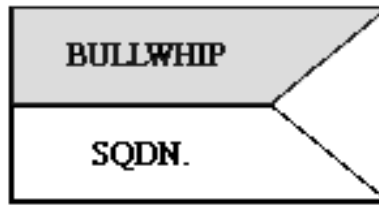


3rd/17th --- 1st/9th
Air Cavalry Squadron



THE BULLWHIP SQUADRON NEWS

The official News Magazine of the Bullwhip Squadron Association

November 2001



THERE IS AN EAGLE

We are not strangers To a battle

We know that freedom has a cost

We may be bloodied But we're unbroken

In this dark day We are not lost

There's an eagle, high above the ashes

Close by the flag we're fighting for

There's a brave new spirit in America, United forevermore

We turn to God For strength and comfort

To hold us closer Than we've ever been

We beg for guidance Through this twilight

Our only hope Is trusting Him

There's an eagle, high above the ashes

Close by the flag we're fighting for

There's a brave new spirit of America, United forevermore

The eagle's soaring higher Than he ever did before

As he leads our fallen heroes Straight through heaven's door

Steve Vaus' new patriotic anthem



AdjutantsCall

Attention to Orders

WELL MY FRIENDS, I NEED NOT TELL YOU THAT ONCE AGAIN THE NATION IS AT WAR. THE ENEMY IS NOT WAITING IN AMBUSH ALONG A HEDGE ROW IN EUROPE OR A RICE PADDY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, BUT AS AN ENEMY, NONE THE SAME. THIS ENEMY IS A COWARDLY FIGURE THAT CASTS NO SHADOW. A FIGURE THAT LIKE A COCKROACH, MOVES QUICKLY, SPREADS DISPAIR AND SLITHERS BACK INTO THE SLIME FILLED NOOKS AND CRANNIES WHERE SUNLIGHT SELDOM SHINES.

I OFTEN THINK OF THE END OF A MISSION IN VIETNAM WHERE ONE OR MORE OF OUR TROOPERS DID NOT RETURN. I THINK OF THOSE TIMES WHEN MEN, MEN LIKE JOHN B. STOCKTON, TOOK ACTIONS THAT PREVENTED EVEN GREATER LOSS OF LIFE AND ENABLED GREATER NUMBERS OF TROOPERS TO BE BACK AT BASE FOR BREAKFAST. AS A "HORSE HOLDER" AS JOHN B. SOMETIMES CALLED ME, I SAW LITTLE REAL ACTION, BUT WHAT I SAW STICKS WITH ME AS I AM SURE IT DOES WITH YOU NEARLY FOUR DECADES LATER. THE THOUGHT AND SIGHT OF THE 9-11-01 ATTACK ON NEW YORK AND IT'S PEOPLE WILL ALSO LIVE WITH ME FOREVER.

IT IS MY HOPE THAT GEORGE W. BUSH WILL PROVE HIMSELF TO BE A MAN CUT FROM THE SAME BOLT OF CLOTH THAT GAVE US JOHN B. STOCKTON AND THAT HE LIKE JOHN B. WILL BE REMEMBERED AS A MAN AND NOT A PISSANT. I HOPE THAT HE WILL TAKE ACTION TO ROOT OUT WHOEVER BACKED THE ACTION IN NEW YORK AND BLAST THEIR BUTTS BACK TO THEIR MAKER.

ON A LIGHTER NOTE, I HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM PUNXSUTAWNEY, PA. WHERE ALONG WITH OVER 100 OF MY CLASSMATES CELEBRATED OUR 50TH HIGH SCHOOL REUNION. I DON'T MIND TELLING YOU THAT SOME OF THE GIRLS LOOK BETTER TODAY THAN THEY DID IN 1951. IT IS TRUE THAT ONE OR TWO, UNLIKE WINE, DID NOT IMPROVE WITH AGE.

ONE THING WAS SURE, THERE WERE A BUNCH OF OLD MEN THERE. SPEAKING OF OLD MEN. I HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL NEXT YEAR, OCTOBER 2002, FOR THE BULLWHIP REUNION.

TIME IS MARCHING ON, AND ALL OF US TROOPERS ARE MARCHING WITH IT. NOW IS THE TIME TO RENEW OLD FRIENDSHIPS AND REMEMBER THE PAST, LIVE IN THE NOW AND LOOK FORWARD TO THE FUTURE. WE ARE NOT TO OLD TO BE PATRIOTS.

FOR THE COMMANDER
DICK GRUBE
ADJUTANT

Many articles in this newsletter talk about the 9/11 disaster, how they feel and the things they want to do to avenge this attack on American soil. Many have tried to re-enlist or be recalled to active duty. Yes, the war is being fought by younger troopers, however we can help our country by giving total support to our President and demanding that congress do the same. Veterans day is now upon us and there are many heroes of past and present. Now the fireman and policeman, stand shoulder to shoulder with the uniformed men in our armed forces fighting our new enemy. Never doubt we will be victorious. We must never forget what the veterans have accomplished in the past, and sacrificed, for this country. If you do not agree with the articles, or want to add your thoughts, then sound off. Send your comments to Loel either by e-mail or regular mail. We are Americans one and all, and are unique. Word and actions are what has set us apart. We are who we are: AIR CAV TROOPERS. We WILL PESERVE. Our beloved nation WILL NOT FALL.

BWS

TAPS

September 11th, 2001

A heinous crime.

Over 6000+ individuals, military, police officers, fireman and foreign nationals killed.

And all the casualties that was caused by this horrendous act by foreign terrorist.

This was a blatant act of murder and is seen as such in the eyes of God.

We will avenge you, and you shall rest in peace.

Be safe in Gods company.

THE EAGLE KNOWS

An eagle knows when a storm is approaching long before it breaks. The bird flies to some high spot and waits for the winds to come. When they do, the eagle sets its wings so the wind will pick it up and lift it above the storm. While the tempest rages below, the eagle is soaring above it. He does not escape the storm but simply uses it, to lift and soar higher. The eagle rises on the winds that the storm brings with it.

Our Nation is experiencing such an approaching storm. The storm does not have to overcome us. We have the choice of allowing God's power to lift us above it. By setting our minds and our beliefs toward God; through prayer and faith, He will lead our Country above and through this tragedy. We will not let the enemy conquer us. We too, like the eagle, can use this storm to lift our beloved Nation higher.

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary and they shall walk, and not faint." Isaiah 40:31

.....**WE WILL SOAR ON WINGS LIKE THE EAGLES**.....



FROM THE COMMANDER

There are many articles in this newsmagazine about the terrible event of 11 September—we all have heard and read comments by more knowledgeable people than me.

I will let our troopers talk about this act of terrorism and I will confine my article to a much more pleasant subject, the current status of our horse, Bullwhip. Almost 2 years ago, the BWS decided to buy a horse, name it Bullwhip in the memory of our first Squadron Commander and give the horse to the 1st Cav Horse Platoon. With the help of MG Jim Smith and Bob Cooper, a horse was located, purchased and brought to Ft. Hood in a horse van. Those of us who attended the 1st Cav Reunion in August of 1999 saw Bullwhip and were very pleased by his appearance. Our hopes and expectations were that Bullwhip would be ridden by the Horse Platoon Commander, in that he would lead off every show, just like his namesake, Col. John B. Stockton. Unfortunately, Bullwhip did not develop in his training to the degree that the Platoon leader felt comfortable with performing before large crowds and loud noises. He therefore was relegated to the stable and didn't participate in various shows.

I was at Ft. Hood on business in August of 2000 and saw Bullwhip being ridden by a platoon sergeant during a practice rehearsal for the next day's division commander change of command ceremony. Bullwhip acted skittish and was ridden off the parade field and did not show up at the next day's performance. I began asking questions as to what was the matter with Bullwhip and what could be done to get him properly trained to perform in front of crowds while being ridden by the platoon leader. I won't go in to details but the bottom line was that Bullwhip; was stubborn and the young (and relatively experienced horseman) platoon leader could not control him and therefore would not ride him.

I shared my concerns about Bullwhip's future with MG Jim Smith, LTC Bert Chole who works at Ft. Hood, Col Pete Booth the 9th Cav Regimental Honorary Commander, and of course Loel Ewart and Al DeFleron. I also heard from other people who were also aware of Bullwhip's apparent lack of performance activity. Several proposals were considered: (1) sell Bullwhip and purchase a new horse, (2) have Bullwhip professionally trained at our BWS expense, or (3) accept the fact we bought a really stubborn horse that would not develop in sufficient time to perform at the level we had anticipated. We agreed that the BWS wouldn't buy another \$4500.00 horse or fund for Bullwhip's professional training (read horse whisperer) or give up on Bullwhip. I asked Bert Chole to monitor the situation at the stable and talk to the really qualified horse platoon soldiers to determine what they recommended. In June at the 2001 1st Cav Reunion, sufficient information had been gathered as to what to do about Bullwhip. At a meeting at the horse stable the platoon sergeant recommended to MG Smith, Col Pete Booth, LTC Bert Chole and SGM Al DeFleron that Bullwhip be promoted up to the Division CG's horse and to be ridden only by him. Al DeFleron called me from Ft. Hood to tell me the outcome of the meeting and I immediately concurred in the recommendation.

The current status is that Bullwhip has received special in-house training from the more experienced platoon horsemen and has progressed to the point that he is now adapting more rapidly to his new elevated position as the CG's horse. It took 18 months to realize that Bullwhip, like is namesake, wouldn't ride with the pack but had to lead up front. In retrospect we all should have realized that if you buy a horse, name it Bullwhip, you better put him at the top position so he can show his ass to us followers!

Until the next newsletter.

David J. Allen

Brigadier General
Cavalry USA (Ret)
Commanding

"THE MAN!"

I just witnessed something I don't think I'll ever forget. I was down near the cafeteria in the Pentagon meeting a friend for lunch and I see a very large crowd of people inside. I walk in and soon find myself standing less than three feet away from our Commander-in-Chief and right beside the Secretary of Defense (and a bunch of Secret Service folks).

President Bush was walking around shaking hands and thanking all of us for what we do. He kept saying to people "Don't Worry" -- as if to say, I've got it under control. He must have shaken 1000 hands or more. What particularly struck me was his presence - not a particularly large man in stature, but he had an aura of a giant - a smile on his face, yet you can sense he was a man on a mission - a man of purpose and conviction - there was just this feeling that he is THE MAN, and he is in charge - he had a quiet confidence that was deafening!

Then, a group of folks just behind me started singing God Bless America and, in no time, the entire room - which was packed - was singing the song.

It was enough to give anyone goose bumps. If there was a dry eye in the place, I couldn't see it (probably because my eyes weren't too dry). It was just one of those once in a lifetime experiences that I shall never forget.

After God Bless America, there were a few chants of "USA - USA-USA," followed by a lot of applause.

When President Bush finally made his way toward the entrance, he turned with his confident smile and waved at everyone, and the room just erupted in cheers and whistles and applause. I've been to professional football games where the noise wasn't that loud. It was just such a wonderful experience - and it made me:

- 1) So very happy that George W. Bush is our president and Commander-in-Chief.
- 2) So proud to be an American.

Just thought I'd share.

Lt. Col Rick Jones, USAF
HQ USAF/ILMY

From the Chaplain:

My Fellow Bullwhip Members,

Days have passed since the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, and our minds are haunted by the images that are forever seared into them. Over and over-without benefit of television-we see commercial airplanes partially filled with Americans plow into the twin tower, skyscrapers. We see selfless firefighters and police officers rush into those buildings to make their way upward toward the 110th floors to rescue shocked and wounded survivors. Then we see seeming indestructible skyscrapers crumble before our eyes as our Pentagon collapses and burns.

Probably, most combat veterans reacted much as I did as all too familiar, long remembered combat senses were shocked into tingling alertness. We were drawn "to the sound of the guns" but couldn't advance. We wanted to hit, to fight, but there was no target. Frustrated, we controlled anger born of frustration as best we could.

Then other images come: Americans lining up in overwhelming numbers to give their blood, trying to do something, to strike out. Most don't understand the overwhelming feelings that temporary take control and drive them. But combat veterans and our grandparents understand.

Vivid images from Vietnam mesh with horrible and heroic ones of events three days ago. Back then, we lined up to give our blood-our bodies, our lives-in answer to our country's call to duty in Vietnam. In Vietnam heroism was all around us. One such act of heroism occurred 32 years ago today, on September 14, 1969. It happened this way, as reconstructed by Colonel James W (Pete) Booth, currently Colonel of the 1-9 Cavalry Regiment, and former commander of the 1-9 Squadron.

That morning Pete Booth had returned following a month recovering from gunshot

wounds in an Army hospital. He'd reassumed command and was working in his office about 1500 hours when he got word that a supply convoy that was being escorted by Delta Troop was being ambushed.

Delta Troop, with some 15 to 20 vehicles was escorting a large convoy from Bien Hoa Air Base up the highway to LZ Buttons on the Song Be River. Delta Troop Commander Andrew Hudson was directly behind the lead scout element. Sergeant Donald S. Skidgel brought up the rear in a jeep that had a pedestal-mounted M-60 machine gun in back. Sergeant Torres rode in the right front seat of the jeep directly ahead of Skidgel. Unfortunately, Torres was effectively "disarmed" in the face of what was ahead because his jeep-mounted 106-RR's had been stripped away, during Booth's absence, to bolster the defense of signal assets atop Nui Ba Ra Mountain.

The convoy proceeded without serious incident past the 1st Cav Division's base camp at Phuoc Vinh and the 1st Infantry's base at Lei Khe. It had passed where the highway turned east for a ways and then swung north some 10 to 15 kilometers south of LZ Buttons. Up ahead a large NVA element lay in hiding on the west side of the highway.

Captain Hudson believes the point scouts triggered the ambush before the NVA were ready. Suddenly intense enemy fire swept the lead elements of the convoy, driving Andy Hudson and his driver into the ditch on the east, right side of the road, and depriving him of use of the tactical radio mounted in the exposed jeep. By then intense, continuous NVA small arms, machine-gun fire and rockets were sweeping the whole convoy. Fortunately for the Americans, most of the fire was coming from the west side of the highway.

From his position in the rear, Sergeant Skidgel stood up behind his machine gun and ordered his driver forward. Then, as the jeep moved forward between the convoy vehicles on the road and their crews in the ditches on the east or right side, Skidgel fired bursts of machine-gun fire at the attacking NVA each time they passed a gap between the convoy vehicles.

NVA fire cut Skidgel's legs from under him as he passed by one of the gaps. He went down, dragged himself back up and ordered his driver to keep going. Apparently Skidgel saw the NVA

maneuvering against the head of the column, across the row-plowed area where the jungle has been pushed back from the road, and believed-with good reason-they intended to take Hudson's head and use it to quell the convoy into submission.

An RPG exploded in front of Skidgel's jeep, wounding his driver, riddling the right side of Skidgel's body with shrapnel and knocking him backwards. "Forward," he ordered, as he pulled himself back up behind the machine gun. A frantic moment later, Skidgel reached Hudson, and still standing exposed behind the machine gun, he fought off more than a hundred advancing NVA, while Hudson used Skidgel's jeep-mounted radio to report the ambush to the 1/9 Cav and LZ Buttons and call in support.

Skidgel took another a hit, this time in the upper body, about the time the first friendly artillery support arrived from the 105 batteries at LZ Buttons. Moments later, even bigger cannon joined in from other divisional bases, and the pink teams of the 1-9 Cav and Blue Max gunships combined to carry on the task that Skidgel had handled virtually alone until he sustained wounds for the third time, in his upper body.

Meanwhile, Colonel Edward "Shy" Myer (destined to become Chief of Staff of the US Army) ordered an ACAV troop down to the ambush site-the 11th ACR ACAV Troop was OPCON to his 2 nd Brigade. The ACAV charged down the east side of the road, stretched out along the length of the column, executed a sharp right flank and pulled into the gaps between the convoy vehicles, and opened fire into the jungle with everything they had, which was considerable. I'd learned this two days earlier northwest of Loch Ninh when ACAV took Delta Company 1-5 under fire while I was there saying goodbye before reported for duty with the 1-9 Cav. TAC Air joined the fight about 45 minutes after it began.

Following the fight, Hudson told Booth that Skidgel's arrived at his position covered in his own blood, bleeding from multiple wounds, where his one-man assault broke the NVA attack and forced them back toward the jungle.

Though many Americans were wounded in the engagement, just three were KIA, including an ACAV lieutenant and Skidgel. Soon after the

ambush, an infantry unit swept the area and discovered 240 NVA bodies in a mass grave.

For his actions and their consequences that day, Captain Hudson recommended Sergeant Donald S. Skidgel of Maine for the Medal of Honor, which he received posthumously. Booth endorsed the MOH recommendation "because, had Skidgel not gone forward to give his blood-and life, Hudson would have been unable to radio for help and the whole convoy would have been destroyed."

We owe so much for heroes like Skidgel who gave his life 32 years ago today, and those firefighters and police officers-notice that few are calling them Cops this week-that gave their lives two months ago. We'll need more heroes in this present national crisis, but even they can't do what we individually and collectively need to do.

Consider the great uncertainties ahead of us, I feel to "preach" a few points. First, we must realize that man cannot build indestructible buildings. Second, we can't rely of a few heroes to protect us. Third, we must take stock of ourselves, individually and collectively, and return to basic values that our parents passed on to us: sanctity of life, a sense of duty and responsibility, and appreciation for hard-earned rights and freedoms. We must place greater trust in the Lord, lest in our frustration and anger, we allow the events that lie ahead to drag us down to the level of the cowards who did this terrible thing to us. Finally, we must trust that only God builds indestructible structures, and He does it in us, only with out permission.

I ask the Lord's blessings on our leaders and children as they/we face the dark, foreboding uncertainties that lie ahead.

Claude D. Newby
Chaplain
Lt. Col. (Ret.) United States Army

Many years ago, when school age children began to ask what the pledge of allegiance to the flag really meant The great comedian, Red Skelton gave this rendering of the Pledge Of Allegiance, so students would really understand the pledge and their responsibility.

BWS

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

I - me, an individual, a committee of one.

Pledge - dedicate all my worldly goods to give without self-pity.

Allegiance - My love and my devotion.

To the Flag - our standard, Old Glory, a symbol of freedom. Wherever she waves, there is respect because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts freedom is everybody's job .

Of the United - that means that we have all come together .

States - individual communities that have united into 48 great states. 48 individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose, all divided with imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common purpose, and that's love for country .

Of America. .

And to the Republic - a state in which sovereign power is invested in representatives chosen by the people to govern. And government is the people and it's from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.

For which it stands.

One nation - meaning, so blessed by God.

Indivisible - incapable of being divided.

With Liberty - which is freedom and the right of power to live one's own life without threats or fear or some sort of retaliation.

And Justice - The principle or quality of dealing fairly with others.

For all - which means it's as much your country as it is mine."

"Since I was a small boy, two states have been added to our country and two words have been added to the Pledge Of Allegiance - "**under God**". Wouldn't it be a pity if someone said, "That's a prayer" and that too would be eliminated from our schools?"

RICHARD RED SKELTON
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His words are as true today as they were those many years ago. We must give our total allegiance to our country. This is the only way we can make it strong, safe and enduring.

BWS

From The Command Sergeant Major

Old Soldiers,

It's now November 2001 and the BWS team is well in the planning stage for our next reunion in 2002. Look for future newsletters to give more information on how the next reunion will be setup. It will be definitely the biggest yet and one that everyone will remember. And again, we will see many new members for the first time.

Troopers, we are seeing changes for the better in our "lifetime", such as medical care for retirees. I will say again, that what Congress gives, it can take away. All of us must support our military associations. NCOA, TROA, American Legion and other retired associations to make sure that congress lives up to the letter of the law and our benefits are not lost! Especially in these times of military spending increases because of the war on terrorism.

We are still looking for lost troopers. If you know of any troopers that have not been contacted, give the Squadron Association their names and addresses and we will contact them.

Loel tells me that the membership is still steadily growing towards the 500 point, however only 370+ troopers have paid their dues for this year! Remember that yearly dues are due again in January, 2002. Don't forget and don't procrastinate!! If you troopers feel that the newsmagazine is worth the yearly dues, help us get the stray troopers back in the family.

We are also finding new members weekly. All of you troopers who make up the 1st/9th Air CAV Squadron make this old soldier proud. You were first in battle, always first in friendship, always first for our country.

As ever, your points of contact for normal Squadron business remain;

Loel Ewart
Rt. 2 Box 158
Ozark, Al. 36360
Ph. # 334-774-0328
e-mail lewart@Charter.net

Or
Al Defleron
1145 Holland Rd.
Newton, Al. 36352
Ph. # 334-692-5685

I am looking forward to again seeing all my old soldiers at the 2002 reunion.

CSM Kennedy Bullwhip 7

The battlefield belongs to the CAV Trooper.

From the Sergeant Major:

As always it seems anytime the subject comes up when talking about our Beloved Squadron, there are many interesting points that are uncovered about the many accomplishments and the many types of assignments the 1st/9th has preformed during it's long and colorful history. You are sure to find something almost every day somewhere about the 1st/9th. Such as the UH-1A/C dropping the Blues almost everywhere. But what I am leading up to is a point of interest that came to me in a strange way. I assume all of you know that prior to the 11th Air Assault Division becoming The 1st Air Cavalry Division, and the 3rd/17th Air Cavalry Sqdn. becoming The 1st/9th Air Cavalry Sqdn., the 1st/9th was the 1st. Recon Sqdn. 9th Cavalry, performing DMZ duties in Korea until 1965 .

All of you that belong to the 1st Cavalry Division Association receive the new yearly calendar at the start of each year. Each month has a picture of one of the many units that has, and still, make up the Division, past and present. Well to my surprise I turned over the page on my calendar from August to September, to find the 1st/9th Recon. on the DMZ at the Freedom Gate Bridge Check Point, with a guard checking a jeep holding four troopers . The jeep has 1/9 C Trp . markings. After giving the picture a halfway going over and hanging it back in it's place on the wall (I keep many of my BWS dates and notes on each month) something kept bothering me about

the picture that I couldn't put my finger on. I knew that it was the month of September (1969) that Sgt Donald S. Skidgel of D Troop, earned The MOH

But that wasn't in place in my mind. Then I think it was the 6th or the 7th that Felix (Tex) Helms (Scout Observer B TRP 65-66) called early in the day and asked if I had checked the Month on the 1st Cav calendar, more to the point of the Trooper sitting in the right rear of the jeep?

Bingo! There was that nagging piece that was bothering me. The Trooper was none other than Spec. Melvis Hall, a B Trp Scout Observer 65-66. Melvis was flying with Capt, Jerry Leaderbrand the day that they found PFC. Toby Braveboy in the IA DRANG VALLEY. The Trooper was badly wounded and them finding him saved his life.

Finding the Trooper is a story in it self and I'll not get into it as it's not my story to tell, I would only be repeating what I have heard and more than likely get some things incorrect.

Melvis wasn't the only Trooper who came to the 1/9 after leaving Korea, as also Spec, Paul Bechberger had been there too. Paul was also an Observer with the B Trp. Scouts.

While talking about Troopers from the Korean days, we have an Honorary Member, Doctor James (Jim) Larose, who was the Squadron Surgeon in Korea 1965. Dr. Larose is the Commander of the VFW in Montgomery Al. and does a lot work with Vets. Be sure to checkout his ad in our ad section.

