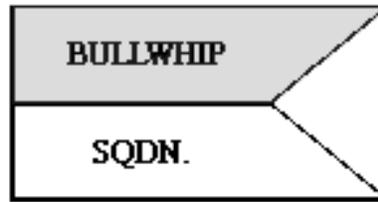


3rd/17th --- 1st/9th
Air Cavalry Squadron



THE BULLWHIP SQUADRON NEWS

The official News Magazine of the Bullwhip Squadron Association

July 2002



UNDERSTANDING

AS HE SITS AT THE TABLE YOU CAN SEE IT IN HIS EYES,
FEAR, HATE, CONFUSION, AND PRIDE.
TELLING HIS STORY OF NAM TO HIS CHILD,
IS THE HARDEST.
HOW DO YOU GET A KID TO REALIZE THE HORRORS OF WAR?
BUT HES THE ONLY ONE AROUND.

AS I SIT AT THE TABLE LISTENING,
I WONDER IF THIS MAN BEFORE ME IS MY FATHER.
HOW CAN A MEAR MAN EXPERIANCE SUCH THINGS
AND STILL BE ABLE TO GO ON?
I DONT UNDERSTAND.

AS HE TELLS HIS STORY ALL HIS FEARS SUFACE.
THE THOUGHT OF HIS FRIENDS DYING,
THE THOUGHT OF HIMSELF SURVIVING,
THE THOUGHT OF THE ONES LEFT BEHIND.
HE ASKED HIMSELF AGAIN,
HOW DO YOU GET A KID TO REALIZE THE HORRORS OF WAR ?

AS I HEAR THE WORDS COME OUT.
I THINK TO MYSELF THAT HE SHOULD BE LUCKY.
HE MADE IT, BACK HES HERE WITH US.
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENED, HES HOME.
BUT STILL I DONT UNDERSTAND.

AS HE RELIVES THE PAST, TELLING ME MORE
ABOUT THE HORRIBLE PLACE.
OF HOW YOU SIT AND WAIT FOR THE SOUND OF THE HUEYS
COMING INTO THE LZ,
GUNFIRE IN THE DISTANCE,
YOUR BUDDIES BLOOD GETTING INTO YOUR EYES.
HE WONDERS TO HIMSELF,
HOW DO YOU GET A KID TO REALIZE THE HORRORS OF WAR?

AS THE TEARS ROLL FROM HIS EYES,
I START TO SEE WHAT A GREAT MAN I HAVE FOR A FATHER.
HE MAYBE HOME WITH US NOW, BUT
HE IS STILL OVER THERE TOO.
I GUESS IF A PERSON GOES THROUGH THAT
IT TAKES A PART OF THEM WITH IT.
I HOPE I CAN HELP HIM COME HOME COMPLETELY.

AND DAD, IF YOU WANT A CHILD TO UNDERSTAND SOMETHING,
HAVE SOMEONE THEY LOVE TO TELL THEM,
I LOVE YOU
AND I DO UNDERSTAND.

Written by Scott Williams



Adjutants Call

As I write this, the nation is celebrating Memorial Day, the day we recall the service of all men and women who have served the nation. The holiday was once referred to as Decoration Day. It was first observed here in Columbus, Georgia in honor of Confederate War Dead.

We need not look to history to remember the deeds of Heroes. We need only to look in the "Bullwhip Squadron News" for March 2002. Read the story on page 37 by CW4 Marion Moore, that tells among other things, the heroism of Captain Jerry Leaderbrand during the La Drang afterwards. He also tells of my personal hero, Tex Helms, who was riding shotgun with the crew that saved Toby Braveboy. There were many brave men serving with the 1st/9th, from mechanics, crewchiefs, grunts, pilots, cooks, admin., to just plain gofers. All of these made up our Cav. All were part of the whole and all very important to our success as an Air Cav Squadron.

There is a lot of good reading in the Squadron News. Keep your copies, read it from cover to cover and recount the important events of your service with our own JBS, and with others. Forever keep your comrades and fellow brothers in your memory.

Another patriot says the words needed for today's America. Words that many outside the military never learn. Words that are starkly true in today's environment of terrorism and strife against America's interest world wide and especially here on our shores. Read and understand that we are the foundation of this great country and must pass on to the younger generation our beliefs. Only this will keep America strong for future generations.

"War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things; the decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks that nothing is worth war, is much worse. A man who has nothing for which he is willing to fight; nothing he cares about more than his own personal safety; is a miserable creature who has no chance of being free, unless made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself".

John Stuart Mill

We Can, We Will, We did !!

FOR THE COMMANDER,
DICK D GRUBE
ADJUTANT

Many of you have written articles for the news magazine and have expressed your opinion on many subjects, both liberal and conservative. The editor has maintained a policy of printing those articles regardless of the "political correctness" of the articles, as long as they were acceptable for all audiences regardless of age, to read, and were written with integrity.

Articles in this issue are again from our members, and others, that sound an opinion worth reading. It is up to you, the reader, to determine if the articles mirror your beliefs and attitudes. If they do not, then it is your prerogative to sound off with your opinion in the next issue.

Our lifestyle and freedoms have been drastically changed by the terrorist attacks on the Twin Towers and the Pentagon. Make no mistake, we are under attack for our Christian way of life and beliefs. What we, as a nation, do now, will determine the future survival of our country, The United States Of America.

The articles in the news magazine are not necessarily the opinion of the editor or the BWS Board Members. The articles are here to make you think and act as a responsible citizen and veteran of this great country.

God Bless America.

BWS

TAPS

None this period.

One of the All-Time Best Quotes

In a recent interview, General Norman Schwartzkopf was asked if he didn't think there was room for forgiveness toward the people who have harbored and abetted the terrorists who perpetrated the 9/11 attacks on America. His answer was classic Schwartzkopf. He said,

"I believe that forgiving them is God's function. Our job is simply to arrange the meeting."

General Order No. 11, May 5, 1868

"The 30th day of May 1868 is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land."

MG John Alexander Logan
Grand Army of the Republic



FROM THE COMMANDER

The Ft Rucker/Ozark area is awaiting your arrival for the 2002 BWS Reunion. More details are contained in other articles so I shall limit my comments to my normal rambling thoughts.

As you may recall, there is a local chapter of the Army Aviation Heritage Foundation that presents airshows at various places in the eastern US. At the 14 May Armed Forces Day airshow at Cairns AAF, here at Ft Rucker, I was talking with a former Army pilot and asked when he had gone thru flight school. He said it was in the 64/65 time period and asked if I knew a Charles "Pappy" Deitsch or a Drew Sufkin who were in his class.

To his surprise I told him they were both members of my A Troop gunship platoon in 1965/66. Anyway, I had lost track of Drew after we left Vietnam and never had heard anyone say where he was.

As a result of this conversation I was able to get a telephone number and called Drew several days later and of course asked him to join the BWS. That was an amazing reconnection after 36 years!

Now on to other matters. Right now it is planned to have a Huey at the reunion and offer rides at \$35 a person. We have to pay for the fuel guys and this bird is a big SUV and sucks it up. Also hope to have Joe Salomone and his U10 HeliCourier at the reunion.

Again, remember – due to the post high security status of military installations, visiting Ft. Rucker and the Army Aviation Museum, is a lot easier if your vehicle has a DOD tag. **If you don't, your vehicle will be thoroughly inspected-i.e., hood raised, trunk opened, etc. and you must have proof of insurance and tag receipt to get on post.** That will slow you down, but with ID cards you can still enter the post. And yes, the museum is opened 7 days a week and has a gift store for grandparents to shop around for those special gifts.

The BWS web page is looking better every day, so recommend you take a look at it, www.bullwhipsquadron.org. Additional sites for

your use are the Aviation museum Web page at www.armyavnmuseum.org and the Army Aviation Heritage Foundation Web page at www.armyav.org. All of these web sites give you a sense of belonging, for they are all about you and the times that were, and are, important to you.

Your plans now should be well under way for attending the October reunion. While we reserved lots of rooms, over 200 in 3 motels, with the Holiday Inn still the Headquarters, the rooms are gone except for the rooms at the All American Motel. These rooms are going fast so get your reservation in now. – the early bird gets the worm, and in this case, the motel. See Loel's article on the motel rooms and phone numbers.

For all Who have an Interest in Army Aviation, I received this information from Morris J. Brady, Maj. Gen. US Army (ret), Chairman AAHF.

“ I have just been informed of the passing of Joseph P. Cribbins, aviation logistician extraordinaire. Joe Cribbins passed away peacefully in his sleep in the evening, June 14, 2002, following complications from a fall. Fittingly, the date was also the 227 anniversary of the founding of the US Army that Joe loved and served so well. Joe was eighty-eight years of age at the time of his death.

The tales of Joe's accomplishments and contributions to Army Aviation are legendary. He was an untiring champion of the Army Aviator and of Army aviation, a fact that won him an early place in the Army Aviation Hall of Fame. Solving knotty problems of acquisition or maintenance was his hallmark and representing the needs of the smallest unit or the least of we aviators was his joy. If a need existed, he found a detour around the red tape and avoided cumbersome channels. Getting the job done right was his goal. These things and more made him an inspiration to the generations of aviators that knew him.

While the years accumulated, Joe continued to work every day, supporting Army Aviation and sharing his knowledge of aviation logistics. In recognition of his years of outstanding service

and dedication to the US Army, the Army Aviation Association of America created the Joseph P. Cribbins Department of the Army Civilian of the Year Award, an annual award recognizing the outstanding DA civilian. While such an award may be inadequate, it is fitting”.

Rest in peace dear friend.

So until the next news magazine, and looking forward to the reunion.

I remain,

David J. Allen
Brigadier General
Cavalry USA (Ret)
Commanding

From The Command Sergeant Major

Old Soldiers,

It’s now early July 2002 and the BWS team is in the heavy planning stages for our next reunion in October. The registration with the schedule of events and pricing and reunion setup is now in your hands. You do not want to miss this reunion!

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 over the 400 point, however a number of troopers have not paid their dues for this year! If you haven’t paid your dues, stop procrastinating!!

If you troopers feel that the newsmagazine is worth the \$15 yearly dues, help us get the stray troopers back in the family.

Troopers, 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 law and our benefits are not lost! Especially in these times of military spending increases because of the war on terrorism.

All of you troopers who make up the 1st/9th Air CAV Squadron make this old soldier proud. When the country called, you were first to answer. I, and this great nation will never forget you.

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

Loel Ewart
381 Lakeland Hills Dr.
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
e-mail aldefleron@snowhill.com

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

CSM Kennedy
Bullwhip 7

From the Chaplain:

My Fellow Bullwhip Members,

Due to recent computer problems and a poor filing system, you are in dire danger of getting some repetition in this column, though I hope that will not be the case. Anyhow, this time, instead of strolling back down memory lane, I want to share with you an article that will help us put those memories in perspective, I think. The article follows:

The “I-missed-Vietnam” Guilt
By Bob Greene

"The day I turned 19, I went down for my physical and had my first and only experience of Army life. I took with me a letter from Dr. Murphy, my childhood doctor, describing in uncompromising detail the asthma that had been a major part of my life up to 16." Thus begins an article by Christopher Buckley in the September

issue of Esquire magazine - an article that should spur millions of members of a generation of American men to question a part of their lives that they had thought they put behind them long ago. Buckley - the son of conservative columnist William F. Buckley Jr. - describes in the article how he had received a medical deferment from the Army, and thus how he had escaped going to Vietnam.

The article is titled "Viet Guilt," and it addresses itself to those millions of young American men who did not go to Vietnam - and who are beginning to realize, all these years later, that by not going they may have proved something about their own lack of courage - their own, lack of manhood, if you will - that ought to make them very uncomfortable. Enough words have been devoted to the moral issues of the war. The point that Chris Buckley makes is that, if the truth were really to be told, most of the men who managed to stay home from Vietnam did not do so for reasons of morality alone. Their real reason for not going was that they did not want to die, did not want to get shot at. And they found out that there were many ways to avoid Vietnam. Young men of my generation got out of Vietnam because of college deferments, because of medical deferments, because of having a "lucky" number in the Selective Service birthday lottery that was initiated toward the end of the war. Three million men of fighting age went to Indochina during the Vietnam War; 16 million men of fighting age did not.

Buckley was one of the men who did not - and I was, too. Reading his article made me realize the truth of the emotions I have been feeling lately about that particular subject. I sense a strong feeling - "shame" is not too strong a word - among many men who did not go to Vietnam, and perhaps now is the time to bring that feeling out into the open.

Those of us who did not go may have pretended that we held some moral superiority over those who did, but we must have known - even back then - that that was largely sham. A tiny, tiny minority served jail terms - the rest of us avoided the war through easier methods. The men who went to Vietnam were no more involved with the politics of the war than we were. They were different from us in only two important ways: They hadn't figured out a

successful way to get out of going, and they had a certain courage that we lacked. Not "courage" as defined the way we liked to define it; not "courage" in the sense of opposing the government's policies in Vietnam. But courage in an awful, day-to-day sense; courage in being willing to be over there while most of their generation stayed home. When I meet men my age who are Vietnam veterans, I find myself reacting the same way that Chris Buckley indicates he does.

I find myself automatically feeling a little lacking. "I have friends who served in Vietnam..." Buckley writes. "They all saw death up close every day, and many days dealt with it themselves. "They're married, happy, secure, good at what they do; they don't have nightmares and they don't shoot up gas stations with M-16s. Each has a gentleness I find rare in most others, and beneath it a spiritual sinew that I ascribe to their experience in the war. I don't think I'll ever have what they have, the aura of I have been weighed on the scales and have not been found wanting, and my sense at this point is that I will always feel the lack of it..." "I will always feel the lack of it."

I think many of us are just beginning to realize that. I know when I meet those men of my generation who did serve in Vietnam, I automatically feel less worthy than they are; yes, less of a man, if you want to use that phrase. Those of us who did not have to go to Vietnam may have felt, at the time, that we were getting away with something; may have felt, at the time, that we were the recipients of a particular piece of luck that had value beyond price. But now, I think, we realize that by not having had to go we lost forever the chance to learn certain things about ourselves that only men who have been in war together will ever truly know.

Our fathers learned those things in World War II; our sons, God forbid, may learn them in some future conflict. But we - those of us who did not go - managed to avoid something that would have helped form us into different people than we are now. Buckley writes "by not putting on uniforms, we forfeited what might have been the ultimate opportunity, in increasingly self-obsessed times, of making the ultimate commitment to something greater than ourselves. The survival of comrades." But I think it may go even beyond

that; I think it may go to the very definition of our manhood. I know that when I meet a man who, it turns out, has served in Vietnam, part of me wonders whether he is able to read my mind.

I don't know how widespread this feeling is among men of my generation who didn't go; but I can testify that, at least for some of us, it's there, all right.

Until next time.

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

From the Sergeant Major:

“In Coming”!

That is something that all of us heard during our RVN tours, some more than others. It has been many years and miles away, since we heard that dreaded cry. "In Coming". At which time we took steps to get some kind of protection, be it ditch, hole or bunker, and hoped for the best.

Today, we, still in a sense of speaking, have that "in coming" in many forms daily, although not as deadly, with less harmful effects, and still seek that needed protection again. But only different types of protection.

What I am leading up to is our computers, and in coming e-mails and the dreaded "Virus" cry. In recent weeks, and months, there has been a virus alert from some of our friends, telling us about a new virus that can't be detected by any of the anti virus programs that are out, and has infected our files, and gives instructions on how to rid your computer of said virus, with an attachment containing removal tools for deleting infected files, only to find that we have deleted files that are needed for the operation of our computer. This causes as much damage to our machines as a true virus would do. Then we find out that the virus in question was a "Hoax".

Prior to forwarding any e-mail concerning a virus in any file in your computer, PLEASE go to;

<<http://securityresponse.symantec.com>> where you will be able to find a list of viruses that are legitimate and the ones that are a hoax. This will keep you and/or your friends from deleting needed files necessary for your computer to run efficiently.

Let me make one thing very clear, by no means am I an expert, in fact I am as dumb as a box of rocks where the computer is concerned, but have been taught very well, that I do not delete any files without checking to find out what function of the said file or files pertain to, for the function of your computer. In essence, the "In Coming" e-mail can be as deadly to our computers as the "In Coming" was to us years ago.

Same song, second verse-----Regular mail postal service mail (snail mail)

If you relocate and have a change of address, and fail to notify BWS, you will only receive class A mail from BWS. As most of our mailings are mass mailings, (over 200) since we use a mailing service that offers us bulk rates. Therefore, the postal department does not forward bulk rate mail. (It will be deep sixed or file 13 by the postal dept). With the steady growth of our membership and increased size of our news magazine, we had to go to bulk rates. This gives us a savings of at least half of class A postal rates. So "PLEASE" if you have changed addresses, and wish to continue receiving your BWS news, make sure that you notify us ASAP. So, heads up guys, any posted changes of snail mail, e-mail addresses and area codes to telephone numbers will ensure that you continue to be contacted and receive all BWS mail.

Our aim is to keep every member informed as best as we can, but we need your assistance to do this, and it is greatly appreciated

Now on to another subject; The reunion is now just 3 months away and time is growing short with still many things that need for the completion of the overall issues for a successful reunion.

The very first and the most important one is that we need your registration forms returned soonest. We need these to obtain the exact number of attendees so we can insure that there will be enough food, seating and room for the Banquet at the NCO Club (448 seats).

From the responses and feedback we have received, there is a slight chance that we could exceed the numbers for the NCO Club. Once we lock in with a contract there is no changing places.

Our Bar-B-Q will be held at the Ozark Civic Center this year. The Civic Center will accommodate all that are attending and then some. We have out grown the Holiday Inn as the site for the Bar-B-Q, and the weather will no longer be a factor we have to worry about. The Civic Center is located just minutes away from all of the Motels.

What all this is leading up to is that we need all of those that plan on attending to please complete the registration forms and return with monies ASAP. We are in dire need of them. We need your assistance to help make this the Biggest and Best reunion thus far.

Again we will have a Raffle for some very good items. One of these is one of a kind from the RVN era, and a small piece of our History.

1). **Cavalry Stetson.** With the wearing of the Stetsons by all Cavalry Units in Today's Army, and being resurrected by our own 1/9, it is only befitting that we include one at every one of our reunions.

2). **E-Machines Computer.** With 1.3 Ghz cpu, 128 meg Sdram, 40 gig hard drive, 3D AGP, CD R/W, modem, 17 inch monitor, Windows XP software. This is being added because many of you were disturbed that those who had computers received advance notification on the motels.

3). **Tail Rotor Drive Chain.** Donated by Lou (Rocket) Rochat. The chain came from UH-1H --555 in 1966, better known as Triple Nickel, mounted in a Shadow Box on a sprocket. This will be great for an office or Den wall. It is a small piece of our History and definitely one of a kind.

Raffle tickets are \$1.00 each for either the Stetson or the Tail Rotor Drive Chain and \$2.50 each for the computer system. The raffle tickets can be ordered from me, or picked up at the reunion during registration/Bar-B-Q time. As the computer will be raffled separately, tell me which raffle you want to be entered, when ordering. You need not be present to win. However, shipping arrangements will be the responsibility of the winner. Order as many as you like, the more the merrier.

It is preparation time Troopers. Time to start packing the saddlebags and feeding oats to the horses. Remember, Troopers, roundup is in October!

I will leave the thoughts of this senior citizen with you.

Until the reunion,

As Ever
Al DeFleron
SGM BWS ASSOC.

A Senior Citizen

Senior citizens are constantly being criticized for every conceivable deficiency of the modern world, real or imaginary. We know we take responsibility for all we have done and do not blame others. BUT, upon reflection, we would like to point out that it was NOT the senior citizens who took:

The melody out of music,
The pride out of appearance,
The romance out of love,
The commitment out of marriage,
The responsibility out of parenthood,
The togetherness out of the family,
The learning out of education,
The service out of patriotism,
The religion out of school,
The Golden Rule from rulers,
The nativity scene out of cities,
The civility out of behavior,
The refinement out of language,
The dedication out of employment,
The prudence out of spending, or
The ambition out of achievement,

And we certainly are NOT the ones who eliminated patience and tolerance from personal relationships and interactions with others!!

Does anyone under the age of 50 know the lyrics to the Star Spangled Banner? Just look at those Seniors with tears in their eyes and pride in their hearts as they stand at attention with their hand over their hearts!

And, unless many of our younger generation learn to count in the absence of computers and calculators, they will be back to counting on fingers and toes.

Remember.....Inside every older person is a younger person wondering what the hell happened!

We can - We Will !

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

"The hope of freedom depends in real measure upon our strength, our heart, and our wisdom. We must be strong in arms....We must be devoted with all our hearts to the values we defend."

President and General Dwight D. Eisenhower

BWS

BULLWHIP REUNION 2002

Troopers

Time is now our worst enemy. There is much work that we here locally, still have to do. The reunion work action is coming along on schedule.

Official sign in registration will start at the Holiday Inn on Friday 11th October, starting at 13:00 hours. Those of you that come in early to help set up, be sure to see either me or Barbara, to get early registered and pick up your packets.

