13, 1967 B/2-503
WILLIAMS, Billy Charleston, SC	Feb 8, 1945 - Jun 12, 1966 A/2-503	MURRAY, Wayne Paul Potsdam, NY	Jun 25, 1947 - Nov 13, 1967 B/2-503
POTTER, Albert Raymond Browns Mills, NJ	Dec 28, 1938 - Jun 29, 1966 A/2-503	HARDIMAN, La Francis Wyandanch, NY	May 2, 1948 - Nov 13, 1967 B/2-503
TUCKER, Willie James Toledo, OH	Sep 17, 1944 - Aug 20, 1966 A/2-503	SIMMONS, Willie James Detroit, MI	Jul 8, 1948 - Nov 13, 1967 B/2-503
KELLY, Stephen Allen Atlanta, GA	Jun 27, 1947 - Jun 22, 1967 A/2-503	McCOY, Elec Oswego, SC	Dec 1, 1946 - Oct 25, 1967 B/2-503
HOOPER, Vins Ronald Somerset, NJ	Jul 6, 1946 - Jun 22, 1967 A/2-503	MURRAY, Marvin Winston New York, NY	Jan 11, 1947 - Jun 3, 1968 B/2-503
BUTLER, Albert Jr. Tyler, TX	Jan 26, 1943 - Jun 22, 1967 A/2-503		
WALKER, Charlie Lewis Munford, AL	Jan 30, 1947 - Jun 22, 1967 A/2-503		
JOHNSTON, Richard J. Sacramento, CA	Nov 25, 1947 - Jun 22, 1967 A/2-503		

(continued....)



WASILOW, John Stephen Myrtle Beach, SC	Jun 7, 1949 - Nov 24, 1968 B/2-503
ROMAN, Jeremias New York, NY	Apr 29, 1948 - Mar 4, 1968 B/2-503
GRAY, Warren Inglewood, CA	Apr 5, 1947 - May 10, 1968 B/2-503
JEWETT, Stephen Dyer East Andover, NH	Dec 14, 1942 - Dec 27, 1965 C/2-503
CARLONE, John Joseph II Chicago, IL	Dec 20, 1946 - Dec 27, 1965 C/2-503
BUTLER, Earlie James Jr Jacksonville, FL	Apr 18, 1935 - Mar 14, 1966 C/2-503
SCHADDELEE, William D. Chicago, IL	May 22, 1943 - Feb 1, 1967 C/2-503
WILSON, Herbert Jr. New York, NY	Aug 26, 1947 - Mar 3, 1967 C/2-503
VASQUES, Selvester Joe Los Angeles, CA	Jan 26, 1944 - Mar 3, 1967 C/2-503
STRACK, Lawrence Richmond Hill, NY	Jun 15, 1948 - Mar 3, 1967 C/2-503
SAEZ-RAMIREZ, Angel Perfir Orocovis, PR	May 4, 1934 - Mar 3, 1967 C/2-503
COX, George Tollovar Tampa, FL	Jun 22, 1939 - Mar 25, 1967 C/2-503
CARPENTER, Douglas Joe Bauxite, AR	Jan 11, 1947 - Mar 25, 1967 C/2-503
ANTHONY, Lionel S. Los Angeles, CA	Dec 1, 1945 - Mar 4, 1967 C/2-503
EVANS, Waddel Hopkinsville, KY	Jul 6, 1947 - May 11, 1967 C/2-503
HARRIS, Nathaniel Bessemer, AL	Jul 19, 1947 - Oct 18, 1967 C/2-503
WOOTEN, John Wesley Garten, WV	Jan 26, 1943 - Nov 20, 1967 C/2-503
TYLER, Lester New York, NY	Dec 6, 1943 - Nov 20, 1967 C/2-503
GRAY, Herbert Hoover Gray, GA	Oct 23, 1946 - Nov 20, 1967 C/2-503
QUINONES-RODRIQUEZ, Luis A. New York, NY	May 7, 1948 - Feb 25, 1971 C/2-503
ZIMMERMAN, Roger Deerfield, IL	Aug 12, 1943 - May 10, 1968 C/2-503
RIVERA-GARCIA, William New York, NY	May 13, 1946 - Feb 15, 1969 C/2-503
AYERS, Carl Bracy Jr Chicago, IL	Sep 7, 1948 - Aug 29, 1969 C/2-503
HUDNALL, William Leon Richmond, VA	Sep 15, 1949 - Jun 29, 1970 C/2-503
NOTHERN, James William Jr Clarendon, AR	Jun 6, 1947 - Nov 20, 1967 C/2-503
POFF, Elbert Darrell Mullens, WV	May 17, 1948 - May 5, 1968 D/2-503
ORTEGA, Anibal Jr. New York, NY	Mar 9, 1948 - May 15, 1968 D/2-503
McNULTY, Charles Richard McLean, VA	Jul 16, 1947 - May 16, 1970 D/2-503
CABE, Paul Philip Guild, TN	Apr 26, 1952 - Apr 5, 1971 D/2-503
ROBERTS, Paul Michael Melbourne Beach, FL	Aug 2, 1950 - Aug 15, 1969 D/2-503
SPEARS, Jerry Wayne Memphis, TN	Oct 26, 1948 - Jul 6, 1969 E/2-503