So now all of you who knew Melvis and have the calendar, check it out. Tex thanks for the call. While checking out those ads you will also find one from Tex there to. And while speaking about the ads. They have been, and are what's making it possible for us to increase the size and the quality of our news magazine, along with paying for the printing and the postage. Therefore we do not have to use our BWS funds. I'm not sure that all of you know that the cost of this is far more than what is paid in yearly dues. So our ads are God sent. And we can't thank our advertisers enough for doing their part to assisting us to keep improving the shape and looks of our news magazine

This piece being mostly about the Scouts I guess I should just say Scouts Out here, and continue on to another labor of love.

Welcome To The Reconstructed BWS Site Web Mastered By Loretta Stager

As many of you know Ms. Loretta Stager who, after many hours of hard work and assistance from many Troopers, built the fine B Troop site. She has maintained it from a dream to it's present as one of the best military sites on the web. Loretta volunteered her services to assist us anyway she could to build a new web site. Our webmaster, at that time, was Joe Bowen. Joe works at Ft. Rucker and his job was keeping him out of country and on TDY out of state, and for weeks at a time. So along with his other web site, the A Troop site and the BWS site gave him no free time to speak of when he was able to be home with his family for a couple of days at a time. We can not thank Joe enough for the many hours that he put in being the webmaster for the BWS site and building it from the start. The one thing that speaks of the type of person that Joe is, that not once did he ever complain of the time it took away from the other things on his plate. He did a great job putting BWS on the web and the start of what we are hoping will turn out to be the best site on the web.

Loretta volunteered to take over the BWS site and asked if she could reconstruct some of it. The result was to have to entirely do a complete overhaul because of limited memory. We had to get another 100 megs of space to be able to take care of the many pages that she is working on to upload on the site when completed.

Any assistance you Troopers can give her will help. She needs pictures and any items that has anything to do with our Vietnam years. Remember, our newsletter started out as a two and four pager and look at what we have now, something that we are all proud of and one of, if not, the best.

The B Troop and the BWS sites are a labor of love to Loretta. I am sure that those of you that have seen the site agree it's very enjoying to browse and see the number of hits climb daily. We would like all of you Troopers to know that we aren't trying to take anything away from our other Troop sites. Each Troop has it's own history and it's own stories. Our concern is the Squadron as a whole.

At the rate we are going now it won't be too long before each troop will have it's own site with links to us and links from us to them.

We thank you all for any and all assistance that you can give to Loretta for the site.

We can - We Will !

L. A. "D" Defleron
SGM. Bullwhip Squadron Assn.

"Hence to fight and conquer in all your battles is not supreme excellence; supreme excellence consists in breaking the enemy's resistance without fighting."

Chinese general [Sun Tzu](#), well over 2,000 years ago:

Keeper Of The Rock

I was developing an article for this issue of the newsletter when the terrorist attacks of Tuesday, 11 September, occurred. Given the mood of all Americans since that tragic day, I could not bring myself to complete the article. Since that day I see constantly in the back of my mind, John B. Stockton sitting on a cavalry horse, looking down from above at the Bullwhip Squadron saying "Let's go get those bastards, boys!" We sure could use John B. now.

God bless Colonel Stockton, God bless the Bullwhip Squadron and God bless America!

I found this article and felt it was appropriate for the times.

God bless the memory of all those who perished.

Gene Smith
Keeper of the Rock

Two Thousand One, Nine Eleven

Two thousand one, nine eleven
Five thousand plus arrive in heaven
As they pass through the gate,
Thousands more appear in wait

A bearded man with stovepipe hat
Steps forward saying,

"Lets sit, lets chat"

They settle down in seats of clouds
A man named Martin shouts out proud
"I have a dream!" and once he did
The Newcomer said, "Your dream still lives."

Groups of soldiers in blue and gray
Others in khaki, and green then say
"We're from Bull Run, Yorktown, the Maine"
The Newcomer said, "You died not in vain."

From a man on sticks one could hear
The only thing we have to fear.
The Newcomer said, "We know the rest,
trust us sir, we've passed that test."

"Courage doesn't hide in caves
You can't bury freedom, in a grave,"
The Newcomers had heard this voice before
A distinct Yankees twang from Hyannisport
shores

A silence fell within the mist
Somehow the Newcomer knew that this
Meant time had come for her to say
What was in the hearts of the five thousand plus
that day

"Back on Earth, we wrote reports,
Watched our children play in sports
Worked our gardens, sang our songs
Went to church and clipped coupons

We smiled, we laughed, we cried, we fought
Unlike you, great we're not"

The tall man in the stovepipe hat
Stood and said, don't talk like that!
Look at your country, look and see
You died for freedom, just like me"

Then, before them all appeared a scene
Of rubble streets and twisted beams
Death, destruction, smoke and dust
And people working just 'cause they must

Hauling ash, lifting stones,
Knee deep in hell
But not alone

Look! Black man, White man, Brown man,
Yellow man
Side by side helping their fellow man!
So said Martin, as he watched the scene
"Even from nightmares, can be born a dream."

Down below three firemen raised
The colors high into ashen haze
The soldiers above had seen it before
On Iwo Jima back in '44

The man on sticks studied everything closely
Then shared his perceptions on what he saw
mostly

"I see pain, I see tears,
I see sorrow -- but I don't see fear."
You left behind husbands and wives
Daughters and sons and so many lives
are suffering now because of this wrong
But look very closely. You're not really gone.

All of those people, even those who've never met
you

All of their lives, they'll never forget you
Don't you see what has happened?
Don't you see what you've done?
You've brought them together, together as one.

With that the man in the stovepipe hat said
"Take my hand," and from there he led
five thousand plus heroes, Newcomers to heaven
On this day, two thousand one, nine eleven

Author Unknown

Preamble

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Troopers, I introduce, SMOKY.

SMOKY

For those of you who do not know Smoky, we, in the Bullwhip Squadron, have a fantastic asset in the person of Jerry 'Smoky' Schmotolocha. Smokey has done an excellent job of compiling and editing tapes about the Bullwhip Squadron, the 9th Cav and the Air Cav in general. In addition to these tapes being of great interest to us, some of the proceeds from the sales go towards the Squadron General Fund.

The available tapes are;

Tape #1: "The Making of Decisive Weapons" by the BBC. This tape includes a 1 hour, 30 minute interview with COL Stockton and CSM Kennedy about the Bullwhip Squadron and how such traditions as the black hats and saddlebags, were begun. The final 30 minutes of the tape is the final program, aired by the BBC. This is available for \$25.00 (with \$15 of this going to the Squadron Fund).

Tape # 2: BG Dave Allen and LTC Chuck Knowlen discuss the ambush in the Ia Drang Valley (1 hour 10 minutes). This is followed by a 50 minute, A & E program about the Air Cav in Vietnam. The purchase price is \$25.00 (with \$15 going to Squadron Fund).

Tape # 3: LTG Hal Moore talks about the Battle of Ia Drang Valley from the 7th Cav perspective. This is a \$20.00 tape (of which \$10 goes to the Ia Drang Scholarship Fund).

These tapes talk about our heritage and is for the Squadron troopers to see their past and the honor of seeing true Cav Troopers in action.

The latest taping is the FT. HOOD (1st Cav Reunion) VIDEO TAPE. The tape of last years 2000, 1st CAV Division reunion at Fort hood with the Bullwhip Horse presentation to the 1st Cav Div Horse Detachment is ready. Here is what it will have and it's over 2 hours long.

1). COL STOCKTON & CSM KENNEDY speak about how the 1/9 Cav was put together prior to shipping out to Vietnam. Also they explain how the Stetson Hats that we wear today got started and now everyone else that is Cav wears. Plus about how the saddle bags and crossed sabers were started by troopers who were in the unit at that time. Also they talk about the Ia Drang campaign, the hospital battle started by B Troop Blues Platoon Leader, CPT Jack Oliver, on

Nov 1, 65, that 1/9 was involved in. Also the ambush sight that 1/9 was involved, started by C Troop Blues Platoon Leader, CPT Chuck Knowlen. A, B, C Troops were all involved in it together.

2). Presentation of "Bullwhip" Horse to the 1st Cav Div Horse Detachment

3). C Co dedication ceremony for the SGT Gary Lee McKiddy Hall.

4). Flight Surgeon Hal (Doc) Kushner who speaks of his capture by the VC after his chopper crashed.

5). Retreat ceremony for the award of the Air Medal for Valor to six members of the 1/9 CAV.

6). The presentation to the division which our former squadron commander MG James Smith rode

"Bullwhip".

7). Also updated the KIA list that runs through 1972

THIS TAPE IS \$20 SEND CHECKS TO:

Jerry Schmotolocha
23 Congressional PKWY
Livingston, N.J. 07039

Some of the proceeds will go to the Bullwhip Squadron Association fund to help run the BWS newsletter. In order to receive the tape, you must be a member of the Squadron Association. It has the most informative newsletter that explains what's happening with the 1/9 CAV troopers that served in the Vietnam

For further information about ordering this and other tapes, please contact:

Jerry Schmotolocha
23 Congressional Parkway
Livingston, NJ 07039
Phone: (973) 535-3926

These tapes are a part of our heritage and Smoky has gone to much effort to compile and edit them. I feel that as fellow troopers, we need to support his efforts.

Much thanks, Smoky.

BWS

**Time is but a memory, forever
with us, good and bad.**

BWS

Legally Speaking

Credit Rebuilding

Tens of thousands of Americans have damaged their credit ratings. They've misused or abused their credit cards or prolonged periods of illness or unemployment have engulfed them in financial distress. Whatever the reason, they suffer from bad credit, and must find a way to repair it to return to a normal life. Find a credit card that fits. We'll help you look.

If you're among this group, don't despair. It's hard work to rebuild your credit rating, but it can be done. "First you need to understand how credit works and then you need a plan," says Gerri Detweiler, a credit expert and author of "The Ultimate Credit Handbook."

What do the credit agencies say?

You need to know what the credit-reporting agencies are saying about you. For \$8.50, you can order a copy of your credit report online from Equifax. You can also now get your credit score from Equifax and Fair, Isaac & Co. Just visit MSN Money Centrals Credit Reporter page. The credit score is a statistical tool designed to measure likelihood you'll pay your bills. For more information on the new service, see "Your secret credit score now available online."

The other two major credit-reporting agencies, Experian (formerly TRW) and TransUnion, charge similar fees. (Use the links below, left to order your report). You're entitled to a free copy of your report, however, if you've recently been denied credit. But you must order the report from the same credit bureau(s) that the lender used in rejecting your application, and you must order it within 30 days of the denial. Review your credit history once a year to check for errors and find out what creditors are saying about you.

Stay away from 'repair' clinics

What you don't need is a credit-repair clinic. These so-called clinics offer to help you clean up your credit by using loopholes in the law that only they know about. They may also promise to remove negative information from your file or to get you a major credit card. These are false promises, according to attorney John Ventura, author of "The Credit Repair Kit."

Some repair clinics may even get you into legal trouble by encouraging you to distort the information in your credit file, or by helping you to initiate a new file with a new address and federal identification number.

There are no special tricks that these credit repair clinics know, experts say. You can clean up your credit report yourself.

Here are five steps to credit repair:

1. Lock your cards away. Don't close your accounts yet. If your credit rating has been damaged, you may have trouble getting new cards. But stop using them. Your immediate goal is to repair your credit rating and to get out of debt.

2. Figure out where you stand. No one likes to focus on budgets and net-worth statements. It's particularly painful if you suspect your income is less than your debt and that your net worth is in minus territory. Still, finding out the truth is a necessary first step, just like stepping on the scale before you begin to diet. It helps you measure your success.

You have a great deal of control over your budget and net worth. But much of your credit record is actually controlled by others -- your creditors and the reporting bureaus. Between 30% and 40% of these reports contain errors, Ventura says. Clear those up first.

Ventura suggests that you write to the credit bureau detailing the errors in your report and that you send your correspondence by certified mail with a return receipt requested as you work to clean up your credit report. That will provide you with a paper trail and help you remember when to follow up.

Be as succinct as possible. Don't be angry or accusatory. Provide backup materials whenever you can. For instance, if you've paid off a bill and received a letter from the former creditor acknowledging that the debt is paid, send along a copy.

In your letter, identify problems such as:

"The credit file your company maintains on me states that my account at Macy's is overdue. In fact, I have closed my account at Macy's and paid off the balance. I am enclosing a letter from Macy's to support that."

Tell the bureau that you want to have the problem investigated as soon as possible. Ask to

have a corrected report sent to anyone who has asked for the report during the past six months for credit purposes and during the past two years for employment purposes.

3. Devise a plan. If you're going to clear up your credit rating, you must begin paying your bills on time. That means you pay at least the minimum balance on each bill within 30 days. Determine whether you can do that. If you aren't even close, consider credit counseling. If it's hopeless, you may want to consider bankruptcy and a fresh start. Determine which course of action you will take and stick to your guns.

4. Negotiate with creditors. Nine out of 10 creditors will renegotiate terms with you if you're having trouble paying bills. Good candidates are gasoline companies, utility companies, hospitals and doctors. Gasoline cards are usually not reported to credit bureaus until you're 90 days late, and the others don't generally show up on credit reports unless the bills are sent to a collection agency. Write a letter to these creditors describing your problem and requesting a reduced payment schedule. Then stick to your new schedule.

5. Add pertinent information to your credit file. Your credit report may be damaged as much by the information that is omitted as by the negative information that is found there. Creditors are not required to report information to a credit bureau. But you are entitled to add information that you feel will help your rating.

The law says you are allowed to write a letter of up to 100 words involving any credit dispute and that the agency must provide to any creditors who ask for information. That might include the details of loans that you paid on schedule, active accounts where you have a good record, salary increases at your job, and information about your mortgage, car loan or the settlements of disputed bills.

Ventura suggests that you write to the bureau, enclosing a copy of your credit report and the information that you would like added to the report. Also include information, such as account numbers, that will allow the credit bureau to verify it.

Negative information can be maintained on your report for seven years; bankruptcies for 10 years. But many creditors weigh new information more heavily.

"How much you pay is not as important as how often you pay," Detweiler says. "It's important to establish a record of paying bills on time and to stick with it."

What To Do If You Lose Your Purse Or Wallet

We've all heard horror stories about fraud that's committed in your name, address, SS#, credit, etc. Unfortunately I (the author of this piece who happens to be an attorney) have firsthand knowledge, because my wallet was stolen last month and within a week the thief(s) ordered an expensive monthly cell phone package, applied for a VISA credit card, had a credit line approved to buy a Gateway computer, received a PIN number from DMV to change my driving record information online, and more.

But here's some critical information to limit the damage in case this happens to you or someone you know. As everyone always advises, cancel your credit cards immediately, but the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them easily. File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where it was stolen, this proves to credit providers you were diligent, and is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one).

But here's what is perhaps most important: (I never ever thought to do this) Call the three national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and SS#. I had never heard of doing that until advised by a bank that called to tell me and application for credit was made over the Internet in my name. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit. By the time I was advised to do this, almost 2 weeks after the theft, all the damage had been done.

There are records of all the credit checks initiated by the thieves' purchases, none of which I knew about before placing the alert. Since then, no additional damage has been done, and the thieves threw my wallet away this weekend

(someone turned it in). It seems to have stopped them in their tracks.

The numbers are:

Equifax: 1-800-525-6285 =20

Experian (formerly TRW): 1-888-397-3742 20

Trans Union: 1-800-680-7289

Social Security Administration (fraud line): 1-800-269-0271

Remember, your first line of defense is a good offence.

Very good advice. Items sent in by a reader.

BWS

Today is the first day of the rest of your life. Do not waste one moment. Remember the past and correct for the future. Go out and do good.

BWS

Military News Report

Highlights from the Military Report.

Military Report is written specifically for everyone in the military community. Then do your fellow service member and civilian colleagues a favor by passing a copy of MilitaryReport.com on to them. Fax it, email it, or post it on your area bulletin board. Encourage everyone to start their own FREE weekly email subscription to MilitaryReport.com. Simply go to <http://www.militaryreport.com> to sign up.

Some Airmen Did Not Get Correct Pay

Air Force Personnel Center (AFPC) officials are asking people who have re-enlisted, extended their enlistments, or been promoted recently to look closely at their latest Leave and Earnings Statement (LES) to ensure they are receiving all their pay. Air Force Print News reports that problems with the Air Force's Personnel data system may have caused the suspension of pay for hundreds who re-enlisted within 30 days of their dates of separation or who have extended

their enlistment since late April. Individuals who find discrepancies with their LES should contact their local military personnel flights and accounting and finance offices. For more information, visit the AFPC Web site at

<http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/>

Mid-Career NCO's Get Pay-Scale Adjustment On July 1, thousands of mid-career noncommissioned officers received a pay-scale adjustment. Stars and Stripes reports that the pay increase took effect for E-5s with more than six years of service through E-7s with 22 years of service. The additional amount of pay varies. E-7s with more than 14 years in service received the biggest pay increase, \$59.10. Most of the pay raises fall between the range of \$28.80 to \$58.80. For more on military pay, see the Active Duty Pay and Withholdings section on Military.com: http://www.military.com/Resources/ResourceFileView?file=Active_Duty_Pay.htm

TRICARE University Opens to the Public TRICARE University, an online version of the TRICARE Basic Student Course, is now available to anyone who wants an improved understanding of the TRICARE benefit.

Navy/Marine Corps Medical News reports that the course consists of 13 lessons, practice questions, and non-graded examinations that are accessible at the end of each lesson. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to recall the basic benefits of TRICARE options, pharmacy and dental programs, to match available health benefit options with beneficiary eligibility status and category, calculate costs, and file claim forms plus find further information. TRICARE University can be found by going to <http://www.tricare.osd.mil>, clicking on "Browse by Topic" to obtain the drop-down menu, and then selecting TRICARE University.

Travel Military vacationers traveling to Italy can now book stays online at more than 100 bed-and-breakfast sites throughout the country thanks to a partnership between the Naples United Services Organization (USO) and an independent online booking agency. Stars and Stripes reports that the partnership gives the USO direct access to the most comprehensive database of Italian bed-and-breakfast lodgings on the Web. To check out the Italian bed-and-breakfast sites available, book a stay, or obtain more information, visit <http://www.uso.it>, e-mail

info@uso.it, or call (39) 081 724-4664, DSN 625-4664.

Military.com also has a resource for military vacationers to find military deals and discounts on accommodations, car rentals, and air fare, including Space A Travel. For more information, go to the Travel Channel at: <http://www.military.com/Travel/FrontDoor/0,11886,,00.html>

New Funeral Program Teams Military, Vets' Groups The Department of Defense (DoD) is teaming with veterans service organizations across the country to enhance traditional funeral ceremonies that honor the nation's military veterans. Air Force Print News reports that the organizations are being asked to augment DoD-provided personnel at military funerals by providing volunteers to serve as color guards, rifle detail members, pallbearers and buglers. Other groups, such as ROTC detachments and reserve component advisory units, could also participate in the program. Letters introducing the program, a 20-minute training video, and pins for presentation to participants are being mailed to military unit commanders in July. Letters explaining the program and training videos are also being mailed to veterans service organizations. For more information on military funeral honors, visit Military.com's Death and Burial Benefits section: <http://www.military.com/Resources/ResourceFileView?file=Burial.htm>

Army Headgear Issues Clarified With the Army's recent adoption of the beret, many soldiers are asking what is to be done with their other headgear. The Army News Service reports that nothing out of the ordinary is to be done right away. Because not all Army installations or units have been issued the beret yet, installation commanders will determine when their installation will transition from service cap and hat to the beret. Soldiers who travel from a unit that has the beret issued will wear the beret while on temporary duty. However, soldiers making a permanent change of station move from a unit with the beret to one which has not been issued the new headgear will wear the garrison cap, unless the installation commanders allows otherwise. The bottom line is that anyone who has a garrison cap should hold on to it for at least the next year. ODCSPER plans to issue by the

end of 2001 an update of AR 670-1 that will include specific guidance on the wearing of the beret.

Beneficiary Card for TRICARE for Life A separate beneficiary card is not required to receive health benefits under TRICARE For Life. The TRICARE e-mail news list reports that your Uniformed Services Identification (I.D.) card and your Medicare card are all you need for Medicare to pay first and TRICARE to pay second on your claims starting Oct. 1, 2001. In Summer, 2001, potentially eligible beneficiaries will receive a TRICARE For Life package that will include an information card, letter, benefit comparison chart, brochure, a survey form and return envelope for notifying TRICARE if you intend to cancel other health insurance. The information card is not needed to access care. The card is a handy (wallet-size) TRICARE For Life reference for you and your doctor. For more on TRICARE For Life, see the TRICARE For Life section on Military.com:

http://www.military.com/Resources/ResourceFileView?file=TRICARE_Lif

Myths

On October 1, military Medicare-eligible beneficiaries became eligible for TRICARE For Life, under which TRICARE will provide second-payer coverage to Medicare. Unfortunately, such major and expensive benefit changes are frequently accompanied by rumors and misinformation, often spread by well-intentioned but worried people.

While one can never fully protect against Murphy's Law, everything we see indicates TFL will be implemented and funded as planned on October 1. So it's time to put the kibosh on those exasperating TFL myths.

Myth # 1: "TFL is not a permanent program and Congress is looking at cutbacks because of its high cost."

Reality: TFL is set in permanent law, in the same way as Social Security, Medicare, and military retired pay. As such, annual action by Congress to re-authorize TFL is not required. Public Law 106-398 established a DoD Medicare-Eligible Health Care Trust Fund, to be effective October 1, 2002. The Fund will be resourced with annual mandatory contributions from the Department of Defense and the U.S. Treasury. Congress

certainly has the power to change any program, including Social Security, Medicare, Military retired pay, or TFL, but that would take another law change. There has been no discussion in Congress of any TFL cutback. Congress and the Defense Department are committed to bringing TFL on line, on time, as promised.

Myth #2: "TFL has not been funded for FY 2002 so the program can't begin on October 1, 2001."

Reality: It's technically true that Congress has not yet passed the FY2002 Defense Appropriations Act, but this is merely a formality as far as TFL is concerned. First-year TFL funding of \$3.9 billion was included in the President's Budget and in the FY2002 Budget Resolution, which set Congress's spending agenda. Therefore, funds are already earmarked for inclusion in the FY 2002 Defense Appropriations Bill when Congress takes it up next month. If this defense-spending bill is not passed by October 1st, Congress will approve a Continuing Resolution (CR) to sustain funding for previously authorized initiatives. TROA has confirmed with the House and Senate Appropriations Committees and the Defense Department's General Counsel that, since TFL authority is already on the law books, it will still be implemented and funded on Oct 1 under the terms of the CR, even if no Defense Appropriations Act has been enacted by that date.

Myth #3: "My doctors will not accept me as a TFL patient because they don't participate in TRICARE."

Reality: Under TFL, all Medicare-approved providers are automatically "TRICARE-approved providers." If Medicare pays the doctor, TRICARE will too – automatically. There is no requirement for the doctor to Formally participate in TRICARE. In the worst case, a skeptical doctor may ask you to pay the Medicare copayment up front until he can be sure TFL will pay on time. Next month's TROA magazine will be accompanied by two copies of TROA's new TRICARE For Life Handbook for Providers. TROA designed this 8-page handbook specifically to show doctors how TFL will work, and persuade them that they won't need to require such upfront copayments.

Myth #4: “Doctors who treat TFL patients will have to file a secondary TFL claim for the supplemental coverage that my Medigap insurance now pays.”