We will be having our Bar-B-Q at the Ozark Civic Center on Friday the 11th October, starting at 17:30 hours. A very short drive from our motels. Yes there will be 3 bars there. We will also have 2 local police officers in attendance for traffic/crowd control.

The Bar-B-Q will have chicken, pork, beef, ribs with all the trimmings that go with a hoe down meal.

The banquet will be Saturday, at the Ft. Rucker NCO club. It will be a hot buffet style, plenty of food and good times for all.

AL briefed you in his column on the raffles we are having. Recommend you call AL and get your tickets now. \$1 each for the Stetson and the sprocket chain and \$2.50 for the computer system. You will also be able to purchase tickets at the reunion.

If you want shirts/hats or other items, please order from AL now, and they will be ready for you before the reunion. We will not have a big stockage of items to sell at the reunion.

Now for all you procrastinators. The only motel that has rooms left is the All American, and these are going fast. Call now for reservations!!!

* All American Inn (formally the Best Western) \$48.60 per night. Includes deluxe Continental breakfast. Hospitality room. They also have economy rooms at \$29 for single and \$32 for double.

Ph. # 1-866-768-5970 for reservations.

Call the above number only!

All motels allow 4 per room at the standard rates, with the exception of the economy rooms. Special arrangements can be made for young children at all the motels. Ask the desk.

Those of you that have been procrastinating on the reunion registration forms, please get in asap with money. We still have to sign the contracts for food and need a good count on numbers

The last reunion, many brought their complete families to include children and some grandchildren. We expect many more to follow suit for this reunion.

We also have coordinated with **the TRAV-L-PARK for campers.** They carry the RV Park Of The Year award and are 4 stars.

They are located on US 231 approximately one mile north of the Ozark Holiday Inn at mile marker 47, on the east side of the road (that's on the right side if going north out of Ozark, or left side of the road if going south to Ozark) ((for you pilots)).

We have negotiated a 10 percent price reduction and your price is \$19+tax, per night. This includes full hookup with water, sewer, cable TV. Call 1-800-359-3218 or e-mail rv@charter.net for reservations.

Be sure to tell them that you are coming in for the Bullwhip Squadron Reunion. They also have a gathering room for our use.

If any questions, call me at 334-774-0328 or AL Defleron at 334 -692-5685.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you at this reunion. With your help, it will be the biggest and best yet.

Loel Ewart
LTC (Ret)
V. P. BWS

Keeper Of The Rock

On this recent Memorial Day, I took some time to reflect on our trooper comrades who gave their lives in Vietnam. I guess that I am just now beginning to truly appreciate the things that I have enjoyed for the past 36 years and will continue to enjoy for the rest of my life.

One of these is when the children of our comrades try to establish contact with the Bullwhip Squadron to learn more about their fathers. It is heart-rending indeed, to see the incredible love that these young people have for their fathers and to realize that it is eternal. It is also fulfilling to know that one might be able to share a memory of this young person's father with him or her.

The other experience was Anne and me learning that we would become grandparents for the first time this summer. Most of you probably are grandparents and know the joy of the experience that we are about to have.

It is always difficult to truly appreciate the gift of life and it's experiences, but we must always make the effort. Please join me, between now and our reunion in October, in each day reflecting on what our brothers-in-arms throughout our country's history, gave up so that we, and all other freedom-loving people in the world, can enjoy these experiences.

Until next news mag.

Gene Smith
Keeper of the Rock

Perspective: UH-1s and AH-1s

Sent to me by another old Army Aviator. Things that always made him wonder, and how well I remember!.

1. Why did they call it Collective Pitch? I never collected any. Usually ran out of it about the same time as altitude and airspeed.
2. Why didn't Ma Bell add more left pedal and aft cyclic? I always had lots of right pedal and forward cyclic. It seems like they could have reduced those and added to the ones we needed.
3. Why did they put the only radio (KY-28) that had to be recovered if you went down in the most inaccessible part of the aircraft?
4. Why did the pilots have armored seats but the Chief and Gunner didn't?
5. Why did situations that called for all the torque the engine could produce also require full use of the anti-torque pedal followed by that damn flashing red light? (Seems contradictory)
6. Why did they call them Hammer-Head stalls? Maybe because only a hammer head would try one in a helicopter.
7. Why did I always get an aircraft with a major 1 to 1 when I had a hangover? (for you non-rotor heads, a "1 to 1" is a vertical vibration that pounds you into the seat and quakes through your body one time for each revolution of the main rotor - usually at a rate of app. 294-324 RPM and the faster you fly, the harder it pounds. After a while it begins to hurt, even if you don't have a hangover.)
8. Why didn't Ma Bell make the skin out of duct tape so it would match the patches?
9. Why did they make a main rotor system that could cut down small Sequoia trees, and a tail rotor system that self-destructed if it encountered anything bigger than a bumblebee?
10. Why were they called landing skids? Were they intended for landing or skidding?
11. Why did the amount of time I had to spend in an LZ increase exponentially with the amount of fire I was receiving?
12. Why didn't 33 beer taste any better cold than it did hot?

13. Why did the smoke from the shit barrel always blow towards my tent/hooch?

14. Why was the PX always out of everything on my day off?

- - - - Here's another one:

15. Why does a Bell helicopter have unusual noises that can only be heard at night or while in the clouds?

From The Swamp

If you have been wondering where the SwampFox has been, I will tell you. I entered the swamp (retired from GM) last April and after becoming mis-oriented a few times in the swamp (retired from the military last August), I came out of the swamp in Germany. This was mainly because Oscar-Whiskey Six (my wife) decided that I was tooooooo young to retire. Thus, I now work for a civilian contractor doing simulations for the army at beautiful downtown (Albertshof) Hohenfels.

Things in Germany usually never change, especially Hohenfels, but some changes have occurred. For those of you who served in Germany, Graf now has paved tank trails. No more dirty tanks. However, Hohenfels has not done anything with the site other than importing more dirt and dust to impress the troops.

Another thing that has changed is the number of and locations of units in Europe. I am attaching the latest unclassified map of where everybody is. You will note a distinct draw down of units within the theater. I have heard rumors that it will go further.

Now for the exciting news. While in the swamp, I finally tracked down the first Troop Commander of F Troop in Viet Nam in 1972. then MAJ Coleman McDevitt was F Troops Commander when we changed from H Troop 16th Cav to F Troop 9th Cav. He then turned over command to George Hewlett, who brought the Troop home. I have been trying to locate this individual for the last 7 years and I stumbled over him in the deepest part of the Swamp. He is currently an Operations Manager for Brown and Root in the Balkans.

For those of you who want to re-establish contact with this lost soul, his address is:

Coley McDevitt
Operations Manager, Brown and Root
Services
Kaposvar, Hungary
(281) 996-2147
(281) 996-2372 (Bosnia)
Cell (36) 06-209-392-863
DSN 760 4608
halliburton.com

One last thing before I get back to searching the swamp for other lost souls. Here is a web site you might be interested in:

<http://www.aircav.org/gallery.htm>

If you enter the web site, you will find a number of drawings for helicopters. If you scroll down to the one entitled "Air Cavalry" you may find something that is vaguely familiar.

I apologize for getting myself so mis-oriented in the swamp that I was unable to do the column (this is why I became an aviator), but I am back, and I plan to keep looking for lost souls in the swamp and bring them back into the bright lights of the 9th Cavalry.

We Can, We Will!

A.J. Welch
SwampFox

"They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."

Benjamin Franklin

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
Phone: (973) 535-3926

Some of the proceeds will go to the Bullwhip Squadron Association fund to help run the BWS newsmagazine. 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

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

" That in support of this Democracy, we owe not only of our property but of ourselves." A call to duty!

George Washington

Legally Speaking

The information below was provided by a Navy JAG officer following two incidents of identity theft at his unit. I think this is worth everyone's time to consider, and again think about. We are all at risk for this sort of thing, and while the highest probability is that actions of this type will be perpetrated by criminals, terrorists

also use these techniques to gather target information on possible victims. Maintain control of your life. Don't be a victim.

BWS

"INTRODUCTION TO IDENTITY THEFT"

In the course of a busy day, you may write a check at the grocery store, charge tickets to a ball game, rent a car, mail your tax returns, call home on your cell phone, order new checks or apply for a credit card. Chances are you don't give these everyday transactions a second thought. But someone else may.

The 1990's spawned a new variety of crooks called identity thieves. Their stock in trade are your everyday transactions. Each transaction requires you to share personal information: your bank and credit card account numbers; your income; your Social Security number (SSN); and your name, address and phone numbers. An identity thief co-opts some piece of your personal information and appropriates it without your knowledge to commit fraud or theft. An all-too-common example is when an identity thief uses your personal information to open a credit card account in your name.

Can you completely prevent identity theft from occurring? Probably not, especially if someone is determined to commit the crime. But you can minimize your risk by managing your personal information wisely, cautiously and with heightened sensitivity.

The Congress of the United States asked the Federal Trade Commission to provide information to consumers about identity theft and to take complaints from those whose identities have been stolen. If you've been a victim of identity theft, you can call the FTC's Identity Theft Hotline toll-free at 1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338). The FTC puts your information into a secure consumer fraud database and may, in appropriate instances, share it with other law enforcement agencies and private entities, including any companies about which you may complain.

In addition, the FTC has developed the ID Theft Affidavit - a form you can use to alert companies where a new account was opened in your name. A copy of the ID Theft Affidavit is in this booklet. The company can then investigate

the fraud and decide the outcome of your claim. You can find a list of some of the companies and organizations that accept or endorse the ID Theft Affidavit at; <http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft>

The FTC, working in conjunction with other government agencies, has produced this booklet to help you guard against and recover from identity theft.

Very respectfully,

John W. Carrasco
LN1(AW), USN
Legal Officer
1st Dental Battalion/Naval Dental Center
Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, CA
760) 725-5419/DSN: 365-5419

New Mail Scam Aims To Steal Your Identity And Money

Phony IRS forms demand personal, financial data. The tax forms and letter sent recently to some Washington residents look real.

But the Internal Revenue Service warned yesterday that a multistate scam involving phony IRS forms could end up costing victims their identity -- and their money. Possibly a dozen or so Washington residents have reported receiving a letter and fake IRS form, ostensibly from their banks, IRS spokeswoman Judy Monahan said. Wary consumers might look at the highly personal information being requested and realize that something was amiss, she said.

But the IRS is especially worried about recent immigrants, those who speak English as a second language, the elderly and others who might be fooled by the realistic-looking forms, which refer to citizenship and nationality.

The letter says recipients must fill out and fax in the form within seven days, or the government will withhold 31 percent of the interest on their bank accounts. The form asks for account numbers, PIN codes, passwords, date of birth, mother's maiden name and other highly personal information.

"When you look at this phony form, you will see instantly where you could become that person -- withdraw from their account, get tax returns and apply for credit cards and just charge up a

tree," Monahan said. "The form is all-intrusive. It asks for just everything -- your whole identity." Both the letter and the phony tax form are official-looking, although the grammar and syntax of the letter are flawed.

The IRS said these three phony forms are being sent out:

1. "W-9095, Application Form for Certificate Status/Ownership for Withholding Tax." The IRS has no form W-9095, but the fictitious one appears to be an attempt to mimic the genuine IRS Form W-9 "Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification," the IRS said.
2. Form W-8BEN "Certificate of Foreign Status of Beneficial Owner for United States Tax Withholding." The IRS does have a legitimate form of that same number and name. But the fake one, which targets residents of foreign countries who bank in the United States, has been altered to ask for the highly personal information.
3. "W-8888." This fictitious form also asks for the private information.

The IRS has received reports of the scam across the country, including from California, Texas, Maine, New York, Georgia and North Carolina. "Dozens of U.S. and foreign victims have been identified so far," the IRS said, though Monahan said she had no further details about the victims.

The agency investigating the fraudulent scheme, the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, refused yesterday to release any further information about the number, location or identity of the victims or whether any had actually lost money.

"When we look into a matter, we can't release initial public information," said Agapi Doulaveris, a spokesman for the inspector general in Washington, D.C.

PHONY FORMS, FORMS ONLINE

1. Several phony IRS forms have been sent to residents in a multistate scam. One of the forms can be viewed on the Web at www.occ.treas.gov/ftp/alert/2002-3b.pdf
2. The letter that accompanies the bogus form can be viewed at: www.occ.treas.gov/ftp/alert/2002-3a.pdf

WHAT TO DO

The IRS had the following advice for consumers who receive the mailings:

1. Do not fill out or fax in the form.
2. Immediately report the mailings to the inspector general's toll-free fraud hot line at: 800-366-4484. Or submit your complaint by mail to: TIGTA Hot Line, P.O. Box 589, Ben Franklin Station, Washington, D.C. 20044-0589.
3. Those who have already filled out and faxed in the form should immediately contact the fraud or security departments of their creditors, banks and other financial institutions. They should also contact their local police department and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, which deals with mail fraud. The latter can be reached at: 206-442-6300.
4. Also, victims of the scam should report identity and financial theft to the fraud units of the three major credit-reporting bureaus: Equifax (800-525-6285), Experian (888-397-3742) and Trans Union (800-680-7289).

Jane Hadley
SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER
CONSUMER AFFAIRS REPORTER

Important! Online Fraud Alert

As tax season ends, a new fraud is spreading over the Internet. Taxpayers are receiving an e-mail that appears to be an audit notice from the IRS. The notice asks the recipient to submit social security numbers and income information. Do not be misled. The IRS does not conduct audits via e-mail. In fact, it's never a good idea to send your personal information in response to an e-mail request. You should only send personal information over the Internet when it's going to a known source and when you initiate the contact. If you have any questions about this tax audit fraud, you may want to refer to the State of Michigan web site. To stay abreast of other tax frauds, you can refer to the IRS site.

-
-
- * **In WW I our troops were called Doughboys...**
 - * **In WW II - GIs,**
 - * **In Desert Storm they were called Soldiers.**

*** I guess in this new conflict they will be called... TALI WHACKERS!**

Military News Report

1. Alert - Possible Scam on Retirement Issues

The Army Benefit Center - Civilian was just alerted to the fact that there are phone calls being made to government employees from some company (possibly out of Arkansas) telling employees that they have been contracted with (this one said contracted by the Corps of Engineers) to provide retirement counseling and estimate services. They ask about your grade, salary, length of service, etc. and say they can provide you with an estimate of your retirement earnings. Please be aware that the only offices that currently could contact you regarding this would be the Army Benefits Center and it would not normally be unless you had specifically requested information from them. However, keep in mind that the ABC counselors do work from 6:00 a.m. Central Time to 8:00 p.m. Central Time so there may be calls after what you might think are "normal working hours". Even the Office of Personnel Management would not normally place calls to you unless you had already retired. So please be cautious when responding to anybody calling asking for personal information unless they can clearly identify themselves.

Kathy Cole
Chief, Army Benefits Center-Civilian
Southwest Civilian Personnel Operations Center

2. Status of the Concurrent Receipt.

As you know Rep. DaveWeldon signed a letter to House Budget Committee Chairman Jim Nussle urging that the Budget Committee include in their Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for FY 2003, provision to allow for concurrent receipt of military retiree benefits and VA disability benefits.

The House Budget Committee on March 13, voted out a budget resolution that allows for concurrent receipt to be phased in. The language below is taken from a summary of the provisions

of the budget resolution provided by the House Budget Committee:

*Concurrent Receipt -The resolution assumes sufficient funding to accommodate an increase in the amount of military retirement benefits a veteran can collect without the current-law offset required when the veteran also is collecting disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs [VA].Phased in over 5 years, the mark provides for an increase in military retirement payments currently subject to offset, for those with VA disability ratings of 60 percent or greater, equal to what would be received under full concurrent receipt.

The Budget Resolution will be debated in the House the week of March 18. Generally, budget resolutions are not amended but complete substitute resolutions can be offered. During the House Committee consideration of the budget resolution, the House Democrats did not offer a budget alternative (substitute). All House Democrats on the Committee voted against the budget resolution, and it is uncertain at this time whether or not they will even offer an alternative when the budget gets to the House floor for a vote. Democrats on the Committee complained that it spent too much on defense and too much overall, but not enough in other areas. Then they failed to even offer an alternative that fit in with their priorities.

Most Republicans will vote for the budget resolution approved by the House Budget Committee. Given that, it is likely that the House will approve a budget resolution which includes provisions allowing for the phase-in of concurrent receipt.

Frank l Alverson
fla17.31@juno.com

3. Senate Approves Concurrent Receipt Amendment.

The Senate has adopted an amendment to the FY 2003 Defense Authorization Bill which would fully eliminate the VA disability compensation offset to military retired pay for all disabled retirees with 20 or more years of service, effective October 1, 2002.

Administration Issues Veto Threat. A letter released by the Office of Management and Budget on June 19 said the President's advisors would recommend that he veto the FY2003 Defense Authorization Bill if it includes a plan

for partially or fully eliminating the disability offset to military retired pay.

TROA's legislative update, 06_21_02

4. **Junk Yard Dog Update**

Regular readers will remember our Junk Yard Dog (JYD) in Chicago. Norm Seiff, a vet with Hepatitis "C" took his concerns and demands on the road to Washington, DC last summer. He actually got in to see a number of important politicians – not just staff – but the honcho him/herself. He's at it again.

We got an email recently telling us that a coalition had been formed in early 2001 to fight for vets with Hep "C" and a newsletter was attached. We don't normally open unsolicited email, but this one was virus free, so open it we did.

The Hep C Vet are going to meet with more influential folks in DC this coming April 15-18, and then they plan to march on DC June 23. We don't know much about who these folks are, but they have a web page and a newsletter, and we do know, and trust the JYD.

We also know that Hepatitis "C" is a slow painful killer. It seems the data shows a real link between the disease and the airgun shots we all got in boot camp. If you're interested you might want to look them up at; Hcvets.com or hcvets.com/news_letter/cover.htm

5. **Military benefits are good, but could be better, Defense official says**

Rudi Williams, American Forces Press Service

Military benefits programs are good, but important areas need improvement, such as compensation, spousal employment and children's education, the Defense Department's top personnel official said recently.

In April, the General Accounting Office, Congress' investigative arm, issued preliminary findings on an ongoing study of military benefits. GAO concluded that the military benefits package is close to what most private companies have for benefits packages for their employees. The full report is expected this summer.

Meanwhile, David S.C. Chu, undersecretary of Defense for personnel and readiness, said, "Compensation between military and civilian pay isn't as good as we'd like to see it in the mid-career years. That's why we've consistently, both last year and this year, asked for increases for

those years of service beyond the across-the-board pay increases."

6. **Commissary & ABP**

Behind the scenes, Defense Secretary Rumsfeld has apparently instructed his staff that he wants to reduce the cost of the Commissary benefit by reducing the \$138 million that the government currently pays in employee salaries. Some installations have received budget cuts and some have personnel cuts, to the point where some store managers are having to met incoming shipments, move them to storage, stock shelves, and even work at the checkout counters, due to shortages of personnel. If this notice, from a D.C. association, is correct, and it is a credible association, the intent is to diminish services so that sales fall off and Congress can be induced to allow the entire system to be turned over to the National or American Grocery Association, who will quickly wipe out any cost of living or other pay increases with profit oriented higher prices at the Commissaries. Since this has been done so subtly, we need a grass roots communication campaign to the DoD, Congress, and even the President.

I wondered why the Secretary would want Congress to allow him to do base closures when we were gearing up for a terrorist hunt that may go on till most of us have passed away. That speaks of malicious intent, to ask America's youth to go risk their lives again and at the same time, be working on taking away additional benefits. Remember that we lost congressional financial support for Morale, Welfare, and Recreation about a decade ago, and it has been up to the troops to finance their own recreation through ticket sales, the PX/BX profits, and the like sources. What is so puzzling about this new effort, is that Rep Bob Riley's campaign for Governor of Alabama states that he voted against an automatic annual pay raise for Congress, that we never heard a word about, and yet they are trying to find ways to cut government spending on benefits for the people who fight the wars. What would the members be doing today, if we had lost World War II?

Don't forget to go after the SBP increase, as we loose 1000 veterans every day and the government is getting a 20 percent savings on care for the survivors of each, though they are fully paying the 50/55 percent to DoD civilians

who retired. That is discrimination, fraud, fraud in the inducement, bad faith, and a host of other serious legal charges. They have gotten away with it for so many years they just don't seem to give a hoot. Remember, when Congressmen/women leave office, they have the full benefits, and most of them never wore the uniform. If you don't help yourself, no one will do it for you, and it is your money that is being taken or denied. Reenlist, join a military association, so you have a voice, but if not, at least communicate your thoughts to those who volunteered to serve your interests. It is up to you.



Charles D. James
acftcmdr@snowhill.com

7. Future Federal Benefit Costs Exceed National Debt

Jason Peckenpaugh

The cost of benefits owed to federal retirees and veterans of military service is now more than \$40 billion larger than the national debt, the Treasury Department and the Office of Management and Budget announced Friday.

In fiscal 2001, the federal government owed \$3.36 trillion in pensions and other post-retirement benefit costs, compared to the \$3.32 trillion national debt, making federal retiree benefits the government's largest future financial liability. In fiscal 1995, by contrast, the national debt was roughly \$2 trillion greater than the cost of such benefits.