Note: If you have a photo of any one or more of the 2/503 Sky Soldiers named here, please email to Col. Ken Smith at kvsmith173@gmail.com Photos have been found for those troopers whose names are highlighted.



They Call Him *Jackattack*



Our best wishes and hopes for a full and quick recovery to our very good buddy, Jack Ribera, A/2/503, 1966, who recently suffered a serious injury in Nashville but is now home in CT thanks to the help of some of his fellow 2/503 Sky Soldiers and others. Jack has had more than his share of misery in his life but some luck as well, first surviving what should have been a death blow by an enemy mine in August '66, yet lucky to have Peggy as his lifelong companion. Jack's war injury was so severe his name found its way to the KIA list, and today, along with our buddy Dave Kies, Recon/2/503, '66/'67, both Jack and Dave's names appear on The Wall in DC altho they survived the war. *Get well, Jackattack, that's a damn order buddy!*



HELP! Below are 173d Troopers who formerly received our 2/503d Vietnam Newsletter who need to send an email to rto173@att.net and to update their email address book with Lew "Smitty" Smith's new address to be re-added to distribution list. Upon receipt of a note from these troopers, Issues 73 & 74 of our newsletter will be sent to them. Thanks for letting them know but please do not forward this newsletter to them lest we overwhelm their systems. Ed

HHC/2/503

John Beardon
Bob "Doc" Beaton
Lee Braggs
Pat Brannan
Stephen Butts
Stanley Crump
George Garvey
Tom Gilbert
Frank Gray
Phil Hatton
Ken Johnson
Julius Lacy
Tyler Meehan
Jerry Mellinger
George Murphy
Ron Reitz
John Searcy
Joe Walker
Russ Webb
Dave Wilson
A/2/503
Joshua Akers
Jim Bailey
John Bond
Jim Bouldin
Mitchell Brown
Ben Burks
Rob Caldwell
Cecillo Camarena
Chris Charo
Mearl Clark
Jackie Cooper
Les Daniels
Bobby Dickerson
Joe Drabin
Frank Dukes
Art Fry
Ed Gardner
George Garvey
Bob Gerber
Pete Green
Steve Harris
Jim Healy
James Hopper
Clarence Johnson
Glenn Kaptaine
Al Kemper
Fred Lewis
Travis Longnecker
Andy Lyons
Brian Mading