Reality: For the vast majority of cases, all the doctor has to do is file the claim with Medicare, with no extra paperwork for TFL. Most providers already bill Medicare. Medicare will process the primary claim and send the Medicare payment directly to the provider. The paid Medicare claim will be automatically forwarded to TRICARE, which will generate a TRICARE copayment directly to the provider. You will get an Explanation of Benefits (EOB) statement from both Medicare and TRICARE showing that both programs have paid their share of the bill and that you owe nothing. (Note: This automatic payment system will be in place for beneficiaries age 65 and over as of Oct 1, but won't be available until sometime next year for disabled Medicare-eligibles under 65. In the interim, a separate paper claim to TRICARE will still be necessary for the under-65 Medicare-eligibles.)

Myth #5: “Before I can get any benefits under TFL, I must have a new Uniformed Services Identification Card that shows eligibility for health care.”

Reality: A new ID card is not required. Eligibility for TFL is based on your having correct information in DEERS, the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System. Even if the back of the Military ID Card indicates, “No civilian medical care is authorized” (after a stated date), TFL benefits will be paid so long as your DEERS information is accurate. In addition, TRICARE contractors mailed out a letter in late July and early August to all uniformed services beneficiaries 65 and older with a wallet-size “Information Card” that can be shown to a provider. The card states the provider should “file claims (for reimbursement) in the usual manner to Medicare.” It also shows that the patient has no copay or deductible for TRICARE and Medicare-covered benefits and provides contact numbers for TFL information.

Myth # 6: “Because I am enrolled in a Medicare HMO or have other health insurance (OHI) coverage, TFL will not benefit me.”

Reality: We believe you won't need other health insurance under TFL, but if you decide to keep it anyway, you will not get all the benefits of your

premium-free TFL coverage. That's because TFL will be third-payer after Medicare and your other insurance. TROA recommends that all TFL eligibles should review their situation to assess whether it still makes sense to pay premiums for coverage that TFL provides at no cost. But even if you retain a Medicare HMO, Medigap insurance or a former employer's plan after October 1, TFL may still be of some value. If you pay copays under your other plan, you can file a TRICARE claim and be reimbursed for those costs. Also, if your plan has limited coverage, you can file a TRICARE claim for the out-of-pocket expenses, but you must enclose proof that your other plan's benefits have been exhausted. In order to submit a claim, the receipt or explanation of benefits form from your other insurer must show the patient's name, date of care, and type of service. If you are in a Medicare HMO, you should indicate that the receipt is from a Medicare Plus Choice HMO and is for your cost-share. The receipt and a claim form may then be submitted to TRICARE for adjudication. For more information, call the DOD Customer Call Center at 888-DoD-LIFE (888-363-5433).

Myth #7: “For retirees who travel or live outside the United States (its possessions or territories), Medicare will not pay. Thus, TFL offers no benefits overseas.”

Reality: While Medicare doesn't provide benefits outside the United States, TRICARE does. If you are a TFL beneficiary (enrolled in Medicare Part B) and become ill while traveling or residing outside the United States, TFL will be the first payer for TRICARE-covered benefits. In this case, you'll be responsible for paying the TRICARE copayments and deductibles, up to the catastrophic cap of \$3,000 per family per year plus any excess charges. You also will be responsible for paying any billed charges above what TRICARE allows. For more information, call DoD's TFL Call Center toll-free at 1-888-363-5433.

Myth # 8: “TRICARE For Life will pay for long-term nursing care services, so I won't need long-term care insurance.”

Reality: TFL does not cover long-term custodial care. Medicare and TRICARE cover certain “medically-necessary” skilled nursing care either

in a Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) or at home. Such services are very different from long-term care services. SNF care may be needed following a period of hospitalization for rehabilitation or for stabilization of a condition. Long-term care, also called "custodial or personal care", is for people who require permanent assistance in activities of daily living, such as eating, bathing, dressing and physical movement. Beneficiaries are solely responsible for paying for custodial services. Beneficiaries desiring such coverage may want to purchase long-term care insurance, but they will have to meet certain "medical underwriting conditions" as determined by an insurance carrier.

If you have questions regarding the update, please address them to legis@troa.org.

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MAX FACTS (Excerpts)

Information contained in "Max Facts" are personal comments. They are not official, regulatory nor set forth policy. They neither state nor imply a Department of Defense, Department of Army, ODCSPER, or Army Retirement Services office, position, policy, statement, or endorsement. "Max Facts" are intended solely for information purposes to recipients.

1. **GOOD NEWS ON RECRUIT ATTRITION RATES** - All services are reporting a drop in recruit attrition rates. They are attributing this to preparing enlisted for the challenges they will face in basic training. This is training, provided by recruiters, while the enlistee is in the Delayed Entry Program (DEP). The cost of recruiting a new enlistee is about \$11,000 according to DOD statistics. Therefore, everyone recruited that stays with their commitment is a cost savings to the service in the long run. For every enlistee in the

DEP that drops out before they ship to basic training or who drops out during basic training is a lost cost and we have to spend that much again to recruit a replacement. Extended use of the DEP will lower attrition rates making it the trend of the future. I doubt you will see very many new recruits sign up and ship within a couple of days as it was in years past. Recruiting is a tough business, and all recruiters, regardless of service need our support.

2. **TRICARE PRIME PREMIUM AUTHORIZED BANK PAYMENTS** - If you are having your bank or other financial institution making automatic transfer of funds to pay your TRICARE Prime premiums, make sure the bank is furnishing your Social Security Account Number (SSAN) with their payment to the TRICARE Prime Contractor. Everything within TRICARE is done by SSAN, so if you bank is not furnishing your SSAN with their transfer of funds, the payment may not get credited to your account and termination of TRICARE Prime for nonpayment of premiums is a possibility.

3. **IDENTIFICATION OF REMAINS** - As we all know identification of remains of service members killed in WWII, Korea, Vietnam and other places is a difficult task. Most of the time, remains are identified by the US Army Central Identification laboratory-Hawaii (CILHI) through DNA. To assist in identifying these remains, DNA samples from family members is essential. Without that, there is nothing to match the DNA of the found remains with family. Family members who have service members who have been declared as Killed in Action or Missing in Action and bodies have not been recovered or returned to the US for proper burial may wish to donate blood so that a DNA match can be on file. Not all relatives are eligible donors, but those that are could speed up the identification of loved ones remains when found. More information is available at:

<http://www.cilhi.army.mil/mtdna.htm>

4. **FAMILY MEMBER SERVICEMENBERS' GROUP LIFE INSURANCE (SGLI)** - Another benefit for soldiers. Effective 1 November 2001, SGLI coverage will be extended to family members. Coverage is automatic, unless the service member requests in writing declination of coverage. Coverage for a spouse will be a maximum of \$100,000, unless the soldier has

less than maximum coverage. In those cases, spouse coverage cannot exceed the coverage of the service member. Cost of spouse SGLI will depend upon the age of the spouse. Also, coverage for children in the amount of \$10,000 will also be automatic. There is no premium cost for child coverage. Those service members who have declined SGLI coverage, may want to now reconsider their decision.

5. ARMY KNOWLEDGE ON-LINE (AKO) - While AKO will become mandatory for Army active, Reserve, and civilian employees, it is not mandatory for retirees. However, retiree may want to set up an AKO account to receive Internet Email. AKO accounts will give one an Email account that they can taken into retirement without changing their Email address regardless of where they may be stationed. Retirees can enroll by going to <http://www.us.army.mil/> Once there you need to click on "new user". When setting up an account, the information entered is matched against the data in the Total Army Personnel Data Base (TAPDB). Retirees without an army.mil address will be able to sign in as a guest. Guest accounts will have to be renewed every year. However, if you currently have a army.mil address you can open an account and then access that account from your other account, such as AOL, Prodigy, Erols, etc. from your home computer. Eventually, AKO will replace all the different addresses used by military personnel and make it easier for all.

6. ANNUAL RETIREMENT POINT STATEMENT - I get many requests from Army Reservists wondering if I can tell them how many retirement points they have and if they are eligible for retirement. I, of course, do not know because I do not have access to their Reserve file in St. Louis. However, each year Army Reservists receive an ARPC Form 249-3-E which provides them with their point totals. These annual reports, send at the end of the month which is their Retirement Year End (RYE), have been being sent for over 30 years. Apparently many Reservists throw them away after reading them or without even reading them. This is too bad, and is similar to many retirees who do not read and maintain their Retiree Account Statements that they receive from DFAS-CL each time there is a change in their retired pay. These documents are important and should be saved.

They are not only important to the Reservist or retiree, but also to the surviving family member. In addition, the reverse side of both forms need to be read also. The reverse side of the Reservist form tells them how to make corrections if their point total is in error. The reverse side of the retiree statement gives the amount of SBP, if any, payable to the surviving spouse.

7. NAVY LODGE - Room reservations at a Navy Lodge can now be made on-line at <http://www.navy-nex.com/>. You can also make changes and cancellations, but don't try it later than two days before your reservation date.

8. NUMBER OF OFFERS TO BUY RETIRED PAY AND VA COMPENSATION CONTINUES TO GROW - It seems like a good thing, otherwise why would more companies offering to buy a retirees retired pay or a veterans VA compensation. The more companies making that offer leads me to believe they have found a lucrative market. The retirees and veterans who fall for this deal, are probably ones in debt, in need of instant cash or don't fully understand what the deal is going to cost them in the long run. Retirees and veterans who take such deals will probably find that they will endure years without their retired pay or VA compensation long after the lump sum payment has been spent. Don't ever think for a minute that these companies expect to lose any money on any deal. The only loser is going to be either the retiree or the veteran.

9. CONCURRENT RECEIPT - Last year Concurrent Receipt did not survive the conference Committee negotiations on the National Defense Authorization Act FY 2001 and this year it did not survive the Conference Committee negotiations on the Budget Resolution FY 2002. These were set backs, but not the death of the effort. What will Congress do in the future? There are a couple of things that could happen. One is Congress could include it in this years National Defense Authorization Bill, without funding, and make DOD take the money from some other program to pay for it. This action is doubtful. Congress could continue to talk about it, and accomplish nothing. This continuing action is also doubtful, but possible. Congress could include it in this year's National Defense Authorization Act and make it effective in 2008 or 2009. This serves a couple of

purposes. First, it gets the 107th Congress off the hook for not taking action. Second, it gets it off the budget cycle and PAYGO restrictions and lays responsibility for funding the program to future Congresses. Third, it places the pressure on future Congresses, the 108th, or 109th, or 110th to either providing funding or to repeal the action of the 107th Congress. Once passed, I think it is doubtful a future Congress will want to repeal it because of the heat they would take from their military voters. Therefore a future Congress will fund it or DOD will include more money in the Military Retirement Trust fund to pay for it. Passage this year with an effective date in the future will give the actuaries time to determine how much money must be placed each year in the Military Retirement Trust Fund to pay for the future increases in retired pay because of Concurrent Receipt. No one can predict what Congress could, may, or will do. All anyone can do is guess.

NOTICE: Max Beilke, 69, the last U.S. combat soldier to leave Vietnam, was among the first to be declared missing at the start of a new war on 11 September, 2001. His body was later found. Beilke, a retired Army master sergeant living in Laurel, was working in the Pentagon on veterans' issues when hijackers rammed American Airlines Flight 77 into the building. Max was the writer of Max Facts. He was an ardent supporter of military benefits. These are the last articles from him. He will be sorely missed.

Many of these items were also extracted from the Military Report. You may subscribe to the Military Report by e-mail at: subscriptions@militaryreport.com Military report is a publication of MR Group, LLC, A Veteran-Owned Small Business. Editorial questions: editor@militaryreport.com Website: <http://www.militaryreport.com>

Do your fellow troopers and friends a favor by passing them the e-mail addresses above.

BWS

Quote for the Day!

You don't die for your country, you make the SOB enemy die for his.

Gen. Patton

From the Swamp

This came to me by e-mail and I want to share it with you. It speaks a challenge to all of us. This is a remembrance of the past and knowledge of the future.

A.J. Welch
SwampFox

This old Flag:

A protest raged on a courthouse lawn,
Round a makeshift stage they charged on,
Fifteen hundred or more they say,
Had come to burn a Flag that day.

A boy held up the folded Flag,
Cursed it, and called it a dirty rag.
An OLD MAN pushed through the angry crowd,
With a rusty old rifle, shouldered proud.

His uniform jacket was old and tight,
But he'd polished each button, shiny and bright.
He crossed that stage with a soldier's grace,
Until he and the boy stood face to face.

"FREEDOM OF SPEECH", the OLD MAN said,
"Is worth dying for, good men are dead,
So you can stand on this courthouse lawn,
And talk us down from dusk to dawn,
But before any Flag gets burned today,
This OLD MAN IS GOING TO HAVE HIS
SAY!!

My father died on a foreign shore,
In a war they said would end all war.
But Tommy and I wasn't even full grown,
Before we fought in a war of our own.

And Tommy died on Iwo Jima's beach,
In the shadow of a hill he couldn't quite reach
Where five good men raised this Flag so high,
That the **WHOLE DAMN WORLD COULD**
SEE IT FLY.

I got this bum leg that I still drag,
Fighting for this same old Flag.
Now there's but one shot in this old gun,
So now it's time to decide which one.
Which one of you will follow our lead,
To stand and die for what you believe?
For as sure as there is a rising sun,
You'll burn in Hell 'fore this Flag burns, son.

Now this riot never came to pass
The crowd got quiet and that can of gas,
Got set aside as they walked away
To talk about what they had heard this day.
And the boy who had called it a "dirty rag",
Handed the **OLD SOLDIER** the folded Flag.

So the battle of the Flag this day was won
By a tired **OLD SOLDIER** with a rusty gun,
Who for one last time, had to show to some,

**THIS FLAG MAY FADE,
BUT THESE COLORS DON'T RUN.**

Author Unknown

Veterans Sound Off

Articles from our members and those who support us. If you disagree, sound off.

BWS

The following letter was sent to me by a friend. It expresses his gut reactions to what is going on in some feeble minded idiot's minds!!

I can add nothing of substance to his eloquence. I merely reiterate "God Bless America"

Bill Meiers
134 Victoria Drive
Madison AL 35758

A Message For The Other 10%

"I'm as patriotic as anyone. In the wake of September 11 and the evil that was done to the United States, I fly my flags and mourn with our Nation. But I want to take a minute to pick on some people. Please understand, I love the way our nation has come together in the last two weeks. I saw a recent poll that President George W. Bush has a 90% approval rating- the highest ever for an American President. But, please tell me: Who are the other 10%?

They are a professor at The University of North Carolina, who called on Bush to apologize. Yes, apologize to the world for American Imperialism. That this is our fault.

They are Jesse Jackson, who said that America is now a "police state" and we will lose our "civil liberties". That racial profiling will rule, and we will lose our freedom.

They are college students across our Nation that carry "peace" symbols, yet threaten to vandalize any fire truck in Berkley, CA. that flies the American flag.

I will deal with them one by one:

First, to the college professor: You are a fascist idiot. And I am chilled knowing that you, and people like you are teaching America's youth. You are no American, and should be deported to Cuba on the next raft headed that way.

Second, to Jesse Jackson: Thank you for your kind words at a time when America is pulling together. Nothing like a moron like you to stir up dissention during our darkest hour. Don't forget, Jesse, that people died for our freedoms long before you "blessed" us with your forgettable presence. That freedom comes with a price. And if you aren't willing to pay that price, then shut up and stay off my TV!

And lastly, to the college students: You have no idea what you have. You've been fed with a silver spoon, bought from the closest Saks in your suburban neighborhood, and you have not the slightest inkling of the threat posed to America. Grow up. Get a job. Try balancing that job with a wife or husband, a couple of kids, and a mortgage payment. Try wondering how to spread yourself just thin enough you don't crumble. And try being so many things to so many people, who depend solely on you. Worry about their futures for a change, instead of yours. See beyond your

boyhood blinders in a world where there are people that would like nothing more than to take you down. To destroy those freedoms you have not even begun to understand. And learn to find strength in your God and your flag, because when Daddy cuts off the money supply, that's all you've got left!

I have heard many people the last few days start to waiver in their vengeance. Poor Afghanistan. They are a troubled people ravaged by war and famine. They have done nothing wrong, and now many innocent people will die. People, understand this: New Yorkers are digging through rubble, trying to find bodies so loved ones can bury them. Problem is, they are only finding body parts. There were about 15 day care centers in the World Trade Centers. 15.

Each one had about 25 children in them. That's almost 400! And when I see on TV, a Fire Fighter crying because he can't stomach the idea of seeing just one more child's leg, arm, head, or part of a torso charred in the rubble--dismembered to the point where parents and loved ones are asked to bring their toothbrushes so that they can identify them by DNA. Where the stench of death haunts the air to the point where it chokes you. Where nearly 7,000 crushed, burned, mutilated bodies rest buried under thousands of tons of rubble that used to be jobs to nearly 50,000 people. Where melted crayons and toys cling to the sides of steel girders where children used to play. And where those children now lay dead--no futures--no tomorrow.

To those who are losing their stomachs for vengeance: I say, do not forget. Do not ever, ever, forget. America can not, will not, tolerate this. Ever. Under no circumstances. Not here. Not our children. Not our parents, our brothers or our sisters. Ever. And if innocent people, in a land far away, have to become "collateral damage" to avenge the deaths of our innocent? I say: So be it. Remember, this is our way of life we are defending. Our freedom. Our freedom to live day to day, not in terror, but in the pursuit of happiness. The broader spectrum here is the future of our way of life.

If innocent people are killed while we rid the world of this evil--that can anytime come back and kill even more of us--then that is the price to pay. Think about that the next time you see a child.

God Bless America."

A Patriotic American

A very good read and very accurate. Tom CLANCY was on FOX NEWS, The O'Reilly Factor, and gave a similar brief. This is more complete and to the point.

A former CIA operative explains why the terrorist Usama bin Ladin has little to fear from American intelligence.

BWS

The Counterterrorist Myth

The United States has spent billions of dollars on counter terrorism since the U.S. embassy bombings in Tanzania and Kenya, in August of 1998. Tens of millions have been spent on covert operations specifically targeting Usama bin Ladin and his terrorist organization, al-Qa'ida. Senior U.S. officials boldly claim--even after the suicide attack last October on the USS Cole, in the port of Aden--that the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation are clandestinely "picking apart" bin Ladin's organization "limb by limb." But having worked for the CIA for nearly nine years on Middle Eastern matters (I left the Directorate of Operations because of frustration with the Agency's many problems), I would argue that America's counter terrorism program in the Middle East and its environs is a myth.

Peshawar, the capital of Pakistan's Northwest Frontier, is on the cultural periphery of the Middle East. It is just down the Grand Trunk Road from the legendary Khyber Pass, the gateway to Afghanistan. Peshawar is where bin Ladin cut his teeth in the Islamic jihad, when, in the mid-1980s, he became the financier and logistics man for the Maktab al-Khidamat, The Office of Services, an overt organization trying to recruit and aid Muslim, chiefly Arab, volunteers for the war against the Soviets in Afghanistan. The friendships and associations made in The Office of Services gave birth to the clandestine al-Qa'ida, The Base, whose explicit aim is to wage a jihad against the West, especially the United States.

According to Afghan contacts and Pakistani officials, bin Ladin's men regularly move through Peshawar and use it as a hub for phone, fax, and modem communication with the outside world. Members of the embassy-bombing teams in Africa probably planned to flee back to Pakistan. Once there they would likely have made their way into bin Ladin's open arms through al-Qa'ida's numerous friends in Peshawar.

Every tribe and region of Afghanistan is represented in this city, which is dominated by the Pathans, the pre-eminent tribe in the Northwest Frontier and southern Afghanistan. Peshawar is also a power base of the Taliban, Afghanistan's fundamentalist rulers. Knowing the city's ins and outs would be indispensable to any U.S. effort to capture or kill bin Ladin and his closest associates. Intelligence collection on al-Qa'ida can't be of much real value unless the agent network covers Peshawar.

During a recent visit, at sunset, when the city's cloistered alleys go black except for an occasional flashing neon sign, I would walk through Afghan neighborhoods. Even in the darkness I had a case officer's worst sensation-eyes following me everywhere. To escape the crowds I would pop into carpet, copper, and jewelry shops and every cybercaf I could find. These were poorly lit one- or two-room walk-ups where young men surfed Western porn. No matter where I went, the feeling never left me. I couldn't see how the CIA as it is today had any chance of running a successful counter terrorist operation against bin Ladin in Peshawar, the Dodge City of Central Asia.

Westerners cannot visit the cinder-block, mud-brick side of the Muslim world-whence bin Ladin's foot soldiers mostly come-without announcing who they are. No case officer stationed in Pakistan can penetrate either the Afghan communities in Peshawar or the Northwest Frontier's numerous religious schools, which feed manpower and ideas to bin Ladin and the Taliban, and seriously expect to gather useful information about radical Islamic terrorism-let alone recruit foreign agents.

Even a Muslim CIA officer with native-language abilities (and the Agency, according to several active-duty case officers, has very few operatives from Middle Eastern backgrounds) could do little more in this environment than a

blond, blue-eyed all-American can. Case officers cannot long escape the embassies and consulates in which they serve.

U.S. official overseas, photographed and registered with the local intelligence and security services, can't travel much, particularly in a police-rich country like Pakistan, without the "host" services' knowing about it. An officer who tries to go native, pretending to be a true-believing radical Muslim searching for brothers in the cause, will make a fool of himself quickly.

In Pakistan, where the government's Inter-Services Intelligence Agency and the ruling army are competent and tough, the CIA can do little if these institutions are against it. And they are against it. Where the Taliban and Usama bin Ladin are concerned, Pakistan and the United States aren't allies. Relations between the two countries have been poor for years, owing to American opposition to Pakistan's successful nuclear-weapons program and, more recently, Islamabad's backing of Muslim Kashmiri separatists. Bin Ladin's presence in Afghanistan as a "guest" of the Pakistani-backed Taliban has injected even more distrust and suspicion into the relationship.

In other words, American intelligence has not gained and will not gain Pakistan's assistance in its pursuit of bin Ladin. The only effective way to run offensive counterterrorist operations against Islamic radicals in more or less hostile territory is with "non-official-cover" officers-operatives who are in no way openly attached to the U.S. government. Imagine James Bond minus the gadgets, the women, the Walther PPK, and the Aston Martin. But as of late 1999=20 no program to insert NOCs into an Islamic fundamentalist organization abroad had been implemented, according to one such officer who has served in the Middle East. "NOCs haven't really changed at all since the Cold War," he told me recently. "We're still a group of fake businessmen who live in big houses overseas. We don't go to mosques and pray."

A former senior Near East Division operative says, "The CIA probably doesn't have a single truly qualified Arabic-speaking officer of Middle Eastern background who can play a believable Muslim fundamentalist who would volunteer to spend years of his life with shitty food and no women in the mountains of Afghanistan. For

Christ's sake, most case officers live in the suburbs of Virginia. We don't do that kind of thing." A younger case officer boils the problem down even further: "Operations that include diarrhea as a way of life don't happen."

Behind-the-lines counterterrorism operations are just too dangerous for CIA officers to participate in directly. When I was in the Directorate of Operations, the Agency would deploy a small army of officers for a meeting with a possibly dangerous foreigner if he couldn't be met in the safety of a U.S. embassy or consulate. Officers still in the clandestine service say that the Agency's risk-averse, bureaucratic nature-which mirrors, of course, the growing physical risk-aversion of American society-has only gotten worse.