Efforts to pay down the debt and the rising costs of post-retirement benefits have brought the two figures closer in recent years, according to the fiscal 2001 "Financial Report of the U.S. Government," released Friday by the Treasury Department and OMB. Post-retirement benefit costs also went up because of the fiscal 2001 Defense Authorization Act, which expanded health benefits for military retirees.

An OMB official said the surging cost of federal benefits reinforces the need for the Bush administration's competitive sourcing initiative, which requires agencies to put a certain percentage of their jobs up for competition with the private sector.

"The experience that has been demonstrated is that you can drive down costs when you have competition," the official said.

8. Federal Long Term Health Insurance Plan

The Office of Personnel Management has established initial premiums for the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program. The rates are effective during the early enrollment program, which began March 25 and continues through May 15. Pre-packaged policies can be purchased for three- or five-year periods, with daily benefits of \$100 or \$150. Daily benefits can also be purchased in \$25 increments, from \$50 to \$300. For persons between the ages of 18 and 30, premiums are \$8.40 per month or \$32.00 per month, depending on the type of inflation protection they choose. The policy offers a three-year, daily benefit of \$100 and a 90-day waiting period before benefits begin. After age 30, premiums will vary based on age at purchase, amount and length of coverage, and other factors. Additional plan options, including an unlimited benefit, will be available starting July 1, 2002.

The following are eligible for the program: federal employees and service members, federal annuitants; current spouses and surviving spouses of deceased federal employees or annuitants who receive a federal survivor annuity; individuals receiving compensation from the Department of Labor who are separated from the federal service; uniformed service members entitled to retired or retainer pay; retired military reservists at the time they qualify for an annuity (also known as gray area reservists); and adult children (at least 18 years old, including adopted children and stepchildren) of living employees and annuitants. To request an early enrollment kit, call 1-800-582-3337.

NOTE: The Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program is an important new benefit for over 20 million members of the Federal Family, including Federal and Postal employees and annuitants, members and retired members of the uniformed services and qualified relatives. The Government contracted with John Hancock and MetLife, who formed a joint venture called Long Term Care Partners, to provide this insurance.

Premiums and frequently asked questions are available on the OPM web site at <http://www.opm.gov/insure/ltc/faq/index.htm>. The Long Term Care Partners web site at

<http://www.ltcfeds.com/> contains an overview of benefits available, an outline of coverage, and other information.

Long Term Care is not covered by Tricare For Life. The brochure that came out from TFL could be misunderstood as saying the you have coverage after Medicare runs out. What they are talking about is extended hospital care where you are receiving treatment.

9. **Survivor Benefit Plan Cost Update**

A qualified survivor of a military retiree who paid into the Survivor Benefit Plan may receive up to 55 percent of a designated amount of the retiree's retired pay. When Congress created the program in 1972, it expected that retirees would pay 60 percent of the premiums and the government would pay the rest. However, due to longer retiree lifespans, the actuarial tables are flawed, and retirees are now paying almost 80 percent of the costs. To solve this problem, Congress has legislated that premiums will stop after age 70 or upon completion of 30 years of payments, whichever occurs later. However, the effective date for this change is Oct. 1, 2008, which will force some retirees to pay for more than 30 years. Members of The Military Coalition want Congress to move the effective date to 2003. (Military Report)

10. **Guard Opening 2nd 'Fast-Track' Officer School**

Fort Indiantown Gap in southeastern Pennsylvania, near Harrisburg, will become home to the second "fast-track" **eight-week** officer candidate school run by the Army National Guard. (Military.com)

11. **GovBenefits Debut Marks Bush Administration's First e-gov Success**

Labor Department officials on Monday debuted a new Web site designed to help Americans determine their eligibility for 55 government benefits programs.

The site, GovBenefits.gov is the first of the Office of Management and Budget's 24 electronic government projects to go live and marks the initial success of the administration's e-government agenda as championed by Mark Forman, OMB's associate director for information technology and electronic government.

"This site helps citizens break down the artificial barriers in our government," Cameron

Findlay, Labor's deputy secretary said when he unveiled the site. "Today it is way too complicated for a citizen to find the information they need in the federal government. It's unfair to ask a citizen to dissect the government."

GovBenefits classifies users under 15 categories of government beneficiaries, such as parents, veterans, disaster victims and the unemployed. Once a citizen selects a category, the site asks a series of easily understandable "yes/no" questions such as, "Are you unemployed?" and "Were you dependent on the income of another family member but are no longer supported by that income?" After tabulating the responses to the questions, the site creates a list of programs for which the citizen may be eligible.

Ed Hugler, Labor's deputy assistant secretary for administration and management, said the site has an 80 percent success rate when it suggests which government benefits users may be eligible for. The site also provides contact information and Web links to the benefit programs.

The site aggregates the sources of a total of \$1 trillion in government benefits. Currently the site pulls information on 55 government benefits programs. Administrators will add 30 to 40 new programs a month for a total of 300 programs.

Joshua Dean

jdean@govexec.com

12. **VA Would Handle Veterans Employment**

The White House has asked Congress to authorize a new, comprehensive employment program for veterans that would consolidate federal job-search efforts for former service members within the Department of Veterans Affairs. "Employment is the only major program in the continuum of service for which VA does not have responsibility," said VA Secretary Anthony J. Principi. "Just as education, home loans, insurance and health care for veterans are entrusted to VA, so should employment." If approved by Congress, the new program, called the Veterans Employment, Business Opportunity and Training (VEBOT) program, would begin in 2003. Highlights: a system for state governors or public or private organizations to receive grants to provide employment programs for veterans; transfer to the VA of the current functions of the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training; and a shift of the

transition assistance program and the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Project from the Labor Department to the VA. (Military Report)

13. Army Recruits Now Enlisting Into Special Forces

A new Army program that lets recruits enlist directly into rigorous Special Forces training is currently underway, and receiving favorable responses from civilians interested in earning the coveted Green Beret.(Military Report)

Shortly we will be going to the polls to vote our conscience. We will be looking to the leaders who control the purse strings to support funding for the requirements of this great nation in next year's Budget Resolution. We'll need the support of all grassroots activists to remind their elected legislators that they vote, and that there needs to be a much better linkage between what Congress says and what Congress does.

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.

The Retired Officers Association (TROA), all rights reserved. Part or all of this message may be retransmitted for information purposes, but may not be used for any commercial purpose or in any commercial product, posted on a Web site.

BWS

Quote, Timely for Today!

Traditionally, the Army wins the big wars but is too big and heavy to be efficient in the small ones. Terrorists resort to terrorism because they cannot win the big ones on the field of battle - but the big battles and wars are

more destructive than the terrorists are.

Moral of this story: being expeditionary is an excellent goal but it is not enough in and of itself ; don't lose the capability to win the "big ones" in the pursuit of efficiency in the small ones because you have to keep your opponents marginalized .

UNK

Editors Note:

Live your life with honesty, integrity and honor, and you will find true friends. They will stand beside you when you need help or support. You find more true friends in the troopers of the 1st/9th than in any other segment of society. Always remember, We Can, We Will !

Health

Public Service

Statistics from the US Dept of Veterans Affairs are staggering. There are now more than 26 million living veterans, and nearly 2.225 million suffer from a service-connected disability, and nearly 40% are 65 years old or older. The number one problem facing potential claimants is knowing where to start in obtaining the benefits that they are entitled to.

Thankfully, there are more than 100 state run and state funded veterans homes across the United States and Territories.

Most of these homes have admissions requirements that are easily met. Generally, if you are an honorably discharged veteran who served during a period of armed conflict you qualify. Admissions requirements do vary from state to state.

If you have a need, or know of someone who has a need, but are not sure if your state has a home, or if you meet the requirements, call our toll free number below. We will give you the name, address and phone number of the facility in your state and you can then call or write to find out the specific admissions requirements. TOLL FREE 1-888-353-3950

Long Term Care Insurance for Retirees, Family

OPM has launched the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP), under which about 20 million federal employees and members of the uniformed services, as well as retirees of both groups and certain family members, can apply for coverage.

Retiree family members eligible include spouses, adult children and parents of living retirees and surviving spouses receiving a survivor annuity which includes the Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan (RSFPP), the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) or Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). Surviving spouses not receiving a survivor's annuity are not eligible. Former spouses are not eligible to apply even if they are receiving a survivor's annuity.

There is no upper age limit on who can apply; however, you do have to pass the underwriting, that is, the questions about your health. Qualified family members apply for their own coverage, even if the retiree chooses not to apply.

"Gray area" Reserve retirees, those not yet age 60 and not yet receiving retired pay, are not eligible to apply for FLTCIP while in the gray area. Once they reach age 60, these retired Reservists may apply for coverage.

Long term care is the kind of care you would need to help perform daily activities if you had an ongoing illness or disability. It also includes the kind of care you would need if you had a severe cognitive problem like Alzheimer's disease. This type care isn't received in a hospital – it can be received in your own home, at a nursing home or other long term care facility. Long term care insurance helps pay for this care. Your eligibility to begin receiving benefits is certified by a licensed health care practitioner who develops a care plan. Long Term Care Partners would need to agree with the certification and approve the plan for you to be eligible.

Those considering enrollment will have a variety of options. Pre-packaged policies can be purchased for three or five year periods, with daily benefits of \$100 or \$150. For individuals wishing greater flexibility, daily benefits ranging from \$50 to \$300 (in \$25 increments) can be purchased. Other plan options, including an unlimited benefit, will be available during the open enrollment. Premiums will vary based on

age, amount of coverage, length of coverage, and other factors. The FLTCIP also offers two options to protect benefits against inflation.

A nationwide education campaign is being conducted by Long Term Care Partners – a joint venture of MetLife and John Hancock, the program's insurers – and will be devoted exclusively to this insurance program.

For more information, visit the OPM homepage <http://www.opm.gov> or the FLTCIP homepage <http://www.ltefeds.com>, or email info@ltefeds.com, or call 1-800-LTC-FEDS (1-800-843-3557).

Open Season

The open season is the time you can apply for enrollment in this new long term care program. The open season will run from July 1 through Dec. 31, 2002. There will be staggered 60-day enrollment periods within the open season.

Further information is available in the long term insurance section of the OPM homepage <http://www.opm.gov/insure/ltc> in the Open Season "Frequently Asked Questions" section. OPM will expand this section as plans are refined.

Retiree Dental Plan Update

The TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) for uniformed services retirees is in its fourth year. The TRDP, administered by Delta Dental Plan of California in partnership with DoD, offers dental benefits to retirees and their family members throughout the U.S., Canada, Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

In October 2000, the TRDP became enhanced TRDP, adding coverage for cast crowns, bridges, full and partial dentures, orthodontia and dental accidents to its basic package of preventive and restorative services.

Also under the enhanced TRDP, there is a grace period of 30 days from the primary enrollee's coverage effective date during which you may disenroll without any further enrollment obligation, provided no services have been used by the primary enrollee or any enrolled family member during that time period. If you do not exercise your option to disenroll within the 30-day grace period, you must remain enrolled in the program for the duration of the initial 24-month

period without further opportunity for voluntary disenrollment during this time.

More than 600,000 people are enrolled in the program, which allows subscribers to obtain covered services from any licensed dentist within the service area and to limit their out-of-pocket costs by using any of about 25,000 DeltaSelect USA Network dentists. Monthly premiums range from \$20 to \$34 for one person, from \$32 to \$64 for two persons and from \$62 to \$105 for a family. You can use the homepage, email or phone number below to determine the premium for your ZIP code.

For more information, visit the TRDP web site at <http://www.ddpdelta.org>, or call toll-free 1-888-838-8737 for enrollment, or 1-888-336-3260 for customer service, or write to: Delta Dental Plan of California: Federal Services: P.O. Box 537008: Sacramento, CA 95853-7008 or E-mail: Enrollment- ddpenroll@delta.org: Customer service - ddpservice@delta.org: Billing- ddpbilling@delta.org.

Vet Consortium Pro Bono Program:

The Veterans Consortium is an organization established to provide free attorneys for unrepresented veterans who have an appeal pending before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims and who are not otherwise able to obtain counsel to assist them. This is a cooperative effort by four veterans' service organizations - the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans, the National Veterans Legal Services Program and the Paralyzed Veterans of America. The Consortium recruits and trains volunteer attorneys to help needy appellants with their appeals at the Court. If a veteran has filed an appeal with the Court and has not been able to obtain his or her own attorney within 30 days, he or she can then request assistance from the Pro Bono Program.

Contact Veteran Issues vetsprobono@rcn.com directly or check out www.vetsprobono.com if you need assistance at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. You can also write Ronald B. Abrams, Esq., Director, Outreach & Education Components, 601 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Suite 1010, Washington D.C. 20004-2935 Tel: [202] 628-8164/8169 Fax or [888] 838-7727. [Source: ColonelDan@worldnet.att.net

TRICARE SENIOR PHARMACY PROGRAM CELEBRATES FIRST ANNIVERSARY

April 1, 2002, marked the first anniversary of the Department of Defense TRICARE Senior Pharmacy Program. The senior pharmacy benefit became available last year to 1.5 million beneficiaries age 65 and older through the Fiscal Year 2001 National Defense Authorization Act, and has become one of TRICARE's greatest success stories. The program entitles Medicare-eligible retirees of the uniformed services, their family members and survivors to the same pharmacy benefits as uniformed services beneficiaries under age 65. Many of these beneficiaries had no pharmacy coverage previously, and the cost of their medications absorbed a significant portion of their household budgets. During its first year, 10.5 million TRICARE Senior Pharmacy Program prescriptions have been filled through the National Mail Order Pharmacy and at local retail pharmacies.

For additional information about the TRICARE Senior Pharmacy Program, visit the [TRICARE Website](#) or call the toll-free telephone number, 1-877-DoD-MEDS (1-877-363-6337) between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday.

Implementation Of TRICARE Remote Rescheduled

A "waived charges" benefit for active duty Prime Remote family members will remain in effect until the September 2002 implementation of the new TRICARE Prime Remote For Active Duty Family Members program. The new benefit affects approximately 140,000 active duty sponsors and family members residing in TRICARE Prime Remote (TPR) locations. Authorized by the Fiscal Year 2001 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), the program's original implementation date of April 1, 2002, has been rescheduled. Active duty sponsors and family members who are eligible for, and have used this benefit, may receive reimbursement for care received since Oct. 30, 2000. For information about reimbursements, beneficiaries may contact their regional claims processor or TRICARE Information Center representative at 1-888-DOD-CARE (1-888-363-2273).

Active duty sponsors are encouraged to verify information in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) for themselves and their family members by contacting the nearest military identification (ID) card issuing facility. The nearest facility can be located [on the Internet](#), or by contacting a representative of the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office toll-free at 1-800-538-9552. They also may update their addresses in DEERS at the nearest ID card issuing facility or on the [TRICARE Website](#). For more on TRICARE Prime Remote, visit the [TRICARE Prime Remote page](#).

Experts Say Cuts Overwhelming VA

WASHINGTON (AP) - Thousands of veterans are being turned away from Veterans Affairs hospitals and clinics because of shortages in money and staff, a congressional panel was told Tuesday.

"People are literally waiting until someone else dies before they can be taken care of," said Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Conn., chairman of the House Government subcommittee on national security, veterans affairs and international relations.

In Connecticut, beds in the VA's acute care psychiatric unit were slashed from over 200 to 30, forcing patients to wait for days for emergency treatment, said Edmund J. Burke, coordinator of veterans' services for the state's Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. A VA day program for the mentally ill has a 51 percent staff shortage, Burke said.

In Florida, more than 42,000 veterans are on waiting lists to see a primary care doctor, said Republican Rep. Dave Weldon.

One 80-year-old disabled veteran, who flew 69 missions over Europe as a World War II tail gunner, was rejected by an outpatient clinic that isn't taking any new patients, Weldon said.

Throughout New England - where there's an estimated \$40 million budget gap this year - over 8,000 veterans are on waiting lists for care, and 85 percent of facilities are running at full capacity, said Jeanette Chirico-Post, the VA's regional director.

Even in sparsely populated Idaho, about 3,000 veterans are waiting for some type of health care, said Republican Rep. Butch Otter.

Just because a veteran is on a waiting list doesn't mean he or she will go without health

care. Some may have private insurance or other types of government coverage such as Medicare or Medicaid, and may seek care at non-VA hospitals, clinics and doctors' offices.

That's not good enough for veterans whose country promised to care for them, advocates say. "What do I say to this veteran who is coughing up blood, has irregularities in his recent EKG, needs treatment for depression and substance abuse and the VA has no bed for him?" asked Burke.

The crunch stems in part from a law passed by Congress in 1996 that opened VA medical facilities to nearly all veterans - not just the very poor and those with service-related disabilities. Since then, the number of veterans enrolled in VA health care has doubled, to 6 million.

Associated Press

Troopers

Say what you want. These cuts are real. They are being passed down to us. We are getting a lot of lip service from both congressman and the DoD area. It is going to get much worse. The dollars aren't there and aren't being put there. It's time that all veterans started talking with their congressman. **This can be changed, but will take a lot of work.** BWS

BIO-TERRORISM DEFENSE WOULD BE STRENGTHENED BY EXPANDED VA ROLE

"Our war on terror demands that we use every weapon in our arsenal, and that includes the full strength of the VA health care infrastructure," said Rep. Jerry Moran (KS-1), Chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Health Subcommittee during a recent legislative hearing to consider expanding the role of the VA in preventing and responding to biological, chemical and radiological terrorism threats to the United States. The hearing focused on two major new bills introduced late last year:

H.R. 3253, the National Medical Emergency Preparedness Act of 2001 (Rep. Chris Smith, NJ-1), legislation to create new research centers within the VA to develop vaccines and treatments to counter biological and chemical threats; and H.R. 3254, the Medical Education for National Defense in the 21st Century Act (Rep. Steve Buyer, IN-5), legislation to develop training programs for health care professionals to detect and respond to chemical and biological terrorism.

In the Administration's recent budget

submission almost \$6 billion was requested to prevent bio-terrorism, including \$2.4 billion for additional research, but nothing was directly earmarked for the VA. Currently, the VA has defined roles in both the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) and the Federal Response Plan (FRP) in the event of national emergencies, including evaluating disaster and terrorist attack simulation exercises; managing the nation's stockpile of pharmaceuticals for biological and chemical toxins; maintaining a rapid response team for radiological releases; and training public and private NDMS medical center personnel around the country in properly responding to biological, chemical, or radiological disasters.

NOTE: Does this mean that veterans programs will now be last priority??

BWS

Sick Call

Our troopers need our thoughts and concerns through their illness.

Bill Rice
Jack Kilcrease

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

BWS

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

Veterans Sound Off

Articles from our members and those who support us. You will note several articles on the Arab/Israeli problems. If you disagree, sound off.

BWS

**Brief History Of The American Noncom:
1778**

Time has not altered the truth of what Baron von Steuben wrote at Valley Forge in his Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the Troops of the United States:

“The choice of non-commissioned offices is an object of greatest importance: The order and discipline of a regiment depends so much upon their behaviour, that too much care can not be taken in preferring none to that trust but those who by their merit and good conduct are entitled to it. Honesty, sobriety, and a remarkable attention to every point of duty with a neatness in their dress, are indispensable requisities; a spirit to command respect and obedience from the men, an expertness in performing every part of the exercise, and an ability to teach it, are also absolutely necessary; nor can a sergeant or corporal be said to be qualified who does not write and read in a tolerable manner.”

The year was 1778, yet, although we phrase things differently today, there is little we can add to the doughty Baron’s Instructions for the “Sergeants” and Corporals:

“It being on the non-commissioned officers that the discipline and order of a company in a great measure depend, they cannot be too circumspect in their behavior towards the men, by treating them with mildness, and at the same time obliging every one to do his duty. By avoiding too great familiarity with the men, they will not only gain their love and confidence, but be treated with a proper respect; where as by a contrary conduct they forfeit all regard, and their authority becomes despised.”

“Each Sergeant and corporal will be in a particular manner answerable for the squad committed to his care. He must pay particular attention to their conduct in every respect; that they keep themselves and their arms always clean; that they have their effects always ready, and put where they can get them immediately, and even in the dark, without confusion; and on every fine day he must oblige them to air their effects.”

“When a man of his squad is warned of duty, he must examine him before he carries him to the parade, obliging him to take all his effects with

him, unless when specially ordered to the contrary.”

“In teaching the recruits, they must exercise all their patience, by no means abusing them, but treating them with mildness, and not expect too much precision in the first lessons, punishing those only who are willfully negligent.”

“They must suppress all quarrels and disputes in the company; and where other means fail, must use their authority in confining the offender.”

Thus the noncom’s traditional role of service to the Nation is older than the Nation it’s self.

Baron von Steuben, Valley Forge
Regulations for the Order and Discipline of the
Troops of the United States 1778

The Last Guidon

Being the last, First Squadron, Ninth Cavalry, troop commander in Vietnam had no special significance by itself. However, that I had the last 1/9th guidon that flew in Vietnam was. It wasn’t planned that way, it just happened. Through a unique series of events, I learned that returning the guidon back to the Bullwhip Squadron, would bring our involvement in Vietnam full circle.