Fred Meyer
Bob Milner
Dave Norman
John Ratz
Ed Richardson
Richard Rodriguez
Matt Rothwell
Tome Roubideaux
Mike Schnerre
Jackie Singer
Tom Siopes
John Steer
Dave Steffen
Randy Tenney
Tom Vetch
Patrick Welsh
Steve Williams
B/2/503
Bernard Brawley
Tony Brawley
Larry Carothers
Tom Collier
Matt Coulter
Tom Dooley
Mike Erickson
Phil Farrow
Preston Foskey
Henry Franey
Lanny French
Jose Garcia
Larry Goff
Bob Gore
Bernie Griffard
Mike Harris
John Hayes
Greg Hines
Francis MacDonald
Martin Marable
Al McDaniel
Lonnie Mitchell
Phil Moulaison
Larry O'Neal
Mark Pavlac
Lee Robinson
Luis Rodriguez
Jason Romesburg
George Rueda
Kyle Shuttlesworth
Jim Stanford
Brandon Thomas
Brian Underwood
John Watson

Emmitt Wilson
Sean Young
C/2/503
Don Benn
Lawrence Boyd
Pat Charles
Mike Clifton
Rick Fagersten
Al Galvan
Matt Gambino
Pat Garvin
Ismael Gonzales
Josh Green
Pat Hila
Bob Hill
John Leppelman
John Mallon
Dylan Meyer
Jeff Molner
Steve Haber
Justin Kalents
Jim Montague
Jim Nabors
Erich Phillips
Robert Rychlec
Chris Sanchez
Bill Shippey
Jimmy Spence
Walt Stockard
Ron Taylor
D/2/503
Dan Backhaus
Joe Bass
Xavier Bianchi
Andre Christman
Oral Evans
Joe Frazier
Jim Grimshaw
Edward Jackson
Charles Kramer
Mike Lester
Richard McCullough
Steve Newman
John Nichols
Vic Parker
Jacob Roberts
Charles Simas
Wayne Wahlenmeier
E/2/503
Dewayne Bryant

Keith Luce
Richard Mozingo
Preston Parrott
Roger Ricke
John Thyng
2/503
Enrico Bueno
Jim "Doc" Gore
Doug Cotrel
Jim Herbert
Daniel Honore'
Jack Monroe
Ed Ramirez
Alexander Zawadski
1/503
Chuck Dean
Jim Givens
David Lange
Vic Marciano
Joe Mescan
Lewis Stoneking
Rick Tenney
3/503
Terry Boggs
Jack Farris
Don McCush
Dennis Morris
Tom Rul
George Stapleton
4/503
Robert Delane
Tom Diamond
Bob Gray
Don Gray
David Hayne
Earl Mann
E-Troop
Herbie Baugh
Jerome Rektorik,
Mike Sirmeyer
Damon Wainscoat,
3/319
Bene Banovatz
George Bock
Nicholas Henry
Robert Mercer
Bill Minerich
Terry Napier
Eddie Spratlin
Charles Wilcher
John Wilkofsky

Don Zlotnik
173d LRRP/75 Rgr
Bruce Ault
Larry Cole
Don Giannattasio
Rick Hook
Richard James
Peter Ludlow
Fred Williams
Brigade
Larry Gorfine
RAR
John Arnold
Ken Baker
Peter Mackie
173d Unit Unknw
Jimmy Akuna
Dave Blow
Roger Bumgardner
Bobby Cantu
Sid Cheeseman
Kent Farrand
George Farris
Elwood Hawk
Hal Hermann
Sam Hilt
Happy Hopkins
Rocky Houser
Larry Jones
Michael Jones
William Keener
Bill Klinger
Ray Kulczykcki
Eddie Laack
Chuck Lyons
Steve Macomber
Hank Martinez
Tyler Meehan
John Ward
Jeffrey Waters
Other Units/Misc.
Leta Carruth
Mark Dickerson
Dick Head, Caspers
Jeanie O'Neil
Jack Ramsland
Floyd Reister
Oscar Rod
Tony Schoonover
Art Silsby
Gerald Turner
Wes Thompson

**Sent in by our All-American
good buddy, Bob Buffington.**

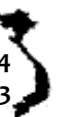


THE PROUDEST MOMENT



"It was upon those many battlefields, Sicily, Normandy, Bastogne, Luzon, Corregidor, Korea, Vietnam that the American Paratrooper set new standards of courage and sacrifice."