A few miles from Peshawar's central bazaar, near the old Cantonment, where redcoats once drilled and where the U.S. consulate can be found, is the American Club, a traditional hangout for international-aid workers, diplomats, journalists, and spooks. Worn-out Western travelers often stop here on the way from Afghanistan to decompress; one can buy a drink, watch videos, order a steak. Security warnings from the American embassy are posted on the club's hallway bulletin board.

The bulletins I saw last December advised U.S. officials and their families to stay away from crowds, mosques, and anyplace else devout Pakistanis and Afghans might gather. The U.S. embassy in Islamabad, a fortress surrounded by roadblocks, Pakistani soldiers, and walls topped with security cameras and razor wire, strongly recommended a low profile-essentially life within the Westernized, high-walled Cantonment area or other spots where diplomats are unlikely to bump into fundamentalists.

Such warnings accurately reflect the mentality inside both the Department of State and the CIA. Individual officers may venture out, but their curiosity isn't encouraged or rewarded. Unless one of bin Ladin's foot soldiers walks through the door of a U.S. consulate or embassy, the odds that a CIA counter terrorist officer will ever see one are extremely poor.

The Directorate of Operations' history of success has done little to prepare the CIA for its confrontation with radical Islamic terrorism. Perhaps the DO's most memorable victory was

against militant Palestinian groups in the 1970s and 1980s. The CIA could find common ground with Palestinian militants, who often drink, womanize, and spend time in nice hotels in pleasant, comfortable countries. Still, its "penetrations" of the PLO-delightfully and kindly rendered in David Ignatius's novel "Agents of Innocence"-were essentially emissaries from Yasir Arafat to the U.S. government.

Difficulties with fundamentalism and mud-brick neighborhoods aside, the CIA has stubbornly refused to develop cadres of operatives specializing in one or two countries. Throughout the Soviet-Afghan war(1979-1989) the DO never developed a team of Afghan experts. The first case officer in Afghanistan to have some proficiency in an Afghan language didn't arrive until 1987, just a year and a half before the war's end. Robert Baer, one of the most talented Middle East case officers of the past twenty years (and the only operative in the 1980s to collect consistently first-rate intelligence on the Lebanese Hizbollah and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad), suggested to headquarters in the early 1990s that the CIA might want to collect intelligence on Afghanistan from the neighboring Central Asian republics of the former Soviet Union.

Headquarters' reply: Too dangerous, and why bother? The Cold War there was over with the Soviet withdrawal in 1989. Afghanistan was too far away, internecine warfare was seen as endemic, and radical Islam was an abstract idea. Afghanistan has since become the brain center and training ground for Islamic terrorism against the United States, yet the CIA's clandestine service still usually keeps officers on the Afghan account no more than two or three years.

Until October of 1999 no CIA official visited Ahmad Shah Mas'ud in Afghanistan. Mas'ud is the ruler of northeastern Afghanistan and the leader of the only force still fighting the Taliban. He was the most accomplished commander of the anti-Soviet mujahideen guerrillas; his army now daily confronts Arab military units that are under the banner of bin Ladin, yet no CIA case officer has yet debriefed Mas'ud's soldiers on the front lines or the Pakistani, Afghan, Chinese-Turkoman, and Arab holy warriors they've captured.

The CIA's Counterterrorism Center, which now has hundreds of employees from numerous government agencies, was the creation of Duane "Dewey" Clarridge, an extraordinarily energetic bureaucrat-spook. In less than a year in the mid-1980s Clarridge converted a three-man operation confined to one room with one TV set broadcasting CNN into a staff that rivaled the clandestine service's Near East Division for primacy in counterterrorist operations. Yet the Counterterrorism Center didn't alter the CIA's methods overseas at all. "We didn't really think about the details of operations-how we would penetrate this or that group," a former senior counterterrorist official says. "Victory for us meant that we stopped [Thomas] Twetten [the chief of the clandestine service's Near East Division] from walking all over us." In my years inside the CIA, I never once heard case officers overseas or back at headquarters discuss the ABCs of a recruitment operation against any Middle Eastern target that took a case officer far off the diplomatic and business-conference circuits. Long-term seeding operations simply didn't occur.

George Tenet, who became the director of the CIA in 1997, has repeatedly described America's counterterrorist program as "robust" and in most cases successful at keeping bin Ladin's terrorists "off-balance" and anxious about their own security. The Clinton Administration's senior director for counterterrorism on the National Security Council, Richard Clarke, who has continued as the counterterrorist czar in the Bush Administration, is sure that bin Ladin and his men stay awake at night "around the campfire" in Afghanistan, "worried stiff about who we're going to get next."

If we are going to defeat Usama bin Ladin, we need to openly side with Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, who still has a decent chance of fracturing the tribal coalition behind Taliban power. That, more effectively than any clandestine counterterrorist program in the Middle East, might eventually force al-Qa'ida's leader to flee Afghanistan, where U.S. and allied intelligence and military forces cannot reach him.

Until then, I don't think Usama bin Ladin and his allies will be losing much sleep around the campfire.

Richard Ricklefs
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Afghanistan (Know Your Enemy)

Many of you are probably not aware that I was one of the last American citizens to have spent a great deal of time in Afghanistan. I was first there in 1993 providing relief and assistance to refugees along the Tajik border and in this capacity have traveled all along the border region between the two countries. In 1998 and 1999 I was the Deputy Program Manager for the UN's mine action program in Afghanistan. This program is the largest civilian employer in the country with over 5,000 persons clearing mines and UXO. In this later capacity, I was somewhat ironically engaged in a "Holy War" as decreed by the Taliban, against the evil of landmines, and by a special proclamation of Mullah Omar, all those who might have died in this effort were considered to "martyrs" even an "infidel" like myself. The mine action program is the most respected relief effort in the country and because of this I had the opportunity to travel extensively, without too much interference or restriction. I still have extensive contacts in the area and among the Afghan community and read a great deal on the subject.

I had wanted to write earlier and share some of my perspectives, but quite frankly I have been a bit too popular in DC this past week and have not had time. Dr. Tony Kern's comments were excellent and I would like to use them as a basis for sharing some observations.

First, he is absolutely correct. This war is about will, resolve and character. I want to touch on that later, but first I want to share some comments about our "enemy."

Our enemy is not the people of Afghanistan. The country is devastated beyond what most of us can imagine. The vast majority of the people live day-to-day, hand to mouth in abject conditions of poverty, misery and deprivation. Less than 30% of the men are literate, the women even less. The country is exhausted, and desperately wants something like peace. They know very little of the world at large, and have no access to information or knowledge that would

counter what they are being told by the Taliban. They have nothing left, nothing that is except for their pride.

Who is our enemy? Well, our enemy is a group of non-Afghans, often referred to by the Afghans as "Arabs" and a fanatical group of religious leaders and their military cohort, the Taliban. The non-Afghan contingent came from all over the Islamic world to fight in the war against the Russians. Many came using a covert network created with assistance by our own government. OBL (as Osama bin Laden was referred to by us in the country at the time) restored this network to bring in more fighters, this time to support the Taliban in their civil war against the former Mujehdeen. Over time this military support along with financial support has allowed OBL and his "Arabs" to co-opt significant government activities and leaders.

OBL is the "inspector general" of Taliban armed forces, his bodyguards protect senior Talib leaders and he has built a system of deep bunkers for the Taliban, which were designed to withstand cruise missile strikes (uhm, where did he learn to do that?). His forces basically rule the southern city of Kandahar.

This high-profile presence of OBL and his "Arabs" has, in the last 2 years or so, started to generate a great deal of resentment on the part of the local Afghans. At the same time the legitimacy of the Taliban regime has started to decrease as it has failed to end the war, as local humanitarian conditions have worsened and as "cultural" restrictions have become even harsher. It is my assessment that most Afghans no longer support the Taliban. Indeed the Taliban have recently had a very difficult time getting recruits for their forces and have had to rely more and more on non-Afghans, either from Pushtun tribes in Pakistan or from OBL. OBL and the Taliban, absent any US action were probably on their way to sharing the same fate that all other outsiders and outside doctrines have experienced in Afghanistan-defeat and dismemberment.

During the Afghan war with the Soviets much attention was paid to the martial prowess of the Afghans. We were all at West Point at the time and most of us had high-minded idealistic thoughts about how we would all want to go help the brave "freedom fighters" in their struggle against the Soviets. Those concepts were naive to

the extreme. The Afghans, while never conquered as a nation, are not invincible in battle. A "good" Afghan battle is one that makes a lot of noise and light. Basic military skills are rudimentary and clouded by cultural constraints that no matter what, a warrior should never lose his honor. Indeed, firing from the prone is considered distasteful (but still done).

Traditionally, the Afghan order of battle is very feudal in nature, with fighters owing allegiance to a "commander" and this person owing allegiance upwards and so on and so on. Often such allegiance is secured by payment. And while the Taliban forces have changed this somewhat, many of the units in the Taliban army are there because they are being paid to be there. Such groups have very strong loyalties along ethnic and tribal lines. Again, the concept of having a place of "honor" and "respect" is of paramount importance and blood feuds between families and tribes can last for generations over a perceived or actual slight.

That is one reason why there were 7 groups of Mujehdeen fighting the Russians. It is a very difficult task to form and keep united a large bunch of Afghans into a military formation. The "real" stories that have come out of the war against the Soviets are very enlightening and a lot different from our fantastic visions as cadets. When the first batch of Stingers came in and were given to one Mujehdeen group, another group-supposedly on the same side, attached the first group and stole the Stingers, not so much because they wanted to use them, but because having them was a matter of prestige.

Many larger coordinated attacks that advisers tried to conduct failed when all the various Afghan fighting groups would give up their assigned tasks (such as blocking or overwatch) and instead would join the assault group in order to seek glory. In comparison to Vietnam, the intensity of combat and the rate of fatalities were lower for all involved.

As you can tell from above, it is my assessment that these guys are not THAT good in a purely military sense and the "Arabs" probably even less so than the Afghans. So why is it that they have never been conquered? It goes back to Dr. Kern's point about will.

During their history the only events that have managed to form any semblance of unity among

the Afghans, is the desire to fight foreign invaders. And in doing this the Afghans have been fanatical. The Afghans' greatest military strength is the ability to endure hardships that would, in all probability, kill most Americans and enervate the resolve of all but the most elite military units. The physical difficulties of fighting in Afghanistan, the terrain, the weather and the harshness are all weapons that our enemies will use to their advantage and use well. For you military planner types and armchair generals--around November 1st most road movement is impossible, in part because all the roads used by the Russians have been destroyed and air movement will be problematic at best.

Also, those fighting us are not afraid to fight. OBL and others do not think the US has the will or the stomach for a fight. Indeed after the absolutely inane missile strikes of 1998, the overwhelming consensus was that we were cowards, who would not risk one life in face to face combat. Rather than demonstrating our might and acting as a deterrent, that action and others of the not so recent past, have reinforced the perception that the US does not have any "will" and that we are morally and spiritually corrupt.

Our challenge is to play to the weaknesses of our enemy, notably their propensity for internal struggles, the distrust between the extremists/Arabs and the majority of Afghans, their limited ability to fight coordinated battles and their lack of external support.

More importantly through is that we have to take steps not to play to their strengths, which would be to unite the entire population against us by increasing their suffering or killing innocents, to get bogged down trying to hold terrain, or to get into a battle of attrition chasing up and down mountain valleys.

I have been asked how I would fight the war. This is a big question and well beyond my pay grade or expertise. And while I do not want to second guess current plans or start an academic debate I would share the following from what I know about Afghanistan and the Afghans.

- First, I would give the Northern Alliance a big wad of cash so that they can buy off a chunk of the Taliban army before winter.

- Second, also with this cash I would pay some guys to kill some of the Taliban leadership

making it look like an inside job to spread distrust and build on existing discord.

- Third I would support the Northern alliance with military assets, but not take it over or adopt so high a profile as to undermine its legitimacy in the eyes of most Afghans.

- Fourth would be to give massive amounts of humanitarian aid and assistance to the Afghans in Pakistan in order to demonstrate our goodwill and to give these guys a reason to live rather than the choice between dying of starvation or dying fighting the "infidel."

- Fifth, start a series of public works projects in areas of the country not under Taliban control (these are much more than the press reports) again to demonstrate goodwill and that improvements come with peace.

- Sixth, I would consider very carefully putting any female service members into Afghanistan proper--sorry to the females of our class but within that culture a man who allows a woman to fight for him has zero respect, and we will need respect to gain the cooperation of Afghan allies. No Afghan will work with a man who fights with women.

I would hold off from doing anything to dramatic in the new term, keeping a low level of covert action and pressure up over the winter, allowing this pressure to force open the fissures around the Taliban that were already developing. I expect that they will quickly turn on themselves and on OBL. We can pick up the pieces next summer, or the summer after. When we do "pick-up" the pieces I would make sure that we do so on the ground, "man to man." While I would never want to advocate American casualties, it is essential that we communicate to OBL and all others watching that we can and will "engage and destroy the enemy in close combat." As mentioned above we should not try to gain or hold terrain, but Infantry operations against the enemy are essential. There can be no excuses after the defeat or lingering doubts in the minds of our enemies regarding American resolve and nothing, nothing will communicate this except for ground combat. And once this is all over, unlike in 1989 the US must provide continued long-term economic assistance to rebuild the country.

While I have written too much already, I think it is also important to share a few things on the subject of brutality. Our opponents will not abide

by the Geneva conventions. There will be no prisoners unless there is a chance that they can be ransomed or made part of a local prisoner exchange. During the war with the Soviets, videotapes were made of communist prisoners having their throats slit. Indeed, there did exist a "trade" in prisoners so that souvenir videos could be made by outsiders to take home with them. This practice has spread to the Philippines, Bosnia and Chechnya where similar videos are being made today and can be found on the web for those so inclined. We can expect our soldiers to be treated the same way.

Sometime during this war I expect that we will see videos of US prisoners having their heads cut off. Our enemies will do this not only to demonstrate their "strength" to their followers, but also to cause us to overreact, to seek wholesale revenge against civilian populations and to turn this into the world wide religious war that they desperately want. This will be a test of our will and of our character. (For further collaboration of this type of activity please read Kipling).

This will not be a pretty war; it will be a war of wills, of resolve and somewhat conversely of compassion and of a character. Towards our enemies, we must show a level of ruthlessness that has not been part of our military character for a long time. But to those who are not our enemies we must show a level of compassion probably unheard of during war. We should do this not for humanitarian reasons, even though there are many, but for shrewd military logic.

For anyone who is still reading this way to long note, thanks for your patience

Thanks,

Richard Kidd
F-4, 86

The Terrorist attacks on 9/11 has brought a whole new meaning to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Now, more than ever, the American soldier and citizens must understand their role in defending the freedoms our forefathers fought and died for. Freedom does not come easy.

BWS

None of us like war, but as history has shown, sometimes it's necessary. Do you have the stomach for it? This was written by my academic advisor at the Academy. He was not only one of the most brilliant men I've ever met, but also an individual who combined that brilliance with common sense to lead others. His words are the ones that haven't been heard yet but I believe will come to be true before we have the chance to recover from this initial tragedy.

Recently, I was asked to look at the recent events through the lens of military history. I have joined the cast of thousands who have written an "open letter to Americans." This is my letter.

Sobering Thoughts

Dear friends and fellow Americans
14 September, 2001

Like everyone else in this great country, I am reeling from last week's attack on our sovereignty. But unlike some, I am not reeling from surprise.

A career soldier and a student and teacher of military history, I have a different perspective and I think you should hear it. This war will be won or lost by the American citizens, not diplomats, politicians or soldiers.

Let me briefly explain. In spite of what the media, and even our own government is telling us, this act was not committed by a group of mentally deranged fanatics. To dismiss them as such would be among the gravest of mistakes. This attack was committed by a ferocious, intelligent and dedicated adversary. Don't take this the wrong way. I don't admire these men and I deplore their tactics, but I respect their capabilities. The many parallels that have been made with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor are apropos. Not only because it was a brilliant sneak attack against a complacent America, but also because we may well be pulling our new adversaries out of caves 30 years after we think this war is over, just like my father's generation had to do with the formidable Japanese in the years following WW II.

These men hate the United States with all of their being, and we must not underestimate the power of their moral commitment. Napoleon, perhaps the world's greatest combination of

soldier and statesman, stated "the moral is to the physical as three is to one." Patton thought the Frenchman underestimated its importance and said moral conviction was five times more important in battle than physical strength. Our enemies are willing - better said anxious-to give their lives for their cause.

How committed are we America? And for how long? In addition to demonstrating great moral conviction, the recent attack demonstrated a mastery of some of the basic fundamentals of warfare taught to most military officers worldwide, namely simplicity, security and surprise. When I first heard rumors that some of these men may have been trained at our own Air War College, it made perfect sense to me. This was not a random act of violence, and we can expect the same sort of military competence to be displayed in the battle to come.

This war will escalate, with a good portion of it happening right here in the good ol' U.S. of A. These men will not go easily into the night. They do not fear us. We must not fear them. In spite of our overwhelming conventional strength as the world's only "superpower" (a truly silly term), we are the underdog in this fight. As you listen to the carefully scripted rhetoric designed to prepare us for the march for war, please realize that America is not equipped or seriously trained for the battle ahead. To be certain, our soldiers are much better than the enemy, and we have some excellent "counter-terrorist" organizations, but they are mostly trained for hostage rescues, airfield seizures, or the occasional "body snatch," (which may come in handy).

We will be fighting a war of annihilation, because if their early efforts are any indication, our enemy is ready and willing to die to the last man.

Eradicating the enemy will be costly and time consuming. They have already deployed their forces in as many as 20 countries, and are likely living the lives of everyday citizens. Simply put, our soldiers will be tasked with a search and destroy mission on multiple foreign landscapes, and the public must be patient and supportive until the strategy and tactics can be worked out. For the most part, our military is still in the process of redefining itself and presided over by men and women who grew up with - and

were promoted because they excelled in - Cold War doctrine, strategy and tactics.

This will not be linear warfare, there will be no clear "centers of gravity" to strike with high technology weapons. Our vast technological edge will certainly be helpful, but it will not be decisive. Perhaps the perfect metaphor for the coming battle was introduced by the terrorists themselves aboard the hijacked aircraft-this will be a knife fight, and it will be won or lost by the ingenuity and will of citizens and soldiers, not by software or smart bombs. We must also be patient with our military leaders.

Unlike Americans who are eager to put this messy time behind us, our adversaries have time on their side, and they will use it. They plan to fight a battle of attrition, hoping to drag the battle out until the American public loses its will to fight. This might be difficult to believe in this euphoric time of flag waving and patriotism, but it is generally acknowledged that America lacks the stomach for a long fight. We need only look as far back as Vietnam, when North Vietnamese General Vo Nguyen Giap (also a military history teacher) defeated the United States of America without ever winning a major tactical battle. American soldiers who marched

to war cheered on by flag waving Americans in 1965 were reviled and spat upon less than three years later when they returned. Although we hope that Usama Bin Laden is no Giap, he is certain to understand and employ the concept. We can expect not only large doses of pain like the recent attacks, but! also less audacious "sand in the gears" tactics, ranging from livestock infestations to attacks at water supplies and power distribution facilities.

These attacks are designed to hit us in our "comfort zone" forcing the average American to "pay more and play less" and eventually eroding our resolve. But it can only work if we let it. It is clear to me that the will of the American citizenry - you and I - is the center of gravity the enemy has targeted. It will be the fulcrum upon which victory or defeat will turn.

He believes us to be soft, impatient, and self-centered. He may be right, but if so, we must change. The Prussian general Carl von Clausewitz, (the most often quoted and least read military theorist in history), says that there is a "remarkable trinity of war" that is composed of

the (1) will of the people, (2) the political leadership of the government, and (3) the chance and probability that plays out on the field of battle, in that order.

Every American citizen was in the crosshairs of last Tuesday's attack, not just those that were unfortunate enough to be in the World Trade Center or Pentagon. The will of the American people will decide this war.

If we are to win, it will be because we have what it takes to persevere through a few more hits, learn from our mistakes, improvise, and adapt. If we can do that, we will eventually prevail.

Everyone I've talked to in the past few days has shared a common frustration, saying in one form or another "I just wish I could do something!" You are already doing it. Just keep faith in America, and continue to support your President and military, and the outcome is certain.

If we fail to do so, the outcome is equally certain.

God Bless America

Dr. Tony Kern, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
Former Director of Military History, USAF Academy

The following was sent to me by my friend Tamim Ansary. Tamim is an Afghani-American writer. He is also one of the most brilliant people I know in this life. When he writes, I read. When he talks, I listen. Here is his take on Afghanistan and the whole mess we are in. G

Sent in by Rita Stockton

LOOKING AT THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN

Dear Friends and Neighbors I've been hearing a lot of talk about "bombing Afghanistan back to the Stone Age." Ronn Owens, on KGO Talk Radio today, allowed that this would mean killing innocent people, people who had nothing to do with this atrocity, but "we're at war, we have to accept collateral damage. What else can we do?"

Minutes later I heard some TV pundit discussing whether we "have the belly to do what must be done." And I thought about the issues being raised especially hard because I am from Afghanistan, and even though I've lived here for 35 years I've never lost track of what's going on there. So I want to tell anyone who will listen how it all looks from where I'm standing.

I speak as one who hates the Taliban and Osama Bin Laden. There is no doubt in my mind that these people were responsible for the atrocity in New York. I agree that something must be done about those monsters. But the Taliban and Ben Laden are not Afghanistan. They're not even the government of Afghanistan. The Taliban are a cult of ignorant psychotics who took over Afghanistan in 1997. Bin Laden is a political criminal with a plan. When you think Taliban, think Nazis. When you think Bin Laden, think Hitler. And when you think "the people of Afghanistan" think "the Jews in the concentration camps." It's not only that the Afghan people had nothing to do with this atrocity. They were the first victims of the perpetrators. They would exult if someone would come in there, take out the Taliban and clear out the rats nest of international thugs holed up in their country.

Some say, why don't the Afghans rise up and overthrow the Taliban? The answer is, they're starved, exhausted, hurt, incapacitated, suffering. A few years ago, the United Nations estimated that there are 500,000 disabled orphans in Afghanistan--a country with no economy, no food. There are millions of widows. And the Taliban has been burying these widows alive in mass graves. The soil is littered with land mines, the farms were all destroyed by the Soviets. These are a few of the reasons why the Afghan people have not overthrown the Taliban.

We come now to the question of bombing Afghanistan back to the Stone Age. Trouble is, that's been done. The Soviets took care of it already. Make the Afghans suffer? They're already suffering. Level their houses? Done. Turn their schools into piles of rubble? Done. Eradicate their hospitals? Done. Destroy their infrastructure? Cut them off from medicine and health care? Too late. Someone already did all that. New bombs would only stir the rubble of earlier bombs. Would they at least get the Taliban? Not likely. In today's Afghanistan, only

the Taliban eat, only they have the means to move around. They'd slip away and hide. Maybe the bombs would get some of those disabled orphans, they don't move too fast, they don't even have wheelchairs. But flying over Kabul and dropping bombs wouldn't really be a strike against the criminals who did this horrific thing.

Actually it would only be making common cause with the Taliban--by raping once again the people they've been raping all this time. So what else is there? What can be done, then? Let me now speak with true fear and trembling. The only way to get Bin Laden is to go in there with ground troops. When people speak of "having the belly to do what needs to be done" they're thinking in terms of having the belly to kill as many as needed. Having the belly to overcome any moral qualms about killing innocent people.