In March of 1971, then Major, Claude Lott handed over the reins of B Troop. As was the custom, he removed his guidon from the staff and took it home. I had my own guidon made up and hung it on the staff when I assumed command. While my memory isn’t so great with specific dates anymore, I recall it was just a short time later that the division stood down, except for one brigade. It remained in country as a separate brigade. B Troop remained as the brigade’s organic air cav troop. A short time later the troop was provisionally re-designated as H Troop, 16th Cavalry. No one wanted to turn loose of the Real Cav, so we delayed as long as we could before changing the guidon. Eventually we were attached to the 229th Aviation Battalion and that forced the issue.

Both guidons eventually ended up, as most memorabilia, in a cardboard box in the corner of a closet. Except for an occasional trip back in time, the box wasn’t opened unless the closet was

due for a cleaning and the then box was only moved from one corner to another.

Before I received the news that the remains of CPT Jon Swanson and SSG Larry Harrison had been returned home and that Jon would receive his long overdue Medal of Honor, Doug Ricks sent me an e-mail asking if I knew how to get in touch with any members of the Swanson family. I’d packed up and sent Jon’s personal effects home after he was killed and remembered that the family was from around Boulder, Colorado. Hoping to find an address, I dug into the cardboard box. I didn’t get the address, but I came across the guidon. That reawakened old feelings and caused me to get in touch with Al Defleron. I told him about the guidon and he acted like I had just come across the Holy Grail.

As a result, the last “1st of the 9th guidon” that flew in Vietnam, is back where it belongs and will be put on display in the museum at Fort Rucker. I’m told that the presentation will take place during our reunion in October. My one request of our Bullwhip Squadron was that the presentation would be made in memory of CPT Jon Swanson and SSG Larry Harrison, our fallen comrades. That request was enthusiastically approved.

Needless to say that this, and being able to attend Jon’s MOH award ceremony with Walker Jones, Jim Kurtz, and Jack Morrissey, left me feeling both honored and humbled. It is good to know that even though the hair is gray and the belt is longer, the camaraderie and spirit are alive and well.

We can, We will!

Jack Shields
1970/1971

The following article was sent to BWS as an example of what good thought is when you address the concept of Terrorism and how to fight those who fit this mold. Some very good ideas and definitely should be considered by this country.

BWS

Apparently, Benjamin Netanyahu gave an interview and was asked about Israel's occupation of Arab lands -- his response was "It's our land." The reporter (I think it was CNN or the like) was stunned -- read below "it's our land..." The following material was written by an American Christian professor. It's important information to know since we don't get fair and accurate reporting from the media and facts tend to get lost in the jumble of daily events.

Very Interesting...Bart Gator

Crash Course on the Arab Israeli Conflict

1. Nationhood and Jerusalem. Israel became a nation in 1312 B.C.E., two thousand years before the rise of Islam.
2. Arab refugees in Israel began identifying themselves as part of a Palestinian people in 1967, two decades after the establishment of the modern State of Israel.
3. Since the Jewish conquest in 1272 B.C.E., the Jews have had dominion over the land for one thousand years with a continuous presence in the land for the past 3,300 years.
4. The only Arab dominion since the conquest in 635 C.E. lasted no more than 22 years.
5. For over 3,300 years, Jerusalem has been the Jewish capital. Jerusalem has never been the capital of any Arab or Muslim entity. Even when the Jordanians occupied Jerusalem, they never sought to make it their capital, and Arab leaders did not come to visit.
6. Jerusalem is mentioned over 700 times in Tanach, the Jewish Holy Scriptures. Jerusalem is not mentioned once in the Koran.
7. King David founded the city of Jerusalem. Mohammed never came to Jerusalem.
8. Jews pray facing Jerusalem. Muslims pray with their backs toward Jerusalem.
9. Arab and Jewish Refugees: In 1948 the Arab refugees were encouraged to leave Israel by Arab leaders promising to purge the land of Jews. Sixty-eight percent left without ever seeing an Israeli soldier.
10. The Jewish refugees were forced to flee from Arab lands due to Arab brutality, persecution and pogroms.
11. The number of Arab refugees who left Israel in 1948 is estimated to be around 630,000. The

number of Jewish refugees from Arab lands is estimated to be the same.

12. Arab refugees were INTENTIONALLY not absorbed or integrated into the Arab lands to which they fled, despite the vast Arab territory. Out of the 100,000,000 refugees since World War II, theirs is the only refugee group in the world that has never been absorbed or integrated into their own peoples' lands. Jewish refugees were completely absorbed into Israel, a country no larger than the state of New Jersey.

13. The Arab - Israeli Conflict: The Arabs are represented by eight separate nations, not including the Palestinians. There is only one Jewish nation. The Arab nations initiated all five wars and lost. Israel defended itself each time and won.

14. The P.L.O.'s Charter still calls for the destruction of the State of Israel. Israel has given the Palestinians most of the West Bank land, autonomy under the Palestinian Authority, and has supplied them.

15. Under Jordanian rule, Jewish holy sites were desecrated and the Jews were denied access to places of worship. Under Israeli rule, all Muslim and Christian sites have been preserved and made accessible to people of all faiths.

16. The U.N. Record on Israel and the Arabs: of the 175 Security Council resolutions passed before 1990, 97 were directed against Israel.

17. Of the 690 General Assembly resolutions voted on before 1990, 429 were directed against Israel.

18. The U.N. was silent while 58 Jerusalem Synagogues were destroyed by the Jordanians.

19. The U.N. was silent while the Jordanians systematically desecrated the ancient Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives.

20. The U.N. was silent while the Jordanians enforced an apartheid-like policy of preventing Jews from visiting the Temple Mount and the Western Wall.

These are incredible times. We have to ask what our role should be. What will we tell our grandchildren we did when there was a turning point in Jewish destiny, an opportunity to make a difference?

The High Cost of Terrorism.

The recent suicide bombings of the World Trade Center and Pentagon have shocked and outraged the United States as a nation. The United States has not experienced such a high loss of life on American soil since the Battle of Antietam during the Civil War.

In the aftermath of this tragedy many legitimate questions are being raised and ideas being debated on how to stop such attacks in the future.

The purpose of this article is to bring to light facts about US Foreign Policy which need to be addressed.

The United States gives out \$13.3 billion tax dollars in direct Foreign Aid annually. The United States is above and beyond the single most generous benefactor of the United Nations, donating \$2.4 billion tax dollars. This amount is some 25% of the United Nations budget. In addition the United States also gives another \$1.4 billion tax dollars to United Nations programs and agencies. The American taxpayers fund more for the United Nations than all of the other 177 member nations combined.

What most Americans do not realize is that the vast majority of the recipients of the of US Foreign Aid routinely vote against the United States in the United Nations at an average rate of 74%. In other words, of the \$13.3 billion tax dollars invested in direct Foreign Aid only about 26% or \$3.5 billion went to support people who endorsed American initiatives or causes. A staggering \$9.8 billion tax dollars went to causes and people who were and are in open and direct opposition to the United States interests and objectives.

Listed below are the actual voting records of various Arabic/Islamic States which are recorded in both the US State Department and United Nations.

- * Kuwait votes against the United States 67% of the time.
- * Qatar votes against the United States 67% of the time.
- * Morocco votes against the United States 70% of the time.
- * United Arab Emirates votes against the United States 70% of the time.

* Jordan votes against the United States 71% of the time.

* Tunisia votes against the United States 71% of the time.

* Saudi Arabia votes against the United States 73% of the time.

* Yemen votes against the United States 74% of the time.

* Algeria votes against the United States 74% of the time.

* Oman votes against the United States 74% of the time.

* Sudan votes against the United States 75% of the time.

* Pakistan votes against the United States 75% of the time.

* Libya votes against the United States 76% of the time.

* Egypt votes against the United States 79% of the time.

* Lebanon votes against the United States 80% of the time.

* India votes against the United States 81% of the time.

* Syria votes against the United States 84% of the time.

* Mauritania votes against the United States 87% of the time.

These figures are not that impressive until they are viewed against the investment of US Foreign Aid.

Egypt for example after voting 79% of the time against the United States receives \$2 billion annually in US Foreign Aid.

Jordan votes 71% against the United States receives \$192,814,000 annually in US Foreign Aid.

Pakistan votes 75% against the United States receives \$6,721,000 annually in US Foreign Aid.

India votes 81% against the United States receives \$143,699,000 annually in US Foreign Aid.

Afghanistan received \$143,000,000 last year in US Foreign Aid with the Taliban government harboring Osama Bin Laden.

Sudan voted 75% against the United States received \$1,121,000 in US Foreign Aid. The US State Department stated that the Sudanese government is guilty of providing a safe haven for a variety of terrorist groups including Osama Bin Laden's organization, The Egyptian Jihad,

The Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and Hamas. The Islamic government has also conducted a literal reign of terror against the Christians living in the southern part of the country.

The Palestinian Authority receives \$500 million dollars in US Foreign Aid over the next five years. This happened due to the Oslo "Agreement" of 1993, a deal which was endorsed and avidly supported by New York Senator Hillary Clinton who was then the First Lady. The Clinton Administration sought to establish good relations with terrorist groups despite their support of terrorism and anti-Western stances. The Palestinians were seen on ABC News openly celebrating and dancing in the streets at the news of both suicide bombings on September 11th.

Israel it must be noted also receives one billion in US Foreign Aid. However, for the last five years has an average record of voting with the United States 94% of the time.

The majority of the Arabic/Islamic counties listed offered only a minimum of support in combating terrorism. There is clearly no incentive for them to take part as they will receive US Foreign Aid regardless of their stances.

Perhaps it is time for the United States to deny things such as money, scientific, technological, medical expertise and education to nations who simply will not assist or protect American interests.

The automatic giving away of American tax dollars to any state or organization must come to a stop. Giving money to nations who are politically, religiously, and philosophically opposed to our objectives is the height of ignorance. A proper analogy for this would be to go out and purchase the bullets a mugger needed to rob someone prior to the commission of the crime. This is exactly what the United States is doing when we refuse to hold countries into account.

The human cost of terrorism is extraordinarily high, it numbers in the thousands of dead. What has not been mentioned is those who are left with only the memory of a father, wife, son, daughter, grandfather, grandmother, a cherished uncle, aunt, cousin, or friend.

The other side of this issue is even darker and more severe. The terrorist have now proven conclusively that the United States can be

successfully attacked. This will be an open invitation for all other terrorist organization in opposition to the United States to make similar attempts. We must now bear in mind that freedom is not free, the cost of it is eternal vigilance.

In closing, our Congressmen and Senators only make the decisions that their constituents tell them that they need to make. We are a government of the people, by the people, for the people.

Please tell them what you think.

Pat Bodelson
pbodelson@chemfree.com

The following article is very thought provoking. The future will be set by just how determined this country is in winning the war on terrorism. Will we prevail or will we go down in history as just another great power that failed after a short period of existence.

BWS

Traditionally, the Army wins the big wars but is too big and heavy to be efficient in the small ones. Terrorists resort to terrorism because they cannot win the big ones on the field of battle - but the big battles and wars are more destructive than the terrorists are. Moral of this story: being expeditionary is an excellent goal but it is not enough in and of itself ; don't lose the capability to win the "big ones" in the pursuit of efficiency in the small ones because you have to keep your opponents marginalized .

Decisive Warfare, The limits of the Afghan war model.

By William R. Hawkins, senior fellow for national-security studies at the U.S. Business and Industry Council. December 19, 2001 9:55 a.m.

Speaking at the Citadel December 11, President George W. Bush made some excellent points about the dangerous world the United States faces at the dawn of the 21st century. But he also overstated the impact that the war of

terrorism will have on future conflicts, and hence on the force levels and weapons programs needed to meet new challenges.

President Bush purged the strategic malaise of the 1990s when he said, "When the Cold War ended, some predicted that the era of direct threats to our nation was over. Some thought our military would be used overseas – not to win wars, but mainly to police and pacify, to control crowds and contain ethnic conflict. They were wrong." He reiterated the stand he took immediately after September 11, "For states that support terror," he vowed, "it's not enough that the consequences be costly - they must be devastating."

The problem arises when President Bush appears to rely too much on the "lessons" of the current military campaign in Afghanistan as providing the template for meeting future threats. Bush noted that the combination of "real-time intelligence, local allied forces, Special Forces and precision air power" shattered the Taliban regime. Fair enough. He was too hasty, however, in saying that "The conflict in Afghanistan has taught us more about the future of our military than a decade of blue-ribbon panels and think tank symposiums."

America is fortunate that Osama bin Laden chose to locate in Afghanistan, a country without ballistic missiles or weapons of mass destruction (WMD) - or for that matter, even a conventional army of any size. Taliban and al-Qaeda forces numbered about 50,000; one-tenth the size of the Iraqi forces engaged in Desert Storm. U.S. forces could attack Afghanistan with impunity.

This is not to diminish in any way the valor of those Americans who fought (and died) in the campaign, because war is never easy at the individual level. But in terms of national effort, the war was as one-sided as anything in the annals of Queen Victoria's "little wars" of the 19th century.

The British Empire was defended mainly by native troops, with a hard core of veteran British professionals armed with more advanced weapons. But armed forces designed for colonial warfare were inadequate - both in numbers and in doctrine, to meet the army of Imperial Germany in a contest for European supremacy.

The British Expeditionary Force sent to France in 1914 was well trained and equipped.

On a man-for-man basis it was arguably the best fighting force in Europe, but at only six divisions it was smaller than the army of Belgium. Though it gave a good account of itself, it was chewed up in high-intensity combat. The hastily mobilized mass army that followed in 1915 suffered heavy losses due to inadequate training and lack of support from a defense industry that had found mobilization even more difficult than had the military.

World War I also found the United States unprepared for large-scale war. General John J. "Blackjack" Pershing was given command of the American Expeditionary Force. Pershing had just led a punitive expedition into Mexico in pursuit of Pancho Villa, whose raiders had been terrorizing U.S. border towns. Pershing pioneered the use of his era's high tech systems: biplanes, radios and trucks. When his command reached 11,000 soldiers, it became the largest body of troops any then active American officer had ever led. The U.S. Army did not have a single active unit of division size when President Woodrow Wilson asked Congress for a declaration of war.

American troops went into European combat armed with French machine guns, tanks and fighter planes because U.S. industry could not supply such weapons. And they suffered heavy casualties because they lacked adequate training for large scale, high intensity operations.

Despite the reduction of the Army from 18 divisions at the time of the Gulf War to 10 divisions today, there has been a steady pressure from "reformers" - mainly with the motive of restraining defense spending, to cut at least another two divisions. The argument during the Clinton administration was that smaller, lighter units were better tailored for peacekeeping operations. The argument will now shift to antiterrorism operations. But the real lesson to be learned is how difficult it is to rapidly upgrade forces designed for the low end of the conflict spectrum to handle larger wars. And it is usually the larger wars that have the higher stakes.

The United States cannot always rely on local troops to prevail in combat, even when supported by American airpower. In Korea, Vietnam and Kuwait, American intervention - numbering in each case of around 500,000 men, was needed precisely because local allies could not halt

aggression from more powerful neighbors on their own.

The Bush administration is now contemplating deposing regimes that support terrorism or are developing WMD. At the top of the list of rogue states is Iraq. It should be remembered that the first Bush administration expected local forces (Kurdish and Shiite rebels or a military coup) would finish off Saddam Hussein after his defeat in Kuwait. U.S. ground troops did not advance on Baghdad to remove the Iraqi regime, but relied on others to finish the job. They failed.

Even in Afghanistan, reliance of local forces has had its disappointments. Almost all the top Taliban leaders remain at large, in most cases through battlefield deals that exchanged the peaceful surrender of territory for the safety of defeated commanders. Such deals were often necessary because the Northern Alliance and anti-Taliban Pashtun tribes were too weak to win a decisive battle. This was particularly true at Kandahar. The anti-Taliban forces lacked the numbers, weapons and training to either take or besiege a stoutly defended city. Islamic militants were allowed to withdraw, perhaps to fight another day.

Last year, the Quadrennial Defense Review Working Group at the National Defense University in Washington prepared a report on the use of allied forces in major theater wars. It concluded that "Very few allies possess substantial combat capability (ground maneuver brigades, combat aircraft) that would allow for a reduction of U.S. combat forces." The U.S. has the best trained, best armed and most capable military on the planet. As Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz has said of adversaries, "They have learned from the Gulf War that challenging American forces head-on doesn't work - so they have turned increasingly to developing asymmetric capabilities" like terrorism.

It would be foolish to dismantle those elements of national strength that have pushed adversaries into the margins. Indeed, the strategy of "decisive warfare" articulated earlier this year by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, as well as by Wolfowitz, plays to America's conventional strength. It is the basis for the strategy of taking the war to the enemy,

rather than trying to defend every U.S. asset from every form of asymmetrical attack.

Victories are precious things, paid for in blood and treasure. They must not be thrown away. When the enemy is beaten or in retreat, they cannot be allowed to survive and regroup. Enemies with determined leaders and an indomitable agenda must be destroyed when the opportunity presents itself, because such opportunities are fleeting - and expensive to recreate. When vital interests are at stake, America should be ready and willing to take matters into its own hands. Only then can the U.S. be sure that the outcome of the struggle is a victory that fulfills American objectives.

The following series of articles are all about how the black **Cav Stetson** came back into the army. Seems like our own COL J.B. Stockton is remembered for this successful resurrection.

The articles show that there is a history that will not be forgotten and will forever be very close to our hearts

BWS

Black Stetson Revival

It seems this Stetson hat is puzzling a lot of people including myself. I do know the original history of the Stetson hat with our Air Cav Squadron. Most everyone knows that the whole thing was started by a pilot from B Troop, CPT Gillette. He presented the Stetson Hat to, then, LTC Stockton back at Fort Benning, before the shipment of the 1st/9th to Vietnam.

CPT Gillette had two Stetsons, one which he wore, and the other he presented to, then, LTC Stockton. COL Stockton's hat was retired to the Fort Benning GA. Museum curator, MAJ (Ret) Grub. From there it was transferred to BG (Ret) Allen of the Bullwhip Squadron and was presented to the Fort Hood, TX museum where it now resides.

The original hat was a cavalry hat, but not black like the one COL Stockton wore. COL Stockton loved the idea of the Stetson hat and thought it would be a good morale booster for the other officers if he could find the black hats.

COL Stockton sent his right hand man, CSM Kennedy, out to find more black hats for the officers. SCM Kennedy finally found the hats in Nashville, TN in a movie prop shop where they used them for cavalry movies. CSM Kennedy purchased them and brought them back to the Squadron at Fort Benning.

COL Stockton immediately presented them to his officers that were in the unit before shipping out to Vietnam.

The rest is history. COL Stockton is directly responsible for the revival of the cavalry Stetson within the 1st Cav Division and within all the other Vietnam era cavalry units in the Army. Yet most Cav troopers do not know that they owe COL Stockton and his 1st/9th the return of the Stetson to Army Cav units. I want them to know! Don't you?

Smoky
Smoky9cav@aol.com

I have very little data in regards to the Stetson. I was over at Harmony Church as a Ranger Instructor when the 11th changed over to the Cav. I witnessed some of their training but I was rather busy myself so couldn't investigate further at the time. However, when I came home from Vietnam in Sep 67 I wore my Stetson all the way. At that time only the 9th Cav was authorized to wear the Stetson as directive by the President. I don't have a copy of that directive but rest assured I would not have worn my Stetson if not authorized (being a career soldier and all that stuff). The only thing I can relate to as far as the rest of the Cav wearing Stetsons is history. All the old Cavalry units of yesteryear wore Stetsons so I am guessing they just picked up on the tradition. I have never heard of any Presidential Directive allowing the wearing of the Stetson by the entire 1st Cav Div. I figure this follows something like we did in Germany in 1958. We (I was in B Troop, 2nd Squadron, 9th Cavalry then) adopted and wore tanker boots, those with a strap around instead of boot laces (ticked off the airborne troopers who were allowed to wear cochrans instead of army issue). I never saw a directive concerning that either (tanker boots) but we were never challenged (except by the airborne to which we kicked tail and took names) as to proper foot

wear. From the Squadron Commander down we wore those boots. FYI. Maj Patton was our assistant Squadron Commander. NOTE: I have a funny feeling that if the 1st Cav is found not to be authorized to wear the Stetson, a stink shall rise and the Stetson will be taken away from we 9th Cav troopers as well (active duty only). Seems that is the trend of things these days. Remember, they took away we Rangers Black Beret and gave it to the entire Army.

Best beware!!!!
Alucard@aol.com

So far as I know the modern revival of the Stetson Cavalry hats began with Col. John B. Stockton. It got a huge boost with the Cavalry colonel in Apocolypse Now, loosely based on Col. JBS. Believe it began spreading with the 1st Cav Div for Dining Ins and Dining Outs; unofficial but much beloved. Then came silver spurs. Invitations for events now state: Stetsons and spurs welcome. Or not. Think I bought my Cav Stetson and began wearing it in 1990. Ditto Hal Moore. Over the last decade the custom has spread to Cavalry (i.e., Armor) units throughout the Army. I spoke last November at the Cavalry Ball hosted by 2nd Sqdn 4th Cavalry in Schweinfurt, Germany. All the officers wore the black Stetsons and silver spurs, as well as many of the NCOs and EMs who attended the formal Ball.