Published from *PARATROOPER 1954*





Farewell to Troopers of the 173d Abn & 503rd PIR



Frank Gerod Baker, III, 73

March 21, 2017
Annapolis, MD
173d LRRP RVN

Donald R. Ericson, 68

May 9, 2017
Sycamore, IL
C/75 Rangers RVN

Manuel P. Garcia, 66



May 25, 2017
Austin, TX
173d Abn Bde RVN

Lauren Vaughn "Lonnie" Bennett; 73



Pekin, IL
June 21, 2017
173d Abn Bde RVN

Charles A. "Chuck" Johns Jr., 69

St. Louis, MO
May 17, 2017
173d Abn Bde RVN

Ted Glenn Bostick, Jr., 64



April 11, 2017
Fort Wayne, IN
173d Abn Bde RVN

Carl A. Keppler, 69

April 26, 2017
Madison County, IN
173d Abn Bde, RVN

Marshall L. Boswell, 65



April 30, 2017
Marion, OH
319th Arty, 173d Abn Bde RVN

Garth Arnold Knight



Mesa, Arizona
June 5, 2017
173d Abn Bde RVN

Roger Lyle Bower



June 9, 2017
Tower Hill, IL
173d Abn Bde RVN

Merle J. "Jim" Marquard, 67

May 29, 2017
Lake Tomahawk, WI
C/1/503 RVN

James L. Mausser, 69

March 4, 2017
Orlando, FK
173d Abn Rangers RVN

Carrol "Dean" Brent, 69



April 5, 2017
Salina, KS
173d Abn Bde RVN

(sadly continued....)



Clifford Jake Meyer, 71

February 12, 2017
Mitchell, NE
173d Abn Bde RVN

Gerald "Jerry" Wayne Miller, 70



April 6, 2017
Lawrence, KS'
173d Abn Bde RVN

Alvin B. "Butch" Morrison, 70, (MSG)



April 11, 2017
Hinesville, GA
173d Abn Bde, RVN

Michael Gerry Nale, 68



May 10th, 2017
Florence, AL
173d Abn Bde RVN

William J. Rey, Jr.

March 9, 2017.
Omaha, Nebraska
173d Abn Bde RVN

Frankey Skipper, SFC (Ret)

June 4, 2017
Chipley, FL
173d Abn Bde, SF, Ranger, RVN

Robert "Bob" David Wagner, 87, (1SGT)



Ft. Mitchell, AL
April 21, 2017
173d Abn Bde RVN

Ralph Junior "Whitey" White, 88



Hinkleville, WV
June, 13, 2017
503rd PIR

~ Farewell good soldiers ~



173d Airborne Association Membership Application Form

PLEASE PRINT AND FILL-OUT THIS APPLICATION

Mail Application and Payments to;

Membership Secretary, Dennis Hill
97 Earle Street
Norwood, MA 02062-1504

Please **circle** the appropriate boxes below

New	Renewal	Change of Address, <i>Change of Chapter</i>	
Annual Membership			
Ends on 31 December of each year - \$ 24.00			
Regular *		Associate	
Sky Soldier	Veteran	Gold Star	Spouse of deceased Sky Soldier
Life Membership \$ 173.00			
Regular *		Gold Star (Parent or Spouse)	

Make checks payable to:
173d Airborne Brigade Assn

**Regular Membership open to those assigned or attached to the 173d Airborne Brigade*

Please print current or updated information below:

Service Number (B446349): _____
(Use first Letter of last name and last 6 of service number)

First Name: _____ Initial: _____ Last Name: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State or AE: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____

173d Service Dates (02/2003-02/2005): _____

Unit while with the 173d: (A-1-503rd or Co A/Support BN): _____

Chapter Affiliated to: (4, 18, At Large): _____ Send Magazine: [] U.S Mail or [] Via Email

Gold Star Relationship (Wife, Mother)(PFC Mike Smith 11-08-67): _____

My Email address: _____

After we receive your payment (\$ 24.00 or \$ 173.00), please allow two weeks for processing.



Please make check payable to:
173d Airborne Brigade Assn.

Mail Application & Check to:
Membership Secretary, Dennis Hill
97 Earle Street
Norwood, MA 02062-1504