Let's pull our heads out of the sand. What's actually on the table is Americans dying. And not just because some Americans would die fighting their way through Afghanistan to Bin Laden's hideout. It's much bigger than that folks. Because to get any troops to Afghanistan, we'd have to go through Pakistan. Would they let us? Not likely. The conquest of Pakistan would have to be first. Will other Muslim nations just stand by?

You see where I'm going. We're flirting with a world war between Islam and the West. And guess what: that's Bin Laden's program. That's exactly what he wants. That's why he did this. Read his speeches and statements. It's all right there. He really believes Islam would beat the west. It might seem ridiculous, but he figures if he can polarize the world into Islam and the West, he's got a billion soldiers. If the west wreaks a holocaust in those lands, that's a billion people with nothing left to lose, that's even better from Bin Laden's point of view. He's probably wrong, in the end the west would win, whatever that would mean, but the war would last for years and millions would die, not just theirs but ours. Who has the belly for that?

Bin Laden does. Anyone else?

Tamim Ansary

Troopers

This is how others see us. A very interesting read. I pray to God that his comments are right about us being awakened. Have a great awakening.

BWS

A British View of the US/Bin Laden affair

No eloquence can match the impact of their evil. Americans' critical weakness in the past two decades has been their reluctance to shed blood for their goals. They believed they could construct a huge military and never have it fight real wars and suffer real casualties. They thought they could alter history and advance their interests from the air alone.

With the exception of the Gulf War, which they hesitated to finish, they have shrunk from the fight. When the current enemy struck again and again throughout the 1990s, Bill Clinton responded without real credibility, struck back without real endurance, enraged the terrorists without truly hurting them.....We are now living with the consequences of his appeasement, and of his refusal to challenge Americans beyond what the polls said they already wanted to do. Whoever launched this war on Americans has now accomplished the task Clinton didn't dare embark on. America has been bloodied as it has never been bloodied before. I would be a fool to predict what happens next. But it is clear that Bush will not do a Clinton. This will not be a surgical strike. It will not be a gesture. It may not even begin in earnest soon. But it will be deadly serious.

It is clear that there is no way that the United States can achieve its goals without the cooperation of many other states - an alliance as deep and as broad as that which won the Gulf War. It is also clear that this cannot be done by airpower alone. As in 1941, the neglect of the military under Bill Clinton and the parsimony of its financing even under Bush must now not merely be ended but reversed. We may see the biggest defense buildup since the early 1980s - and not just in weaponry, but in manpower.

It is also quite clear that the US military presence in the Middle East must be ramped up

exponentially, its intelligence overhauled, its vigilance heightened exponentially. In some ways, Bush has already assembled the ideal team for such a task: Powell for the diplomatic dance, Rumsfeld for the deep reforms he will now have the opportunity to enact, Cheney as his most trusted aide in what has become to all intents and purposes a war cabinet. The terrorists have done the rest.

The middle part of the country - the great red zone that voted for Bush-is clearly ready for war. The decadent Left in its enclaves on the coasts is not dead -- and may well mount what amounts to a fifth column. But by striking at the heart of New York City, the terrorists ensured! That at least one deep segment of the country ill-disposed toward a new president is now the most passionate in his defense. Anyone who has ever tried to get one over on a New Yorker knows what I mean. The demons who started this have no idea about the kind of people they have taken on.

But what the terrorists are also counting on is that Americans will not have the stomach for the long haul. They clearly know that the coming retaliation will not be the end but the beginning. And when the terrorists strike back again, they have let us know that the results could make the assault on the World Trade Center look puny. They are banking that Americans will then cave. They have seen a great country quarrel to the edge of constitutional crisis over a razor-close presidential election. They have seen it respond to real threats in the last few years with squeamish restraint or surgical strikes. They have seen that, as Israel has been pounded by the same murderous thugs, the United States has responded with equanimity. They have seen a great nation at the height of its power obsess for a whole summer over a missing intern and a randy Congressman.

They have good reason to believe that this country is soft, that it has no appetite for the war that has now begun. They have gambled that in response to unprecedented terror, the Americans will abandon Israel to the barbarians who would annihilate every Jew on the planet, and trade away their freedom for a respite from terror in their own land.

We cannot foresee the future. But we know the past. And that past tells us that these people

who destroyed the heart of New York City have made a terrible mistake. This country is at its heart a peaceful one. It has done more to help the world than any other actor in world history. It saved the world from the two greatest evils of the last century: Nazism and Soviet Communism. It responded to its victories in the last war by pouring aid into Europe and Japan. In the Middle East, America alone has ensured that the last hope of the Jewish people is not extinguished and has given more aid to Egypt than to any other country. It risked its own people to save the Middle East from the pseudo-Hitler in Baghdad.

America need not have done any of this. Its world hegemony has been less violent and less imperial than any other comparable power in history.

In the depths of its soul, it wants its dream to itself, to be left alone, to prosper among others, and to welcome them to the freedom America has helped secure. But whenever Americans have been challenged, they have risen to the task. In some awful way, these evil thugs may have done us a favor. America may have woken up forever. The rage that will follow from this grief and shock may be deeper and greater than anyone now can imagine. Think of what the United States ultimately did to the enemy that bombed Pearl Harbor.

Now recall that American power in the world is all but unchallenged by any other state. Recall that America has never been wealthier, and is at the end of one of the biggest booms in its history.

And now consider the extent of this wound - the greatest civilian casualties since the Civil War, an assault not just on Americans but on the meaning of America itself. When you take a step back, it is hard not to believe that we are now in the quiet moment before the whirlwind.

Americans will recover their dead, and they will mourn them, and then they will get down to business. Their sadness will be mingled with an anger that will make the hatred of these evil fanatics seem mild.

This battle has just started and the American people are beginning to turn their grief into smoldering anger, an anger that will consume and destroy those of evil doing as surely as time moves.

The sleeping giant has been awakened.

I am reminded of a great American poem written by Herman Melville after the death of Abraham Lincoln, the second founder of the country:

**There is sobbing of the strong,
And a pall upon the land;
But the People in their weeping
Bare the iron hand;
Beware the People weeping
When they bare the iron hand."**

by Andrew Sullivan
The London Times

Remembrance From The Past

Joe Galloway Remarks:

Gents:

I'm so sorry I can't be with you for this unique reunion of the first shift of the 1st of the 9th Cav that I'm voluntarily committing a few things to paper that I wanted to say to you in person:

First, a short and true story: A few years ago at a dinner at Fort Hood I found myself seated beside the wife of the then-commander of the 1st Cavalry Division, a particularly stiff and starchy major general. Assaying to make some polite dinner table chat I told the lady that I had heard that one of her daughters was dating a lieutenant from the 1st of the 7th Cav, and that she had my sympathies. She turned and replied: "Oh no, he's quite all right. I'm just so relieved it isn't a blooming aviator."

In this gathering of war eagles, I am reminded of these words for a letter Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman wrote to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant: "Throughout the war I knew that you thought of me, and if I got in trouble that you would come for me, if alive."

That is the unwritten and unbreakable contract between warriors. It was the First Law of the 1st of the 9th Cav in 1965, and the First and Last Law of Col. John B. Stockton. Rather than violate that law, rather than break faith, on the night of November 3, 1965, at LZ Betty, John B. Stockton sacrificed a career with the only outfit he ever

loved. And 75 or 100 good guys lived to tell the tale and fight again.

My buddy Hal Moore likes to say that this world is divided between horses and piss-ants. If I were able to be here tonight I would lift my glass, rise to my feet and tell John B. Stockton: You did the right thing, the only thing. You were a horse, John B., and the guy above you was a piss-ant!

And what can I say to you men of the 1st Squadron of the 9th Cavalry? You can say: Goddam, you were great! I can say thank you, on behalf of a nation that still doesn't know how well it was served. I can say that I would be proud to join you in a combat assault on the gates of Hell anytime you're ready to go. I can say that I was never happier than when I was flying with the 1st of the 9th or marching with the 1st of the 7th. I can say that you were the best of the best—all horses, no piss-ants.

Thank you.

The 1st Bullwhip Squadron Reunion:

The 1st Bullwhip Squadron reunion was a fine gathering of boss's and troopers. No pissants allowed. Friday night at the infantry museum, a feast was spread out on a 30 foot banquet table groaning & laden with food. A horse trough plumb full of ice and cold beer all of it free. A cav troopers dream come true. Throughout the evening small groups of men formed and reformed like whirlpools as they drifted around the room. Smiles and hugs and whoops of recognition as almost 30 years of memory was jarred loose. Laughter & teasing. What happened to your hair! Boy, have you been eating good!! Tears of real joy mixed with the pangs of sorrow and tears over the news of the loss of a special person. Firm handshakes and deep looks as peers nodded and acknowledged a common bond of service and courage. A noisy busy evening and yet each as accorded a private moment with "BW6" and "7" to pay their respects, and say thank you. An exchange of funny short stories and on to the next group. Saturday started with a caravan to Harmony Church. When we stopped and stepped out it was total disbelief. Our guides swore it was the right

spot. “It can’t be”, was the common remark. Only noxious weeds, loblolly pines, and deer turds were there. Nothing was left, nothing. To think of all the sweat, some blood and even a few tears and now nothing. Even a ghost wouldn’t hang around. And so back to Benning for a look at the “now” aircraft. Funny looking, star wars scary. Weapons platforms loaded with electronic gear. Thinking, I could never fix that stuff. Somebody must or they couldn’t fly. Later that night we would hear that they had five, count’em, five ways to kill. More than we had but we had enough. And finally the banquet. A moving introduction by General Allen brought the room to a standing ovation. As Bullwhip began to speak of his love for us my thoughts drifted back to a time when gifted, gallant leaders, their commander a legend, took troops, tactics, technique, and training and forged an awesome tool. A tool whose slashing attacks work product was death. No unit has ever done it better. Our guest speaker openly admitted all other similar units could only strive to be almost a good. As “BWS6” finished his talk there were few dry eyes for he had laid down his whole life’s work, his career, to protect his men in mortal danger. As Sgt. Major Kennedy spoke of his love for his troops, we all understood, more than ever, we had once been a part of something very special. No one can ever take that away. Yes, plenty of tears but only from pride, not sorrow. Mc-ed by General Dave Allen, tributes and tales filled out the night. And then it was Sunday on Riverside Walk. We assembled together one last time. As our chaplain said, “We are not here to mourn or grieve, that has been done. We are here to honor those who paid the ultimate price and gone on the prepare a place.” Our fallen troopers names were read, the wreath was placed. The bugle played a solemn taps and then it was over. Parting was handshakes and hugs and vows to remember. “I’ll look you up” or “give me a call”. Then it was heard, “Lets do this again.” “So be it”, we said. But the same rules we vowed-only hoss’es and troopers. NO PISSANTS ALLOWED!

There are no pissants in the 1st/9th and never will be!

BWS

LOYALTY

“Loyalty is the big thing, the greatest battle asset of all. But no man ever wins the loyalty of troops by preaching loyalty. It is given to him as he proves his possession of the other virtues.”

— **Brig. Gen. S.L.A. Marshall**

“When young we are faithful to individuals, when older we grow loyal to situations and to types.”

— **Cyril Connolly**

“Loyalty to petrified opinions never yet broke a chain or freed a human soul in this world — and never will.”

— **Mark Twain**

Lt. Col. Scott Snook, director of policy at West Point, tries to teach cadets how to tread through this moral minefield. His job is to educate and create officers, “a commissioned leader of character.”

“You are not loyal to a particular administration or person, you take an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States,” he says. “We think of it as a hierarchy of loyalties.”

The top is loyalty to the Constitution, the bottom is loyalty to self. The students start out at the bottom, which roughly translates to “What’s in it for me?”

The next step up the loyalty ladder is loyalty to peers. “The reason soldiers tell us they fight is not for some higher cause — Mom’s apple pie — but for their close personal buddies,” Snook says.

This is where his cadets learn about conflicting loyalties. The West Point Honor Code says: “A cadet does not lie, cheat or steal, or tolerate those who do.” Suppose your roommate is cheating. Do you tell?

Snook’s challenge is “getting them to do the ‘higher right,’ ” he says. Turning in the roommate represents loyalty to a higher value. It’s a moral tightrope.

When bullets are whizzing over the foxhole, the choice seems clear. The more dependent you are on others, the more loyalty matters.

History Lesson

WHY THE AMERICAN FLAG IS FOLDED 13 TIMES

Have you ever noticed on TV or at military funerals that the honor guard pays meticulous attention to correctly folding the American flag 13 times?

I've known how the 21 gun salute was determined (adding the individual digits of 1776), but only recently learned why the flag was folded 13 times when it is lowered or when it is folded and handed to the widow at the burial of a veteran. Here it is:

The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.

The second fold is a symbol of our belief in eternal life.

The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.

The fourth fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance.

The fifth fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our Country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong."

The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

The seventh fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.

The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death,

that we might see the light of day, and to honor mother, for whom it flies on Mother's Day.

The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood; for it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

The tenth fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born.

The eleventh fold, in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon, and glorifies in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

The twelfth fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit.

The thirteenth fold is when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding us of our nation's motto, "In God We Trust".

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the sailors and marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges, and freedoms we enjoy today.

FYI from the NAVAIR Plan of the Week:

Frank Hiser
hs9seabat@earthlink.net

Vietnam Experience

1st/9th & 1st/12th Shootout

I am Looking for information on 1/9th & 1/12th shootout on the Cambodian border in March, 1966.

On the late afternoon of March 30, 1966, our Company, A 1/12th (Abn) was sent into the Ia Drang Valley, near Chu Pong Massif. We had about a hundred guys, give or take.

Earlier in the day, at about 1230, 1/9th "B Troop" gunships had "stirred up" 30+ PAVN in a heavily fortified area. At about 1530 hrs, a 28 man Blue Team from "A Troop" 1/9th, led by Cpt. John Sabine, was inserted at the site to try to capture a POW.

Within minutes of landing, the Platoon captured a PAVN who warned of 1000 PAVN in the area. Almost immediately thereafter, Cpt. Sabine was KIA when a "Battalion" opened up. The Platoon had been inserted in the midst of the 18th PAVN Regiment. The Platoon made it back to the LZ under heavy fire. There were a number of wounded, but no further KIA's. Half the Platoon got out on a Huey. The other half (fifteen guys) hopped on a Huey from "B Troop". Too much weight; it couldn't lift off. Three guys with big, no, HUGE cajones, volunteered to wait for another chopper. When the "B Troop" chopper lifted off, it was hit by a tremendous volume of fire, crashed and exploded, killing all aboard. (14 men, including an ARVN interpreter)

Another chopper went in; it got shot down but the crew survived. Another chopper went in, got the three guys, and made it out. We were sent in to relieve pressure on the Platoon and locate survivors.

When we landed, we found the crew of the third chopper, alive and kickin'. The 1/9th grunts made it out. Then we were hit by a Regiment. It got ugly. Now we were cut off. We made it through the night, with a lot of help from 2/20th ARA.

Some of us from A Company 1/12th are trying to piece together what happened. If any of you guys were in this shootout or know anything about it, please let me know.

Weaver Barkman

Troopers

If you have any info to pass on, send it to the Association, atten. Loel and we will see that weaver receives the information.

BWS

A "Brother in Arms" is a brother no matter where he is or where he is going. Brothers Forever!

Hal Kushner, One Of Our Own

The 1-9 Cavalry Battalion is named their dispensary in honor of Doctor (COL. RET) Hal Kushner on 19 October 2001.

The then Captain Kushner was assigned to the 1-9 Air Cavalry Squadron as the Flight Surgeon in August of 1967. On 30 November 1967 he and the Squadron Safety Officer flew to Chu Lai to meet with the pilots and crews of Bravo Troop. On their return to LZ Two Bits, they flew into a mountain during a fierce tropical storm. Captain Kushner was the only person to survive the crash.

He was captured by the North Vietnamese on 2 December 1967 and released from captivity 16 March 1973 a total of 1,931 days in captivity.

During our reunion two years ago he was the guest speaker at our luncheon and held us spellbound as he shared with us some of his memories. He spent a total of three years as a prisoner while in the jungle and another two years in the Hanoi Hilton in North Vietnam. Regardless of the horrific living conditions he was a survivor and his attitude about living helped see him through these toughest of times.

During the time he spoke he recounted his experience with one interpreter who reminded him " Dying is very easy-living is the difficult thing." If you ever see a book by that title, buy it since he has promised if he ever writes about his experiences that will be its title.

Bert Chole

Duty, Honor, Country

Vietnam Perspective by Retired Lt. Gen. James Link, U.S. Army, former commander of Redstone Arsenal, delivered this address at the breakfast commemorating the arrival in Huntsville, Alabama of the traveling Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall.

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests, fellow veterans, and especially fellow veterans of the war in Vietnam. It is indeed a tremendous honor for me to stand before you this

morning as we come together to remember fallen comrades, MIAs/POWs and a very important time in our lives. A time of war, a time of conflict not only in Southeast Asia, but throughout our nation. Indeed a time that has shaped our national consciousness, and for we veterans, a time which forged a sense of self that in many ways defines us still today. Lest we forget, how then do we remember? How do we honor those who did not come home, or came home broken and bent in both body and spirit?

I remember when the architectural design of the Vietnam War Memorial Wall was first proposed. Many of us recoiled at the thought of a ditch on the Mall, listing nothing more than the names of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. Surely, this was yet one more insult hurled at those who had answered the call to serve their nation rather than serve themselves.

But that wall has transcended all things political and overcome controversy, as it reaches out to us who served, and even those who did not serve, while deeply touching all of us who lost comrades, friends, neighbors and loved ones during that troubled time.

The mystery of the wall is found in its majestic simplicity. Panels of black stone that hold not only the names of those killed, but in its mirror-like finish, the faces of all of us who come to witness its solemn statement. In that reflection, we are made one with the monument, we join its essence, and are consumed by images behind the names.

Images of young men, their lives cut short, their personal sacrifices often unrecorded, their selfless service, unflinching courage, and the unique love and caring that is shared by comrades in arms. It is the wound on our National Mall that never heals, but it does serve to soothe the deep scars on those of us who carry heavy memories, and for some perhaps a little guilt for having been the ones fortunate enough to return to "the world."

As this Memorial travels around the country it invariably brings with it a lot of discussion and perhaps even rekindled old arguments about the Vietnam War. The arrival of the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Huntsville provides an opportunity for us to reflect on this important period in our individual lives and our nation's history.

Of course, there are those who might say we veterans are still too close to the heat of battle, too burdened by personal experiences to make objective judgments about the Vietnam War.

To that, I say Bull! I've grown weary of those in the media, academia and the entertainment industry, who would purport to speak for us, or to try to define us a bunch of hair-trigger psychopaths on the verge of insanity or some unspeakable violence.

We who were actually there know what we saw, and we know what we did. Each of us is just one of the millions who proudly served, having done our duty with honor.

I see little of what I experienced reflected in Oliver Stone's movies. I personally think Oliver donated a few too many of his brain cells to his drug use. In my view, movies like "Apocalypse Now" are nothing more than a collection of psychotic experiences made up in Hollywood bearing scant resemblance to the reality we experienced. You and I can certainly recognize the difference between artistic license and a lie, can't we!

America's involvement in Vietnam lasted for thirteen years, from 1960 to 1973. Of course the result was not victory at all. Not even a cease-fire or a demilitarized strip of land between North and South as happened

in Korea. Just negotiated terms allowing the United States of America to "withdraw with honor." Whatever that meant. So we didn't return home to victory parades and kisses in Times Square.

Most of us were just another passenger aboard a chartered airliner (mine was a Braniff Airlines Boeing 707) painted a heinous green color. What a beautiful sight! Others came home in Air Force cargo planes to be dumped at some military base usually in the middle of the night.

Remember, we came home to antipathy and in many cases to antagonism. We were told to quickly get out of our uniforms in order to avoid confrontations on city streets. No wonder it has taken so long for many of us to even want to talk about the war. But talk we must for we are living witnesses, and if we are silent others will continue to spin a version of the truth that best suits their personal agenda.

We must dispel the myths that have grown up around the War, and there are so many. Those of

us who served must debunk these myths at every opportunity, and today is one of those.

The first myth is that the armed forces of the United States suffered a major military defeat in Vietnam. Our forces were never defeated in terrible battles where our soldiers and Marines suffered awful casualties, like Dak To and Hamburger Hill, and our airmen suffered too, many killed and captured in the air campaign, but the war was not lost as a result of these battles. In fact, where we found the enemy we defeated him.

After the Tet Offensive in 1968, the Vietcong and the North Vietnamese operating in the south, were so soundly defeated that they could not launch another major offensive until 1972. That didn't deter the North Vietnamese, since they were willing to lose the war on the battlefield, they were after victory in the minds of the American people.

Perhaps we could have won a military victory, but it would have taken many more than the 500,000 troops we had in Vietnam at the height of the war. Besides, by 1969, public opinion in the United States wanted us out of Vietnam.

The role of the media in deciding this issue has been the subject of many books and articles, so I won't go into that here. I will say I don't believe the media caused us to lose the war, although some in the press were trying their best to make it so.

Those of you who attended the AUSA Conference in Washington this year will recall General Weyand's remarks while accepting the George C. Marshall Award. Following Tet 1968, he was interviewed by Walter Cronkite in the Mekong Delta following the resounding defeat of enemy forces there by the U.S. military, including U.S. Navy Riverine Forces. Walter acknowledged the victory, but told General Weyand he preferred to report on the thousands of Vietnamese he had seen being put in mass graves in Hue after Tet.

In reporting this rather than any American victory, he said he hoped to bring a quicker end to the war. It didn't seem to bother Mr. Cronkite that the bodies were those of South Vietnamese brutally killed by the North Vietnamese during Tet. Nor did it seem to bother him that he had compromised his own objectivity and integrity in reporting the war.

Of course, we who have dedicated our lives defending the Constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic certainly support all its provisions to include the First Amendment. I just hope what we saw in the press in Vietnam and still see today isn't as good as it gets. Our nation deserves better.

The second myth is that somehow the soldiers in Vietnam were very different from those who served in World War II. The myth purports that the Vietnam soldier was much younger, poorly educated, forced to go to war against his will. It is often claimed that they disproportionately came from minority groups, while their better-off social superiors dodged the draft and stayed safe at home out of harm's way. The truth is, of course, different. The average age of the soldiers in Vietnam was just under 23 compared to around 25 in World War II where mass conscription prevailed. The enlisted soldier in Vietnam was actually better educated: 79 percent had completed high school as opposed to just 24 percent in World War II. In Vietnam, 20 percent of the enlisted men had college degrees, three times the number in the Second World War. In a democracy, even your jeep driver may be better educated than you. As far as social representation, studies have shown that blacks and Hispanics were actually slightly underrepresented compared to their percentage of the total population. For instance, African-Americans comprised 13.1 percent of the age group subject to the military, they comprised 12.6 percent of the armed forces, and represented 12.2 percent of the casualties.

In 1992 a study looked at the 58,000 Americans killed in Vietnam and found that 30 percent came from families in the lowest third of the income range while 26 percent came from the highest. Not much of a disparity when you look at the facts.

A third myth is that draft evasion was rampant during the Vietnam era and higher than in World War II. Not so. During the Vietnam War about half a million men were draft dodgers, and I bet you know some of their names! Only about 9,000 cases were actually prosecuted, and very few ever served prison time. In World War II, 350,000 were prosecuted for draft evasion and many went to prison. It is interesting to note that during Vietnam 10,000 Americans went to Canada, but

up to 30,000 Canadians joined the U.S. armed forces, and of those 10,000 served in Vietnam.