It is an awesome sight, and always, always I mentally tip my "hat" in the direction of John B. Stockton---a true innovator in all things martial. Including as we see from this, things fashionable and fashionably CAV.

Remember: If you ain't Cav, you ain't s- -t.

JOE GALLOWAY

The Stetson Cav Hat

The most distinctive uniform item worn by air cavalrymen in Vietnam was the Cav hat. This tradition is believed o have been originated in early 1964 by LTC John B. Stockton (Commander of 3/17 Cavalry) at Fort Benning, Georgia. The hat was adopted in an effort to increase esprit de corps in the new air cavalry

squadron and was meant to emulate the look of the 1876 pattern campaign hat worn by cavalry troopers long ago. Once units deployed to Vietnam, the custom slowly spread to other air cavalry units, and by the cessation of hostilities, virtually all air Cav (and some ground Cav) units had adopted the Cav hat.

The Cav Hat was a private purchase item that cost a wallet-stretching \$29 in 1972. It was most often supplied by the Stetson Hat Company, USA. Because Stetson supplied most of the hats, the name "Stetson" became interchangeable with Cav hat. Several Asian suppliers provided "knock off" copies, but the quality of workmanship was greatly inferior to that of the Stetson.

While unit commanders did not mandate the wearing of the hats, there was considerable peer pressure to conform, and most troopers quickly added the Cav hat to their wardrobes. Just as World War II paratroopers were fond of their jump suits, wearing them long after issue had ceased, so too did the Cav hat instill fierce pride and loyalty in the units where it was worn. Most air cavalry veterans interviewed by the author proudly cherish their Cav hats today.

Because the hats were delivered from the manufacturer in the U.S. there was an understandably long turnaround time between ordering and delivery. In some units, members were killed in action or MEDEVACed to the United States before the arrival of their hats. Thus, current unit members sometimes accepted hats meant for departed comrades.

Stetsons were constructed of a high grade fur felt with an interior leather sweatband and a silk hat ribbon around the base of the crown. The manufacturer provided a black leather chin strap, which also held the hat cord in place. The type of hat cord worn varied according to rank, as follows: general officers, all gold braid; officers, gold and black intertwined braid; warrant officers, silver and black intertwined braid; enlisted men, yellow wool or nylon.

The cord was a copy of the acorn-ended 1899 pattern, worn on the 1885 pattern campaign hat. Members of B-2/17 Cav further garnished their Cav hats with the addition of a beaded "Indian" hat band and feather, D-3/5 Cav appears to be the only unit that wore gray Cav hats. When D-3/5 Cav exchanged designations with C-3/17 Cav in

1971, C-3/17 carried on the Light Horse tradition of gray Cav hats.

On the Cav hat, most officers and warrant officers wore some combination of officer rank insignia and crossed cavalry sabers. There were instances in which several troops of different squadrons wore the distinctive red and white background trimming-commonly referred to as a jump wing oval-on the front of the Cav hat. This oval was authorized for 1/17 Cav, a non-air cavalry squadron of the 82nd Airborne Division, located at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

The Cav hat was remarkably durable and was easily cleaned of dirt and lint by buffing with a shoe brush. In several units, a "wetting down" ceremony was conducted, during which the newbies were accepted as members of the troop. Before they could wear their hats, however, they were required to "chug-a-lug" a hatful of cold beer. There are several instances in which air cavalrymen, after being shot down, raced back into their burning aircraft to save their precious Cav hats.

Wm. Harry Boudreau

The Black Cav Stetson rebirth. Now we know.
BWS

Thought you might be interested in my version on what occur at Chu Pong Massif on March 30, 1966 and hope this won't lead into farther discussion on the subject. Although I did not mention it on the story, it was the date that I was awarded my first Bronze Star.

I have read different version on the battle, including that everyone was killed in the helicopter that went down in the jungle. Needless to say, that was the reason for the Bronze Star award and that was for saving the nine men involved in the crash. My orders read that the action occurred on March 30th 1966. Copies are included.

The Platoon's interpreter and POW captured that day were also on the ship that crashed. The interpreter and POW were injured in the crash but not killed. But because I accidentally shot the POW as I flew over the site, I was not awarded the Silver Star. Heck, the Scout pilot told me that there was a Gook down there, I saw him and shot,

however the POW was later picked up alive and kicking. I was sometimes known as Hawkeye because of my shooting, I had missed and only wounded him. My only excuse is that I was tired, mad, my uniform was soaked with blood from treating and carrying the wounded Blues, what's more I didn't know where I was, the sun was down, it was too dark and I could hardly make him out. Oh, Well.

By the way, I finally located my crew chief Byrd.

Sincerely,

Lionel DeLa Rosa, SFC

**Chu Pong Massif
March 30, 1966**

It's true! If an incident happens and is viewed by several people there will be several versions on what occur. The battle that was started by the 1/9th Cav on March 30th 1966 is no different, therefore, I would like to present my side, which by the way, seems to agree with what most of the historian have written. It is said that men for the 1/9th Cav swaggered when they walked and why not, they were the best, bar none. I might be a bit prejudiced since I served with the squadron first as a door gunner (65-66) and later (69-70) with the Blue platoon. Besides, I cannot argue with historical facts. We were the best.

I wasn't there on November 1, 1965 when a Platoon of Blues from "B" Troop overran a regimental NVA aid station, guarded by a NVA company, just 6 miles from Plei-Mi. They captured the hospital's staff, their medical supplies and killed fifteen enemy soldiers.

On November 3, just two days later the first night ambush (deep in enemy territory and out of artillery range) by the 1/9 again drew blood. The Blue platoons set the ambush just North of Chu Pong Massif for retreating enemy fleeing Plei-Mi only to be surprised by an estimated company size NVA unit coming from Cambodia. Not only that, but the enemy had the audacity to take a break just before entering their killing zone. The NVA got to live a bit longer before the ambush was triggered, totally eliminating the enemy's weapons platoon.

Other firsts were made that night by the 1/9 and other units from the 1st Cav Division. It was the first time that a unit was reinforced and re-supplied at night in unfamiliar territory and the first time that the gun-ships supported the troops by laying fire on the enemy that was a close as fifty meters. I wasn't there either.

But I was there on March 30, 1966 when a scout ship from "B" Troop sighted over 30 NVA in a wooded area south of Chu Pong Massif. This is what I saw and did on that fateful day. At the time HQs. Troop was camped by a lake East of Plei-Ku. Before you could say hallelujah we were up in the air heading west toward Cambodia chasing after the squadron commander's helicopter.

Our helicopter was a Huey-D model with two M-60 machine guns mounted on each side of the aircraft. The pilot or the co-pilot could fire these guns by either aiming the aircraft or by a flex sight mounted on the ceiling. There were no machine guns for the Crew chief or gunner, only our M-16 rifles and a three-shot grenade launcher. Our pilot was Capt. Strennen, our co-pilot was the Air Force liaison officer, Capt. Andrew (I could be wrong on the name), Specialist 5 Byrd was the crew chief and I was the door gunner.

The Air Force had just completed its runs when we got there and the area was covered with lingering dust and smoke.

The Scout helicopter were flying at tree top level baiting the enemy, while high above the gun ships patiently waited for targets. Both the commander's ship and our ship made a couple of machine gun runs over the tree line before we saw the four slicks from "A" troop carrying the Blue platoon. We escorted the slicks as they made their assault by firing and dropping grenades on the tree line then continued to circle the area waited until the Blues entered the woods.

Over the radio we heard Blue Mike report that they had captured an NVA and the interpreter was interrogating him. Some time later, with gunfire in the background, Blue Mike reported that according to the prisoner, there were over 1,000 NVA in the area. "Get them out of there" someone yelled over the radio. There was little we could do but circle the area. I keep looking for signs of life, but could not see any. Even if I had spotted anyone, I couldn't shoot,

afraid it might be a Blue, but by lying on the deck and looking under the ship, I spotted the Blues as they emerged from the woods, and we continue circling.

The lift ships finally appeared in the horizon. As they made their approach to the LZ our ship, still following the Commander's helicopter we again escorted the lift ship by firing the ships guns on the tree line. I dropped several fragmentation grenades since I felt my M-16 was useless in this situation. We continued to circle as the Blues started loading into their lift ships, they suddenly I heard someone again yelling, "They're taking fire from the tree line!" and our ship followed the Commanders in a dive toward the tree line firing the ships guns. As we dived toward the tree line I unspinned some WP grenades still in their container and dropped them as we flew over. As we banked I could see that two lift helicopters had been hit by RPG and were on fire. Some Blues were running toward the remaining lift helicopter while others were firing toward the tree line. Then, with the machine guns spitting red tracers toward the tree line the green tracers from the tree line following their ascent, the lead ship lift off. Green tracers were coming from the tree line but again I could not fire since I was facing away from the action.

According with what we learned later, the heavily damaged first ship to lift off was flown by the crew chief. With the pilot killed and the co-pilot badly wounded, he had crawled into the pilot seat and flew the helicopter out. To make it worse, the hydraulics had been hit making it harder to fly the aircraft, yet he flew it out and landed at Plei-Mi. I understand that he later received the Distinguish Flying Cross for his action, which is typical for the 1st Cav Division. What happen to the Medal of Honor?

Meanwhile, the second lift ship took off and we escorted it out. This second ship was also in trouble. Looking forward through the windshield, I could see smoke trailing from underneath the ship, with intermitted puffs of smoke from the exhaust. Midway to Plei-Mi, it lost power and crashed into the jungle and we were the only ones around. We circled the crash site before spotting a clearing a distance away. While Capt. Strennen hovered, Byrd, Captain Andrews and I jumped off from a height of eight feet. Well, actually, I didn't jump. I really fell

when my rifle strap got caught on a hook and I flipped as I fell, landing on my back. Anyway, I managed to catch up with them as they got to the crash site.

Looking at the helicopter, I was amazed to learn nobody had been killed, but there where several Blues wounded. The interpreter and the POW had been hurt but not wounded. The interpreter was moaning when I reached him and the POW was conscious and indicated to me that he had injured his leg in the crash. There was nothing we could do for them, so we got busy tending to the more seriously wounded Blues.

Later, dropped off by their Scout pilots, two Observers helped us carry the wounded out. It took us till sundown to get them all out of there, with Capt. Strennen making several trips to the aid station. The last to be moved were the interpreter and the POW. I could not get anyone to help me carry the interpreter nor the POW, so I had to make a choice and put the now unconscious interpreter on my back and carried him back to the LZ. He regained consciousness as I carried him and kept punching me on the head. Lucky for me, halfway back to the ship, he lost conscious again. It was decided to leave the POW behind. A big mistake. We did have communication with Capt. Strennen at the LZ since I had grabbed the emergency radio before leaving the ship. I did try to make contact with Capt. Strennen with the radio, but couldn't get anything going. (later he told me that in my attempt to use the radio, I had placed the two-way switch the wrong way and a distress signal from the radio was heard miles away) since I didn't know how to operate it, I gave it to the Capt. Andrew who quickly made and maintained contact with out pilot, Capt. Strennen.

It was dark by the time Capt. Strennen took the last group out with only Capt. Andrew and I remaining. Just the same, I felt vulnerable since I seen signs of enemy activity in the area. Capt. Andrews had his pistol and I had my M-16 with 9 magazines of ammo. As the last of the light disappeared a Scout ship came into view. Capt. Andrews told me to get aboard, but I argued that since I was better armed than he was he should leave first. Instead, he had the audacity to pull rank on me and order me to get aboard the hovering Scout helicopter. I climbed a tree stump, grabbed the skits and climbed to the

observer's seat of the hovering Scout ship and flew off. Minutes later Capt. Andrews was picked up by another Scout ship.

Why was this date important to me? Well, up to that date things had been real nice and easy. You know, flying around, dropping food, water and ammo for the troops, a couple of LZ assault, etc. But after that date things never again were the same when I discovered that the NVA and Viet Cong were trying to kill a nice guy like me.

Two days after the battle of Chu Pong Massif, while contouring over the approximate area, I spotted what looked like a monkey or Gook. I reported the sighting and we went over the area again. I dropped a WP (my favorite weapon) to mark the spot. In response, a company size NVA unit opened up on us and I engaged them with my M-16 rifle. On landing my body was shaking so badly that I couldn't even light a cigarette. Then we found bullet holes just below the deck where I had been sitting. After that things got worse.

Written by Lionel DeLa Rosa
Phoenix, Arizona

After watching "We Were Soldiers Once" I did a little scouting the net and found my old squadron. I am glad to be with you all in the Bullwhip Association. My own personal review of the film is excellent. I talked with other Veterans and they all appreciated the film start to finish. I took my wife and daughter to see the film and they were deeply moved by it.

I am sending you some information on my tours of duty with the 1st Cavalry Division. You may print what ever you wish of it
Yours truly

Retired MSG Clinton Batcheller

"Serving With the Best"

My 2nd Vietnam tour was with A Troop 1/9, from June 1968-June 1969. I was an Apache scout, filling the 11D recon MOS by an 11E Tank commander, you figure! My first tour in Vietnam was about as confounding. I was in Germany, 1/70 Armor, tank gunner, when I saw in the Stars and Stripes a need for volunteers in Vietnam. Being a gun-ho 18 year old Sp/4, I decided to

apply. Six months and two wavers later I was on my way. I arrived at the 90th replacement Battalion, with orders for HHC 101st A.B. Most all of the replacements with combat MOS's were diverted to the 1st Cavalry. The Pleiku/Ia Drang Campaign took it toll on the 1st Cavalry so they got priority on all in-bound replacements. I ended up with D Co. 2/12 Cavalry, on a 106 recoilless rifle crew, then a gunner on a 50 cal crew, then to B Co. 2/12 as M79 thumper.

I was wounded on operation Crazy Horse by an enemy hand grenade. Our unit was in heavy fighting on top of a mountain bunker complex. I was wounded on our last assault the evening of May 17, 1965. I was evacuated that night from the LZ at the bottom of the mountain, then on to An Ke then to Qui Nhon. A week later I went on my way to the 7th Field Hospital, Japan, where I finished out my tour. I ran into a lot of Cavalry troopers in the Hospital and some old buddies.

After a year and a half I was back on my way to Vietnam. I was diverted to the 4th Inf. Division, but after much persuasion and with original 1st Cavalry assignment order in hand, they released me to join the 1st Cavalry. When I reported to Div. HQ, I was assigned to A Troop 1/9. I arrived at LZ Sharon assigned to the Scout platoon as an observer. I really enjoyed the relaxed attitude of the troopers that resulted in them being good at what they did. This was the first time I had been in a unit with so many commissioned and warrant officers.

I never had at any time a feeling of class distinction, to the credit of the troop officers. I could tell this was a unit with teamwork between enlisted, NCO's and Officers. I could say we were a unit focused on our mission and were disciplined to do it the best in air cavalry tradition.

One of the best things that happened was small in the scheme of things, but was monumental for me. What happened was the replacement of an old worn out M60 machine gun that jammed every 15 rounds. A scout that has to break contact to keep clearing a jammed gun doesn't have much confidence in his ability to influence the action. So, with a new M60 I could lay continuous accurate fire, which would determine the life expectancy of the LOH crew.

The Troop went to Da Nang to help the Marines conduct reconnaissance, which was a

hoot for us. It sure was nice to get close to the sea breeze for a while. Those Marines at their base sure ate good, but had old equipment and ammo. If they had the support aircraft we had, they could have done a better job. We lost a good crew chief, called "Pappy". I can't remember his real name, maybe someone will fill that in for me.

Back at LZ Sharon we were all in good spirits for a job well done. PFC Alvarez was a new Scout observer who took my first light mission because of a guard duty assignment that came up on a moments notice. While throwing a hand grenade out the LOH it went off premature. Alvarez was killed and pilot wounded but he did a great job getting down and out of the LOH, which was a total loss. After the grenade incident, word came down, no more hand grenades in the ships. We had to start packing M79's along with our M60's. When riding in the front one mission, I fired my M79 across the pilots lap, assisting in the machine gun fire. It took a good pilot to allow that type of action. The action died down a little and then orders came to move south.

Tay Ninh was a very active area, our AO was north of the black mountain and in the dog's head and surrounding areas. I was impressed at how well we made that move. We had a variety of mission in this new area, north and south. Down in the delta we did a lot of reconnaissance and unit support along the river. We found lots of supplies and much of it was destroyed or picked up by troops on boats. It was down in the delta where we lost our last Huey-hog gunship. I think it had a power failure on take off, and hit some wire and flipped over. We were all sad to see it go, but the snakes were the future.

We lost a good crew in the delta in a freak accident. The LOH Mr. Tronerud was flying hit a dike and the skid went up in the fuel cell. They crashed and burned. Mr. Tronerud and Crew/chief Johnson died of burns. The observer was sent back to the states. I remember that Johnson was one of the few crew chiefs I would give up the gunners seat for.

On a mission in the area of the dog's-head, we found some suspected NVA crossing the river. We were not sure if they were CIDG's from the camp we passed over. Johnson yelled out that they were scattering and pointing AK's at

us, and could he open up on them. I gave him the word before the pilot, not operating procedure as usual. We started firing at men then to the ox carts full of boxes, which went up in a huge explosion. The blast threw us up and almost flipped us over. I remember seeing ground and trees all on my side of the LOH. The explosion blew open the engine doors and shattered the instruments on the panel. I knew we were about to go down, but the pilot got control and we made it back to the CIDG camp to check out the damage. I believe the pilot was WO Rolff, but I could be wrong, maybe a trooper remembers better than I. We did have a fast mover that was in the AO who said we sure got a big secondary. We knew just how we almost became a part of that secondary explosion.

One mission, our cobra pilot let us stray over the river into Cambodia, because he was taking evasive action, he said he was getting some beeps on his FM. I think he was picked up on an NVA weapons crew's radar. We saw tons of equipment, tents, a hospital, but as much as I wanted to fire on them, not a shot was fired and we slipped back across the river. It sure frustrated us to know and see all that stuff 50 to 100 yards into Cambodia and not be allowed to do anything about it.

I flew all the missions I could because that's what it was all about, our unit mission and our own personal 365-day tour. I was again in the gunner's seat on my last mission. In a tree line trail we caught a small unit moving 240mm rockets. They had all dropped the rockets and equipment on the trail and hid in the trees and holes. When I opened up on the rockets the propellant charges went off. They took flight for about 75 yards. We hit all six rockets and I had my last confirmed kill on an NVA who tried to hide at the base of a tree. A thunderstorm forced us off them so we didn't get to finish the job.

Back at Tay Ninh I hung up an NVA canteen in the NCO hooch with 45 KIA's painted on it, the end of a tour for a scout trooper.

Now I want to brag on the Blue platoon. You troopers were given every hard dirty job in the troop. You simply did it, although, you did have some select remarks about some jobs. You looked ready for anything, and when you came to secure our down ships, you did it cavalry fashion. Man, I was glad to know you would be coming

for us if we went down. I remember how you worked frantically for hours breaking down rockets and munitions to keep the cobras armed when we needed them. I worked with a lot of companies in contact and I would prefer the Blues on the ground, Scouts and Weapon supporting you guys. You had a tough job and you did it, keeping the rest of the troops on our mission.

When I think of the gun ships, the weapons platoon, I knew we became a lot bolder and more aggressive because of their presence. When it was time to knock on the door harder, you troopers were up to it. I know we made a number of you dizzy, keeping track of us as we circled our prey. We gave you our reports and you did the map math, along with keeping us on mission and in the right AO. I almost always came back having expended most of my ordinance, but you didn't always get to let loose of your stuff as much as you would liked to. You spent a lot of flight hours boring holes in the sky for us. That reminds me, W.O. Erickson, "Swed", did you ever get your pictures developed of Fire Base Grant from March 9, 1969? The lift platoon, along with the maintenance and support made life bearable and helped the hunter/killer teams stay mission ready. You made our jobs easier to endure. Total team support and effort was the best! Thanks troopers, for a job well done.

The Scout pilots were our brothers in the air. From my perspective, when you have an experienced crew, the decisions made to close with and destroy the enemy are crew decisions. I flew with every scout pilot from June 68 to June 69, when I was inexperienced and they were experienced and just the opposite. Together we made it all happen to accomplish our mission and come back alive.

Sometimes men would loose their edge and not be as aggressive and fearless as before. Usually that was about a month or two before DEROS. But, I can say not one Scout pilot ever disappointed me in combat, always a trooper to the last. To the very last mission flown each Scout pilot did the job expected of him. Thanks for the extra time over the target when I got 3NVA with one shot. The center guy was carrying explosives.

I can not remember a lot of names anymore. It's been too many units and too much time since

then. Speaking as an NCO, we were blessed in the 9th Cavalry with excellent officers, warrants, enlisted and NCO's. Thanks, A Troop for a great 2nd tour with the 1st Cavalry Division, my hat is off to every man in the Troop.