We all know cowardice in the face of the draft is not a new phenomenon, but during Vietnam it became an art form. More importantly, draft dodgers made themselves out to be ethical and moral, while those of us who served were made out to be morally inferior, stupid, or just unlucky. The radical left on our campuses had a clear goal of transforming the shame of the self-serving and the fearful into the guilt of the courageous.

A fourth myth is that casualties were disproportionately higher for enlisted men than for officers. Actually, while officers killed in action accounted for 13.5 percent of those who died in Vietnam, they comprised only 12 percent of the troop strength. Proportionally, more officers were killed in Vietnam than in World War II. In Vietnam, we lost twice as many company commanders as we did platoon leaders, confirming in the Vietnam War that leaders led from the front.

Another interesting fact you can use to debunk a popular myth is that volunteers, not draftees, accounted for the majority (77 percent) of combat deaths in Vietnam. How many of those do you think were 18 year olds? Just 101, or less than one tenth of one percent of all those killed.

Well, there are many other myths we could talk about, but instead I'd like to remind you of the humor that accompanied American soldiers in this war, as it has all the others.

I suspect many of you remember the time honored **Murphy's Laws of Combat**:

- * Don't look conspicuous . . . it draws fire.
- * If it's stupid, but it works, it's not stupid.
- * If your attack is going really well, it's an ambush.
- * When you have secured an area, don't forget to tell the enemy.
- * Friendly fire . . . isn't.
- * Anything you do can get you shot, including doing nothing.
- * Never share a foxhole with someone braver than you are.
- * A sucking chest wound is just nature's way of telling you to slow down.
- * The buddy system is key to your survival . . . it gives the enemy someone else to shoot at.

* It's not the one with your name on it you need to worry about, it's the one addressed: "To whom it may concern."

Remember, nine million men and women served in the military during the 13 years of the war, and three million of those served in the Vietnam theater. Two thirds of those who saw duty in Vietnam were volunteers and 77 percent of those who died were volunteers. Our American citizen-soldier performed with a tenacity and quality that may never be fully appreciated or truly understood.

Should anyone think the war was conducted in an incompetent manner, should look at the numbers: Hanoi admits to 1.4 million of its soldiers killed on the battlefield compared to our 58,000, and about 250,000 South Vietnamese.

And if someone tries to convince you that Vietnam was "a dirty little war", where Air Force and Navy bombs did all the work, you might remind them that this was the most costly war the grunts of the U.S. Marines Corps ever fought -- five times as many dead as in World War I, three times as many dead as in Korea, and more total killed and wounded than in all of World War II.

To the Vietnam veterans here today, and to all those whose name appears on the Wall, I say you are all heroes. Heroes who faced the issues of this war, including your own possible death, and after weighing those concerns against your obligation to your country, you decided to serve with honor.

In the words of a timeless phrase found on the Confederate Memorial in Arlington Cemetery, "not for fame or reward, not for place or for rank, but in simple obedience to duty, as they understood it." I ask each of you to treat each other with the dignity and respect you have earned. Reach out and welcome a fellow Vietnam veteran home.

God bless each of you, and may God continue to bless this America we love and serve.

**No Trooper loves war, but if war must be,
then the WAR will be won by Cav
Troopers.**

MEDEVAC:

Seems like it was just a few months ago. But everything seems hazy. Flashbacks and Reflections:

Jan-Mar 71 were a blur of flights, change of personnel and the roommate that drank beer in the shower. The loss of aircraft, the exchange of friendship, the respect for the first up crews, the wounded, anger at the "unseen" enemy, the Hero's and the frightened. Canabalization to keep the craft flyable, and respect for the pitiful raped Hanger Queen. Downed birds, Rescue and Extractions, radio chatter, nervous laughter, loss of Sam the Soda-Man, mortars at the movie, hot refuels, beer for a dime, mountainyard and rotor chain bracelets, nightly doses of Agent Orange insecticide cocktails, blended with a morning quinine pill. Booze to forget, script was monopoly money, revetments to spring from, Boots on the bar at the 9th Cav, wide eyed newbeeies, a screaming monkey, rotors slashing bamboo, bean cans for the Patient Protector's rounds to ride on, green tracers, Bulletproof cushions and chicken vests, short timers counting, silent prayers, safety straps, reaching out, silent pride, wings that were earned, separation of close friends, medals that were and were not earned, JP4 in a coke can, clean machine guns, smells that got used to, unauthorized personal weapons, over the berm, dog rides to POL, The silent thank you, blood on the ships floors, C missions logged, dailies pulled, supplies restocked, scout dog in a rigid litter and a defective jungle penetrator, laughing and crying. Just wanting out, cold night sweats, bad dreams, fear of the last mission. C-rats and a centerfold pin up. Trapped in a Mosquito Net sleeping with boots on. False sense of security, Unauthorized weapons under the pillows. Believing in Budda, any good luck memorabilia, Blue Max, and your crew.

15th Med Bn. Goes Home: Retire the colors, re-name the same, change the spot to spring from, Medevac is still Medevac - Fire Support Bases to visit, borrowing aircraft, bartering for people and part replacements. Hotel Three, hundred mile an hour tape, sand in almost everything, CMB's and CIB's, unlucky POW missions, a Y cord to share the knowledge, Hooch by the flight line, Flight

Ops chatter, Red Carpet and Fat Albert, MEDDEVAC 11 and other call signs, strength in unity. Rebellion at the EM Club, Proud Mary songs, IG Inspections, Bien Hoa Air Force Killer omelets, unauthorized non-nomax ride to the states, beautiful south china sea, time to leave and forget somebody elses war.

Un-loading the stress of Vietnam after being suspended over it wearing a bullseye. Class A=92s that were baggy and short. A tan that you forgot you had. Out-processing was a blur. Proud of the job, friends that forgot to remember and some said it was a mission, some said it was live training tested, some just dismissed it as a Bad Dream, most said nothing. Flight Wings, Everyone paid the price, some more than others. Some, more than not, if not with their life than with their youth.

Well at least justification in saying...Although, during the tour, the reasoning proves Right or wrong it was "our 15 Minutes of Fame in the Sun" and by God, DID WE FLY.

The Flight Platoon Sergeant

Very little has been written about the true "unsung hero's" of the Vietnam war. Those who were in maintenance and support. They worked long hours and performed Herculean feats to keep the aircraft flying. They were the backbone of the aviation operations in RVN.

A very heart felt "thanks" to this outstanding group of enlisted, warrant officers and commissioned officers that kept the helicopters and airplanes in the air.

BWS

Buffalo Soldiers Monument at Bonito Canyon

This story is about our sister unit, the 10th Cavalry, and their Apache adversaries.

The 10th Cavalry, like the 9th Cavalry, the 24th and 25th Infantry units were created on July 28, 1866. By 1867 the 10th Cavalry was stationed in numerous posts in Kansas and Oklahoma, which was then know as Indian Territory.

Confronted with skilled adversaries such as the Cheyenne, Arapahos and Comanches tribes from the Central plains these raw recruits soon became experienced fighters but not without suffering some casualties. Their fighting spirit was demonstrated by many long hours in the saddle, their refusal to give ground and costly winter marches. Their actions did not go unnoticed by these Indian tribes. These tribes, who had little experience with the African American soldiers, started to call them Buffalo Soldiers. Later, the 9th Cavalry, 24th and 25th Infantry picked up the name.

After the Indians had been subdued, the 10th was transferred to Fort Concho in Texas in 1875 where it participate in the campaign against Apache Chief Victorio. In February 1885 the 10th received orders transferring the unit to the Department of Arizona. Previously, the 10th Cavalry, like the 9th had been scattered in small units over a vast area. Their march to Arizona was the first time that the 10th Cavalry had operated as a whole unit, but not for long.

Not long after the 10th Cavalry arrived in Arizona, a group of about one hundred and fifty Chiricahua men, women and children under the leadership of Geronimo stole out of the San Carlos Reservation and headed toward Mexico, thus began the Apache campaign.

“It takes an Apache to defeat an Apache” hence two hundred Apache Scouts and two small detachments from the 4th Cavalry held this first line of defense at the Mexican border. The rest of the Regular Army, which included the 10th Cavalry, held two lines that stretched from the Rio Grand to Yuma, Arizona.

To prevent raids and to protect the settlers, the 10th was called to secure trails and waterholes along a second line of defense. They would also be in place should the Apaches manage to elude the first line of defense.

Troop E, Troop H and Troop I of the 10th Cavalry took turns in operating out of the canyon. They were in Bonito Canyon from September 1885 till September 1886 to protect the settlers in the area, do escort duty, patrol and act as couriers for the Southern mail service from Fort Bowie, Arizona.

For the Buffalo Soldiers of the 10th Cavalry the monotony of daily camp routine at Bonito Canyon eventually inspired the troopers into an

act of creativity that was not duplicated by any other unit during the Geronimo campaign. They built themselves a monument. It was known as the Garfield Monument because one particular large stone was inscribed, IN MEMORY OF JAS. A. GARFIELD. President Garfield, the 20th President of the United States was shot by an assassin on March 4, 1881. He had been an officer with the 42nd Ohio Regiment of Volunteers during the Civil War. He had commanded black troops and was sympathetic to the problems encountered by these and other blacks in the Post-Civil War. He was a hero to these African American soldiers.

Along with President Garfield’s there was another name added to the monument that did not belong to any member of the troops station in Bonito Canyon. This stone was carved with the name of another of the Buffalo Soldiers Hero, “H.O. Flipper”, the first African American to graduate from West Point. Lt.. Flipper had served with the 10th Cavalry, but was later court marital for “conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman” and given a dishonorable discharge. One hundred years later he was exonerated by the Department of Defense and issued an honorable discharge dated June 30, 1882.

The rest of the stones bear the names of the troops from H Troop and I Troop, some adding their troops letter and regimental number, “10” Cavalry. The monument was 10 feet square at the base and rose to just about the same height. At the top was a place to set the unit’s colors.

The Garfield Monument no longer exists. By 1920 the monument had deteriorated to a point that the stones were removed and uses to make a fireplace at the Faraway Ranch which is now part of the attraction at Bonito Canyon. In doing so, the legacy of the Buffalo Soldier’s Monument was preserved.

General Crook brought up an interesting point in summarizing the Apache campaign when he gave credit where credit was due. The Apache Scouts were greatly responsible in the capture of Geronimo.

“During the entire course of the operation against them, from May 1885 to the surrender to General Miles of the party under Natchez and Geronimo in September 1886, the only hostiles killed or captured were in encounters with the

(Indian) scouts alone. Except two men, one of whom was killed by a White Mountain Indian, near Fort Apache, and the other by an American, near Fronteras in Mexico, in March 1886.”

Note: Bonito Canyon is part of the Chiricahua National Monument in Southern Arizona.

Lionel DeLa Rosa
HQ 65-66 & A Troop 69-70
Phoenix, AZ

Troopers

We have been asked to run again the article about spouses. So have provided for your request.

Military Spouses, The Difference

Over the years, I've talked a lot about military spouses...how special they are and the price they pay for freedom too. The funny thing about it, is most military spouses don't consider themselves different from other spouses. They do what they have to do, bound together not by blood or merely friendship, but with a shared spirit whose origin is in the very essence of what love truly is. Is there truly a difference? I think there is. You have to decide for yourself.

Other spouses get married and look forward to building equity in a home and putting down family roots. Military spouses get married and know they'll live in base housing or rent, and their roots must be short so they can be transplanted frequently.

Other spouses decorate a home with flair and personality that will last a lifetime. Military spouses decorate a home with flare tempered with the knowledge that no two base houses have the same size windows or same size rooms. Curtains have to be flexible and multiple sets are a plus. Furniture must fit like puzzle pieces.

Other spouses have living rooms that are immaculate and seldom used. Military spouses have immaculate living room/dining room combos. The coffee table got a scratch or two moving from Germany, but it still looks pretty good.

Other spouses say good-bye to their spouse for a business trip and know they won't see them for

a week. They are lonely, but can survive. Military spouses say good-bye to their deploying spouse and know they won't see them for months, or for a remote, a year. They are lonely, but will survive.

Other spouses, when a washer hose blows off, call Maytag and then write a check out for getting the hose reconnected. Military spouses will cut the water off and fix it themselves.

Other spouses get used to saying "hello" to friends they see all the time. Military spouses get used to saying "good-bye" to friends made the last two years.

Other spouses worry about whether their child will be class president next year. Military spouses worry about whether their child will be accepted in yet another new school next year and whether that school will be the worst in the city...again.

Other spouses can count on spouse participation in special events...birthdays, anniversaries, concerts, football games, graduation, and even the birth of a child. Military spouses only count on each other; because they realize that the Flag has to come first if freedom is to survive. It has to be that way.

Other spouses put up yellow ribbons when the troops are imperiled across the globe and take them down when the troops come home. Military spouses wear yellow ribbons around their hearts and they never go away.

Other spouses worry about being late for mom's Thanksgiving dinner. Military spouses worry about getting back from Japan in time for dad's funeral.

And other spouses are touched by the television program showing an elderly lady putting a card down in front of a long, black wall that has names on it. The card simply says "Happy Birthday, Sweetheart. You would have been sixty today." A military spouse is the lady with the card. And the wall is the Vietnam Memorial.

I would never say military spouses are better or worse than other spouses are. But I will say there is a difference. And I will say that our country asks more of military spouses than is asked of other spouses. And I will say, without hesitation, that military spouses pay just as high a price for freedom as do their active duty husbands or wives. Perhaps the price they pay is

even higher. Dying in service to our country isn't near as hard as loving someone who has died in service to our country, and having to live without them.

God bless our military spouses for all they freely give. And God bless America.

Michael G. Mudd, COL US Army
muddm@socom.mil

Well Said COL Mudd.

BWS

These views are the views of veterans and those who support veterans. Yours may be different.

Troopers, you have heard their views, now it is time to hear yours. Sound Off!

BWS

Letters To The Editor

We have several letters for this newsletter and also several e-mails. These are from our troopers who have a desire to add to the Association and be a part of our "keeping in touch" philosophy.

Our first letter is from our own Lionel DeLa Rosa.

Enjoy.
BWS

Dear Al:

Loretta, Paul Tyrrell, Lyle Biesen and I did manage to meet on Saturday, September 8 and we did get to sign the guideon from "C" Troop. Biesen is not a member of Bullwhip and I think that we all sort of talked him into joining. Lillie, of course, was there too since she is crazy about the 1/9 and what we did and do. We did take some pictures and hope to develop them soon. I did contact about eight former members of the 9th Bullwhip Squadron. Most of them could not

make it, others I was unable to contact simple because I did not have a complete address, but will keep trying.

I am including a story of the 10th Cavalry simple because they parallel the history of the 9th Cavalry and I sure that the members will find it interesting. I have also included some pictures of the Buffalo Soldiers and have permission from the Fort Huachuca Museum to print them if you need to use them.

Now, I don't know if I have mention this to you, but I am now a member of the 9th Memorial Cavalry and can perform in parades, honor guard and other functions with these Reenactors or as they prefer to be called, Historians. The point of me working with them is two fold. First, I get to be recognized as the director of the Buffalo Soldiers Monument and be more open with the accomplishments of the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, both which is important of me.

Sometimes this coming month we will perform on a dedication in installing a tombstone in the National Veterans Memorial. This tombstone is for Cpl. Isaiah Mays, the Medal of Honor recipient who is buried in the State Cemetery. It will be the first time that the Buffalo Soldiers organization has allowed anyone to wear the Jungle Fatigues in their performance and I will be the one wearing it. Therefore I will be representing the Bullwhip Squadron! What's more they would like anyone who has served with the 1/9 there and hopefully wear the Stetson.

Any how, thing are going good around here and I'll try to keep you up to date.

Sincerely,

Lionel DeLa Rosa
Phoenix, AZ

Loel!

It will never be the same! Now we all have a taste of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder! The look on those rescue workers faces(distant stares). Remind you of anything?

God Bless America, let Freedom Reign!

Dominic Cavalieri

Dominic

There is evil in the world and we must fight and destroy it. This action cannot be allowed to stand without justice to America. As a nation, we must have the guts to do what is right and finish the job.

Loel

Hi Loel!

It's just great being a lifetime member of the Bullwhip Squadron-1/9 Air Cav Div. I communicate with Gary Davis (one of your frequent letter writers) and he and his wife (Kathryn) and family are really good down home people. They led me to Loretta's Web site. I registered and immediately Loretta confirmed my registration. She must be on the Web site 24/7! Also other member's of the Bravo Troop Blue's platoon have E-mailed me since. Besides Gary Davis, Doug Dixon and Robert Hraban even (sent pictures) They were awesome! It was great seeing the old Blue's again! It brought back some fond memories, as well as some traumatic one's. But that is to be expected and I feel that I benefitted more than I was set back, which is good! Thank you Gary, Robert and Doug! It was great serving with you guys and all of the Bravo Troop 1/9 Air Cav in Quan Loi in the 1970's.

Sincerely;

DOMINIC CAVALIERI

P.S. Please forward to proper person! The ID card you sent me had my name spelled wrong. I sent it back but never got a new one! I would like to get it, as it really means a lot to me.

THANK YOU!

Dominic

Stay tuned for the future!! As you will notice by the news mag, I am all heart for America and the 1/9. I went over with them in 65 and you guys that followed, continued our tradition and

greatly built on it. All who served can be justifiably proud.

This will also go to ALDefleron, for correction of the name card (ph # 334-692-5685). Be patient with us, sometimes things take a little longer with all volunteers. Welcome aboard!!

We Can, We Will, We Did !!

Loel

Dear Loel & Al

Just a short note and a couple of request. I love the newsletter. Just keep them coming, my problem my last issue came up MIA, at a recent VFW gathering and would very much like to have another copy, some great information in them I can find no where else.

I'm already planning ahead for the reunion in Ozark. Since I have not been to one yet it is something to look forward too. There doesn't seem to be to many names I recognize from B Troop 66-67, but I'm sure I'll find some.

Second question, could you put something in "Lost & Found" for me. "Sounds of Vietnam" this was a 45 LP record that people brought back from R & R. I wonder if any are still around, they are a great education aid for today's generation. Enclosed is a check for the extra news letter, postage ect. Keep the change, feed the horse!

As Always,

Robert Cox
B trp 66-67
Defiance, MO

Bob

Thanks for the complement on the newsletter. We try to make it interesting. See the Lost and Found column for your request.

Loel

Hello Loel:

Please thank Al Defleron for sending me past issues of the Squadron News & application form. Don't know if you remember me? I was with Skip Blanton when he died in the Ia Drang. My crew chief was Jerry McNinch. Would you happen to have an E-mail address on him?

I have been restoring a helio courier L-24 or more commonly called a U-10 Stol airplane. All painted up in army colors and 1/9 markings. Dave wants me to fly it up and land on parade field. Will Do!!

I'm leaving town Sept 18 for about 3-4 weeks, so I may not receive any E-mails, will check in with y'all when I return. Can you recommend a motel close to Rucker where I can make reservations?

Thanks and see you soon!

CWO Joe Salomone
A troop 65-66

Note: Joe did fly his airplane onto the Parade Field at Ft. Rucker, and I got to renew an old friendship, again. That is part of the joy of working with the newsletter.

Loel

Dear "D" Al Defleron
Ref: Mr. Steve Dietz

I received the Squadron news letter and sure do enjoy it. I pass along a lot of the information to my many Veteran friends in the local area.

My wife and I are really looking forward to the next reunion. I also want to add, if there is something we can do to assist in the preparation for the next reunion, please let us know. We are going to try to get there a day or so early next time to help set things up.

Also I wonder if the Sqdn has some type of Certificate or Award that we give out to people that truly help Veterans. The reason I ask is there is a truly fine person with the Ga. Dept. of Veterans Affairs that is deserving of such an award.

His name is Mr. Steve Dietz. I had tried to go through VA for some time to get treatment and

get my disability upgraded. I saw Mr. Dietz "one" time and with his assistance I went from 10% to 30% in one year. He has also helped many of my Veteran friends in our area. What really stands out about him is that he really takes all the time necessary with each Veteran and when he sends in the paper work it is complete and is accepted by VA.

So, id there is anything the Sqdn can extend to him through his boss, I would thank you. The person I am talking about:

Mr. Steve Dietz
Georgia Dept of Veteran Affairs
311 Green St. NW
Room 307
Gainsville, GA 30501

His Commissioner:

Commissioner Pete Wheeler
Georgia Dept of Veteran Affairs
Floyd Memorial Bld, Suite E-970
Atlanta, GA 30334-4800

We need to recognize those that go the extra mile for Veterans.

Thanks,

Robert T. Lundwall
F Troop 72-73
Georgia Dept. of Veterans Affairs

Not to all: We are working on a certificate of this type and expect to have it in the near future.

Loel

Troopers, that is all the mail for this newsletter. Get your e-mails and letters in for the next newsletter.

From past comments, the troopers look forward to reading these letters from friends of the past and present.

BWS

Sick Call

Our troopers need our thoughts and concerns through their illness.

Mike Terry

With Gods help, may you have a full and speedy recovery. Our prayers are with you.

Fiddlers Green has become the welcome place for our troopers and their ladies.

Note to all. James Conner has had an especially hard time and would appreciate a letter or card. You can write him at;

James Conner
1304 15th Av.
Decatur, AL 35601-4321

BWS

Health

As troopers age, we began to think about our health and what we need to do to stay as healthy as possible. Our occupation is not the most healthy. It always helps to know just what is causing our problems.

BWS

1. PATIENT AWARENESS - Want TRICARE and Medicare to work smoothly for you? Of course you do. We all do. One of the best ways to greatly assist is for everyone to be knowledgeable of the basic facts of both medical programs. While there are some similarities, there are major differences. Don't expect care that isn't covered by these programs. There are many sources of information and both programs have assistance available. Remember it's your benefit, so it stands to reason it is best to have a basic knowledge of what the program does or does not cover.

2. LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE - Proposals to The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Request for Proposals to provide Long Term Care Insurance to military and federal civilian employees and retirees have

been received by OPM. How many were received is unknown because OPM is keeping silent on the matter. OPM hopes to award a contract soon, based on the best proposal received and be able to implement the program on or about 1 October 2002. To have it available by then means OPM will have to award a contract close to 1 October of this year. Any insurance company will need about a year to get the program up and running.

3. INTERESTING STATISTICS - Recently I read where for the USA, the average time a patient spends with a doctor during an appointment is 15 minutes. Not much time for idle talk. Stick to your medical problem.

4. TRICARE FOR LIFE SPECIAL MAILING - If you are over age 64, that means age 65 and older and have not received your special mailing on TRICARE for Life information, call 1-888-363-5433.

5. CHAMPVA FOR LIFE - Do not confuse CHAMPVA with CHAMPUS or TRICARE. CHAMPVA is for family members and survivors of 100% permanent and totally service-connected disabled veterans who died of service connected conditions or who were totally disabled from a service-connected condition at time of death and who are not entitled to CHAMPUS or TRICARE. Effective 1 October 2001, CHAMPVA will be extended to those age 65 and older. Prior to this, CHAMPVA, like CHAMPUS terminated at age 65 or when the individual became Medicare eligible. CHAMPVA, while administered by CHAMPUS, is a Department of Veterans Affairs program. Effective 1 October 2001, CHAMPVA beneficiaries who are age 65 or older and enrolled in Parts A and B, Medicare, will have CHAMPVA as second payer to Medicare. CHAMPVA beneficiaries who were age 65 on 5 June 2001, but not enrolled in Part B Medicare will be eligible for this extended benefit without the Part B Medicare enrollment. If a beneficiary reached age 65 after 5 June 2001, enrollment in Part B Medicare is required. For those CHAMPVA beneficiaries not entitled to Medicare, there is no change in their CHAMPVA benefits, even if they are age 65 or older. CHAMPVA beneficiaries can obtain additional information at 1-888-289-2411 or at <http://www.va.gov/hac>. Questions can be emailed to hac.inq.med.va.gov. Reminder, CHAMPVA is for survivors and family members

of totally service-connected disabled veterans. It is not for veterans nor those entitled to CHAMPUS or TRICARE.

6. VISA'S FOR CHILDREN UNDER 14 - Under a new regulation that became effective 2 July 2001, the US State Department requires consent of both parents' before they will issue passports and Visas to children under the age of 14 that are traveling overseas. Due to the State Department now working about 1,000 cases of overseas child abduction, this more stringent policy has been put into effect.

7. TRANSFER OF GI BILL EDUCATION BENEFITS - Prospects of the Senate passing legislation which would permit some military personnel in hard to fill specialties to transfer half of their GI Bill Education Benefits to a family member appears likely. Passage in the House is a different scenario. This has been an Army Family Action Plan (AFAP). Even if it doesn't pass this year, look for continued pressure next year to make it a reality. Senator Cleland is not going to drop this issue easily.

8. IMPORTANCE OF VA RATED DISABILITY - Recently I had the question of whether or nor a surviving spouse could apply for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) when the retiree had never applied to VA for a service connected disability. Yes, but its a more difficult task than if the retiree had applied. Since DIC is payable when death is caused by a service-connected disability or disease, it becomes much more difficult for the widow to make that connection if the individual has never had that disability or disease rated as service-connected by the VA. The point, if you think you have a disability or disease that was contacted or aggravated by military service, let the VA make the determination now.

9. TRICARE SENIOR PHARMACY PROGRAM - What happens if the individual has other health insurance that has pharmacy benefits. First, TRICARE is a second payer to such coverage. After a claim has been filed with the primary insurer, and an Explanation of Benefits received, the beneficiary can file a claim with TRICARE. If the other health insurance does not have pharmacy benefits, the TRICARE beneficiary should call the TRICARE pharmacy help line at 1-877-363-6337 and inquire as to what

information and documentation is required to change the information maintained by the TRICARE claims processor that your primary insurance does not have pharmacy benefits. TRICARE is working on the assumption, which I sa normal assumption, that your other health insurance provides pharmacy benefits unless you notify them otherwise. Third, if your other health insurance has pharmacy coverage, you can use the National Mail Order Pharmacy (NMOP) Program only if your other insurance does not cover the pharmaceutical needed or you have exceeded the dollar limit of coverage under your primary plan. So, if you have other health insurance, you are not barred completely from the TRICARE Senior Pharmacy Program, but you do have different guidelines that must be followed.

10. TRICARE SENIOR PHARMACY FORMULARY - A while back I was having trouble finding some information I needed on drugs included in the formulary for the TRICARE Senior Pharmacy Program and what to do if a drug was not on the formulary. After some searching and not finding what I really wanted to know I queried the TRICARE Help E-mail service. They have helped me out before and they did it again. Their answer was good enough to be repeated here for everyone's information: "Most FDA approved medications are available if clinically appropriate and a preferred medication is not medically indicated. If there are clinical reasons to support the prescription of medication not on the formulary, there are ways for your doctor to support exceptions to policy. Here is the link to the National Mail Order(NMOP) formulary:

<http://www.pec.ha.osd.mil/NMOP/NMOPhome.htm>. The sections on contract and non-contract drugs, drugs subject to prior authorization, and non-preferred drugs and preferred alternatives all contain information on securing non-formulary medications. If you look at the section on drugs subject to prior authorization, you will find the forms and the criteria to request authorization. If you use network retail pharmacy, your doctor can complete a requirement for drug utilization override and FAX the request to the contractor in your region. The TRICARE Service Center(TSC) can advise you on the process in your region and provide the requested forms.

This line will contact your servicing TSC: <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/tricare/trimap2.html>. " While the TRICARE Senior Pharmacy Program may have it's policy and regulations, I believe they are necessary and not too hard to navigate. However, I also realize that this will not be the case 100 percent of the time. The administrative support staff of your doctor can be a big help to you and as most of them have computer capability, the job becomes easier. I realize it is not as easy as getting a doctors prescription, going to the closest pharmacy, getting the prescription filled, and paying for it, but I do believe in most cases the savings in money is worth the effort.

11. TIME FOR A FEW MORE TRICARE DEFINITIONS

This is another part of presenting some TRICARE definitions to serve as a reminder for some and reintroduce others who will be involved with TRICARE come 1 October 2001.

Claims Processor- The sub-contractor that handles a particular region's TRICARE Claims. This is the place you or your provider will send claims for reimbursement of medical expenses. Don't know your region or their address or phone number? Go to <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/tricare/trimap2.html> and click on the appropriate state, usually the one you live in.

Coordination of Benefits (COB) - This is a very important document. All health care insurance companies provide them. If you have other insurance, you will need a COB from that insurance indicating their payment and it must accompany your TRICARE claim. COBs are the process that governs the payment of claims when you have Other Health Insurance (OHI) coverage in addition to TRICARE. Since TRICARE is a second payer to other insurance, including Medicare, you need that COB attached to your TRICARE Claim. For those of you who had a supplement to TRICARE or Medicare, you know how the system works already.

Catchment Area -The Geographical areas as determined by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs and defined by a set of five-digit zip codes. Generally, the catchment area coverage is an area approximately within 40 miles of a military inpatient medical facility.

Now, because some zip-codes have strange geographical configurations, you have to give and take a little on the 40 mile radius. Use the 40 mile radius or one hour driving time as a rule of thumb.

Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) site: This is a military installation that has been closed, downsized, or certain functions modified under the Congressional mandated rule. In some cases BRAC is already taken effect, and in some places it is not yet completed. Incidentally, just in passing, I don't think the BRAC process is history and I expect it to raise again as DOD looks for more savings.

Co-payment: This is generally a set fee that you pay each time you visit a doctor or pay for a prescription, etc. It's a set dollar amount instead of a percentage of the cost. The \$3 fee for NMOP prescriptions is a co-payment.

For those retirees under TRICARE Prime, the \$12 you pay each time you visit the doctor is a co-payment. Cost sharing is different. Cost share ,as those under TRICARE Standard or Extra know, is the 20%of the allowable and reasonable charge that is your responsibility for the treatment you received.

Lead Agent -This is the military officer, usually of general or flag rank, of the military service who has responsibility for the TRICARE region. Within that region, the Lead Agent represents all services, in dealing with the TRICARE support contractor that processes the TRICARE claims for that region. Looking for your lead agent? Go to <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/tricare/trimap2.html> and click on the appropriate state.

TRICARE INFORMATION

The most comprehensive and up-to-date TRICARE information is available on the TRICARE Web site at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/ndaa>. For those beneficiaries whose questions cannot be answered by the TRICARE Web site, there are new TRICARE toll-free telephone numbers to TRICARE representatives with answers on TRICARE For Life, the TRICARE Senior Pharmacy Program, and TRICARE Prime Remote for active duty and their family members. These new telephone numbers will greatly expand TRICARE's ability to provide accurate information. One of the best features of the new information technology center is the "warm hand-

off." When beneficiaries reach a TRICARE Information Center representative, they are not disconnected until they have their questions answered, or they have been connected to another person who can help them.

There are no telephone recordings or directories to sort through. The toll-free telephone numbers for these TRICARE programs are:

* Senior Pharmacy Program 1-877-DOD-MEDS (1-877-363-6337)

* TRICARE For Life program 1-888-DOD-LIFE (1-888-363-5433)

* TRICARE Prime Remote for active duty and their family members program 1-888-DOD-CARE (1-888-363-2273).

Accessing the TRICARE Web site, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and using the tools available, such as "Frequently Asked Questions "beneficiaries can get the answers they need when they need them.

Hours of operation for the telephone information center are Monday through Friday 7 a.m. - 11 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. - 8 p.m., and Sunday 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.,--ET. VACATION AT THE BEACH

Two often overlooked military facilities for spending time at the beach is the Navy's lodge at Little Creek, VA (1-800-NAVY-INN or <http://www.navy-nex.com/lodge/index.html>) and Bellows Air Force Station. Like me, those of us not Air Force, will probably ask, Where is Bellows Air Force Station?. It's about 16 miles from Honolulu, on the island of Oahu. Call 1-800-437-2607 for information and reservations. DD FORM 214

Maintaining the original copies of each DD Form 214 is an issue that I mention from time to time. They are most important, but retirees and veterans do not always maintain them. Then when they need them, they find out it takes time to get a replacement and it becomes frustrating for them. Of course, the first place to lay the blame is the government for taking more than 12 hours to replace their lost documents. Sometimes retrieving them is not a simple ABC task. With thousands of requests to comply with (They are processed in the order received) it takes time to pull a persons file, copy the document, and mail the copy. In addition, I'm finding retirees and veterans do not know where to request a copy of

their DD Form 214. I recently heard where some requested copies from DEERS. DEERS is not the agency that maintains DD Form 214's and other military personal documents. To obtain a replacement copy, one must write to National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis MO 63132-5100 Or go on-line at <http://www.nara.gov/regional/mprpub1a.html> . Remember ,the original DD Form is given to the service member, so any time that is lost, it's a replacement copy that is being requested, not another original.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

Looking for scholarships to help with college tuition? Try:

<http://www.military.com/Careers/Education/0,11754,112,00.htm>

NOTICE: Max Beilke, 69, the last U.S. combat soldier to leave Vietnam, was among the first to be declared missing at the start of a new war on 11 September, 2001. His body was later found. Beilke, a retired Army master sergeant living in Laurel, was working in the Pentagon on veterans' issues when hijackers rammed American Airlines Flight 77 into the building. Max was the writer of Max Facts. He was an ardent supporter of military benefits. These are the last articles from him. He will be sorely missed.

Always live your life based on honesty, integrity and honor. Then you will never have to worry about explaining why you should be allowed on Fiddlers Green with the True Air Cavalry Squadron.

Some say life is short and live fast. Wrong. Take time to make lasting friends, those you want to spend the rest of eternity with on Fiddlers Green.

Give of yourself to life, family, friends and God. Do not grasp your last breath regretting the past, that you did not keep in touch with trooper brothers you met a long time ago, and lost touch with.

Now is the time to renew your brotherhood.

Recipe Corner

Planked Carp

- 1 5 or 6 lb carp cleaned & scaled whole & bled out
- 2 3 oz cans tomato paste
- ¼ cup cider vinegar
- 1 or 2 medium onions chopped
- 1 green pepper chopped
- 1/8 teaspoon garlic salt
- ¼ cup kikkoma soy sauce
- 1/8 teaspoon oregano
- pinch thyme
- 2 tablespoons dark brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- salt & pepper to taste
- canning salt to cover fish
- 1-2 cups water to thin sauce

Split carp down back. Tack skin side down to non resinous plank. Lay carp flat and cover with canning salt. Brown onions and pepper in olive oil till onions are clear. Add all other stuff to onions and pepper with water to make thin sauce. Bring to boil, reduce heat and simmer 25-30 minutes adding water to sauce to keep it from thickening beyond basting thickness.

Rinse salt from carp (get it all off) on large cookie sheet prop plank (one end slightly higher) and baste w/sauce. Place in preheated oven 300 degrees. Baste occasionally with sauce for 1-1 1/2 hours, testing to make sure sauce is not burning on cookie sheet. When neat separates easily from bones remove from oven, carefully remove carp from plank and discard. Cut plank into serving size pieces. Place on hot platter and cover with remaining sauce from cookie sheet and pan. Serve hot. Makes 6 to 8 servings. Use more brown sugar if you think sauce is too sour.

Horseshoe Sandwich

- 2 slices toast
- 1 pkg deli sliced cooked ham, turkey or roast beef
- 1 jar cheese whiz (may use melted hard cheese no stinky stuff)

- 3 4 oz cans hot shoestring potatoes or french fries

Put toast on large plate and lay slices of meat selected on toast (4-6 slices). Cover meat and toast with warm cheese (not too thick unless ya like cheese). Sprinkle with potatoes (pretty thick).

Serves 1

Pony Shoe

½ of above. (Serves ½ of 1) Horse Shoes if properly made are very filling and will stick to your ribs.

Ain't got no typewriter, don't do no E-mail. But Mid-West recipes I got:

Fred Carll

Pepper Steak

- 1 lb. Lean round steak
- 1 tbsp paprika
- 2 tbsp margarine
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1 ½ cups beef broth
- 1 cup green onions, sliced
- 2 bell peppers, cut into strips
- 2 tbsp corn starch
- ¼ cup water
- ¼ cup soy sauce
- 2 fresh tomatoes, chopped
- cooked hot rice

Pound steak and cut into ¼ " strips. Sprinkle meat with paprika and allow to stand. Brown meat in margarine. Add garlic and broth. Cover and simmer 30 minutes. Stir in onions and bell peppers. Cover and cook 5 minutes more. Blend corn starch, water and soy sauce. Stir into meat mixture. Cook, stirring until clear and thickened. Add tomatoes and stir gently. Serve over rice.

From the The Commercial Bank
Barbara Ewart

Applesauce Cake

- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 cup butter
- 2 eggs
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 tbsp vanilla
- 2 cups thick applesauce
- 1 cup raisins (optional)
- 3 cups flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp cloves
- 1 ½ tsp cinnamon
- ½ tsp nutmeg
- ½ tsp ginger
- 1 cup chopped nuts

Cream sugars and butter together. Add eggs, vanilla and applesauce. Sift flour with baking soda and spices. Add nuts (and raisins). Mix all ingredients well, then pour into a greased and floured bundt pan and bake at 325 degrees for 1 hour and 15 minutes. When cool can be iced with a powdered sugar icing.

1 cup powdered sugar
2 tbsp margarine
Cream together and add enough milk to make a smooth drizzling consistency (about 1 ½ tablespoons). Drizzle over top of a 10 inch tube cake.

Barbara Ewart

For the next newsletter, lets have some recipes from the northern and western part of the country.
OK Spouses, send in your recipes to Barbara Ewart!

BWS

TROOPERS

Remember our next BWS Reunion Will Be In October 2002 !!!

Lost and Found

“Sounds of Vietnam” this was a 45 LP record that people brought back from R & R. I wonder if any are still around, they are a great education aid for today’s generation. I would like a copy if anyone knows where to get one.

Robert Cox

Note: Contact Loel with info and he will pass it on.

BWS

Bullwhip Squadron Web Site

Our Association Web site continues to grow under the hand of Ms. Loretta Stager, our Web Master. She is responsible for rebuilding and maintaining the site. You will find a new format and hopefully more information useful to you, the trooper.

Loretta asks for any ideas from our troopers as to what they would like to see on the site. If you have any particulars, give her a call at (909) 657-3014 or e-mail at Loretta@pe.net and discuss your ideas.

The web site address is www.BullwhipSquadron.org

Check the address from time to time to see how we are progressing. We hope to make our web site a showroom for the 1st Cav Division, Air Cav Troopers and the 1st/9th.

TROOPERS

The next reunion is just around the corner, less than a year away. It’s time to start preparations now.

If the reunion grows as much this year as past years, we will have a real bash. A real Cav Troopers “get together”.

Cav Troopers are notorious for procrastination, unless there is a battle to fight. First in the battle, so now be first for the reunion.

The February news magazine will have more information. Stay tuned!

1st/9th Squadron Commanders list is reprinted
by request.

1st/9th Squadron Commanders

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 1. John B. Stockton | July 64 – Dec 65 |
| 2. Robert M. Shoemaker | Dec 65 – May 66 |
| 3. James C. Smith | May 66 – Nov 66 |
| 4. A. T. Pumphrey | Nov 66 – Apr 67 |
| 5. Robert W. Nevins | Apr 67 – Dec 67 |
| 6. Richard W. Dillard | Dec 67 – July 68 |
| 7. William G. Rouse | July 68 – Jan 69 |
| 8. James M. Peterson | Jan 69 – Jun 69 |
| 9. James W. Booth | Jun 69 – Aug 69 |
| 10. Edward B. Covington III | Aug 69–Sept 69 |
| 11. James W. Booth | Sept 69 – Dec 69 |
| 12. Clark A. Burnett | Dec 69 – Aug 70 |
| 13. Bob Nevins | Aug 70 – Feb 71 |
| 14. Carl Putman | Feb 71 - 1972 |
| 15. John Toolson Jr. | 1972 - 1973 |
| 16. George Burrows | 1973 - 1974 |

Commanded the finest military unit during the
Vietnam involvement, and made history.

**Saepe Expertus, Semper Fidelis, Fratres
Aeterni**

**“Often Tested, Always Faithful, Brothers
Forever”**

After Pearl Harbor

In 1960, Robert Menard was a Commander
aboard the USS Constellation when he was part
of a meeting between United States Navy
personnel and their counterparts in the Japanese
Defense Forces.

Fifteen years had passed since VJ day, most of
those at the meeting were WWII veterans, and
men who had fought each other to the death at
sea were now comrades in battle who could
confide in one another.

Someone at the table asked a Japanese admiral
why, with the Pacific Fleet devastated at Pearl
Harbor and the mainland US forces in what Japan
had to know was a pathetic state of unreadiness,
Japan had not simply invaded the West Coast.

Commander Menard would never forget the
crafty look on the Japanese commander's face as
he frankly answered the question.

"You are right," he told the Americans. "We
did indeed know much about your preparedness.
We knew that probably every second home in
your country contained firearms. We knew that
your country actually had state championships for
private citizens shooting military rifles. We were
not fools to set foot in such quicksand."

Political Philosophies:

Explained in Simple Two Cow Terms

Socialism:

You have two cows. You keep one and give one
to your neighbor.

Communism:

You have two cows. The government takes them
both and provides you with milk.

Fascism:

You have two cows. The government takes them
and sells you the milk.

Bureaucracy:

You have two cows. The government takes them
both, shoots one, milks the other, pays you for the
milk, and then pours it down the drain.

Capitalism:

You have two cows. You sell one and buy a bull.

Corporate:

You have two cows. You sell one, force the
other to produce the milk of four cows and then
act surprised when it drops dead.

Democracy:

You have two cows. The government taxes you
to the point that you must sell them both in order
to support a man in a foreign country who has
only one cow which was a gift from your
government.

**Freedom can only be maintained if you are
willing to fight for it.**

The following list of Association members is as of 30 June 2001

Bullwhip Squadron
Association members

Honored Halls

COL J. B. Stockton (Deceased)
 Glenn Shumake (Deceased)
 Earl D. Thompson (Deceased)
 John Schlichter (Deceased)
 William Gilboy (Deceased)
 John E. Kilgallen (Deceased)
 Anthony Heinz (Deceased)
 John Valaer (Deceased)
 Les Holland (Deceased)
 Garry Massey (Deceased)
 Phil Foley (Deceased)
 Thomas Beadle (Deceased)
 John E. Kilgallen (Deceased)
 Ronald L. Chapman (Dec.)
 Ron Smith (Deceased)
 Les Holland (Deceased)
 Donald Chandler (Dec.)
 Charles Covert (Deceased)
 Charles Smith (Deceased)
 John Teel (Deceased)
 Marshall Wells (Deceased)

Association Members

Abernathy, George
 *Adams, Bobby
 *Adkinson, Charles
 *Allen, David
 Anderson, Jere
 Anzelmo, George
 Arthur, Edward
 *Avelar Jr, Jose
 *Bagnal, Charles
 Ballard, Stephen
 *Banks, Larry
 *Baron, Joe
 *Barrett, James
 Barton, Glenn
 *Beardsley Jr, Guy
 Bechberger, Paul

Beckwith (h), Karen
 *Bedsole, Kenneth
 *Berggren, Jerry
 *Betts, Tommy
 Black, James
 *Blad, Hjalmer
 *Blankenburg, Mitch
 Blankenship, Nelson
 *Blouin, David
 *Bluestone-Eull, Mike
 *Bogdue, Mike
 *Boisseau, Mark
 Booth (h), James
 *Bowen, Joseph
 Bowling, Billy
 Branard, Thomas
 *Bray, David
 Brown Jr, Albert
 *Brown, Charlie
 *Brown, Larry
 *Bulkley, Morton
 *Burke, Paul
 *Burnett, Clark
 *Burrow, George
 *Busch Jr, George
 *Bush, Pat
 Butt, Harry
 *Byrd, William
 Cairns Jr, Ernest
 *Campbell, Donald
 Campbell, Harold
 *Carll, Frederick
 *Cavalieri, Dominic
 *Chimoski Jr, Al
 *Chole, Bert
 *Christopher, Mark
 Christopher, Ronald
 Coburn, Jeffrey
 *Conner, James
 *Coombs, Robert
 Copson II, Charles
 Cornwell, Robert
 *Coshey, Donald
 *Covey, Michael
 *Cox, Robert
 Cox, Leonard
 *Crawford, George
 *Crispino, Joseph
 Cryster (h), James
 Curtis, Grant
 *Davis, Gary

*Davis, Thomas
 *Defleron, Al
 Dehart, Bruce
 Dela Rosa, Lionel
 Dillbeck, William
 *Denning, Richard
 *Derrick, Charles
 *DeSloover, David
 *Dettmer, Marion
 *Dinsmore, Delamere
 *Dishaw, Michael
 *Doslop, Joseph
 *Dubois, Adam
 *Dula, Jones
 Dunning, David
 *Dupreast, Samuel
 *Dupree, Ronald
 Edmunds, John
 Egonis, Clement
 Elliott, Jerry
 *Ellis, James
 *Erway, Douglas
 *Ewart, Loel
 *Featherston, Steven
 *Ferrea, Albert
 Fieg, John
 *Fisher, Gordon
 *Flanagan, John
 *Francis Jr, Jim
 *Frank, Patrick
 *Frazer, Bill
 Frazier (h), Charles
 *Frederick, Donald
 Fullen (h), Barbara
 Gabel, Dennis
 Galloway (h), Joe
 Garnhart (h), Stan
 *Garrett, Robert
 Gavaria (h), Lillian
 *Ghere, John
 *Glance, Jesse
 *Glassford, Gary
 Golden, Gerald
 *Goldsberry, Jerry
 *Gower, Johnny
 Greer, James
 *Gregor, Charles
 *Grett, Stanley
 *Grube, Dick
 *Gutsche, Walter
 *Hale, Dick

*Harmon, Thomas
*Harnisher, Thomas
*Harris III, Lucious
*Hartin Jr, William
Hartley, Thomas
*Harvey Jr, Thomas
Haslitt, James
*Hearron, Aussie
*Helms, Felix
Henson, Kenneth
Herra, James
*Herron, Richard
Hewlett, George
*Hill, Howard (Doug)
Hilton, Mark
Hiser, Frank
*Hlywa, Nicholas
*Hobbs, Earl
Holcomb, Brian
Holt, Robert
Hraban, Robert
*Hubler, Irwin
Huff II, William
Hughes, Billy
*Hulsey, Jim
*Hundley, Stephen
Hunter, Jerry
Hurley, Bob
*James, Jesse
*Janes, Ray
Jarvis Sr, George
*Johnson, Bruce
*Johnson, David
Johnson, Monte
*Johnson, Ricky
*Jones, Walker
Justice, Ronald
Judson, Robert
Kauffman, Donald
*Kelbus, Joseph
Kelley, Michael
Kennedy, Lawrence
Kennerson (h), Ron
Kerns, John
*Kerns Jr, Raymond
*Kilcrease, Jack
*Kilgallen (h), Elizabeth
*King, Thomas
Knowlen, Charles
*Knowles, Patrick
Kohler, James