Retired M/SGT Clinton D. Batcheller
Robinson, IL
Serving as Senior Pastor of the First Baptist Church in Robinson, IL

Well said, Clinton.

BWS

Second Cambodia: Rules of the Game

Troopers from earlier eras, from those who "rode the boat" in 1965 to those who took part in First Cambodia in May 1970 (the one that led to Kent State) may wonder why Bravo Troop's Blues weren't inserted on the Swanson-Harrison crash site, and then followed quickly the reaction force company, battalion, brigade, etc, until the whole First Cav Division was "piling on" to fix, fight, and finish the enemy force that Jon and Larry found that day. The answer is that by the time the Division went back into Cambodia, in February 1971, the rules of engagement had changed considerably.

Second Cambodia was a sideshow to what was going on up north, in Laos. That was Lam Son 719, a major ARVN operation supported by US aircraft, Army and Air Force. Scores, maybe even hundreds of helicopters were lost in Laos, and the trials and tribulations of a few air cav troops in Cambodia went almost unnoticed.

To make sure Second Cambodia stayed out of the public eye, US forces were not allowed on the ground. The Blues couldn't even be put in to secure a downed aircraft and rescue or recover its crew. And because the First Cavalry Division was already standing down, there were no airmobile infantry units on standby to "pile on" when contact was made. Cambodia, like Laos, was meant as strictly an ARVN show. American aircraft, and their crews, were only bit players.

In place of our own Blues, we relied on the "Browns" – platoons of Vietnamese soldiers trained by our own Blues in rappelling from helicopters, rigging downed aircraft for

extraction, and ground reconnaissance (Apache Troop had a Brown killed when something went wrong during rappelling training and he hit the ground at full speed). Beyond the Browns there were no additional reaction forces. The Browns were brave enough, and did recover some downed aircraft, but the best hope of an aircrew shot down in Cambodia was to be picked up immediately by the C&C Huey.

Jim Kurtz

The following articles are on two of our own that finally came home. Both were decorated and have final internment with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery.

We always take care of our own. Just sometimes it takes a long time to finish the final action.

Welcome home Jon and Larry, rest easy, and God bless.

BWS

A Scout Team's Last Mission

Jon Swanson and Larry Harrison sat side-by-side as they flew their last mission together in Cambodia on 26 February 1971. Thirty-one years later, they were laid to rest, with full military honors, at Arlington National Cemetery - still side-by-side, in a common grave.

Jon was B Troop's Scout Platoon Leader, "Saber White," and Larry was the Platoon Sergeant, "White Mike."

The Mission

According to the squadron's official after action report of the Cambodia campaign, which ran from 22 February to 19 May 1971, Bravo Troop was living at Bearcat, but had its combat elements laager at Quan Loi. Daily operations were conducted out of Katum. Jon and Larry would have taken off not just with a Cobra "high bird" as part of a Pink Team, but with a command and control (C&C) Huey as well, because the flight would be "crossing the Fence" into Cambodia. Once in the area of operations (AO), the Vietnamese liaison officer on board the C&C Huey would have obtained the day's mission from the supported ground force, on this day as

on previous days Task Force 333 of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN).

The day before, B Troop supported by the 2d Battalion, 20th Aerial Field Artillery ("Blue Max") had supported an ARVN convoy that got ambushed. Close to 60 enemy soldiers were killed, and visual reconnaissance by Saber scouts revealed a North Vietnamese Army (NVA) training area, complete with wooden mock-ups of 122-mm rockets and launchers.

Returning to the scene on 26 February, B Troop quickly reestablished contact. One scout spotted comms wire along a trail, and soon claimed an enemy kill. A Cobra took heavy small arms fire, and a Light Observation Helicopter (LOH) on an earlier mission twice took ground-to-air fire from multiple directions. Jon Swanson and Larry Harrison came on station for their last mission in the early afternoon.

When ARVN elements on the ground came under heavy automatic weapons fire from bunkers about a hundred meters to their front, John and Larry engaged with concussion grenades and machine gun fire, exposing themselves to enemy anti-aircraft fire in the process. After destroying five enemy bunkers, they discovered a .51-caliber machine gun position. As Jon made a pass near the target, Larry threw a smoke grenade to mark it for attack by their high bird. When they went back to take a look, they found the weapon still intact and an enemy soldier crawling toward it. They immediately engaged and reported killing the enemy soldier. As this was happening, their aircraft took several hits from another .51-caliber machine gun, which they also marked with smoke for attack by the high bird. Despite their being low on ammunition and having sustained heavy damage to the aircraft, Jon opted to continue the mission. As the stricken LOH flew toward yet another .51-caliber position, it exploded in flight and crashed into the ground.

One report says another helicopter landed near the site right after Jon and Larry went down, but was forced to take off when it came under heavy enemy fire. The squadron after action report says only that from 1445, when they went down, until 1800, 41 Cobras and 16 LOHs expended in the area, knocking out three .51-caliber and several .30-caliber machine guns. Aircraft from B and C Troops, 1- 9 Cav; A Troop, 3-17 Cav; Air Cav

Troop, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment; and B Battery, 2-20 AFA took part.

On the next day, 27 February, B Troop helicopters returned to the area and saw what they believed to be two remains near the crash site. As late as 7 March, remains were observed near the crash site, but could not be recovered due to enemy fire. ARVN forces on the ground also tried to reach the downed aircraft but got no closer than 200 meters before being pushed back by heavy fire. After two days of contact, the ARVN elements were forced to depart the area without ever having reached the aircraft, and the remains of Jon Swanson and Larry Harrison were not recovered.

Aftermath: In Country

Back at the Troop area, the usual post-casualty actions took place. A new officer and NCO stepped up to become, respectively, Scout Platoon Leader and Platoon Sergeant. Someone, most likely someone who'd been close to them, was appointed to inventory Jon and Larry's personal effects and pack them for shipment to the next of kin. There was probably some dragging around of duffel bags as people staked out claims to newly vacated rooms in a hootch back at Bearcat. Quality-of-life items like fans and refrigerators were quickly taken over by someone to whom, in all likelihood, they'd been promised by their former owners. Squadron headquarters would have convened a board of officers to determine whether Jon and Larry should be listed as Missing in Action or Killed in Action – Remains Not Recovered. Someone, probably the Bravo Troop Awards Officer, was detailed to write up an award for each of the downed troopers.

If anything was different about the aftermath of Jon and Larry's loss it was in the matter of awards, because the B Troop commander, Claude Lott, recommended Captain Jon Swanson for the Medal of Honor. We know today that the recommendation was endorsed all the way through the Commander in Chief, US Pacific Command, Admiral John McCain, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, only to be downgraded at some higher level, either by the Secretary of Defense or the White House. For their extraordinary act of valor, Jon Swanson was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and Larry Harrison received the Silver Star.

Meanwhile, the war wound down. The 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry stood down, and its colors were carried to Fort Hood, Texas, by a contingent led by Bert Chole. One brigade of the First Cavalry Division remained in Vietnam. Bravo Troop was selected to become its reconnaissance element and was redesignated H Troop, 16th Cavalry. The last 9th Cavalry guidon was folded up and all but forgotten.

Aftermath: At Home

Jon and Larry each left a family behind. Jon's consisted of his young wife, Sandee, and their two daughters, Brigid and Holly, ages two and one, respectively, when he died. Larry's was his wife Ruby and a brand-new baby boy, Larry Junior, whom he never even got to see. A uniformed officer must have come to their door and recited the words, "The Secretary of the Army has asked me to inform you . . ." – first, that Jon and Larry were missing, and later that they'd been reclassified dead, remains not recovered. Each family was plunged into grief at the news.

Years passed. Decades. The families got on with their lives, as families do. Widows remarried. Children grew up. Yet none could forget the fallen. Sandee Swanson learned that her husband Jon had been recommended for the Medal of Honor, but that it had been downgraded in Washington. Supported by her daughters, and by her new husband, Jon's younger brother Tom, she began a campaign to have the case reopened.

Following the end of the war in Vietnam, the United States undertook its own efforts to resolve the cases of soldiers missing in action there, and to recover and repatriate their remains whenever possible. A Joint Task Force was established for that purpose – JTF Full Accounting – and for years teams of Americans went back to Southeast Asia, locating crash sites and searching for any evidence that would bring closure to the families of those left behind.

A team from JTF Full Accounting visited the area of Jon's and Larry's last mission in 1992, and local witnesses led them to the crash site. The team excavated the site and found some fragments, but nothing conclusive. On a revisit to the site in 1995, a villager brought investigators a tooth with a filling, which he claimed was found near the crash site. The tooth was matched against military dental records and

identified as Larry Harrison's. On a subsequent visit to the area, the tooth's finder led the team to a place away from the first excavation, and in 1999 a new dig was begun. This time the jungle floor gave up a staff sergeant's pin-on insignia, some ammunition, a fragment of a flight helmet, the cracked face of a watch, the broken shards of some aviator sunglasses, and additional bone fragments. The Army informed the Swanson and Harrison families that it had positively identified Jon's and Larry's crash site, but was unable to separately identify Jon's remains from Larry's. The Army recommended joint burial with full military honors.

Jon's Award

The Swanson family's long quiet campaign to have Jon's award recommendation reconsidered finally bore fruit. Section 551 of Public Law 107-107, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002, contained a waiver of time limitations imposed by law with respect to awarding the Medal of Honor in specified cases, one of which was that of Captain Jon E. Swanson, US Army. The Swanson family credits Representative Floyd Spence, the former Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee; Senator John Warner of Virginia, the ranking Minority Member of the Senate Armed Services Committee; and Representative Mark Udall of Colorado, Jon Swanson's home state, with making this legislation possible.

Jon's case was subsequently reopened and the decision to downgrade his award was overturned. The White House set May 1, which would have been Jon's 60th birthday, as the date for presentation of the Medal of Honor to his family in a ceremony in the Rose Garden. The joint burial ceremony for Jon and Larry was set for May 3. Sandee Swanson, Jon's widow, sent word to the founders of the Virtual Wall, who in turn passed it on to other Vietnam veterans' groups, that the family would welcome anyone wishing to attend.

Four of us from the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, managed to get ourselves cleared in advance to attend the medal ceremony. Jack Shields, who served with Jon during two tours in Vietnam and was B Troop XO at the time of Jon's and Larry's last mission, flew in from Arkansas. Walker Jones, who served in C Troop during Second Cambodia and who writes the squadron's column

for the First Cavalry Division Association newsletter, was in town on business from Texas and was able to make it. Jack Morrissey, an A Troop pilot from 1968, was there from New Jersey. I was in both A and C Troop during the second Cambodian operation, and live in the Washington DC area.

Captain Jon Swanson was the third member of the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry to receive the Medal of Honor. Lieutenant Robert L. Poxon of B Troop received it for heroism on 2 June 1969 and Sergeant Donald L. Skidgel of D Troop for heroism on 14 September 1969. All three recipients were awarded the medal posthumously. Jon Swanson also became the first scout pilot ever to receive the Medal of Honor.

At the ceremony, the Swanson family seemed genuinely touched to see us there in our Cav Stetsons. They wanted to know about the squadron, about air cavalry tactics, how White and Red formed into Pink Teams, and a host of other details that put new layers on the memories of their husband, father, brother, cousin, and friend. Meeting with the family was a tremendously enriching experience for all of us.

Home at Last

The funeral took place in the chapel at Fort Myer, Virginia, adjacent to Arlington National Cemetery. The turnout of Vietnam veterans in black Stetsons was far greater than for the medal ceremony, with troopers from both the 1-9 Cav and the 3-5 Cav, Jon's unit from his first tour in Vietnam. Of special note was the presence of Joe Galloway, co-author with Lieutenant General Hal Moore of "We Were Soldiers Once, and Young." As a result of the book, and the experiences at LZ X-ray that it documents, Joe is most closely associated with the 7th Cavalry, but it is clear he also has a warm spot in his heart for the 1st of the 9th, and we all felt honored that he came out to show his respect for two of ours.

As part of the funeral service, Jon's daughter Brigid had asked to speak a few words. She and her sister Holly and their mother Sandee had kept the faith and honored her father's memory throughout the three decades since he and Larry Harrison flew their last mission together, and I think every man there fought back tears as she read the following words, which she graciously consented to share with all of us through this newsletter:

Words Spoken by Brigid Eileen Swanson Jones at Her Father's Funeral

I would like to thank everyone here in attendance and those that are with us in spirit.

One of the Army's favorite sayings is that they take care of their own and they never forget. I am here today to tell you that this is true.

The Army has worked extensively for 31 years on behalf of my Father, CPT Jon E. Swanson, and his observer, SSG Larry G. Harrison, to repatriate their remains. The Army, the vets, family and friends have kept the memory of Larry and Jon alive for 31 years. Today, they have brought them from Vietnam to Arlington to lay them to rest.

Welcome home Larry!

Welcome home Dad!

Following the funeral, the casket bearing the remains of Jon and Larry was placed on a caisson and escorted to the gravesite by soldiers of the Third United States Infantry (The Old Guard). The ceremony was short, the flag-folding and presentation precise and moving, and the firing squad crisp, sounding as one. And as echoing bugles sounded "Taps," the words to which say, "*All is well, safely rest, God is nigh*" – I got the sense that these two good men, who made the ultimate sacrifice in an unpopular war, had at last completed their final mission.

We Can, We Will
Jim Kurtz

Jon Swanson's Girls

The soundtrack to the movie "We Were Soldiers" contains a song called "Good Man" whose chorus goes like this:

*When the sun comes up, if I'm not home,
be strong,
When I'm not beside you, do your best to
carry on,
Tell the kids about me when they're old
enough to understand,
Tell them that their Daddy was a Good
Man.*

Jon Swanson must have given similar instructions to his young wife as he left for Vietnam in October 1970. Sandee was Jon's teenage sweetheart when they were married in 1967, after Jon got wounded on his first tour. He got orders for his second tour while at Fort Benning, Georgia, and he and Sandee decided she and their two infant daughters should wait for him in Colorado, to be closer to her family, and his.

But Jon didn't come home. He was reported missing in action in Cambodia in 1971, and later reclassified killed in action, remains not recovered. Sandee had gone back to school, to get her college degree, and it must have been terrible to bear her grief alone, in an environment that by then was hostile to the war in Vietnam, and even to those who served there.

Sandee was strong, though, and did her best to carry on. When Jon's daughters, Brigid and Holly, were old enough to understand, she told them their Daddy was a Good Man. And it is clear they took that to heart.

All three of Jon's girls – women now – are made of steel. During the long week when they were in the public eye – meeting with President Bush in the Rose Garden, attending the "Twilight Tattoo" ceremony performed in Jon's honor by the Old Guard and the Army Band, speaking at Jon's funeral, receiving the folded flag from his casket at Arlington, and meeting afterward with friends and well-wishers including many in black Stetsons – not one of them ever faltered.

Jon would have been so proud of them.

Why a Crew of Two?

One point of lingering confusion about the last mission flown by Jon Swanson and Larry Harrison is why it was just the two of them.

The squadron's Cambodia after action report devotes a page-and-a-half to lessons learned about use of the mini-gun on the OH-6A. The reported advantages were the mini-gun's tremendous firepower and the fact that the mere noise from a mini-gun would occasionally cause the enemy to cease his ground-to-air fire and move to cover. The disadvantages were that the mini-gun limited crew size to two, leaving the

right side of the aircraft unprotected, and that pilots tended to make left-hand turns so the observer could maintain visual contact with the aircraft. (The after action report says it was an established fact that when hovering or in slow flight at near max-gross loads, less power was required and better aircraft performance could be achieved by using right-hand turns.) The advantages of not using a mini-gun were that the three-man crew provided three pairs of eyes for reconnaissance; that effective firepower could be delivered from both sides of the aircraft; that the gunner was able to carry a wide variety of weapons for use against varied targets (smoke, CS, fragmentation, incendiary, concussion, and white phosphorous grenades; M-79 grenade launcher; and M-60 machine gun); that the observer could mark a location with smoke while the gunner engaged; and that the pilot could make right-hand turns.

With all that in mind, it is tempting to conclude that Jon and Larry's OH-6A, number 69-16067, sported a mini-gun on its left side. However, the crash facts file obtained from Gary Roush at the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association does not say one way or another.

Jack Shields, who was B Troop XO at the time, remembers that scout bird normally carried a crew of two, with the pilot in the right seat and the observer/gunner just behind him. Jack thinks the three-man crew was an exception made just for Cambodia, to provide an extra pair of eyes and an available set of hands to take the controls if needed. My own recollection, from A and C Troops, is that a three-man crew was standard for the scout bird, even before Cambodia. The pilot sat in the right seat and flew right-hand turns. The observer or "Oscar" sat in the left seat, smoke grenade in hand ready to throw the moment the aircraft started taking fire. The gunner or "Torque" sat on the right, directly behind the pilot.

However, Jack and I both flew Cobras, so what's needed is expert testimony from scout crews. Please email your recollections to me and I will try to clear this up in a subsequent newsletter.

Jim Kurtz
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This was forwarded to me by an old paratrooper friend who somehow received it from the author, a female with a Jewish surname (Schwartz). Anyway, she has done a nice job capturing a lot of related thoughts concerning our liberal biased media in this country and the misguided approach that many college professors and others espouse...that "the US had somehow done something to the Arab world that makes us deserving of the attack on September 11", etc. A very good read.

Charles D. Brown
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LIBERTY

I sat in a movie theater watching "Schindler's List," and asked myself, "Why didn't the Jews fight back?" Now I know why.

I sat in a movie theater, watching "Pearl Harbor" and asked myself, "Why weren't we prepared?" Now I know why.

Civilized people cannot fathom, much less predict, the actions of evil people.

On September 11, dozens of capable airplane passengers allowed themselves to be overpowered by a handful of poorly-armed terrorists because they did not comprehend the depth of hatred that motivated their captors.

On September 11, thousands of innocent people were murdered because too many Americans naively reject the reality that some nations are dedicated to the dominance of others.

Many political pundits, pacifists and media personnel want us to forget the carnage. They say we must focus on the bravery of the rescuers and ignore the cowardice of the killers. They implore us to understand the motivation of the perpetrators. Major television stations have announced they will assist the healing process by not re-playing devastating footage of the planes crashing into the Twin Towers.

*I will not be manipulated. I will not pretend to understand. I will not forget.

*I will not forget the liberal media who abused freedom of the press to kick our country when it was vulnerable and hurting.

*I will not forget that CBS anchor Dan Rather preceded President Bush's address to the nation with the snide remark, "No matter how you feel

about him, he is still our president."

*I will not forget that ABC TV anchor Peter Jennings questioned President Bush's motives for not returning immediately to Washington DC and commented, "We're all pretty skeptical and cynical about Washington."

*And I will not forget that ABC's Mark Halperin warned if reporters weren't informed of every little detail of this war, they aren't "likely - nor should they be expected - to show deference.."
*I will not underestimate the intelligence of our adversary who patiently planned and meticulously orchestrated a devastating act of war.

*I will not forget that the terrorists desire a world society where women are chattel and freedom is forbidden.

*I will not isolate myself from my fellow Americans by pretending an attack on the USS Cole in Yemen was not an attack on the United States of America.

*I will not forget the Clinton administration equipped Islamic terrorists and their supporters with the world's most sophisticated telecommunications equipment and encryption technology, thereby compromising America's ability to trace terrorist radio, cell phone, land lines, faxes and modem communications.

*I will not be appeased with pointless, quick retaliatory strikes like those perfected by the previous administration.

*I will not be comforted by "feel-good, do nothing" regulations like the silly "Have your bags been under your control?" question at the airport.

*I will not be influenced by so called, "anti-war demonstrators" who exploit the right of expression to chant anti-American obscenities.

*I will not forget the moral victory handed the North Vietnamese by American war protestors who reviled and spat upon the returning soldiers, airmen, sailors and Marines.

*I will not be softened by the wishful thinking of pacifists who chose reassurance over reality.

I will embrace the wise words of Prime Minister Tony Blair who told Labor Party conference, "They have no moral inhibition on the slaughter of the innocent. If they could have murdered not 7,000 but 70,000, does anyone doubt they would have done so and rejoiced in it? There is no compromise possible with such

people, no meeting of minds, no point of understanding with such terror. Just a choice: defeat it or be defeated by it. And defeat it we must!"

- I will force myself to;
- hear the weeping
 - feel the helplessness
 - imagine the terror
 - sense the panic
 - smell the burning flesh
 - experience the loss
 - remember the hatred

I sat in a movie theater, watching in quiet reverence as the blood of young soldier's turned the sands of Normandy beach red in "Private Ryan" and asked myself, "Where did they find the courage?"

Now I know.

We have no choice. Living without liberty is not living.

At War With Whom?

A short history of radical Islam
by Jonathan Schanzer
Doublethink - Spring 2002

There's a "War on Terror" going on, says President George W. Bush. Sometimes we're even told it's a war against "evil." But regardless of nomenclature, the Bush administration takes great pains to emphasize that this is most certainly not a war on Islam. Is it?

The short answer is "no." We're not battling Islam, because there is no such thing as one Islam. One Islam cannot be extracted from the numerous offshoots, branches, and sects that make the world's 1.3 billion Muslims as ideologically, religiously, and politically fractured as the other two monotheistic faiths, Christianity and Judaism.

Still, all of the 19 hijackers on September 11 were Muslims. Every one of the FBI's 22 most wanted terrorists are Muslims. Nearly all the groups and individuals listed in President Bush's executive order blocking terrorist funds were Muslims, too. So how is this not a war on Islam?

Correction: Militant Islam

The "War on Terror" should really be called the "War on Militant Islam." The terrorists of September 11, Osama bin Laden, al-Qaeda, and the Taliban all adhere to an ideology we have come to know as militant Islam, a minority outgrowth of the faith that exudes a bitter hatred for Western ideas, including capitalism, individualism, and consumerism. It rejects the West and much that it has to offer (with the exception of weapons, medicines, and other useful technologies) seeking instead to implement a strict interpretation of the Koran (Islam's holy book) and shari'a (Islamic law). America, as radical Muslims see it, is the primary impediment to building an Islamic world order.

Accordingly, militant Islam directs its venom towards America and the West. The Taliban's supreme leader, Mullah Muhammad Omar, said after September 11 that "the plan [to destroy America] is going ahead and God willing it is being implemented, but it is a huge task beyond the will and comprehension of human beings. If God's help is with us, this will happen within a short period of time."

Sheikh Ikrama Sabri, a Palestinian Mufti (Islamic religious authority) said in a radio sermon broadcast in 1997, "Oh Allah, destroy America, her agents, and her allies! Cast them into their own traps, and cover the White House with black!"

"The American regime is the enemy of [Iran's] Islamic government and our revolution," said Iran's religious leader, Ali Khomeini, in 1998. "It is the enemy of your revolution, your Islam, and your resistance to American bullying."

Accordingly, radical Muslims back up their words with deeds. They have a history of violence against American, Western, and even Muslim interests. But the movement did not appear spontaneously. Rather, it has taken 14 centuries to evolve.

From Conquests to Conquered

The history begins with the birth of Islam in the year 610, when the prophet Muhammed received his divine mission and accepted Allah's instructions for a new religion that commanded belief in one God. For the next 22 years, Muhammed served as a transmitter of Allah's message, and his Muslim empire grew to encompass most of the Arabian Peninsula. After

the prophet's death, the Muslim empire continued to expand until the 17th century, when Muslims were unquestionably the world's greatest military force, having conquered extensive territory and converted millions throughout the Middle East and Southern Europe. Islam had also achieved unmatched advances in architecture, art, law, mathematics, and science.

With the exception of battling Christian Crusaders, most Muslims had little to do with the West. In fact, Ottoman Turkey, the dominant Islamic power in the 16th century, viewed the West with what Islam expert Bernard Lewis, in his book *Islam and the West*, calls "amused disdain" for its inferior culture and religion.

By the 17th century, however, as the West achieved military superiority, Lewis writes that the tone shifted to "alarmed dislike." By 1769, the Russians handed the Turks their first sound defeat, pointing to a new and difficult road ahead for Islam. Instead of conquering, the Muslims were conquered.

The empire soon unraveled. In 1798, Napoleon Bonaparte led his expedition into Egypt. In 1830, the French seized Algeria. Nine years later, the British coopted Aden (modern Yemen). In 1881, the French occupied Tunisia, and in 1882 the English tightened their grip on Egypt. In 1911, Russia captured parts of Persia. That same year, Italy announced the annexation of Tripoli, leading to the eventual creation of the modern state of Libya. In 1912, the French extended their influence to Morocco. By the end of World War I, the Ottoman Empire had lost the Middle East, as France and England carved up the Muslim empire as spoils of war. The Muslim world could do little more than look on helplessly.

But the most painful Western penetration into the Islamic world was undoubtedly the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948. To the embarrassment of the Muslim world, a unified front of Arab armies lost a bitter war to the newly formed country of only 600,000 Jews.

While the West may no longer have long-term imperialist designs on the Middle East, its influence is ubiquitous. This includes advancements in practical and physical sciences, modern weaponry and military reform, mass communication, law, and political reform, not to mention its fair share of McDonald's golden

arches. These Western concepts and institutions, when transplanted to the Muslim world, are often destabilizing. They threaten the status quo, and are often too radically different to fit comfortably within a deeply rooted, traditional, and generally static Muslim culture. In short, the Islamic world may not have been ready for some of these changes.

The Rise of the Radicals

While many Muslims adapted to the fast-paced changes common to Western industrialization and modernization, some Muslims rejected them. Instead, they created a rigid ideology imbedded in the traditional values and laws of the Koran. This is the phenomenon known today as Islamic fundamentalism, or Islamism.

Islamism came to be seen as a struggle to return to the glorious days when Islam reigned supreme. It represents a yearning for the "pure" Islam as practiced by the prophet. Not unlike the American Amish, the movement rejects much that is innovative. Islamists, however, take the rejection of modernity a step further. They perceive those who have introduced these innovations (the West) as its enemy.

Western influence, however, was unstoppable. Consequently, writes Islamic fundamentalism expert Emmanuel Sivan in his book *Radical Islam*, a sense of "doom and gloom" developed among religious Muslims. Some perceived this world to be "the prison of the believers and the paradise of the unbelievers," according to Lewis. To them, this explained why Islamic values were losing out to the secularism of the West. Others argued that Allah was angry with Muslims for straying from the righteous path and was therefore punishing them for their disobedience.

In time, the Islamist vision crystallized. They not only rejected the influence of the West, they rejected the legitimacy of their own governments in the Arabic world, which they saw as subservient to the West. Thus, the overthrow of these regimes became an important part of the Islamist agenda.

The Makings of a Movement

The biggest push for this agenda came in 1928, with the founding of the Ikhwan al-Muslimun or Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. This organization became the cornerstone for most of today's Islamist movements, advocating Islamic

beliefs and values as expressed by the common Egyptian. The organization, founded by Hassan al-Banna (1906-1949), rejected western rule and England's secular influence over Egypt. Without religious governance, al-Banna believed the Muslim world would be "a society of cultural mongrels and spiritual half-castes."

"Politics is part of religion," he wrote. "Caesar and what belongs to Caesar is for God Almighty alone Islam commanded a unity of life; to impose upon Islam the Christian separation of loyalties [into church and state] is to deny it its essential meaning and very existence."

Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood soon developed armed cells that attacked the government and its supporters. Not surprisingly, the movement was soon outlawed. But this did not stop the group from continuing its activities. In an attempt to quell the movement, al-Banna was executed in Cairo in 1949.

However, al-Banna's death did not hinder the growth of Islamism. The Muslim Brotherhood found further inspiration in the 1950s and 1960s from Sayyid Qutb (1906-1966), a radical exegete who provided Koranic justifications for attacking secular Arab leaders that called themselves believers, but who did not run their governments according to the shari'a or Islamic law. In his most famous book, *Milestones*, he advocated jihad, or holy war, as a means to shake off the shackles of repressive secular regimes.

"This movement . . . harnesses material power and invokes jihad for eliminating the Jahili [ignorant] order and its supporting authority, for they interfere with and prevent the efforts to reform the beliefs and ideas of humanity at large, and by dint of its resources and aberrant methods forces them to obey it and makes them bow before human lords instead of the Almighty Lord... The very purpose of this movement is to set human beings free from the yoke of human enslavement and make them serve the One and Only God."

Qutb was executed by the Egyptian regime in 1966 for propagating Islamic radicalism and political violence. Still, the movement survived. In fact, the Muslim Brotherhood movement has since gone global. The organization today has hundreds of branches in over 70 countries worldwide.

Militant Islam also gained momentum after the devastating Arab loss to Israel in the Six-Day War of June 1967. Yet another defeat for the Muslim world came at the hands of the Jews, a people Muslims regard as religiously inferior. Worse was the fact that Jerusalem, Islam's third holiest site, had been conquered. Looking for answers, increasing numbers of Middle Eastern Muslims returned to their Islamic roots.

In 1969, Colonel Mu'ammarr Qaddafi took power in Libya by military coup. Qaddafi, notes historian Raphael Israeli, soon began to emphasize "the trend toward the predominance of Islam in the making of the domestic and international policies of Islamic nations." With vast oil wealth behind him, Qaddafi financed various terror operations against what he perceived to be an imperialist West. Qaddafi, today, remains one of history's largest financiers of militant Islamic terror.

Finally, a decade later occurred what many historians call "the earthquake." In 1979, Iran became the first modern Islamic republic, as Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini overthrew Iran's secular regime and established a new order in which shari'a became law. Suddenly, Islamism was no longer an ideology of movements. It had inspired a state.

The 23-Year War

America's first violent introduction to militant Islam came shortly after Khomeini's Islamic Republic was established in 1979, when Islamic extremists seized the U.S. embassy in the Iranian capital of Tehran. For 444 days, the militants held 52 Americans hostage. After a botched helicopter rescue attempt, America agreed to release nearly \$8 billion in Iranian assets to free the hostages. The hostages were returned and America breathed a sigh of relief. Most people felt the nightmare had ended. In fact, it was only beginning.

Iran, we soon learned, had successfully "exported" radical Islam to other parts of the Islamic world. Perhaps the easiest target of all was Lebanon, a small, war-torn state that had been bloodied by years of internal conflict.

When American soldiers arrived in Lebanon for a peacekeeping mission, militant Islam struck again. There were two deadly attacks against Americans in 1983. The first was the April 18 bombing of the American embassy in Beirut. Six

months later came a suicide attack on the U.S. Marine barracks on October 23 that killed 241.

The suicide attack was America's first experience with this kind of terror. In time, it was learned that the attack was sanctioned by an Iranian-backed guerrilla movement called Hizbullah (Party of God). The group's spiritual guide, Muhammed Hussein Fadlallah, contended in a fiery speech that "the oppressed nations do not have the technology and destructive weapons America and Europe have. They must thus fight with special means of their own." These special means were apparently too much for America. U.S. forces left Lebanon several months later.

Encouraged by an ambivalent America, a rash of militant Islamist violence followed. First, the American embassy in Beirut was bombed again on September 20, 1984. Then, in December 1984 on a hijacked plane in Tehran, Islamic extremists tortured and murdered two Americans. This came alongside the abduction of more than a dozen Americans in Beirut between March 1984 and January 1985. Finally, in June 1985, Islamic militants hijacked yet another flight with more than 100 Americans aboard, killing one of them.

Militant Islam resurfaced on December 21, 1988, when Pan Am Flight 103 exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing all 259 people on board, as well as 11 residents hit by the fuselage on the ground. The flight was en route to New York from Frankfurt, Germany, via London.

The movement found further impetus in 1989 from the furor over Salman Rushdie and his controversial book, *The Satanic Verses*. Taking into account the passage below, it should come as no surprise that the book offended Muslims worldwide.

"Amid the palm-trees of the oasis Gibreel appeared to the Prophet and found himself spouting rules, rules, rules, until the faithful could scarcely bear the prospect of any more revelation, Salman said, rules about every damn thing, if a man farts let him turn his face to the wind, a rule about which hand to use for the purpose of cleaning one's behind. It was as if no aspect of human existence was to be left unregulated, free. The revelation the recitation told the faithful how much to eat, how deeply they should sleep, and which sexual positions had received divine sanction, so that they learned that sodomy and the missionary position were approved of by the

arch-angel, whereas the forbidden postures included all those in which the female was on top."

Rather than merely stating that the book was offensive, or banning the book from Muslim bookstores, Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini sentenced Rushdie to death for blasphemy:

"In the name of God the almighty. We belong to God and to Him we shall return. I would like to inform all intrepid Muslims in the world that the author of the book *Satanic Verses* . . . and those publishers who were aware of its contents, are sentenced to death. I call on all zealous Muslims to execute them quickly, where they find them, so that no one will dare to insult the Islamic sanctities. Whoever is killed on this path will be regarded as a martyr, God willing. In addition, if anyone who has access to the author of the book does not possess the power to execute him, he should point him out to the people so that he may be punished for his actions. May God's blessing be upon you. Ruhollah Musavi al-Khomeini."

Khomeini's fatwa, or decree, sparked an unprecedented wave of international Islamist violence. In the year to come, book agents were stabbed, newspapers were firebombed, and demonstrations regularly resulted in bloodshed.

The Battle Comes Home

In time, the Rushdie Affair subsided, but the war continued. On February 23, 1993, a large bomb exploded in New York's World Trade Center, killing six and wounding 1,000. Led by Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman, the "Blind Sheikh of New York," the plot was pinned to al-Gama'a al-Islamiyya, a radical Egyptian group previously thought to be contained in that country. The American government did a terrific job of putting the culprits behind bars, but left the real counter-terrorism dirty work to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who continues to battle the insurgent group today.

But perhaps more shocking than the first World Trade Center attack itself was the realization that the culprits had been living in America for years. Worse, their intentions had been made clear well before the attacks. Earlier that year in Brooklyn, Rahman fingered America as the foremost enemy of Islam. "We must be terrorists," he said, "and we must terrorize the enemies of Islam and frighten them and disturb

them and shake the earth under their feet." When the case was brought to trial, it was learned that the bombers had hoped to bring down the World Trade Center something that would take another eight years to accomplish.

On October 3, 1993, America suffered another defeat against militant Islam, this time in Somalia. As depicted in the recent movie *Blackhawk Down*, two American Army Blackhawk helicopters were shot down and a third crash-landed on a botched mission designed to capture a radical Muslim warlord. The result was that 18 Americans died and 78 were injured.

In 1995, a suicide car-bomber targeted a military training school in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, killing five American instructors. A year later, a truck bomb exploded, destroying part of a housing complex used by American Air Force personnel in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. In that attack, 19 Americans were killed and 240 were injured. The U.S. responded by imposing sanctions against Sudan's Islamist regime, where a terrorist named Osama bin Laden was staying as a guest.

Meanwhile, in 1995, a previously unknown group called the Taliban made headlines when it captured more than half of Afghanistan after years of bloody internal conflict. While brutal violence became commonplace and human rights were virtually nonexistent, the group only began to receive notoriety when it provided asylum for the fugitive bin Laden in 1997. With safe haven in Afghanistan, bin Laden's al-Qaeda (pronounced al-Ka-ee-da, not al-Kay-da) organization began to operate with increasing potency.

Al-Qaeda Coalesces

Despite all the media hype, al-Qaeda (literally, "the base") is actually just an umbrella group that facilitates and orchestrates the operations of Islamic militants around the globe. It's a kind of Internet for terrorists, whereby information, resources, and people are connected and funneled through a hub. In other words, Osama bin Laden may or may not be directly responsible for the attacks of September 11, the USS Cole, or the twin embassies in East Africa. However, bin Laden's organization, since its inception in 1988, can be tied to planning these operations, as well as to other plots around the globe.

Al-Qaeda's roots are in the CIA-sponsored Afghan war against the Soviets (1980-1989). During that time, with the help of U.S. weapons and funding, radical Muslims from all over the world came to Afghanistan to fight the Soviet occupation. Bin Laden, the son of a Saudi millionaire, was among them. He reportedly won the hearts of his fellow mujahedin (jihad fighters) by not only fighting valiantly, but by financing a recruiting office for the Afghanistan jihad.

Specifically, bin Laden and a Palestinian militant named Abdallah Azzam opened Maktab al-Khidamat, or the Services Office. Bin Laden reportedly paid to bring the new recruits to Afghanistan and built training camps for them. Further, "the Prince," as he is called, imported experts to train his new mujahedin in guerilla tactics and terror warfare. Over the years, thousands trained at his camps.

In 1988, as the war wound down, bin Laden began to forge an official network out of these Muslim extremists. He called this network al-Qaeda. For 14 years now, although many of these jihad fighters have returned to their home countries around the world, bin Laden has kept that network alive through the Internet, cell phones, faxes, and other high-tech means.

The goals of al-Qaeda are three-pronged. First, the organization seeks to overthrow what it sees as the corrupt and heretical governments of today's Muslim states, specifically bin Laden's home country, Saudi Arabia. Bin Laden sees the Saudi regime American lackeys, especially since the royal family has allowed U.S. servicemen to stay in Saudi Arabia since the 1991 Gulf War. Accordingly, al-Qaeda views the U.S. as the primary enemy of Islam, and seeks to destroy it.

Finally, al-Qaeda seeks to bolster the efforts of jihad groups throughout the world. This includes, but is not limited to, Algeria, Chechnya, Eritrea, and Somalia. Afghanistan and Sudan, two regimes that had adopted strict Islamist laws, were also heavily influenced by al-Qaeda.

Bin Laden Emerges

At first, bin Laden's name was only loosely linked to several acts of terrorism. According to the U.S. State Department, his network was implicated in the December 1992 attacks on a hotel in Yemen that injured several tourists, but was probably intended for American servicemen. His name came up again in connection with the

first World Trade Center bombing and the 1993 attacks against American servicemen in Somalia. Bin Laden's network was additionally said to have assisted the terrorists who tried to assassinate Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in 1995, and those who were responsible for the November 1995 attack on American training personnel in Riyadh. He was also tied to the bombing that killed about 30 people in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, in June of 1996.

But it wasn't until February 23, 1998, that we began to see the real face of Osama bin Laden and his terrorist network, with the creation of an organization he called "The Islamic World Front for the Struggle Against the Jews and the Crusaders."

In the Islamic World Front statement, the group called upon "Muslim ulema, leaders, youths, and people" to "kill the Americans and their allies civilian and military This is in accordance with the words of Almighty God."

With the creation of this umbrella group, it was apparent that al-Qaeda had a wider reach than previously imagined. Signatories of the statement included leaders of the radical Egyptian groups al-Gama'a al-Islamiyya and al-Jihad, as well as the Pakistani Jamiat-ul-Ulema-e-Pakistan and the Jihad Movement in Bangladesh.

Still despite these links, and the newly-revealed network of terror, U.S. attorney Mary Jo White could only indirectly link al-Qaeda to the training of the tribesmen who attacked U.S. soldiers in Somalia. This changed in August 1998, when al-Qaeda operative Mohammed Sadiq Odeh was arrested in Pakistan. Under FBI interrogation, Odeh provided details of bin Laden's international network, as well as his role in the embassy bombings. Since then, other suspects have provided equally vital information.

In June 1999, Bin Laden was added to the FBI's most wanted list. One month later, U.S. President Bill Clinton imposed sanctions on the Taliban for harboring him. Despite the pressure, bin Laden continued to run al-Qaeda from caves in Afghanistan with increasing efficiency. In fact, U.S. intelligence obtained a copy of a six-volume terrorism manual used by bin Laden to train his recruits for al-Qaeda.

U.S. intelligence has since foiled many al-Qaeda plots, including one designed to disrupt millennium celebrations in December 1999. Still,

while countless attacks have been averted, the USS Cole bombing in 2000 and the September 11 attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Center are proof that al-Qaeda plots against American interests can still slip beneath the radar.

With the destruction of the Taliban regime, and Osama bin Laden on the run, al-Qaeda has had to restructure. If bin Laden is caught, al-Qaeda will suffer another serious blow. Still, because it is only a facilitating network for militant Islam, the likelihood of al-Qaeda's longevity is almost certainly assured. Thus, the prospect of a long and protracted war against militant Islam is effectively guaranteed.

A Little Perspective

Given that militant Islam has plagued America for 22 years, and that bin Laden has terrorized America for 14 years, the attacks of September 11 should not have been surprising. A trend had been established. So, perhaps the biggest shock of that tragic day was the nation's utter surprise. Psychologically, America was completely unprepared for the attacks. Why?

Former CIA director James Woolsey has one explanation. In a presentation to the Middle East Forum in New York City on March 7, 2001, he compared the 1980s and 1990s in America to another period in U.S. history the Roaring Twenties. In the 1920s, America was euphoric after its resounding recent victory in the First World War. A feeling of invincibility swept through America that led the nation to completely overlook the rise of Hitler in Germany. As Europe descended into war, America stood idly across the Atlantic in a state of denial. Finally, with a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, America was shocked, angered, and thrust unwillingly into war.

Today's America is not much different. Thanks to exponential economic growth, an unprecedented technology boom, and its status as the world's lone superpower, America grew by leaps and bounds through the 1980s and 1990s, and understandably became somewhat complacent. Our government, all the while, refused to face up to a new enemy. Militant Islam had already conquered three Middle East countries: Iran, Sudan, and Afghanistan. All the while, more than a dozen other regimes around the world were fighting for their very existence against a militant Islamic movement that grew

stronger by the day. It took a horrific day like September 11 for Americans to realize the problem could no longer be ignored.

In fact, our consistent disinclination to respond to earlier attacks lies behind the events of September 11. Consider bin Laden's own words. "We have seen in the last decade the decline of the American government and the weakness of the American soldier. He is ready to wage cold wars but unprepared to fight hot wars...We are ready for all occasions, we rely on God."

What bin Laden said back then, in 1998, is that America didn't deter him. Three years later, he felt emboldened enough to attack America because we had balked at almost every prior showdown. America might have the strongest military in the world, but it has a history of ineffectuality against militant Islam. In the absence of U.S. reprisals, without deterrence, militant Islam found the confidence to strike again.