*Kowalski, Henry
Krohlow, Kenton
Kuhnell, Harold
Kurtz, James
*Kushner, Harold
*Kuster, Robert
*La Vigne Sr, Barry
*Labak, Robert
*La-Bombard, Lloyd
*Lackey, Robert
Laidlaw, William
*Landor, Jamie
*Lanegan, Terrence
*Lanier, Michael
*Larensen, John
Larose (h), James
*Lassiter, Norman
*Leadabrand, Jerry
*Lenker, Max
*Leonard, Thomas
Leyda, Craig
Lindholm, Dale
*Lott, Claude
Lucas, Judson
Lundwall, Robert
Machnic, Jerry
*MacLeod, Richard
*Maldonado Jr, Paul
Marcum, Eugene
Marshall, Richard
Martin, Thomas
Matlock, Craig
Matthews, Allan
*Maher, James
*McAllister, Bo
*McAnally, Loren
*McAlpine, Barry
McCloud, Harry
*McKee, Orvel
*McLaughlin, Davin
McMullan, Robert
*McNinch, Jerry
*Metcalf, Marvin
Miller, Brian
Miller, John
Mix, Robert
*Moore, Marion
*Moser, Frank
*Mundy Jr, G.G.
*Murphy, Maurice
Murtha, Paul

Nevins Jr, Robert
*Newby, Claude
*Nicholas, George
*Nielsen, John
*Nii, Elmer
*Niles, Louis
O'Grady, Steve
*Oliver, John
Olle, Larry
*Olson, Kenneth
Orifici, Tony
Oshiro, Clyde
*Owens, Ronald
Park, George
*Parnell, James
Pelkey, David
*Peterson, Robert
*Pettit, Richard
*Poe, Robert
Poos (h), Robert
*Potts, William
Powell, John
*Pratt, James
*Pressman, James
Pryce, David
*Pumphrey, A.T.
*Quinn, Bill
*Racine, Maurice
*Rainwater, Ross
*Rawl, Joe
Reich, Daniel
*Reid, Jim
*Retterer, John
*Rhoden, Joe
*Ribbeck, Rudolph
Rice, Robert
*Ricks, Douglas
Rideuoux, Charles
Rittenhouse, Bill
*Rochat III, Louis
Rogney, Gary
Rose, Harold
*Rosebrough, James
*Roshier, Galen
Ryan, John
Salmon, Gary
*Salomone, Joseph
*Salyer, James
Samuel, Lonnie
*Schellenberg, Woodrow
Schillereff, John

Schlottman, Jim
 *Schmotolocha, Jerry
 Schwarz, John
 *Scott, Kenneth
 Sedacca, Emanuel
 *Sellers, Robert
 *Shaffer, Nate
 *Shanklin, David
 *Shoemaker, Gen Robert
 *Silva, Robert
 *Smith, Rayburn Gene
 Smith, Ben
 *Smith, Cecil
 *Smith, Jim
 Smith (h), Kevin
 *Snow, Peter
 *Soltes, Charles
 Stager (h), Loretta
 St. Lauren, Bruce
 Stanfield, Neil
 Stanley, William
 *Steine, Joel
 *Stewart, Frank
 *Stewart, Patrick
 *Stockton (h), Rita
 *Stockton (h), Wootsie
 *Stone, Gordon
 Stoverink, Robert

Sullivan (h), Dennis
 Sundt, Richard
 *Swain, Robert
 Sweeney, Ronald
 Tadlock, Robert
 Tasker, Larry
 *Tassin, Paul
 *Terry, Michael
 Thaxton, Bob
 *Thomas, John
 *Timmons, William
 *Titchenell, Wallace
 Tromontano, Joseph
 *Tredway, Robert
 Treude, Harry
 Trombley, Thomas
 *Tucker, Douglas
 Turner, Barrie
 Tyrrell, Paul
 *Van Winkle, James
 *Vanasse, Eugene
 Volheim, James
 *Waldron, Cowles
 *Walker, John
 *Wallace, John
 *Wardzala, Daniel
 Washington, Royall
 Weatherspoon, Freddie

Weaver Sr, Charles
 *Weeks, Jimmy
 Weems, Neil
 *Welch, A.J.
 *Westfall, Ronald
 *Whigham, Charles
 *Whitehead III, John
 *Wilke, Charles
 Wilkerson, Richard
 Wilkins, Donald
 *Wilkinson, George
 *Williams, Billie
 *Williams, Frank
 *Wingate, Charles
 *Wood, Doug
 *Woodward, Wallace
 *Wright, Larry
 *Wuensch, Marc
 Wulff, Richard
 York Jr, John
 *Young, Terry
 *Young, Robert
 *Zahn, Bob
 *Zemke, Phillip
 *Zion, Robert

h - Honorary
 * - Lifetime

From the Vice President:

The Association has gone all out to find those troopers who do not know of the Association. To date, over 5000 Invitation to Join letters have been sent out to those who carried on, and sustained, the CAV tradition.

It was very gratifying to see all of the new members that became associated with the Bullwhip Squadron during 2001.

Members are what makes the Association. The Association has increased it's membership rolls by 20 new members since January 1, 2001. **A Very Warm "Welcome"** to all of our new members You are the professionals who make the Bullwhip Squadron Association a success! **Thanks guys for joining and supporting our Association!**

Take a look at the membership roster. How many of the names do you know? Notice the amount of * (214) by troopers names.

As you will notice, the * denotes a lifetime member and (h) denotes an honorary member. This says a lot for the caliber of our Bullwhip Squadron Association and the members themselves.

We have a greater percentage of lifetime members in our organization than probably any other organization either military or civilian!!

Look well at the list of members. All are the true hero's of our military generation.

The sad part is that the list of those that have passed on to a higher cavalry status is growing. We are loosing some of the best due to the facility of time. May they stand tall as Cav troopers and welcome us at Fiddlers Green, in Squadron formation.

We ask you to continue to look for those troopers who do not know of us and bring them back into the Squadron.

Please check your names for spelling. If any corrections are required, call me (Loel) and I will update as needed. Also check your certificates and membership cards for spelling and if you have become a lifetime member and your membership card does not say "lifetime", let AL DeFleron know so we can have a new membership card made for you. Let us know if they are wrong and we will correct and mail ASAP.

As of November 2001 our active membership is 380 with 214 of these being lifetime. We have increased by 99 new members since January 1, 2000. Well done! We could not have done this without your support.

Many of our old members, are now back with us. For this we are thankful and say, Welcome Back, we missed you!

Our lifetime member roles are increasing weekly and a large percentage of our members are lifetime. Think about becoming a lifetime member.

All work performed in the Squadron is strictly voluntary and the money taken into the Squadron by dues and merchandise sold, is sufficient to pay for all operating expenses and help defray the bi-annual Squadron reunion expenses.

REMEMBER, Membership dues are due in January. If you have paid in the last 3 months of 2001, you will be given credit for the 2002 year.

Many of our troopers either move or change their e-mail addresses. Please let the Squadron Association know of any changes in address. This will keep your newsletter coming.

If you are in doubt on dues paid, call or e-mail me for verification.

I have been asked by our troopers if they can pay their lifetime member status in installments. The answer is YES. Contact me if you would like to pay in installments. Also you can pay in more than one year (2,3,4, etc)

The Association does not sell or give away members addresses or phone numbers, except to

other BWS Association members when they call in for a members individual number.

The Bullwhip Squadron Association has the following items for sell. All the proceeds go into the Squadron fund, so as you buy, you help build the Bullwhip Squadron Association fund. All merchandising items for sale will be handled by Squadron member, Al Defleron.

You can call or write Al Defleron for any of the items we have. The items will be shipped to you after receiving the money. When you order, please state size. Also add \$5 for shipping. The items we have for sell are;

1. White or black, ball caps with the Squadron guidon insignia, \$10.
2. White or black polo shirts (golf), with Squadron guidon insignia, \$23 (add \$5 for personalized with name and 1st Cav patch).
3. Wind breaker jackets, lined, in colors, with Squadron guidon insignia, \$30.
4. ** Unit Guidon flags for all troops, "A through F". These guidons are exactly like the troop originals, \$65 each.
5. Headhunter Bumper Stickers, \$2.00.
6. Original Bullwhip Squadron Bumper Stickers, \$1.50.
7. Bullwhip Squadron Bumper Stickers with Crossed Saber, \$1.75.
8. Sun Visors with Squadron Guidon, \$8.00.
9. Denim Shirts are available with Squadron guidon and personalized. \$38.00.
10. Statues (Reunion), a few left, \$25 each.
11. Golf Towels, black/white, with Sqdn. Logo, \$8.00
12. BWS Unit Coins, \$5.00 (\$2.50 mailing)
13. Book, 1/9 Historical Summary 65-72, \$15.00
14. BWS 1/9 Lapel Pins \$3.50
15. One E Troop Guideon, \$70.00 each. Note; We can order any troop guideon required.

LTC (Ret) Loel Ewart

Never Forget!

**You are the true Patriots,
Cav Troopers, One and All !!**

Once again, as always-- WE CAN, WE WILL, WE DID!!

Note

You will see in this newsletter, paid advertisements from the local merchants. These merchants are supporting our Association by advertising. The funds generated by the advertisements help to defray printing expenses and allow us to provide you, the members, with a quality newsletter.

The Association asks you to support the merchants that advertise in our newsletter when you are in their vicinity or at their location. Lower Alabama and the Wiregrass Area has truly become the home of the Bullwhip Squadron Association.

BULLWHIP REUNION 2002

Now is the time to start planning on attending the 02 BWS reunion. The reunion will be in October. Exact dates, hotels and cost will be in the next news magazine

The decision has been made by the staff to hold the reunion here at Ft. Rucker. This decision was made due to the unknown state of terrorist activity and wanting to have a safe place for our reunion. We sincerely hope this meets with your approval.

News Magazine Update

We hope all Troopers like the new look. We believe this is in keeping with the troopers attitude that you are never alone. We have gone to a full platoon of troopers on the front cover **and** if you were really sharp eyed, you would have noticed that it is no longer called a newsletter. It is now a news magazine. The size and information found within these covers has grown from the old 3 pages to what we have now. You will also notice more of our troopers are writing articles for each magazine. If you have a story to tell, then write it and send it in. Don't worry about spelling, grammar and the likes, just do the best a trooper can and we will make the article into a silk purse. You can send it in by e-mail or by regular mail to Loel. He will sprinkle magic dust on it for printing and a fine article you will have. **Next articles are due to Loel by the end of January 02.**

If you would like to see a specific subject in the magazine, let us know. This is your magazine and will only be as good as we, the troopers, make it.

May we all laugh a little, cry a little and all be proud of what we accomplished. We are a brotherhood both in trust and in spirit. May you enjoy the news magazine.

BWS

THE TRUTH IN 13 WORDS

**Inside every older person is a younger person -
Wondering what the hell happened!**

A Liberal Viewpoint

I have picked the most liberal viewpoint available and this is a very liberal viewpoint. I don't agree with him or his views. I have to ask myself if he is prepared to fight for the freedoms given to us by our Bill of Rights and our Constitution. I do not believe he would lift a finger in their defense. However, free speech is his right under the Constitution. The most serious part is that he is teaching young adults his views of the world and his views of history. This does not bode well for our next generation. How many of the newsmedia will take up this attitude? This individual must have been a flower child during RVN.

What is your viewpoint?

Loel

U.S. Just As Guilty Of Committing Own Violent Acts

Sept. 11 was a day of sadness, anger and fear. Like everyone in the United States and around the world, I shared the deep sadness at the deaths of thousands.

But as I listened to people around me talk, I realized the anger and fear I felt were very different, for my primary anger is directed at the leaders of this country and my fear is not only for the safety of Americans but for innocent civilians in other countries.

It should need not be said, but I will say it: The acts of terrorism that killed civilians in New York and Washington were reprehensible and indefensible; to try to defend them would be to abandon one's humanity. No matter what the motivation of the attackers, the method is beyond discussion.

But this act was no more despicable than the massive acts of terrorism -- the deliberate killing of civilians for political purposes -- that the U.S. government has committed during my lifetime. For more than five decades throughout the Third World, the United States has deliberately targeted civilians or engaged in violence so indiscriminate that there is no other way to understand it except as terrorism. And it has supported similar acts of terrorism by client states.

If that statement seems outrageous, ask the people of Vietnam. Or Cambodia and Laos. Or Indonesia and East Timor. Or Chile. Or Central America. Or Iraq. Or Palestine. The list of countries and peoples who have felt the violence of this country is long. Vietnamese civilians bombed by the United States. Timorese civilians killed by a U.S. ally with U.S.-supplied weapons. Nicaraguan civilians killed by a U.S. proxy army of terrorists. Iraqi civilians killed by the deliberate bombing of an entire country's infrastructure.

So, my anger is directed not only at individuals who engineered the Sept. 11 tragedy, but at those who have held power in the United States and have engineered attacks on civilians every bit as tragic. That anger is compounded by hypocritical U.S. officials' talk of their commitment to higher ideals, as President Bush proclaimed "our resolve for justice and peace."

To the president, I can only say: The stilled voices of the millions killed in Southeast Asia, in Central America, in the Middle East as a direct result of U.S. policy are the evidence of our resolve for justice and peace.

Though that anger stayed with me off and on all day on Sept. 11, it quickly gave way to fear, but not the fear of "Where will the terrorists strike next?" which I heard voiced all around me. Instead, I almost immediately had to face the question: "When will the United States, without regard for civilian casualties, retaliate?" I wish the question were, "Will the United States retaliate?" But if history is a guide, it is a question only of when and where.

So, the question is which civilians will be unlucky enough to be in the way of the U.S. bombs and missiles that might be unleashed. The last time the United States responded to terrorism, the attack on its embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998, it was innocents in the Sudan and Afghanistan who were in the way. We were told that time around they hit only military targets, though the target in the Sudan turned out to be a pharmaceutical factory.

As I monitored television during the day on Tuesday, the talk of retaliation was in the air; in the voices of some of the national security "experts" there was a hunger for retaliation. Even the journalists couldn't resist; speculating on a military strike that might come, Peter Jennings of ABC News said, "The response is going to have to be massive," if it is to be effective.

Let us not forget that a "massive response" will kill people, and if the pattern of past U.S. actions holds, it will kill innocents. Innocent people, just like the ones in the towers in New York and the ones on the airplanes that were hijacked. To borrow from President Bush, "mother and fathers, friends and neighbors" will surely die in a massive response.

If we are truly going to claim to be decent people, our tears must flow not only for those of our own country. People are people, and grief that is limited to those within a specific political boundary denies the humanity of others.

And if we are to be decent people, we all must demand of our government -- the government that a great man of peace, Martin Luther King Jr., once described as "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world" -- that the insanity stop here.

ROBERT JENSEN
Professor of Journalism
University of Texas
Austin

OLD GEEZERS

"Geezers" are easy to spot; this is slang for an old man. But, at sporting events, during the playing of the National Anthem, they hold their caps over their hearts and sing without embarrassment. They know the words and believe in them.

They remember World War I, the Depression, World War II, Pearl Harbor, Guadalcanal, Normandy and Hitler. They remember the Atomic Age, the Korean War, The Cold War, the Jet Age and the Moon Landing, not to mention Vietnam.

If you bump into a "Geezer" on the sidewalk, he'll apologize, pass a Geezer on the street, he'll nod, or tip his cap to a lady. "Geezers" trust strangers and are courtly to women. They hold the door for the next person and always when walking, make sure the lady is on the inside for protection. "Geezers" get embarrassed if someone curses in front of women and children and they don't like violence and filth on TV and in movies.

"Geezers" have moral courage. "Geezers" seldom brag unless it's about the grandchildren in Little League or music recitals.

This country needs "Geezers" with their decent values and common sense. We need them now more than ever. It's the "Geezers" who know our great country is protected, not by politicians or police, but by the young men and women in the military serving their country in foreign lands, just as they did, without a thought except to do a good job, the best you can and to get home to loved ones.

Thank God for "OLD GEEZERS."

Author Unknown

I MUST BE AN OLD CAV GEEZER!

BWS

An Eerie and Prophetic Ring

"The US Military" -- Washington, DC 19, August 2001 -- From a speech by Vice-president Cheney spoken before the events of September 11th, and on the 226th birthday of the US Army. They have an eerie and prophetic ring to them today...

Raymond V. Wojtyna
rwojtyna@graceba.net

SPEECH

"On my way to work last week, I stopped behind a purple Geo Metro with my least favorite bumper sticker ever plastered across the back. It read: "It'll be a great day when schools have all the money they need and the Air Force has to have a bake sale to buy a bomber."

At that moment, I realized who the most undervalued and under-appreciated segment of society is. And it isn't teachers. Teachers, I believe, rank second on that list. Heading the list are the men and women of the armed forces, who, throughout history, have protected our country from the Hitler's and Stalin's - they who would have had our white children marching to the school bus in jackboots and our minority children locked up in laboratories and labor camps.

The US military-the most powerful and influential group of people in the world, hands-down-gets an awfully bad rap these days. Many Americans seem to think that simply because the communist Soviet Union no longer exists, the world is as safe as Beaver Cleaver's neighborhood. This, of course, ignores three facts:

- 1) Dozens of countries have nuclear weapons that could take out millions of people with the turn of a key.
- 2) Leaders of several countries (e.g. North Korea, Iraq, Iran, Libya, Lebanon and perhaps China and Russia) would love to see the US and its people blown to pieces and, most importantly;
- 3) The US has the greatest collection of human, economic, natural and technological resources anywhere on Earth, making it the greatest natural target for military aggression.

Though some would like to fashion the US of the 21st Century as a flowery, feel-good fantasy where war and violence are mere after thoughts of a time gone by, that can never be the case. As bad as our crime and drug problems are, we're still considered the jewel of the planet by the half of the world that has yet to make its first phone call.

In ancient Greece, the people of Athens were unparalleled world leaders in art, philosophy and technology. Their rivals in Sparta were not. Instead, the Spartans built massive, well-trained armies. When the two countries fought, who won? Sparta. And, guess who lost their entire civilization because they didn't think it was important to build an appropriate army? Athens!

Right now, the US has the best of Athens and Sparta: we are the most cultured and most well defended country in the world. As we continue to lower our defenses by devaluing the military, we open ourselves wider and wider to a takeover.

A takeover of the US? Ridiculous, one might say. But why does it seem so unlikely? Because the power and protection of the US military has been so overwhelming in the last century that Americans have been free to enjoy a comfort level unlike any in the world. We all take it for granted that we will never be invaded by another country, but few other countries can afford to be so sure of themselves.

It's not only Americans who can go to bed feeling safe. Children everywhere from Israel to England, from Brazil to Japan know that, if their country is attacked, the US will be there to help. On TV, the military is often represented by stiff, buttoned-down generals or the occasional drill sergeant. In reality, things are much different.

The men and women of the armed forces are, in most ways, just like everyone else: they are mechanics, pilots, cooks, photographers, engineers, secretaries and X-ray technicians. They work from 8 to 5 and then come home to their families.

The one difference comes when the US or any of its allies is threatened by a foreign power. In that case, military people pack up and ship out, off to fight-and many times die-so the rest of the country, including teachers can continue their lives without interruption.

Teachers mold young minds into intelligent, independent people, and they should be admired for the job they do; however, I don't know any teachers who are required to catch bullets and swallow shrapnel if so ordered by the principal.

So, old-fashioned as it may seem, I'm happy to give my taxes to the military and tell the tots and teachers to fire up the oven if they want extra dough. Make muffins, cookies and candy and be happy you're allowed to. Because, as the old saying goes, if it wasn't for the U.S. military, we'd all be speaking German now."

It is easy to take liberty for granted, when you have never had it taken from you.

Dick Cheney

ADVERTISEMENTS

Troopers,

The following pages of advertisements from our supporters are well worth reading and knowing that their love for the Association is helping us to keep the cost of membership and the news magazine to a manageable level for all of us.

When you are in their area, support them as they support us. While many are not active members, their beliefs and ideals match our own. This is one nation, and we are seeing many of the silent majority voicing their anger at our loss and at the same time, showing support for the military, especially in our Association.

COL Stan Grett, many years ago, said that he felt that our, then, \$25 annual dues were to great. At that time we actively sought other means to defray expenses, especially on the, then, newsletter.

At that time we began canvassing for advertisements in the newsletter. WE were overwhelmed by the support of our advertisers. All are true Americans and show their support in advertising.

Our present news magazine cost over \$800 for each printing and mailing. Without our advertiser supporters, we could not produce our present magazine.

So to all our advertisers, a very heart felt, Thank You.

BWS

AFTERTHOUGHT

Even in rhyme we see the true American spirit and know that as long as we stand together as one people and one nation, Under God, we will survive and grow. As a Nation, We shall not parish.

In good "Dr Seuss" fashion, a Gwinnett media specialist wrote this diddy. Hope it adds spirit to your day!

Dr. Seuss'' Meets the Terrorists

Every U down in Uville liked U.S. a lot,
But the Binch, who lived Far East of Uville, did not.
The Binch hated U.S! The whole U.S. way!

Now don't ask me why, for nobody can say.
It could be his turban was screwed on too tight.
Or the sun from the desert had beaten too bright.
But I think that the most likely reason of all
may have been that his heart was two sizes too small.

But, whatever the reason, his heart or his turban,
He stood facing Uville, the part that was urban.

"They're doing their business," he snarled from his perch.
"They're raising their families! They're going to church!
They're leading the world, and their empire is thriving,
I MUST keep the S's and U's from surviving!"

Tomorrow, he knew, all the U's and the S's,
Would put on their pants and their shirts and their dresses.
They'd go to their offices, playgrounds and schools,
And abide by their U and S values and rules,

And then they'd do something he liked least of all,
Every U down in U- ville, the tall and the small,
Would stand all united, each U and each S,
And they'd sing Uville's anthem, "God bless us! God bless!"
All around their Twin Towers of Uville, they'd stand,
And their voices would drown every sound in the land.

"I must stop that singing," Binch said with a smirk,
And he had an idea--an idea that might work!
The Binch stole some U airplanes in U morning hours,
And crashed them right into the Uville Twin Towers.

"They'll wake to disaster!" he snickered, so sour,
"And how can they sing when they can't find a tower?"

The Binch cocked his ear as they woke from their sleeping,
All set to enjoy their U-wailing and weeping,

Instead he heard something that started quite low,
And it built up quite slow, but it started to grow--
And the Binch heard the most unpredictable thing...
And he couldn't believe it--they started to sing!

He stared down at U-ville, not trusting his eyes,
What he saw was a shocking, disgusting surprise!
Every U down in U-ville, the tall and the small,
Was singing! Without any towers at all!

He HADN'T stopped U-Ville from singing! It sung!
For down deep in the hearts of the old and the young,
Those Twin Towers were standing, called Hope and called Pride,
And you can't smash the towers we hold deep inside.

So we circle the sites where our heroes did fall,
With a hand in each hand of the tall and the small,
And we mourn for our losses while knowing we'll cope,
For we still have inside that U-Pride and U-Hope.

For America means a bit more than tall towers,
It means more than wealth or political powers,
It's more than our enemies ever could guess,

So may God bless America! Bless us! God bless!

Sent in by SEABAT
hs9seabat@earthlink.net

ONLY IN AMERICA, ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE!