America Fights Back

With the launch of Operation Enduring Freedom, America is now struggling to reassert that deterrence. America handily picked apart the Taliban in Afghanistan, and is carefully weighing its options for a next target. The next target, however, will not be as easy to identify.

For one, the target is not easy to see. From Morocco in Northwest Africa to Malaysia in Southeast Asia, militant Islam continues to grow by stealth. Adherents of militant Islam account for some 15-20 percent of the Muslim world, according to Daniel Pipes, an expert on the subject. This means that more than 150 million people are part of the problem. To make matters worse, they hide among the moderates. They don't wear uniforms and rarely identify themselves.

Fortunately, we can pinpoint a few of their centers of influence. Accordingly, America has turned up the heat in such countries as Saudi Arabia and Yemen, where radical Muslims have operated freely for decades. Working to stay in the good graces of an awakened (and angry) United States, these countries, among others, have worked to coordinate with American intelligence, crack down on their militants, and preempt an American operation. Indeed, one could call this Operation Enduring Freedom's

"Phase 1.5." Only time will tell if these countries can battle terror effectively on their own.

Looking Ahead

After that, America faces hard decisions. In this new and long-overdue war against the forces of terror, the path ahead is daunting. Militant Islam has strongholds in Algeria, Egypt, Somalia, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, the Palestinian territories, Lebanon, Jordan, Yemen, Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia, Nigeria, and Pakistan, to name just a few countries. The challenge now will be finding ways to destroy the radical infrastructure and arrest or kill militants while simultaneously bolstering the influence of moderate Muslims. How to accomplish this task is unclear.

To its credit, the Bush administration has made all the right moves so far. For the moment, radical Islam appears to be beating a retreat. But the battle is not yet won. The roots of militant Islam run deep and may take many years to eradicate. Accordingly, this country must prepare itself for future confrontations. More importantly, Americans must understand that this is not a war on terrorism. Indeed, terrorism is only a tactic. This struggle is against a radical, utopian ideology and those who carry out violence in its name.

Sent in by Ken Bedsole

Note: The professed goal of Islam is to unite mankind. However this unification must be under one world government, under a secular state, Under Islam. Christianity cannot live side by side with Islam. Islam does not allow that.

BWS

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

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

BWS

"WE BECOME JUST, BY PERFORMING JUST ACTIONS; BRAVE, BY PERFORMING BRAVE ACTIONS."

Aristotle

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 Ross Rainwater.

Enjoy.

BWS

Loel

As usual, the latest edition of the Bullwhip Squadron magazine is a wealth of interesting and valuable information!

However, I did notice a correction needed concerning the commanders of 1/9: The last RVN 1/9 commander was LTC Carl Putnam (not PutMAN as shown in the list). I served under his command and had several "colorful" dealings with him, as well as his being the last person to buy me a drink before I DROS'd. (It was a long walk back to my hooch, I was well lit, and he arranged for the MPs to take me back safely!)

In addition, he relinquished command when the unit was withdrawn from RVN and the colors taken to Ft. Hood, so his command tenure began and ended in 1971, not 1971-72. He was reassigned to HHC, 12th Combat Aviation Group (as was I) after leaving 1/9 at standdown. For the life of me, I can't remember his duty assignment, although it may have been as XO or DCO.

Barring the unforeseen, I'll see you at the Reunion!

Ross Rainwater
C-1/9 Air Cav,70-71
r-rainwater@juno.com

Ross

Comments noted and records changed as stated. It takes all of us to insure the record is correct. See you at the reunion!

BWS

Dear Loel:

I received the Bullwhip packet from Al and am returning my invitation to join. Thanks for this opportunity.

I had called you originally to ask your help in locating an A 1/9 buddy, Rick York, originally from Indianapolis. Although we didn't find him in the roster, I am grateful for your sincere interest in my quest. The welcome you and Al extended to me will never be forgotten.

I'm taking you up on your suggestion to include my search in the association newsletter. I lost touch with Rick thirty years ago and do want to locate him. But as you know, I have another reason to contact anyone from A 1/9 serving in 1967 from May – October.

I finally am getting around to registering with the VA in my area. In the process the vet services officer set about verifying info on my DD214. Although my record does show service in Vietnam with 1/9, Air Medals, etc., it does not list the CIB. I've since learned that this omission sadly is not uncommon.

The veterans officer then gave me some "homework". He asked that I contact people from my unit serving at the same time and have them corroborate that our unit actually was in combat. I thought to myself, do I laugh or just continue to listen in disbelief. But it is no laughing matter to me. I accepted his assignment because, after all, this is the same system that lost my records and couldn't give a full paycheck between AIT and shortly after my discharge.

I believe that campaign ribbons tell where someone has been, medals tell of deeds done, but the Combat Infantry Badge becomes part of what someone is. For over thirty years I've believed it to be part of who I am. I'm not about to let a clerical error question that. If anyone out there

shares my view, I respectfully request contact from you.

Who am I looking for? Anyone who served with A Troop, 1/9 during May – October 1967. Base was LZ Dog, Bong Son area of course. If your memories include the An Loa Valley, Song Re Valley, Tiger Mts (and the seacoast), Valley 506, please call or write. I also gunned with the Scorpions occasionally. I took the "how many fingers do you see" medical exam to earn the \$55.00 flight pay. So if any "Reds" read this, I'd like to hear from you too. Many thanks in advance.

Virgil Mueller
31 Freemont Dr
Fargo, ND 58103
701 239-0037

Troopers

Anyone that can help Virgil, you have his address.

BWS

Al,

Got you message last night - too late to call. Also got the mail and enjoyed it very much.

I believe the "newsletter" is the best retirement magazine I've seen in a while. Lots of good info for vets, health care, etc. plus the articles are interesting reading. I read some and perused the rest with the intent to return to it later. Thanks.

My wife is in the Hospital and so I've not taken care of some of my daily chores but intend to.

I made reservation at the Jameson Inn for the 10th and plan to be there. I still have to sign up with the squadron.

By the way - what is the uniform for the reunion? The last time I signed into the Squadron I was out of uniform and required to get appropriately dress before the Adjutant would allow me to sign in or welcome me to the unit. I don't want that to happen again!

Regards
Stephen Barati

Steve

The Bar-B-Q is just comfortable clothes. However the banquet is coat and tie. Hope everything is going OK with you and yours.

See you at the reunion!

BWS

Loel & Al,

Just a note to let you know that the membership package arrived yesterday and the certificate occupies a place of honor on the wall of the den with my other life membership certificates. At first glance, there were several names in the newsletters that I recognize, but have lost track of over the years. I've started to compile a list of friends/acquaintances that were with the Cav at one time or another, that maybe through other associations, I might be able to track down. I will certainly work on that.

I was, however, surprised to find that a membership card was not included. An oversight I'm sure.

Under any set of circumstances, I am looking forward to a long and enjoyable association with the organization. I plan to attend at least part of the C/1/9 reunion here in Las Vegas this summer, and may be able to attend other functions this year.

Thank you for the opportunity to become a member of the Bullwhip Squadron Association.

"Once Cav, Always Cav".

Sincerely,
Robert L. "Mac" McGee
Saber 13

Robert

It is troopers like you that make the association what it is.

It takes a little longer to get your membership card as we have to have them made special. Have no fear, it will arrive.

Hopefully we will see you at our reunion in October.

BWS

Lost and Found

Troopers

Do any of you have information on Roy Wolff, Capt, AUS. Roy took over from Dick Marshall as Thirsty Red in '66. He flew Mohawks prior to joining C/1/9. Plewase respond to my address below.

Frank
Seabat/Thirsty Red Alpha
HS9SEABAT@aol.com

Hello,

My father was in the 1st of the 9th during 1965-66, stationed in Vietnam. Unfortunately, I don't know which troop he was in. His name was Capt. Theodore Donald (T.D.) Strennen, a helicopter pilot. He survived his tour and was promoted to Major, but died Sept. 1967 as a test pilot flying the Cobra in Savannah, GA (Ft. Benning). I was the oldest of 4 kids and 6 years old at the time. I am looking for others in his unit that knew him and could tell me what he was like and (perhaps) some of his experiences there. Any info or pointers to other people would be greatly appreciated.

Regards,
Eric Strennen
estrennen@ponymail.com

All

I am looking for anyone in D Troop 1/9Cav circa Nov/Dec 1967 who would know the circumstances of the death of my brother 1Lt Vincent V. Hauser, leader of the recon platoon. He died from wounds 6Dec67. Please respond, Thank you

Captain Peter B Hauser USA Ret.
sixalphasix@snowcrest.net
Anderson, CA

Troopers

**We now have a point of contact for all D Troop. He is;
Harold Campbell (65-66)
6595 Frank Reeded Rd.
Pensacola, FL. 32526-4189
Ph.# (850-944-1576**

BWS

Hi,

My name is Beth Goodwin. My cousin, Jim, (WO1 James Godfrey. B/1/9, KIA 4/17/67) served with the B/1/9 from 1/67 through 4/67 when he and three others were killed in a helicopter crash due to hitting a mine in a tree. I am looking for anyone who can tell me about my cousin. I will wait for your reply.

Thank you,

Beth Goodwin
Brilig2@cs.com

Vietnam & Fort Knox, KY

Hi,

My name is Linda. My daddy served in the Navy during WWII (he passed away when I was 10 yrs of age in 1972). And I wanted to just tell you that I am proud of all you guys that fought for our country to keep it free. I Salute You All.

Also, I am trying to help a friend locate someone. We are trying to locate or find out any information we can about a James Murdoch (spelling?) McClain. We were told that he was stationed at Fort Knox, KY sometime between 1966 & 1970....it is believed that he was in his 20's and did go to Vietnam as well. We don't know what his Rank or MOS is or was. Any help will be greatly appreciated. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Linda B.
lindab_39@hotmail.com

Recipe Corner

It is summer time so try these different salads for something cool and new.

Garden Pasta Salad

1 (20 oz) package of Tortellini
1 cup fat free Italian salad dressing (or your favorite Italian dressing)
2 (6 oz) cans solid white tuna packed in water
2 medium tomatoes
2 cups broccoli florets
½ cup shredded parmesan-romano cheese
1 (10 oz) package Italian blend mixed salad greens

Pour dressing into large bowl. Add pasta, tuna, tomatoes, broccoli and cheese; toss well to coat. Refrigerate or serve immediately over mixed greens. If desired, after chilling, stir in a little more salad dressing to moisten pasta.

Mexicali Salad

1 (15 oz) can black beans
1 (15 oz) can garbanzo beans
1 cup frozen corn
1 cup diced red onion
1 red bell pepper
1 green bell pepper
1 cup diced tomatoes
¾ cup red wine vinegar salad dressing
1 (4 oz) can diced green chiles
1 tablespoon honey

Combine all ingredients in a medium glass or ceramic bowl; refrigerate for at least 30 minutes.

Lean Cuisine Chicken Primavera Hot Salad

1 (24 oz) package Lean Cuisine Skillet Sensations Chicken Primavera (in frozen foods)

1 (16 oz) package prepared mixed salad greens

Prepare Chicken Primavera per package instructions.

Place salad greens on serving platter; top with chicken primavera.

Chicken Caesar Salad

- ¼ cup grated Parmesan or Romano cheese
- ¼ cup light mayonnaise dressing or regular whichever you prefer
- 1 tablespoon water
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- ½ teaspoon minced garlic
- ½ teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1/8 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 8 cups chopped romaine lettuce
- 12 ounces cooked chicken
- 1 cup croutons (optional)

Combine first 7 ingredients to make the dressing. Mix until creamy.

Combine lettuce, chicken and dressing in large serving bowl; toss well to coat. Sprinkle with croutons if desired.

OK Troopers and Spouses, send in your recipes to Barbara Ewart for the next news magazine!

BWS

TROOPERS

Remember our next BWS Reunion Is This 11-13 October 2002 !!! Time is getting short. If you haven't made reservations yet, YOU are now behind the power curve.

There will be many there for the first time. Many you haven't seen for 37 years.

Time flies and days get shorter. Come to the reunion.

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. 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

We are also looking for someone from each troop to maintain that portion of our site with articles and pictures. See Loretta.

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.

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. Bob 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 Putnam | 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.

The following list of Association members is as of 8 July 2002

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)
Gary Hayes (Deceased)

Association Members

*Abernathy, George
*Adams, Bobby
*Adkinson, Charles
*Allen, David
*Anuskjewicz, Richard
* Anzelmo, George
Arthur, Edward
*Avelar Jr, Jose
*Bagnal, Charles
Ballard, Stephen
*Banks, Larry
*Barati, Stephen
*Baron, Joe
*Barrett, James
Barton, Glenn

Batcheller, Clinton
*Beardsley Jr, Guy
Bechberger, Paul
Beckwith (h), Karen
*Bedsole, Keneith
*Berggren, Jerry
*Betts, Tommy
* Black, James
*Blad, Hjalmer
*Blankenburg, Mitch
Blankenship, Nelson
*Blouin, David
*Bluestone-Eull, Mike
*Bogdue, Mike
*Boisseau, Mark
*Boles, James
Bond, Michael
Booth (h), James
*Bowen, Joseph
Bowling, Billy
Branard, Thomas
*Bray, David
Breski (h), Harry
Brown Jr, Albert
*Brown, Charlie
*Brown, Larry
*Bulkley, Morton
*Burke, Paul
*Burnett, Clark
*Burrow, George
*Busch Jr, George
*Bush, Pat
Butt, Harry
*Byrd, William
*Caine, Vaughn
Cairns Jr, Ernest
Cameron, Bruce
*Campbell, Donald
Campbell, Harold
*Carll, Frederick
*Cavalieri, Dominic
*Chimoski Jr, Al
*Chole, Bert
*Christopher, Mark
*Christopher, Ronald
Clark, William
Coburn, Jeffrey
*Conner, James
*Coombs, Robert
Copson II, Charles
Cornwell, Robert

*Coshey, Donald
*Covey, Michael
Cox (h), David
*Cox, Robert
Cox, Leonard
*Crawford, George
*Crispino, Joseph
Cryster (h), James
Curtis, Grant
Davidson, Alva
*Davis, Gary
*Davis, Thomas
*Defleron, Al
Dehart, Bruce
Dela Rosa, Lionel
DeMailo, Alfred
*Denning, Richard
*Derrick, Charles
*DeSloover, David
*Dettmer, Marion
Dillbeck, William
*Dinsmore, Delamere
*Dishaw, Michael
*Doslop, Joseph
*Dubois, Adam
*Duckworth, Walter
*Dula, Jones
Dunning, David
*Dupreast, Samuel
*Dupree, Ronald
Edmunds, John
Egonis, Clement
*Ellis, James
Elloit, Jerry
*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
*Gee, James
Genetti, Thomas
*Ghere, John
*Gillette, William
*Glance, Jesse
*Glassford, Gary
Golden, Gerald
*Goldsberry, Jerry
Gooch, Donald
*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
Henry, Myles
Henson, Kenneth
*Herron, Richard
*Hewlett, George
*Hill, Edwin
*Hill, Howard (Doug)
*Hilton, Mark
Hiser, Frank
*Hlywa, Nicholas
Hnizdill, James
*Hobbs, Earl
*Hockenbury, Jay
Hohman, James
Holcomb, Brian
Holt, Robert
Hope, Tim
Houser, Craig
*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
Judson, Robert
*Kelbus, Joseph
Kelley, Michael
Kennedy, Lawrence
Kennerson (h), Ron
Kerns, John
*Kerns Jr, Raymond
*Kilcrease, Jack
*Kilgallen (h), Elizabeth
*King, Thomas
*Kink, (h) Julie
Knowlen, Charles
*Knowles, Patrick
Kohler, James
*Kolar, Larry R.
*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
Larson, Ed
*Lassiter, Norman
*Leadabrand, Jerry
*Lenker, Max
*Leonard, Thomas
*Lewis, Judd
*Leyda, Craig
Libby, Jeffrey
*Lindholm, Dale
*Lott, Claude
Lucas, Judson
Lundwall, Robert
Lynch, William

*MacLeod, Richard
*Maher, James
*Maldonado Jr, Paul
Marcum, Eugene
*Marshall, Richard
Martin, Thomas
Matlock, Craig
Maude, Walter
*McAllister, Bo
*McAlpine, Barry
*McAnally, Loren
*McGee (h), Robert
McGowan, (h) Deirdre
McIlwain, Blake
*McKee, Orvel
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McKiddy, (h) Ron
*McLaughlin, Davin
*McMullan, Robert
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*Moore, Marion
*Moser, Frank
*Mueller, Virgil
*Mundy Jr, G.G.
*Murphy, Maurice
Murtha, Paul
*Nardotti Jr, Michael
Nevins Jr, Robert
*Newby, Claude
*Nicholas, George
*Nielsen, John
*Nii, Elmer
*Niles, Louis
O'Brien (h), Charlotte
*O'Grady, Steve
*Olenczuk, Anthony
*Oliver, John
*Olson, Kenneth
Orifici, Tony
*Ortner, Anthony
*Oshiro, Clyde
*Owens, Ronald
Park, George
*Parnell, James
Pelkey, David
*Peterson, Robert

*Pettit, Richard
 Phipps, Wayne
 *Poe, Robert
 Polisky, Simon
 Poos (h), Robert
 *Potts, William
 Powell, John
 *Pratt, James
 *Pressman, James
 Pryce, David
 *Pumphrey, A.T.
 *Quinn, Bill
 *Racine, Maurice
 *Rainwater, Ross
 *Rawl, Joe
 *Reid, Jim
 *Retterer, John
 *Rhoden, Joe
 *Ribbeck, Rudolph
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 Richey, Roger
 *Ricks, Douglas
 Rittenhouse, Bill
 *Robertson Jr, Joseph
 Roble, Edwin
 *Rochat III, Louis
 Rodriguez, Fernando
 Rose, Harold
 *Rosebrough, James
 *Roshier, Galen
 Rudl, Roy
 Ryan, John
 *Salmon, Gary
 *Salomone, Joseph
 *Salyer, James
 Samuel, Lonnie
 *Schellenberg, Woodrow
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 *Schulberg, Michael
 Schwarz, John

*Scott, Kenneth
 Sedacca, Emanuel
 *Sellers, Robert
 *Shaffer, Nate
 *Shanklin, David
 *Shields, John
 *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. Laurent, Bruce
 Stanfield, Neil
 Stanley, William
 *Steine, Joel
 *Stewart, Frank
 *Stewart, Patrick
 *Stockton (h), Rita
 *Stockton (h), Wootsie
 *Stone, Gordon
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 *Swain, Robert
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 *Tasker, Larry
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 *Terry, Michael
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 *Thomas, John
 *Timmons, William
 *Titchenell, Wallace
 Tromontano, Joseph
 *Tredway, Robert
 Treude, Harry
 Trombley, Thomas

*Tucker, Douglas
 *Turner, Barrie
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 *Tyler, James
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 *Van Winkle, James
 *Vanasse, Eugene
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 *Waldron, Cowles
 *Walker, John
 *Wallace, John
 *Wardzala, Daniel
 Washington, Royall
 Weaver, Charles
 *Weeks, Jimmy
 *Weems, Neil
 *Welch, A.J.
 *Westfall, Ronald
 *Whigham, Charles
 *Whitehead III, John
 *Wilke, Charles
 Wilkins, Donald
 *Wilkinson, George
 *Williams, Billie
 *Williams, Frank
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 Wirz, Bruce
 *Wood, Doug
 *Woodward, Wallace
 *Wright, Larry
 *Wuensch, Marc
 Wulff, Richard
 Yarnell, Stephen
 York Jr, John
 *Young, Terry
 *Young, Robert
 *Zahn, Bob
 *Zemke, Phillip
 *Zion, Robert

h - Honorary
 * - Lifetime

From the Vice President:

The Association continues to find those troopers who do not know of the Association. We are presently seeing new members weekly,

upcoming reunion. All our troopers are dedicated to carrying on, and sustaining, the CAV tradition.

This year, 2002, will be a banner year for new members and we hope next year is another banner year.

Members are what makes the Association. As of July 2002 our active membership is over 400 with 260 of these being lifetime. We have increased by 22 new members since January 1, 2002. Well done! We could not have done this without your support.

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 * (260) 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. These 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 ravages 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 for spelling.

We are in the process of remaking all the membership cards. If you have become a lifetime member, your membership card will say “lifetime”. The membership cards will be ready for the reunion.

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 monthly 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 each year. If you join in the last 3 months of the calendar year, you will be given credit for the following years dues.

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 received this news magazine, and you checked for your name on the membership roles and your name was not there, then you have not paid dues for 2002.

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.

Items For Sale

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.

Order your items now from AL and you will have them for the reunion!! We will have very little to sell at the reunion, so order now!

Magazine Update

You will 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 me. I will sprinkle magic dust on it for printing and a fine article you will have. We encourage you to consider to writing a by-line article for each news magazine. **Next articles are due to me by the middle of November 02.**

Yes we will have another mag before the reunion, however it will be a short one, with the regular magazine coming out just before Christmas.

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

Troopers,

You will see in this news magazine, 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 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. 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.

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

BWS

ADVERTISEMENTS

ONLY IN AMERICA, ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE!